




Speech By  
**David Janetzki**

**MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA SOUTH**

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Record of Proceedings, 7 September 2017

**MOTION: BUY QUEENSLAND**

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (5.45 pm): I do thoroughly enjoy it when this Labor government tries to put jobs and small business at the centre of the debate because it shines a spotlight or puts up a mirror to reflect the inadequacies and the failures of this government when it comes to small business and jobs. It reflects their failures and inability to create more jobs. It reflects their failures to support small business across this great state. It simply reflects how they have been unable over the last three years to develop an economic narrative that sells Queensland goods, services and ingenuity to the world. The fact that they have even had to resort to this Buy Queensland jobs policy speaks volumes about these failures.

Let us reflect just for a moment on their record over the last three years. Let us go firstly to the recent Suncorp CCIQ Pulse Survey. It showed business confidence down. It showed operating expenses for businesses across Queensland up. When it comes to unemployment, we know Queensland has the second worst unemployment rate across Australia, trending worse than Tasmania. When it comes to youth unemployment, we know there are failures there too. Youth unemployment across regional Queensland is beyond 20 per cent. In outback Queensland it is beyond 50 per cent. Even in a well-performing area like Toowoomba and the Darling Downs it is beyond 10 per cent. We know that we have low and anaemic wages growth. We are the low-wage growth state in Australia. We know that we have electricity problems. We have electricity prices that directly impact on the viability of small businesses into the future.

What do we hear from the small business minister in this government? We hear nothing. We hear nothing from the small business champion who was appointed to report to the small business minister and actually work and advocate on behalf of small business. What we hear from the opposition is leadership. We hear ideas—ideas for the future. We hear about \$5,000 payments to companies, to small businesses, to put on apprentices. We hear about incentives like \$4,000 to bear the oncosts when employing future young people to take up apprenticeships in Queensland. It was the LNP opposition that led the charge against trading hours. Many small businesses across regional Queensland would have bitten the dust but for that advocacy.

This motion raises federal issues. Let us look at a few of the federal issues and how the federal coalition is supporting small business across regional Queensland. It is a long list. We have small business tax reductions. We have tax deductibility on assets beyond \$20,000. We have a dedicated red-tape-reduction process and the list goes on.

I think at a time when this motion raises federal issues we should look at what Bill Shorten would do if he had an opportunity to get his hands on the small businesses of Queensland. I have never heard Bill Shorten even talk about small business before. However, when I did hear him talk about it for the first time just a couple of weeks ago, he wanted to tax small businesses in Queensland and across Australia—up to 200,000 of them—by taxing their discretionary family trusts, with a 30 per cent tax rate on their family trust distributions. We know that Bill Shorten's frontbench only has three people who

have had any experience with small business across their working lives, and it shows. They have no idea how to represent small business. They have no idea how to create small business jobs in their community.

Stunningly, and in denial of the world trade conditions in which we operate, the mover of tonight's motion recently wrote to his electorate. I note that the member for Burnett has already referred to this. He said to them—

By giving preference to locals, we're breaking the LNP Turnbull Government's trade agreements, and they aren't happy. But I couldn't give a toss.

Such an approach should not come as a surprise because Labor governments and union party apparatchiks have form. They have form for snubbing the rule of law and telling others to ignore it. They have form for not backing and thumbing their nose at free trade agreements, and they have form for putting petty political pointscoreing ahead of the economic health of this state. They want to talk about Buy Queensland tonight. We should be talking about 'better Queensland'. For the last three years this Labor government has led the economic debate from behind, and that is exactly where Queensland finds itself today. Queensland deserves better. Queensland deserves an LNP government.

*(Time expired)*