




Speech By
Jarrold Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

Record of Proceedings, 15 February 2017

MOTION

Jobs

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (6.10 pm): I move—

That this House—

1. notes reports that 43,200 full-time jobs were lost in regional Queensland in the past year;
2. notes that tens of thousands of people across the state have given up looking for work;
3. notes that regional Queensland is struggling with a jobs crisis; and
4. calls on the do-nothing Palaszczuk Labor government to finally deliver an economic plan that works.

This motion deals with the jobs crisis that we have in Queensland at the moment. Let us all be clear about one thing: the only jobs that the members of the Labor government are interested in are their own jobs. We see the hustle and bustle, the positioning and faction meetings right around the parliament. Recently, we saw it when the members opposite had to appoint a few ministers. I feel really sorry for the poor member for Gladstone, because last year he did that really good deal to move factions so that he could become an assistant minister. He left one faction to become an assistant minister, only now to have another faction appoint a minister. He completely—

Mrs LAUGA: I rise to a point of order. I understand that this motion we are debating is about regional jobs, not about the factions of the Labor Party.

Mr SPEAKER: There is no point of order.

Mr BLEIJIE: I will get to the member for Keppel in a moment. I was talking about the member for Gladstone. He switched factions to become an assistant minister. Unfortunately for him, the last two ministerial appointments have been from the faction that he left. I feel really sorry for him.

I feel sorry for the member for Logan, who is sitting up there. The other day, I would have liked to have been a fly on the wall in the factional meeting of seven where he put his name forward. Believe it or not, he was beaten by the member for Ferny Grove, who filled the ministerial position. It is Valentine's week. I feel for all of these members. I feel for the member for Ferny Grove, because he will not be able to spend as much time sitting in the red chamber at night in his long johns reminiscing about the good old days in the red chamber now that he is a busy minister.

The fact is that the members of the Labor Party have spent two years talking about their own jobs, their own positions in this place. We have seen 43,000 full-time jobs lost from the regions. Regional Queensland, rural Queensland, is suffering because of this do-nothing Palaszczuk Labor government. I only have to talk to some of my fellow members who represent areas in the bush and hear some of their stories about job losses in their regions. I reflect on some comments one of my colleagues made when QNI in Townsville went into liquidation. A few hundred jobs were lost and the members of the Labor Party all rushed to up to Townsville. They had emergency strategy meetings—

Mr Mander: Offered counselling.

Mr BLEIJIE: They offered counselling to all sorts of people because of the job losses. We feel for those people who lost their jobs. When we lost over 10,000 jobs in the Bowen Basin because of the mining downturn, they did not lift a single finger. We have lost jobs in Emerald, Blackwater, Capella, Clermont, but we did not hear a word, and there was not a visit to those areas from the Labor government. The members opposite rushed to Townsville to fix a political issue, but throughout regional Queensland jobs have been lost.

The members opposite say they have this big plan—Jobs Queensland—to fix all of the problems. I have said before that the Minister for Employment talked about youth unemployment and said that it was not really much of an issue, that it was more of a statistical matter. She said that it really was not much of an issue. I table a comment from the member for Ipswich, Jennifer Howard. Members ought to know that the member for Ipswich is the Assistant Minister of State Assisting the Premier. The *Queensland Times* states—

... Jennifer Howard said Mr Bleijie didn't understand what Jobs Queensland was.

This is a \$40 million organisation. Then the *Queensland Times* stated the following—

“Jobs Queensland is not a jobs generator,” she said.

That quote is from the assistant minister to the Premier saying that their jobs body, their jobs council, with its sole focus to create jobs in Queensland, is not a jobs generator. Therefore, we can clearly see that the Labor Party has no interest in regional Queensland. I table a copy of that editorial.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Queensland Times* online, dated 24 September 2016, titled ‘LNP will get Ipswich back to work: Bleijie’ [186].

As I said, it is clear—

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from the member for Everton. No doubt, with those sorts of comments the Labor Party will make her a minister soon. She will get promoted. That is sort of the silly nonsense stuff that members of the Labor government say. No doubt, for those wonderful comments, rather than being booted to other areas of this place, she will go straight to the front bench.

The reality is that the members opposite have no interest in small business, they have no interest in jobs in rural areas. They go down to the Queen Street Mall, buy their Akubras and their shiny RM Williams, then jump on the government jet and go out and speak about regional jobs. It does not work. People can see through it.