




Speech By
Brittany Lauga

MEMBER FOR KEPPEL

Record of Proceedings, 12 June 2019

MOTION

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Federal Election

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (5.16 pm): I rise to oppose the motion. The federal election results were disappointing. As Leader of the Opposition Anthony Albanese said, we must respect the results. In respecting the results, it is important for our party to reflect. Taking a good, hard look in the mirror is the duty of a political party of progress, not protest. The people of Queensland expect us to respect the results of the federal election, and taking a good, hard look in the mirror, as I said, is part of paying respect to the people of Queensland.

Federal Labor must take stock, recalibrate our federal policies and tune our message. This government must continue its steadfast resolve to always put Queenslanders first. New leader Anthony Albanese, 'Albo', has said as much. Yes, we must take a good, hard look in the mirror. As a result, Labor must rise with courage, imagination and new ideas. We must seek change through the power of parliamentary democracy and the timeless truth of solidarity. We must keep unashamedly investing in all of Queensland's potential, to reverse disadvantage and to care for the most vulnerable in our state. We must continue to drive growth in our regional cities and towns, because our state, more than any other, relies on the prosperity of our regional economies. When our regions do well, all of Queensland does well.

Our party was founded on the important principle that everyone deserves a fair go in life. Our greatest achievements have always come from broadening the meaning of the fair go to include more people in its benefits. A strong minimum wage, a fair day's work and a decent pension were once radical notions, but it was Labor that made them universal rights. Labor believes in the dignity of work. We know how important a good job is to an individual's sense of self and to the stability and health of their family.

For Labor, the choice between prosperity and fairness will always be a false one. We know that economic growth comes from extending opportunity and reducing inequality. We know that building a more prosperous Queensland and nation means making sure no-one is left behind. This is the mission that defines our party and that defines the Palaszczuk Labor government. Labor's new challenge is to honour those achievements by building on them—to bring new meaning to our oldest ideal, to revere it and revitalise it.

This election result will not break Labor. We have 125 years of history which built our party, and over that time we have seen great election victories. Of course, we have also endured devastating defeats, but we are tough. Because our party was built on the principles of equality, fairness and opportunity for all, we will continue to invest in jobs and front-line services to meet the needs of a growing state.

We must continue to support business, particularly small and medium sized businesses, to create jobs. We have chosen to stay the course and not cut, sack and sell. Our vision for Queensland, together with the policies that shape our government with our tireless Premier at the helm, is working. The proof

is in the numbers, because since 2015 199,000 jobs have been created. While the fundamental principles that define our party do not change, we are a party that is good at reflecting on our direction and we thrive on governing with tact, insight and consideration.

This is in stark contrast to those opposite, who have never truly learnt from the lessons after their disastrous result at the 2015 Queensland election. In 2012 the then member for Callide came into this place when he was the deputy premier of this state and told the now Deputy Premier, the member for South Brisbane, that she ought to get comfortable sitting on the opposition benches because Labor would be there for years. It demonstrated just how arrogant and truly lost the LNP had become. It did not learn its lesson. When those opposite spent more than \$70 million of taxpayers' money to try and sell their asset sales plan to the community at a time when the community was not buying it, it demonstrated just how arrogant and truly lost the LNP had become.

The motion moved today by those opposite demonstrates just how arrogant the LNP still is. The principles that underpin the Liberal National Party do not support a fair go at all. The LNP's platform is to encourage and facilitate wealth—in other words, less or no regulation that protects the public from exploitation, anti worker, pro privatisation and open slather for those who seek to maximise profits at the expense of everyday working Queenslanders. I am proud that our party is constantly looking at better ways of running this state and ways to make the lives of all Queenslanders and Australians better.