




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

Record of Proceedings, 15 May 2019

MOTION

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (5.50 pm): I am delighted to rise in the House to oppose this motion. One thing is for sure and certain: after that contribution the Leader of the Opposition has absolutely nothing to worry about. The member for Broadwater talks about a vision. What is that vision? It is the member for Broadwater looking in the mirror each morning—and doesn't he like what he sees!

I start my contribution to this debate with a single central proposition: being lectured to by the LNP on economic management is like being lectured to by Peter Dutton on loyalty; it lacks any shred of credibility—not one iota of credibility. The poor old member for Everton was up in his office last night with the quill and the inkwell scratching out a few facts—things that he thinks are facts and I will say a little bit more about that later—cobbling together a few random thoughts in a desperate attempt to demonstrate relevance to the economic debate in the state. What this motion demonstrates more than anything else is the member for Everton's unique and special gift for getting it wrong. Nowhere is that more evident than in this motion's reference to manufacturing jobs in Queensland. What this motion says about the reduction in manufacturing jobs—

Mr Bleijie: 20,000!

Mr DICK: It has gone from 18,000 according to the member for Everton to 20,000 according to the member for Kawana. It is simply wrong. Not only is it wrong; he knows it to be wrong.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I am sorry to interrupt you, Minister. Members, there is far too much cross-chamber crossfire. The member on their feet deserves to be heard.

Mr DICK: They made this claim in question time on 1 May. As honourable members know, I rose at the end of question time, at the first available opportunity, to put the facts on the record. Not my facts—statistics from the Queensland Government Statistician's Office. As I said in the address to the House on 1 May, the Queensland Government Statistician's recent analysis of Australian Bureau of Statistics employment data shows that there has been a 5.3 increase in manufacturing jobs in Queensland year on year. What was the national increase? It was 3.2 per cent. The LNP's shameful attempt to compare original points of data from the ABS data series is as absurd as it is misleading. I said in the parliament that the ABS specifically says do not compare those data points. They specifically recommend against it on their website. It is a black and white case of the member for Everton deliberately misleading the House and I will write to you, Mr Speaker, on that. I would encourage the member for Everton to look at what I said in the House immediately after question time on 1 May. It may be useful to look at the video to see who was in the House at that time.

The truth is that manufacturing jobs are up and so is investment. Gross value added contribution to the manufacturing sector in Queensland increased by \$700 million in the last year. We have even more manufacturing jobs on the way. Rheinmetall is coming to Queensland. We are implementing our

manufacturing policy. What was the manufacturing policy that the LNP took to the election in 2015? Absolutely nothing. What was the manufacturing policy it took to the people of Queensland in 2017? Absolutely nothing. Those opposite have an unmatched flair for talking Queensland down. What they do not like, what they cannot say and what they cannot stomach are the facts. The facts are that the unemployment rate in Queensland is lower, the budget balance is healthier, exports are higher, state final demand is higher and Queenslanders are far, far happier than when we took over from the toxic Newman LNP government.

There are more Queenslanders working in manufacturing than there were at the end of the Newman government. Manufacturing jobs are up four per cent since we came to government. That goes to the heart of the LNP. It is all talk and no substance. It is all talk and no action when it comes to manufacturing. We will support this vitally strong sector of the Queensland economy for as long as we are in power.