




Speech By
Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

Record of Proceedings, 7 March 2018

MOTION: DISTRIBUTION OF GST

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.25 am): What an opportunity this is. Can I say one thing—at least I know the GST rate. This is nothing but a cheap political stunt by those opposite who have absolutely nothing to go on. They have no record to go on and they have no ideas, so what do they do? We heard it in the House today. We had question after question from their side as well as all of their ministerial statements but they did not talk about what they are doing or what would be best for Queensland. They were just belting Canberra because they have absolutely nothing else. They were belting the federal government—a government which is actually trying to stand up for Queenslanders and provide for Queenslanders. The federal government is trying to make sure that everyone all over Queensland gets their fair share because here in this state we have a government that simply cannot work it out.

This is a cheap political stunt by the Premier to shine the lights on to another issue. That is why I have been fighting for Queenslanders, that is why I always stand up for Queenslanders and that is why I always put Queenslanders first. That is why we have been travelling throughout this great state and talking about issues that matter to people.

Let us not forget that this House supported a motion only months ago, and I want to remind the House about that motion. That motion stated that the House—

supports the Productivity Commission's recommendation to retain the broad concept of horizontal fiscal equalisation used by the Commonwealth Grants Commission in allocating GST funds;

and that the House—

rejects any proposal that unfairly disadvantages Queensland, including the Productivity Commission's 'reasonable' test being based on the average state, where Queensland would be \$1.59 billion worse off in 2017-18.

I say it again: this motion is clearly a cheap political stunt because there is nothing else happening on that side of the chamber. I actually talked yesterday about the ICT waste in this state. If the Premier wanted a solution around funding, she should have a look at the waste in her own government because that is exactly what good governments do. I suggest that the Premier has a look at the dashboard and then maybe she should get the ministers in to have a chat. She could say, 'They seem to blow out a bit.' The minister for ICT, or was it housing, answered a question yesterday and it was fun for us to watch but I know that it was punishing for those members over there. We could see the new Treasurer saying, 'No, please stop.' Then he gave us the line that was a beauty: 'No, this is business as usual. Ladies and gentlemen, in Queensland, we let it blow out. It's business as usual. What do you mean?' We wasted \$1.2 billion on the Health payroll debacle, a Labor debacle—

Ms TRAD: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I am listening patiently and trying to see the relevance of the content of the opposition leader's speech to the very specific motion put forward by the Premier. Mr Speaker, I would ask you to draw her back to the motion and ask her to stick to relevance.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, Deputy Premier. Leader of the Opposition, please pay close attention to the motion. I ask you to continue your contribution.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: What another lovely opportunity! I just sat there and had to listen to the Premier say, 'In six minutes time, in three minutes time, in one minutes time—I cannot wait to hear from the Leader of the Opposition.' I was extremely clear when I said that I would always stand up for Queenslanders, because the Premier said, 'I'm waiting to hear whether the Leader of the Opposition is going to stand up for Queensland.' I am standing up for Queensland, I am pointing out how incompetent this Labor government in Queensland is and I am pointing out the waste.

Let's get back to the \$250 million wasted on the ICT dashboard. Let's see what that money could have actually paid for. That amount could pay for 2,500 extra nurses, 2,450 extra police—and on that point I would like to congratulate the previous LNP government on appointing 1,100 new police officers when we were in government. It was not enough for those opposite to beat up on the federal government, so they tried to take credit for the 1,100 police that we in the LNP appointed. That amount of waste could also put on an extra 3,200 paramedics, who are much needed across many of our regional areas in particular. What about 6,900 police cars? That would be very handy for those areas that are doubling up in their cars and really need it. What about more schools and more school halls? What about swimming lessons for our children across Queensland?

There is another great idea for what we could have used the money that was wasted in the Palaszczuk government's ICT bungle. Let's have a look at it. This government are coming up to their fourth budget, but that is 'business as usual': they just waste money like that. It is business as usual. There is no accountability, no transparency—there is transparency because it was the LNP government that put the dashboard in place because we on this side of the House understand that the Queensland economy is very important. We understand that we need to be accountable. We need to be open and accountable to the people of Queensland when it comes to taxpayers' money. That is what our constituents expect of us when they vote for us at the ballot box. They expect each and every one of us to be accountable for their money. They do not say to me that it should be business as usual to have a blow-out of a government contract of around \$60 million in relation to the housing one. 'That is business as usual! Gee, let's think, we could maybe build the Kingaroy Hospital this year instead of waiting.' We have had to wait for that hospital due to the overruns of the budget.

When it comes to standing up for Queensland, there is no louder advocate in this parliament than me. As the Leader of the Opposition I am going to go all the way around this state and I am going to hold this incompetent Palaszczuk government to account.

Ms Bates: It is everyone else's fault.

Mr Janetzki: Stop blaming everyone else.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I will take that interjection from the member from Toowoomba South. Those opposite have to stop blaming everyone else. They should be standing up for Queensland and accepting that because of their incompetent way of running the government they have no-one else to blame but themselves. It is time for this new Treasurer to do something, do her job, find the holes in the budget as a good Treasurer should and stop blaming everyone but themselves.

An opposition member interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I take that interjection. Exactly. I say again that this motion is simply a cheap political stunt by the Labor Party. The Premier sat there saying she wanted to hear from me; she was desperate to hear from me, but then she got up and left the chamber.

Mr SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, it is not parliamentary to refer to members absent from the chamber.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I withdraw, but I would say—

Mr SPEAKER: No, you cannot withdraw. It should be unconditional. Please continue.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Sorry?

Mr SPEAKER: You used the word 'but'.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I withdraw. I suggest to this House that this motion is a cheap political stunt from a government that has no record to go on, from a government that has no plan and no idea how to budget—and that has been clearly shown by 'Labornomics'. It is business as usual. The role of the opposition in Queensland is to hold the government to account, and the LNP and this side of the House will continue to stand up for Queensland. We will continue to hold this incompetent government to account.