




Speech By
Aaron Harper

MEMBER FOR THURINGOWA

Record of Proceedings, 5 September 2019

MOTION

Newman LNP Government, Performance

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (12.16 pm): What an underwhelming contribution from the member for Burleigh. I am very proud to be the member for Thuringowa delivering jobs and generating infrastructure for our city—the North Queensland Stadium, the Haughton pipeline, Riverway Drive, the Townsville Ring Road. We are building infrastructure that will deliver jobs for the people of Townsville, and I am proud to be a part of the Labor government that is doing it.

We should remember that it was the LNP who sacked 670 workers in Townsville when they were last in government. People in Townsville have a long memory. Of those, 398 were health workers and I knew many of them—156 nurses and midwives. They attempted to flog off the Townsville port and I will tell you why. The former member for Thuringowa, Sam Cox, went to the trouble of putting up a billboard saying, 'We'll deliver it if you sell off the Port of Townsville.' The people of Thuringowa saw through him, as they did time and time again including in the Burdekin when he took off to One Nation.

The LNP is disgraceful. I will not have the LNP come to our city and talk down our city. It is disgraceful. They are misleading the people of Townsville. Their promise in 2017 of zero police is a disgrace. They tried to sell off the North Queensland police academy. They abolished 330 police positions in this state. When it comes to their promise of a police helicopter—what a laugh. \$300 million a year would not even buy a rotor, let alone a forward-looking infra-red camera system that we have fitted to two—not one, but two—police helicopters in our city, and they do a great job. They may as well put their plan up on a bunch of balloons. It does nothing for the people of Townsville. They are misleading the people of Townsville.

I joined the Labor Party after I saw people in our Ambulance Service in Townsville lose their jobs. Our community first aid people lost their jobs. Dennis Osmond was a baby capsule fitter who fitted thousands of baby capsules for people in Townsville. In 2014 they sacked him. He came into my office and he was crying and upset. Guess who else was upset? Johnathan Thurston was when he came in to get his baby capsule fitted. I received a threat because I opposed it on social media. Dennis was so upset. Seven hundred mothers quickly petitioned the former member for Mundingburra, David Crisafulli, who is here in the House. He should hang his head in shame. My assistant commissioner said he wanted my head on a chopping block. That member should hang his head in shame for cutting, sacking and selling jobs in Townsville.