




Speech By
Julianne Gilbert

MEMBER FOR MACKAY

Record of Proceedings, 15 February 2017

MOTION

Jobs

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (6.26 pm): I rise to speak against the motion. Those opposite have to resort to smoke and mirrors figures for their hysterical rhetoric. I am proud to support the amendments to the more accurate figures based on a 12-month average. Again we have the hysterical LNP trying to erase memories from their time in office: mass sackings, deep cuts to front-line services, the talking down of the Queensland economy in pursuit of asset sales—shameful! The people of regional Queensland do not forget. We do not forget the cuts to front-line services and the jobs that were the lifeblood of many regional communities. Those opposite love proclaiming that they are the only representatives of regional and rural Queensland and the industries of the regions. Those opposite love proclaiming how much they support mining. They were very loud in their platitudes to the mining regions, but they had no idea what to do when the resource price fell. They had no plan, no clue—just clueless. They never understood the end of the mining boom. They knew it was coming. They knew that the mining construction boom had ended. Did the LNP have a plan for the end of the mining boom? No!

What we inherited in Mackay when the Palaszczuk government came to office was an economy in decline. We inherited a region where unemployment had risen from four per cent in July 2014 to 6.1 per cent in February 2015. It was on the rise; it was unstoppable. It peaked at eight per cent. How shameful! The Palaszczuk government has rolled up its sleeves and gotten to work, unlike those opposite. Some of the projects that have kept our tradies in work, and the tradies come to see me quite often—

Mr Millar interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Gregory, your interjections are repetitive. You are now warned under 253A.

Mrs GILBERT: I would like to share with those opposite what a government that knows what to do can do to start getting tradies back to work. They are very grateful in my region for the work that we have given them. We have helped with a \$2 million joint project with the council and the Show Association to rebuild the showgrounds, delivering 86 jobs; \$28 million for the Vines Creek bridges rebuild which will provide 90 full-time jobs; building new classrooms at the Mackay Special School; rebuilding of the Mackay Fire Station; a joint project with the federal government to build the Mackay ring-road which will mean 605 jobs; \$50 million for upgrades of the Bruce Highway; \$5.15 million for the upgrade of the Bowen Police Station; \$6.75 million for material offloading facilities at Abbot Point and Hay Point; and \$1.1 million for the Mackay Harbour East upgrade of intersection and port road. There are lots of upgrades for schools, such as refurbishments to the Mackay State High School gym, manual arts block and home economics area. There are lots of refurbishments happening in our schools. Those opposite did not have a plan, so Mackay missed out on all of that infrastructure and upgrades.

As a result of the actions of the Palaszczuk government, today in Mackay the unemployment rate is 5.8 per cent. It is coming down. Those opposite did not have a plan; they did not have a clue. In the past year, 3,200 full-time jobs have been created. That is what happens when you have a positive economic plan. The LNP has never had a plan for creating jobs, either in metropolitan or regional areas. They had no plans before they won office, they had no plans when they were in office and they have shown us no plans since being kicked out of office more than two years ago.

We can all recall that, before the 2012 election, the Leader of the Opposition was part of the deal to invite Campbell Newman to lead and later destroy the LNP. The Leader of the Opposition and Campbell Newman looked Queenslanders in the eye and said that they had a plan for statewide unemployment to head towards a trend of four per cent over six years. What did the then treasurer do after that? Nothing! It was soon apparent that—

(Time expired)