




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR KAWANA

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MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Jobs

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (11.57 am): Following on from the previous member's comments, the Palaszczuk Labor government are only interested in their own jobs. They are not interested in jobs for regional Queensland. They are interested in saving their own jobs in their own seats, particularly for their mates whom we have seen appointed over the last couple of years. The Labor Party are very good in Queensland at talking, but they do not act. They just talk about it. All the ministers came in here this morning and talked about jobs, jobs, jobs, but the facts and the statistics speak for themselves.

The Minister for Training and Skills rose and talked about the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program and the \$240 million they reinvested. The question that the minister does not answer is: why are traineeships and apprenticeships still on the way down? They are investing all this money—

Mrs D'Ath: Ask me a question.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection. I should not have to ask a question because the minister made a ministerial statement this morning. They talk, talk, talk, but they do not give the statistics. The national statistics show that apprenticeships, traineeships and school based apprenticeships are on their way down under the watch of the Minister for Employment, the member for Redcliffe. She talks a lot, but their actions are not seeing results at the other end. They are not seeing all these people they are talking about getting all these jobs, traineeships and apprenticeships. Why do the statistics not reveal the rhetoric?

Over the years we have heard about jobs, jobs, jobs. We have seen jobs for mates, jobs for union thugs and jobs for former MPs. We have also seen jobs on the health boards of all our electorates for fly-in fly-out former Labor members when those health board positions were meant to be for community representatives. This morning members in this place talked about the confusion and risk that are associated with the Adani project not going ahead. The Premier was in India a few months ago. She visited the port headquarters of Adani and talked about how great this project is. A few months ago the Premier stood up with the federal government at a big press conference and talked about how her government is making sure this happens, but today there has been complete silence.

Mr Seeney: Then Jackie happened.

Mr BLEIJIE: Then Jackie happened. I take the interjection. The member for Callide will recall that when the Premier was the Leader of the Opposition she took an interjection and said, 'In opposition we don't have strategy meetings.' If they do have strategy meetings in government I suspect the strategy this morning was, 'Don't mention Adani.'

An opposition member: 'Don't mention the war.'

Mr BLEIJIE: 'Don't mention the war.' But after a couple of hours in parliament the Deputy Premier came in here and mentioned Adani. The Premier has a light bulb moment and thinks, 'If the Deputy Premier mentioned Adani I'd better mention Adani as well, so I'll talk about Adani and how committed

we are.' No ministerial statement mentioned the jobs at risk with Adani, but the benefit is that one of the LNP's top priorities in government in Queensland will be creating jobs across Queensland and better managing our finances.

We will do that through our plan to get Queensland working. Unlike the Minister for Employment over there who said, 'There is not much you can do about youth unemployment,' we have a real plan. There will be \$5,000 incentives which will create 10,000 jobs with our Queensland Apprenticeship Boost. The Tools for Tradies initiative will provide \$500 for hairdressers, carpenters and chefs after they finish their apprenticeships to help with tools. The Job Start Incentive will provide \$4,000 to small businesses and people who do not want to go to school or go into training but just want to get off the couch, get off the dole and get a job. That will create 10,000 jobs. Our employment bonus will give a workers comp rebate to those who employ people under the Job Start Incentive. That will reduce the unemployment rate in Queensland.

Labor's plan does not even apply across all of Queensland. They target little pockets. If you want to reduce the unemployment rate in Queensland you have to have a Queensland plan, and the LNP is the only party in Queensland with an employment and unemployment package which will create lots of jobs. It applies right across Queensland. Whether you are in Toowoomba, Ipswich, North Queensland, Far North Queensland or the Sunshine Coast, it will apply. The only way we can get jobs and opportunities for young Queenslanders is to have an LNP Nicholls led government, and the only way we can do that is to build a better Queensland. We will do that. We will build a better Queensland and our major focus will be on creating jobs and the better financial management of state finances.