



Speech By  
**Andrew Powell**


**MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE**

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**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning**

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (2.28 pm): As the Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition have said, 2018 has been a year of going backwards. Whilst the blame needs to sit fairly and squarely at the feet of the Premier and Deputy Premier, there is another very inspiring member of the so-called Labor economic development team who has contributed, and that is the member for Woodridge. It is not often that I quote a Labor politician, but given that it is the last sitting day of the year I hope the House allows me this indulgence.

For those who do not recall, the former Labor deputy mayor of the Brisbane City Council once described the member for Woodridge, now Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning, as a 'gormless show pony'. I truly cannot think of a better description for the honourable member for Woodridge. 'Gormless', of course, means lacking in vitality or intelligence, stupid, dull or clumsy.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Glass House, you have used unparliamentary language and I ask you to withdraw. Regardless of whether it is a quote, it is still regarded as unparliamentary language. I ask you to withdraw.

**Mr POWELL:** For the benefit of my subsequent speech—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Do not argue with the chair, please.

**Mr POWELL:** I withdraw. That may seem a little harsh, but after the year the minister has had it is probably, if anything, a bit favourable. An ANZ/Property Council report now ranks the Palaszczuk Labor government as the worst state government in Australia for planning and managing growth. The infrastructure investor and developer survey this year revealed that four in every five investors say that a lack of opportunities and the amount of regulation under Labor were challenging investment. The same report outlined that over a third of respondents ranked Queensland as either the worst in the nation or below average for ease of doing business. That is certainly not a glowing endorsement of the minister's capability or capacity—but wait, there's more.

In another report released this year by the national infrastructure body, Queensland suffered the largest drop in investor confidence in the entire nation—the worst in the nation. That shows a considerable effort, or lack thereof, by the minister to achieve the worst position in the whole nation. As we have heard from previous speakers, it is not that exciting given that we now have the worst unemployment rate in the nation. New South Wales and Victoria ranked as nearly three times more attractive than Queensland to those wanting to invest in infrastructure.

Unfortunately for Queensland, the consequences of the member for Woodridge living up to the description afforded to him by his former colleague are grave. We have seen it across the length and breadth of his portfolio. It is almost laughable that the honourable member is seen as a future leader of those opposite. His own colleagues certainly do not share that opinion of him, because they have taken

everything he had off him. Cross River Rail went to the Treasurer. Transport and ports went to the member for Miller. Water and energy infrastructure went to the member for Stafford. He has not even been able to manage the QPAC investment, which went to the member for Alger. Worst of all, he lost responsibility for Stradbroke Island—

*(Time expired)*