




Speech By  
**Hon. Dr Steven Miles**  
**MEMBER FOR MOUNT COOT-THA**

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Record of Proceedings, 6 September 2017

## PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

### Road Infrastructure

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Mount Coot-tha—ALP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef) (2.50 pm): Yesterday I spoke about the devastating cuts that the member for Clayfield made when Treasurer to Queensland's roads. What we know after three years of the LNP government, and now after nearly three years of the Palaszczuk government, is that only Labor builds roads: Tim Nicholls and the LNP only know how to cut roads.

RoadTek is instrumental to the delivery and maintenance of Queensland's extensive road and bridge network. RoadTek employees are vital front-line road workers who deliver better, safer roads across the state. RoadTek are at the front line every day and they are the first point of call when disaster strikes. They are out there rain, hail or shine in some of the most remote parts of the state helping to keep Queenslanders moving, but that did not save them from the cruel, heartless cuts of the Leader of the Opposition. The Newman-Nicholls LNP government slashed 700 RoadTek jobs and thousands of jobs in Transport and Main Roads, reducing their overall staff by a shocking 22.4 per cent. They wanted to get rid of RoadTek altogether, and even while in opposition they continue to question its value. They have not learned.

In 2013 the member for Indooroopilly claimed that his contracting out would 'deliver more bang for our buck' but he was very, very wrong. His private contractor was terminated in 2015 because levels of service were not met. Under the Palaszczuk government those works are once again being done by RoadTek. The Palaszczuk government has rebuilt the RoadTek workforce: it now numbers about 1,160 employees across Queensland. They are out there delivering essential road and transport infrastructure and maintenance works across our vast road network. Our investment paid off during Cyclone Debbie and we were able to repair roads more quickly.

Not only did the Leader of the Opposition gut RoadTek but he also cut 14,000 other front-line public servants. That is more than 4,000 health workers, 500 teachers and 225 child safety officers. Now he says 'trust me.' He asks Queenslanders to ignore what he did and just believe that he has learned some kind of lesson. If he really has learned a lesson, he should apologise. He is good at coming in here and calling on ministers to apologise. It is about time he apologised to the RoadTek workers, apologised to all of the Queenslanders he sacked and apologised to all of the Queenslanders who would have benefitted from the roads he cut, because if he will not apologise Queenslanders will know that he has not learned—

*(Time expired)*