




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Youth Jobs

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.13 am): Queensland is facing a lost generation of young people as Labor's youth jobs crisis continues. In the last 12 months across our regions thousands of young locals have given up looking for work because they have lost hope because of this do-nothing Labor government. They have lost hope that this government can deliver the jobs and the opportunities they want and need. They have lost hope because of the actions this government takes, exemplified in this place this morning.

We have seen the Deputy Premier with yet another iteration of the Cross River Rail project. It is almost like the Oscars last night. She pulls out the envelope and it has the wrong name in it. Where are they? They are living in la-la land. Even when they get the right envelope, what do they have? They only have moonlight. That is all they have—nothing else.

We are seeing the threat to investment and future jobs by a government that refuses to take action for the canegrowers and provide them with certainty for investment. Always do nothing and then always come late to the party; that is the story of this Labor government. It is no wonder that young people are not getting the jobs that they need, the jobs that they deserve, the jobs that support their local communities and it is no wonder that they are giving up hope and not even looking for those jobs throughout the regions of Queensland.

We have seen a massive cut to infrastructure. Some \$3 billion has been just wiped out of the bottom line by the Treasurer over there—the man who claims that it is all about providing young people with jobs in his region where the youth unemployment rate is over 24½ per cent. That is the record of the Treasurer who says it is about major projects, but cannot even deliver the Aquis resort which was his No. 1 priority at the beginning of last year.

Labor turns a deaf ear, a blind eye and a cold shoulder to the plight of young people looking for jobs in this state. They are obsessed with their own political survival. They are obsessed with their own jobs. They are obsessed with the inner city because we know that the puppet master behind the throne from South Brisbane is obsessed with what the Greens will do to her in her own electorate.

That is the problem that we face. Unemployment is burgeoning. Our young people deserve a brighter future than this government is providing for them. This Labor government has lost its heart, it has lost its soul and it is losing young Queenslanders.

(Time expired)