



Speech By  
**Deb Frecklington**


**MEMBER FOR NANANGO**

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Record of Proceedings, 20 March 2018

**MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

**Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance**

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): There is nowhere like North Queensland. Last week I had another chance to see how amazing and resilient the people of North Queensland are, as well as the true larrikin North Queensland spirit that we all know and love. It was wonderful to visit Ingham with the member for Burdekin.

As we know, Ingham, Innisfail and Tully were flooded earlier this month. Once the waters started to go down, I headed to Hinchinbrook shire to see how the community was coping. I thank Mayor Ramon Jayo and Deputy Mayor Mary Brown for hosting both the member for Burdekin and me during that visit. Mayor Ramon Jayo was working wonders to get Ingham and surrounds back on their feet. It was great to see Deputy Mayor Mary Brown still smiling after a tough few days at the disaster recovery centre. Ramon showed the member for Burdekin and I the worst of the damage, as well as the crocodile tracks that had been left across his own flooded property, leading into—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Pause the clock. There is a lot of audible conversations happening. Please listen in silence to the honourable member making the speech.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** We saw crocodile tracks that ran across Ramon's backyard and into his garage. That was an amazing sight to see. I also visited canegrowers at Herbert River to hear firsthand how the flooding has been impacting their vital industry. Before my visit, I wrote to all insurance companies, calling on them to rapidly process claims. Of course, I will be staying in touch with those flood affected communities. It is so important that we support our local communities whenever a disaster strikes. I pay special tribute to all the volunteers, the SES and other emergency services workers who helped those communities. I am pleased to hear that the towns of Ingham, Innisfail and Tully and surrounding districts are getting back on their feet. I wish them well and all the best on the road to recovery.

Whilst on my trip to North Queensland, I also visited the Women's Centre in Townsville. I was absolutely appalled that anyone, let alone women and children in crisis, must attend this centre, which in Townsville is the only choice for women in their time of need, because the Women's Centre is in the grip of its very own crisis. It is rat infested, it is mould infested and recently it was flooded. The floor is so rotten that you can see the level below through the holes. The member for Mundingburra should be ashamed of herself. Not only is the Townsville Women's Centre in her electorate; it helps the region's most vulnerable. Every single year, it helps up to 10,000 women and children. It is a disgrace.

The community of Townsville is so concerned about the member's lack of action that they have had to start raising funds themselves. I thank the Sky Foundation for its incredible work in raising around \$600,000 for the important Women's Centre. However, that is a long way off the estimated \$3 million to \$4 million required to re-home that vital service—a service that provides the only free support for sexual assault victims in Townsville, a city that has been labelled the domestic violence capital of

Queensland. The centre is supposed to be a safe space for vulnerable women and children. If the member for Mundingburra and the Premier refuse to stand up for the people of Townsville, I will and so will the LNP. I call on the Premier to show some leadership and fund that vital centre now.

To make matters worse, when I was in Townsville I was also shocked, although not surprised, to learn that the Premier is now refusing to work with the Townsville City Council to get the city's new Haughton pipeline built. This is a joke and last year the LNP warned that it would happen. The LNP went to the election promising to fully fund the project. We told the people of Townsville that Labor had not set the money aside. At the time of the last election, they had not set aside the \$225 million needed for the project. They went up there with the shovels and they had the pictures taken, but guess what? The front page of the *Townsville Bulletin* tells the truth: there is no money! Their funding is not there. Guess who will have to pay? The bill will now be put on the ratepayers' credit card with the state's funding delayed for years.

This is another broken promise when the people of Townsville are already hurting. They have three elected representatives in this House, but not a single one of them is fighting for the Haughton pipeline to be built. Not a single one of them is standing up to the Premier and asking, 'Why did you mislead Queenslanders? Why isn't the money on the table?' What do the local members of parliament have to say to their local communities when their own Premier will not work with the local council and stump up for the Haughton pipeline?

We all know that Labor blames others and then claims credit for the hard work of others. We saw that when Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull flew into Brisbane to announce the coalition government's decision to build 211 new tanks in Queensland. Recently when I met with my federal counterparts, I pushed hard for those vehicles to be built here. When the news broke, the Premier and her ministers made a desperate attempt—a desperate attempt—to claim credit, which we again heard in the House this morning. It was a desperate attempt made with a jersey that is supposed to do it all, along with a three-hour trip to Germany.

When it comes to delivering and creating jobs in Queensland, naturally only the LNP delivers. We have the country's worst unemployment rate, so getting a project such as this is going to help. If the Palaszczuk government decided to spend less time Canberra bashing and more time consulting, we would get outcomes such as this more often.

I now turn to the email saga that is straight from a movie script. We have a minister who has been using his own personal emails for work related purposes, which he then tried to hide. When some of those emails did become public, we found out that it took only three days after the union had emailed the minister for their union buddy to get the job. This government moves fast only when it is giving out jobs to its union mates.

Last week we found out that another 600 work emails are still being kept secret. How can any Queenslanders trust the Premier or the government? What are they hiding? I call on the Premier to do the right thing, to release the emails and finally to show some leadership and sack this minister. This minister was untruthful to the people of Queensland and the Premier must get rid of him.

While Labor makes sure that its union buddies have jobs, it taxes everyday Queenslanders through the roof. There is no greater example of that than what we saw here today. The truth has come out: Labor is going to slug each and every Queenslanders with a waste levy.

The minister has stood up today and tried to say it is a levy and not a tax and that no-one at the end point is going to pay for it. It is a tax, is a tax, is a tax. No matter how they dress this up, it is a tax. It is one of the five new taxes that this government has put onto Queenslanders since the election. How many more taxes must Queenslanders bear? We have just heard a press conference from the Treasurer who flatly refused to rule out another tax. We are already up to five new taxes and we are only about 100 days into this government. They have done nothing else but tax, tax, tax, tax. There is another tax today.

Enough is enough. The people of Queensland, whether they are in the cape or Coolangatta or Bedourie or Boulia, should not have to pay just because this incompetent government cannot manage one superdump in Ipswich. Why should the people of Ipswich, Toowoomba, Townsville, Bundaberg, Kingaroy—each and every Queenslanders across Queensland—have to pay because these people are too incompetent to enforce the rules in front of them and make sure they run their government properly. Unfortunately, there is no more evidence we need than three years of this government that has done nothing for Queenslanders. Now in their second term, the only thing they plan to do is tax, tax, tax.