




Speech By
Daniel Purdie

MEMBER FOR NINDERRY

Record of Proceedings, 19 September 2018

MOTION

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (5.22 pm): I rise to speak to the motion moved by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. As we have heard, we now have conclusive evidence that this government is not only arrogant and out of touch but also absolutely incompetent. As I said in my maiden speech, the two highest priorities of any government are to keep its citizens safe and to provide an economic environment in which its citizens can prosper. As we heard yesterday, and as we hear today, in both of those areas this government has failed massively.

This is the second term of the Palaszczuk government. There is nowhere for the government to hide. This is its record. It is all its own doing. Labor has been in government for 25 of the last 30 years. Thirty years ago Queensland was the economic powerhouse of Australia, Now, Queensland is battling to avoid being awarded the wooden spoon. On every key economic performance indicator, this government gets an epic fail.

This government takes no responsibility or accountability and instead passes the buck. This government is arrogant and incompetent. This government lacks leadership and vision and fails to foster the economic conditions in which Queenslanders can thrive. More debt and higher taxes are at the core of the Labor Party's DNA. We have had more than a quarter of a century of Labor administrations addicted to debt and taxes. There is now no doubt that this government is following lock step in that tradition.

Under this government, business confidence has plummeted. The June Sensis Business Index has found this government to be the least popular government for small and medium sized businesses. Productivity is down off the back of 23,000 workdays lost to trade union strike action. We now have the highest unemployment rate in the nation at 6.4 per cent. There are now 170,000 Queenslanders looking for a job.

What does this government do when it cannot pay the bills? Apart from raiding the superannuation of our hardworking public servants, it creates new taxes—five of them. We cannot tax our way to prosperity. The report card outlined by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition is proof of that. The saddest thing is that this situation will not change. There are few people sitting opposite who have run a business. Very few of them have managed a budget. Very few of them know the day-to-day dreams or fears of being a small business owner. They have jumped on the student politics, union official, state MP career path and found themselves out of their depth in managing the economy and getting their debt under control—a debt that they seem more than happy to pass on to our kids and grandkids. We know that this government robs Peter to pay Paul and has no plan to steer our state into a future position of prosperity. The June CCIQ pulse survey continues—

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for McConnel and member for Buderim, you will cease your interjections at each other.

Mr PURDIE: We know that this government robs Peter to pay Paul and has no plan to steer our state into a future position of prosperity. The June CCIQ pulse survey shows the continuing decline in business confidence and the divide between South-East Queensland and regional Queensland, confirming that the Palaszczuk-Trad government is still a Brisbane-centric government. The members opposite purport to fight for all Queenslanders, but all they really care about is the inner city and South Brisbane and firming up their coalition with the Greens to secure their own seats.

In true Labor tradition, the government has a clear strategy of shirking the hard work, fudging figures, totally ignoring the real issues and failing to make the tough decisions to deal with debt. Obviously, the members opposite are happy to leave this hard work to a heavy-lifting future competent LNP government. These latest economic barometers have shone a light on the economic woes facing Queenslanders. Clever accounting and the resurgence of the resource sector is the only thing that has kept this sinking ship afloat. The Premier—

Mr Millar interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Gregory, you will use correct titles.

Mr PURDIE: The government has no economic plan, only more taxes, more debt and more unemployment. Thought bubbles about artificial intelligence and blockchain technology are proof that the Palaszczuk Labor government has well and truly jumped the shark. In stark contrast, the LNP has a plan to arrest debt, bust congestion and provide cheaper electricity.

(Time expired)