




Speech By
Glenn Butcher

MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE

Record of Proceedings, 19 September 2018

MOTION

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Mr BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (5.37 pm): I rise to oppose paragraphs 1(a), 1(b), 1(c), 1(d), 1(e), 1(f), 1(g), 1(h) and point 2 of the motion moved by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. I am very proud to be the assistant minister for Treasury and the member for Gladstone in this Palaszczuk Labor government. I am also very proud to work with the Deputy Premier of Queensland.

This government is unashamedly delivering for the people of Queensland, the people of regional Queensland and the people of Gladstone. We are getting on with the job. We are investing in infrastructure, we are growing jobs and we are delivering the high-quality front-line services that Queenslanders deserve. We are growing our economy in a way that is fair and does not leave anyone out in the cold.

In Central Queensland, we are investing \$1.44 billion on infrastructure in the next year alone. With that investment, we are supporting over 3,500 jobs in that area. We are building Rookwood Weir, we are upgrading the Bruce Highway, we are building the Rockhampton Hospital car park, we are building a new \$60 million high school at Calliope and a \$42 million emergency department at the Gladstone Hospital. Tenders have been called for the main building and it is due to start by the end of the year.

Since coming to government, there are over 144 extra nurses and 77 extra doctors in Central Queensland hospitals alone and an extra 137 teachers and 58 extra teacher aides in our Central Queensland schools. Programs like Skilling Queenslanders for Work have provided training to over 2,036 people in Central Queensland and Back to Work has seen 1,677 people find work in our region.

The member for Keppel, the member for Rockhampton and myself are proud that we are seeing so many people utilising these programs. This is what we are doing in regional Queensland every day from the cape right down to Coolangatta. Those opposite may be a little confused by our approach. They may be thinking to themselves, 'Why haven't they adopted any of the LNP policies here in Queensland—great ideas like flogging off Queensland assets like the Gladstone port?'

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr BUTCHER: They even employed a person to work at the Gladstone port to help prep it for sale and ran him as an LNP candidate against me while he was employed there. Guess what? He failed and he failed miserably. Another great idea was trying to flog off the land that we had for a school at Calliope.

Mr Millar interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Gregory!

Mr BUTCHER: They even went so far as to put a huge glossy big sign up to say it was for sale, which I had the greatest pleasure of pulling down with a community group in Gladstone and Calliope to get rid of it. It is great to see the new member for Callide getting on board and supporting not only saving the land but building a brand-new high school on the land that they wanted to sell. It is great to see that he is now on board. He is turning up to the committee meetings and he wants to see a high school built in Calliope. That is absolutely fantastic. At least now we can get on with the job. We know the LNP's history in Central Queensland when it was in government for three short years.

Mr Millar interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Gregory, you are warned under the standing orders. I have repeatedly given you suggestions about ceasing your interjections and you have not taken them.

Mr BUTCHER: It is like getting hit by the mayor of Gladstone in a charity fight in a couple of days. Those opposite sacked 22 front-line workers, 12 health practitioners, 31 nurses and nine QBuild staff under the Newman government. These are the policies and the approaches that saw the LNP drive the unemployment rate up to 7.1 per cent seasonally adjusted that saw a record 177,300 people unemployed. That saw the Sensis Business Index sink to plus 11 in regional Queensland while it is now at plus 41.

That is the record the Leader of the Opposition said she was proud of. As far as we know, that is the exact economic plan we will see replicated if she were ever to become Premier. She has promised more spending, to lower debt and no new taxes. In her budget reply speech alone she committed to nearly \$5 billion in new projects and spending. What is missing from this equation? How she is going to pay for it! While Labor governments build, train and invest, those opposite cut, sack and sell. I have news for the LNP: regional Queenslanders will never, ever forget that.