




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

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MOTION

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (5.17 pm): A lecture from those opposite who lost the largest political majority in less than three years! What great economic insights we have been hearing from the other side! They gave us the highest employment rate in 11 years. They gave us a growth rate with a zero in front of it. They gave us 43 per cent electricity prices. They sacked 14,000 people. Not a single renewable energy project on a large scale started in their entire term and they ordered half-price trains from overseas, yet they have the temerity to come in here and lecture this government about economic credibility and competency. Spare us all! It is unbelievable!

The electorate of the member for Whitsunday has one of the biggest booms in renewable energy infrastructure going into it in the whole country, yet he never refers to it. He does not understand it and does not want to know about it. If you do not understand energy policy, you do not understand economics.

This government is committed to infrastructure. This has been an infrastructure budget. When we look at the sorts of infrastructure investments that are either underway or about to start, we are talking about the Caloundra Road upgrade at the back of the Sunshine Coast, the Haughton River flood plain, the Mackay Ring Road, the Cairns southern access corridor to start at Edmonton to Gordonvale, the two M1 upgrades followed by two more, the Eton Range realignment, the Smithfield bypass in Cairns, Rockhampton northern access, the cruise ship terminal in Brisbane and the Logan enhancement program. We are building infrastructure, including Cross River Rail.

If the members opposite oppose Cross River Rail, they cannot say that they have an economic plan. They do not support the single-most important infrastructure project in South-East Queensland. I might add that the members cannot—

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Mr Costigan interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Chatsworth and member for Whitsunday—and you have just made a five-minute contribution—you will cease your interjections and allow the minister to speak.

Mr BAILEY: The members opposite cannot claim to have economic credibility while they snuggle up to One Nation with its absolute economic lunacy. I might add that, with their shabby economic record, what did the members opposite do? They made the treasurer in their fewer than three-year Newman government their leader. How did that go for them? In the last week of the campaign, he melted down three times and they lost. We became a majority Labor government. The members opposite do not learn, because they do not understand economic policy. Our record is much better than that of the opposition—over 170,000 jobs created versus fewer than 30,000 jobs under the entire term of the Newman government.

I looked at this essay that the member for Everton claims to be a motion and thought I would look a little deeper into his references because I suspected—and rightly—that there was a lot of cherrypicking by the member for Everton. The June Sensis Business Index finds that small and medium business confidence in Queensland went up seven per cent. The current perceptions of the economy among small and medium businesses in Queensland was up 20 points. That figure is better than the figures for Victoria, New South Wales, Western Australia and the Northern Territory. What do we see in terms of support for the federal government among small and medium businesses? There is a negative opinion of the federal government's policy and there is too much focus on big business. The member did not mention that in the motion.

We also see that, in terms of metropolitan business confidence, Queensland is doing better than the national average and better than Victoria, better than South Australia, better than Western Australia and better than the Northern Territory. Again, that is a measure that was not mentioned by the member for Everton. When we look at the June CCIQ pulse survey, we see that the Queensland outlook is improving.

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Chatsworth, you are warned under standing orders.

Mr BAILEY: In Queensland, the 12-month outlook has also bounced higher. Again, that is not mentioned in the motion. In terms of general business condition, a promising sign is the declining share of businesses that consider conditions as deteriorating—24 per cent. Sales and revenue are up. Profitability has increased from month to month. In fact, it is a long-term trend going in the right direction. Again, the trend employment levels are improving. The major constraints on business are political instability at a federal level and energy costs from a federal government that, in five years in government, has not had an energy policy.