




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR NANANGO

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MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (12.11 pm): No wonder there is anger in the regions with representation—or lack thereof—from people like the member for Barron River, unlike the previous member for Barron River, Michael Trout, who was a fantastic member of parliament. It will be a fantastic day when we can welcome the man of the people, the man from Barron River, back into this great House.

I did refer to that anger in the regions. It is not only in the regions, it is now all across this great state. We have had over 2½ years of a do-nothing Palaszczuk government and it is clear—one only needs to look at the figures—that the Palaszczuk government simply cannot, will not and refuses to deliver the infrastructure that Queensland needs.

Months before this potential election, Labor's panic set in. One can see those opposite, including the Premier, in absolute damage control. The Premier's final budget—a so-called election budget—has completely failed. The old adage is certainly true: you cannot fatten a pig on market day. We know that Queenslanders are smarter than that. Queenslanders will remember the low infrastructure spend by the Palaszczuk Labor government's first budget. It was the lowest infrastructure spend in living memory. It is a disgraceful legacy. Queenslanders remember that Labor failed to deliver the \$2 billion worth of infrastructure it promised in its first budget. Queenslanders remember the further cuts in the 2015-16 budget and the failure again to deliver \$1.7 billion of infrastructure it actually stood here and promised.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: That is right, Grace, they failed to deliver \$1.7 billion of infrastructure. In I think one of the harshest cuts of all they have completely ripped the guts out of the regional road funding to almost every single region across this state. The impact of this failure to deliver, the impact of this do-nothing government, is hurting all of Queensland. It is certainly hurting the 56 per cent of youth in outback Queensland who want a job but cannot find one. That is an increase of 19.8 per cent over the year, an increase of 38 per cent since the election of this do-nothing Palaszczuk government. That is this Labor government's legacy.

The do-nothing Palaszczuk government is hurting the 7,000 people on the Gold Coast who have lost their jobs in the last year and the further 8,000 people on the Gold Coast who have simply given up looking for any work. There is not a corner in this state which is not in economic misery because of this government.

The contrast for Queenslanders is stark. At the next election Queenslanders have a choice between a do-nothing Palaszczuk government with no record to run on or an LNP team led by Tim Nicholls which has a plan and a record to deliver. I am happy to compare Labor's inaction to the LNP's record of delivering major infrastructure projects. The LNP record includes an \$8.6 billion investment in

the Bruce Highway; \$4.4 billion of new generation rolling stock; the \$1.6 billion Toowoomba Second Range Crossing; 11 new schools in high-growth areas; \$450 million in the government's wireless network; and \$1 billion for the Gateway Upgrade North project.

A Tim Nicholls led government will build a better Queensland. We made sure we delivered for regional Queensland through our Royalties for Regions program and we have committed to do that again. An LNP government will focus on building the roads, bridges and dams that we need. We have already announced that we will invest \$225 million to upgrade the Haughton Channel and duplicate the Ross River Dam pipeline to support Townsville's long-term water security. The LNP will call for expressions of interest for construction contractors within 100 days of a Nicholls led LNP government. Unlike those opposite, we will not delay the funding of this project out over a four-year period. This will only aggravate the water security issues in the short term. An LNP government will provide the funding as fast as possible so the engineers can do their work and this project can become a reality. The choice is clear. In Townsville the mayor is screaming out for assistance from this government because she does not want the money over four years, she wants it immediately, and that is what the LNP has promised.