



Speech By
Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

Record of Proceedings, 19 September 2018

MOTION

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance



Mr MANDER (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (5.00 pm): I move—

That this House:

1. Notes:
 - (a) the June Sensis Business Index recorded the Palaszczuk government as the least popular state government among small and medium sized businesses;
 - (b) the June CCIQ Pulse survey continued to show subdued business confidence, and the divide in business confidence between South-East Queensland and regional Queensland confidence levels continues to grow;
 - (c) the July CommSec State of the States report puts Queensland in fifth place in the nation, solidly in the bottom half of the economic ladder;
 - (d) the unemployment rate in Queensland is the worst in Australia at a rate of 6.4 per cent;
 - (e) over 170,000 Queenslanders are unemployed and looking for a job;
 - (f) the Palaszczuk Labor government has increased taxes and charges and debt is still projected to exceed \$83 billion;
 - (g) Queensland had the lowest economic growth of any state in the last quarter at 0.1 per cent; and
 - (h) ratings agency Fitch has downgraded Queensland's credit rating outlook on the back of the Palaszczuk government's poor fiscal management; and
2. Condemns the Palaszczuk Labor government for its failed economic record of more taxes, increased debt and higher unemployment.

There is one thing this government is good at—that is, talking the talk. It can talk up anything. There is no greater example of this than the economic performance of this Labor government, which has now been in power for the past four years.

The motion I have moved lists a number of things that reference the poor economic performance of this government. The first one is the unemployment rate. At the moment in this state there are 170,000 people looking for a job. The latest ABS statistics show that the national average unemployment rate went down, from 5.4 per cent to 5.3 per cent. What was the unemployment rate in Queensland? It went up, to 6.4 per cent. That is the worst unemployment rate in the country. The national average unemployment rate goes down but in this state the unemployment rate goes up.

No doubt we will hear the Deputy Premier spruik the so-called economic performance of this government. One thing we should remember is that in the term of the LNP government the average unemployment rate was lower than the average unemployment rate under this government. The facts speak for themselves. The Treasurer will no doubt get up and talk about workforce participation and the jobs that have been created. What she will fail to mention is the fact that these things need to grow proportionate to population growth. The bottom line is that the unemployment rate is 6.4 per cent. This government is very good at talking itself up. When I was growing up my father told me, 'Tim, self-praise is no praise at all. It's not what you say about yourself; it's what others say about you.'

Let's have a look at some of the indicators. The very well respected CommSec State of the States report that looks at a series of economic indicators rates Queensland fifth amongst the states. We are battling to beat Tasmania or South Australia—those economic powerhouses.

Mrs Frecklington: How are they going to spin that?

Mr MANDER: That is exactly right. The June Sensis Business Index shows that amongst small and medium sized businesses the Palaszczuk government is the least popular in the country. The June CCIQ pulse survey continues to show subdued business confidence and an increasing divide between the regions and the city areas. People should not listen to the rhetoric and the PR that comes from the Treasurer; they should listen to the independent reports from the people who matter.

Of course, we never hear this government talk about the debt levels that we are rocketing towards.

Mrs Frecklington: Do they know what debt is?

Mr MANDER: I take that interjection from the Leader of the Opposition: 'Do they know what debt is?' The people of Queensland know what debt is. Members will remember that it was the Bligh Labor government that lost the AAA credit rating. Just recently, Fitch has dropped its positive outlook for us. That means that getting back to the AAA credit rating is a forlorn dream.

This is a government that thinks economic growth will be stimulated by extra taxes and that thinks debt, which our children and grandchildren will have to pay for in the future, is the way to manage the economy. It is a government that has no economic plan and has no idea. It is all about new taxes, unemployment and increased debt.