



Speech By  
**Andrew Powell**


**MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE**

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Record of Proceedings, 15 May 2019

**MOTION**

**Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance**

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (5.11 pm): I rise to support the motion moved by the member for Everton. This House should condemn the Palaszczuk Labor government for its catastrophic management of the Queensland economy. We are talking about a government that has created so much uncertainty and sovereign risk in the resources industry that mining companies would rather open a mine in Botswana than in Queensland. The government has done more than the droughts and the flooding rains for which this state is well known to run farmers off their land and cruel Queensland's proud and strong agricultural industry. As we speak, there is more legislation in this House that will do far more to cruel that industry.

The government compounded market downturns in the construction industry through its love affair with new taxes. The December quarter was the worst since 2006. I refer to a media release issued by the Property Council on 8 December 2017 that says—

The Labor party have proposed to increase Land Tax rates by 25 per cent on holdings of more than \$10 million. The foreign investor tax is also proposed to be increased from 3 per cent to 7 per cent.

The Property Council went on to predict—

Put simply, these taxes—if implemented—would be job killers.

Have those words not come to fruition? That prediction of being a job killer has come true. I understand that foreign and local investment has dried up so much that the government is not getting any money from the foreign investment tax because no-one is investing in the industry. What is more, if federal Labor continue down the path of state Labor, there will be increases in taxes through negative gearing and capital gains tax.

The Property Council issued a media release on 10 May saying that this is the wrong policy change and the wrong time. Housing construction is already falling and is a major source of jobs for Australia. The last thing we want is to make this worse. That is exactly what Labor are doing. It is no wonder the economy is in a catastrophic state.

The government did the same thing to the manufacturing sector, driving it into the ground. Some 18,000 jobs were lost across manufacturing industries. The Minister for Manufacturing runs around like the tooth fairy sprinkling money here and there, but neither he nor the Labor government are doing anything to deal with the real issues facing the manufacturing sector. What are they doing around electricity costs, labour costs and red-tape reduction? For starters, they could try what the shadow Treasurer just suggested and adopt the LNP policy of competition in the regional energy market. This would produce real savings not only for households but also for businesses in the manufacturing sector. As the shadow Treasurer said, they could start by investing in infrastructure to get the economy going. The government could fast-track those M1 upgrades, the M1 upgrades to which the federal coalition government has committed funding. Members in this House have lobbied for that for many years but state Labor continues to drag the chain.

**Mr BAILEY:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member is not actually speaking to the motion. The reference in the motion is not to the M1 but to the second M1. The member is not speaking to the motion.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Members rising to points of order will not debate the issue. There are references in the motion to the M1—

**Mr Bailey** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** There are references in the motion to the M1, but I will make this clear: this is a very broad motion around broad economic management. That is the way I will adjudicate during this debate.

**Mr POWELL:** The government could proceed with the second M1 by starting with the southern portion of the Coomera Connector between Nerang-Broadbeach Road and Foxwell Road as a first stage of dealing with traffic bottlenecks on the M1 through Coomera, Oxenford and Helensvale. The government could sit down and listen to the LNP member for Forde in his Eagleby community to address the issues raised by that community. These are issues involving the environment, including the extensive Eagleby wetlands and flood plains of the Logan and Albert rivers, the impact on the farming community, and traffic impacts on local schools, retirement villages and aged-care facilities.

The government could deliver the Mackay Ring Road Stage 2, work to upgrade the Bruce Highway in terms of the six lanes from Caboolture to the southern half of Steve Irwin Way and on to Caloundra. They could deliver duplication of the north coast rail, the Sunshine Coast rail. Instead of playing petty politics, they could do what the LNP has committed to, that is, stump up the additional 50 per cent. They should accept that generous Morrison federal coalition offer to get that much needed heavy rail improvement on the Sunshine Coast, a region doing the heavy lifting when it comes to population growth in Caloundra South and Palmview, where there is zero investment from a government not interested in ensuring people are off the roads and on to public transport. They could start by guaranteeing no new taxes, but we know that it will not—they are addicted to them.