



Speech By  
**James Lister**


**MEMBER FOR SOUTHERN DOWNS**

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Record of Proceedings, 19 September 2018

**MOTION**

**Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance**

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (5.43 pm): I rise to speak in favour of the motion standing in the name of the member for Everton and Deputy Leader of the Opposition. When I saw that I was one of the fortunate few who would get a chance to speak on this motion, I thought, 'Beauty; it's not going to be hard, because when you are talking about the economic management of the Labor Party it is a veritable goldmine.' If the member for Thuringowa thinks that we need speech writers, he is sadly mistaken. I do not need a speech writer, as I have everything that I need, as does everybody here and everybody else in Queensland.

The government does not get economics. The word 'Labor' is a byword for economic backwardness, taxes, debt and unemployment. That is what we will see from this government. In the past 30 years, we have had 25 years of Labor governments and look at the state they have left our economy in. Look at the terrible debt. What are the effects of poor economic management? We are bequeathing debt to future generations. My kids, their kids and their grandkids will face a debt that is approaching \$83 billion. That is a colossal debt. What are we seeing for it? Ludicrous things such as weight loss programs for dogs! My good friend the member for Cairns waxed lyrical about a wonderful program to spend \$100,000 on weight loss for dogs. At least we had a bit of a laugh for our \$100,000.

**An opposition member:** Barking mad.

**Mr LISTER:** He is barking mad. On unemployment, this government does not understand that it is not government that creates jobs; it is the private sector. Since the government came to power, there has been a woeful increase in the number of senior bureaucrats. In my speech after the budget, I mentioned that there are over 4,000 more senior and senior executive public servants in the state which costs \$1 billion. Those people are not nurses attending patients, police arresting offenders or teachers taking classes. They are bureaucrats who are getting in the way and costing the private sector—which generates jobs in the state—a fortune.

The Treasurer introduced the \$1.3 billion waste tax, among four others. I will look only at the waste tax, because there is so little time to talk about this. Across the whole state, \$1.3 billion has been allocated to fix the odious waste problem caused by their Labor mates in the old Ipswich City Council. What happened? The Deputy Premier announced it and then their Labor mates in the Ipswich City Council said, 'We're going to cease recycling.' Straightaway, faster than a ferret up a pair of trousers, the Treasurer raced to bring forward that \$1.3 billion impost on Queenslanders. What happened? Of course we see incompetence from all Labor administrations and the Ipswich City Council was no different. The very next day they decided to rescind their decision not to have recycling. Did the Deputy Premier and the Treasurer race back to rescind bringing forward the \$1.3 billion tax? No, such is the insatiable addiction that the government have to putting their hands in your pocket and taking your money!

What sort of priorities does the government have? I will speak in the context of my seat of Southern Downs. The people in Southern Downs were aghast to find out that the government is spending \$45 million on a bike track linking some Labor electorates in Brisbane. What sort of impact would that money have were it spent in an electorate such as Southern Downs? We could fix the Gore Highway between Goondiwindi and Millmerran. We could eradicate pests. We could build 4,000 kilometres of dog fencing to protect the hardworking graziers in my electorate of Southern Downs from dog attacks. We could give more money to the Child and Youth Mental Health Service, to ensure that the children in my electorate of Southern Downs and in other regional electorates have access to the help they need to get the right diagnoses, so that they can go to school.

**Mrs Frecklington:** What about maternity services in the bush?

**Mr LISTER:** I take that interjection from the Leader of the Opposition. There are no services in the bush. As far as Labor is concerned, the bush starts at Bald Hills. I started this speech by saying that Labor is a byword for economic backwardness and I talked about priorities. However, this is not just about priorities; it is about ideology. It is about wasting our hard-earned money on thought bubbles and projects such as \$100,000 for weight loss for dogs. How can the state take seriously this government—the odious rump that sits over there? I commend the motion to the House.