




Speech By
Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

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MOTION

Jobs

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (6.31 pm): It gives me so much pleasure to follow the member for Mackay. People in the gallery were probably wondering how in heavens we could sit quietly through that speech. It is because we have all been warned! Because of the sheer incompetence of those others we had to sit through the last motion and we were warned, so I have been very good.

Mr SPEAKER: Deputy Leader of the Opposition, I will urge you not to show disrespect for the chair. I urge you to come back to debating the motion that is before the House, please.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I was just explaining to the gallery that I so wanted to interject, but I was not allowed to. We had to simply sit and listen to that unbelievable speech from the member for Mackay. In Queensland 43,000 full-time jobs have been lost because of this incompetent government; because of her incompetent government. The member for Mackay listed projects, but where is the justification for the \$80 million—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. One moment, members. I urge the Treasurer not to interrupt. I am trying to hear the Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Just this year, \$80 million of infrastructure spending has been cut from the Palaszczuk Labor government's budget and the budget of the year before that was savagely cut as well. Despite that, the member for Mackay tries to justify why 43,000 full-time jobs have been cut from the Queensland economy. Rural and regional people are hurting, but those opposite have no idea. The Treasurer's own region has seen a severe slashing of funding for infrastructure. He is the Treasurer of Queensland and he is not even able to stand up to the Deputy Premier in cabinet and say, 'We should spend some money on infrastructure in Cairns.' The figures speak for themselves: in this year's budget, \$120 million has gone from Cairns; in last year's budget, \$150 million less was spent on infrastructure in the regions around his electorate. Those opposite say that they can justify it, as if reassuring the 43,200 people who have lost their full-time jobs. Those people have lost their full-time jobs because of their incompetence, their lack of an economic plan and the fact that they are all too busy grandstanding to concentrate on what it is that they have been put there to do, which is to govern for the people of Queensland.

One thing they have done is to slash the Royalties for the Regions program. I have spoken about the Royalties for the Regions program in this House. It was delivering jobs for Queensland and it was saving lives. I have talked about the Mount Perry Road and the projects for Warrego. I have talked about projects that helped the member for Gregory and the member for Gladstone, who needs to retract his statements on behalf of the good people of Gladstone around the projects that we built under the Royalties for the Regions program. Some of those projects languished for years and years under previous Labor governments.

Those opposite are a joke in the bush. I think it was the honourable member for Kawana who said that when they first get elected they all wander in to the RM Williams shop. I know for sure that when the member for Bundaberg was the minister for agriculture she polished up her ag. boots, but she did not do anything for the 43,000—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. We will take a breath for a moment. Thank you. I can now hear the Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: It is clear that the incompetent Palaszczuk-led Labor government is not doing its job. It is not looking after the people of Queensland and it is certainly not looking after the people of rural and regional Queensland.