



Speech By  
**Andrew Powell**


**MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE**

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Record of Proceedings, 22 August 2018

**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL**

**State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development  
Committee, Report**

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (12.24 pm): It is not often that, in common with the member for Condamine, I would like to quote a former Labor parliamentarian. However, the observations of John Mickel are a very apt summary of the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee. When the former Speaker described it as a protection racket, he said—

The impression I got in reading the transcripts is some ministers were keen to answer the question but a point of order had been taken.

That is a perfect insight into the deliberate politicking of cover-ups and secrecies that the Palaszczuk Labor government resorted to during this last estimates process. The question is actually whether it applied to Minister Dick because I have a suspicion that it may not have. It may not have been us they were trying to silence; perhaps it was actually Minister Dick.

Since taking over Deputy Premier Jackie Trad's portfolio responsibilities, he has scrapped her flagship South Bank aquarium, which the Palaszczuk government had spruiked in no fewer than eight media releases; he has announced he will be sharpening the focus of the Deputy Premier's closely associated market-led proposal program or, in other words, the program has failed and it is in desperate need of fixing; and he has also announced he will be refocusing the Palaszczuk government's Building our Regions program or, in other words, saving a program that is not delivering on time or on budget as promised—and the questions from the member for Condamine and the member for Bundaberg also demonstrated that. I am certain that if the minister was actually allowed to talk, he would have just kept going on and on and on. I think in the case of Minister Dick, he may have been purposely silenced to protect not himself but, rather, his predecessors, in particular the Deputy Premier, as he continues to undo every single thing that she previously touched.

In those rare moments when we did manage to ask questions following irrelevant filibustering by the chair of the committee, the committee was forced to endure the complete disregard that Minister Dick has for accountability and honesty. In downplaying the seriousness of the state of Queensland effectively receiving a cease and desist letter from an international aircraft manufacturer, he blatantly misled the committee, stating that the company in question actually produced simulators and not aircraft. A quick Google search—something that the minister seems unable to grasp—would reveal to him that he could not have been further from the truth. The French aircraft manufacturer in question, ATR, was established by Airbus and Leonardo in 1981 and turns over US\$1.8 billion per annum. The fact that every eight seconds an ATR turboprop takes off or lands somewhere in the world seemed an irrelevant fact to the minister, particularly when this multinational company is threatening the Queensland government with the Competition and Consumer Act 2010.

Turning to manufacturing, Labor's do-nothing approach to government was on full display when questioned about their 2017 election commitment to implement a comprehensive strategy for the Queensland meatworks industry. With over eight months having passed since the election, the committee heard that a strategy had not even been started, let alone implemented. Over the same period the committee heard that Queensland's meat manufacturing industry had lost 900 jobs in South-East Queensland alone. The committee was left wondering how many more jobs from Queensland's largest manufacturing industry needed to be lost before this do-nothing Palaszczuk Labor government delivered on its promises. Queensland Labor has driven power and water prices to record highs. They have pushed through damaging vegetation management laws that will hurt Queensland livestock producers who are suffering in the midst of devastating droughts. However, for the sake of Queensland jobs I hope that Minister Dick soon finds the courage to stand up to his factional opponent in the Treasurer and stop her rampage against Queensland's meat industry to gain green votes in her electorate.

If I look at infrastructure—we cannot really; the minister is not responsible for any. The Treasurer took Cross River Rail off him. The Minister for Transport and Main Roads will not let him near a single road project, let alone a rail project. Even ports has been taken off him. He is the most emasculated infrastructure minister this state has ever seen. There is zero responsibility for any infrastructure. The only thing he can announce are business cases and funding to do with business cases. It is ridiculous.

I return to former ex-Labor Speaker Mr Mickel: I can only imagine the commentary he would provide with respect to the questions put to the government on planning. In an outrageous ruling, the committee chair deemed that a real increase in insurance premiums for Gold Coast residents was hypothetical. Only in the fact-free world of this Palaszczuk Labor government would this unbelievable ruling be considered okay. I can assure the committee chair that when residents start paying the real increase in their insurance premiums they certainly will not share his view.