



Speech By  
**Tim Nicholls**


**MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD**

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**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Budget**

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (3.50 pm): This budget is quite simply a con. It is a con on the people of Queensland. That is the message on the front page of the *Courier-Mail* delivered to hundreds of thousands of readers across Queensland this morning. Hundreds of thousands of people saw it this morning.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members, if I cannot hear the Leader of the Opposition, I will ask him to start again.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Do you want to me start again? I am happy to. This budget is quite simply a con. That is the message on the front page of today's *Courier-Mail* delivered to hundreds of thousands of Queenslanders across the state this morning. The Premier's so-called jobs bonanza has been unmasked as nothing more than a hoax. It is only really about one job—that is the job of Annastacia Palaszczuk, the member for Inala.

The Treasurer can stand in front of the camera as much as he likes. We know what he is up to—his cheap tricks over there. It will not change the story. This is about one job and one job only, and that is the Premier of Queensland keeping hers.

A jobless budget is of course the unmistakable product of a do-nothing government. Meanwhile, the price of power, the cost of water and family car registration fees are all up as this government scrambles to cover up the financial mismanagement of the member for Mulgrave. The damage is done. That much is clear from this budget.

For the first time in Queensland's history debt under Labor will crash through the \$80 billion limit. There will be \$81.1 billion of debt, courtesy of Annastacia Palaszczuk and Curtis Pitt. That is 81.1 billion reasons to boot this Labor government out at the next election. It means Labor debt is going to cost every man, woman and child just under \$16,000.

We are in a pitiful mess. Those over there are in an even more pitiful mess. If it was not for coal—the commodity that Labor despises—Queensland would be flat broke. Some 30,000 Queenslanders lost their jobs in 2016. Youth unemployment is above 20 per cent in regional Queensland. On top of this, the shame is the sham of the trinkets and false promises.

We know the real price of Cross River Rail is not the \$5.4 billion that they are sprouting; it is closer to \$14½ billion. Under Labor Queenslanders always end up paying the price.

*(Time expired)*