




Speech By
Daniel Purdie

MEMBER FOR NINDERRY

Record of Proceedings, 15 May 2019

MOTION

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (5.34 pm): I rise to speak on the motion moved by the member for Everton. As a new member in this place I am still learning new things every day and one thing that continues to astound me every day as I sit in this historic chamber is the absolute arrogance and incompetence of this Labor government. The two highest priorities of any government is to keep its citizens safe and to provide an economic environment in which they can prosper. There is absolutely no doubt now that this government has dropped the ball on crime, is failing to keep Queenslanders safe, particularly our kids, and is failing all Queenslanders with its economic incompetence.

The Premier likes to make out that she is the battler's champ, trumpeting the 'Queenslander' war cry at every opportunity, but Queenslanders are not stupid and they are starting to see through this charade. The Premier pretends to be the Billy Moore of the Queensland parliament, but the difference is that Billy Moore actually worked hard on the field and put himself on the line for his state. In contrast, this Premier hides when there is hard work to be done and when faced with some stiff opposition. As we count down the sleeps to the first State of Origin in Brisbane in just a few weeks, I hope the Maroons can beat New South Wales to help restore some state pride because, if the state of Queensland was a football team, economically we are a joke. We are being humiliated by New South Wales across the park on all economic indicators. Our captain and coach should have been sacked a long time ago.

Let us take a look at the scoreboard. Private investment over the last year in New South Wales is up \$783 million. In Queensland it is down \$243 million. Business confidence as reported by the Sensis Business Index in New South Wales is positive three points and in Queensland it is negative 23 points. Infrastructure purchases in 2017-18 in New South Wales total over \$12 million, more than double Queensland at \$5 million. Unemployment in New South Wales is sitting at 4.3 per cent and Queensland the second highest in the nation at 6.1 per cent. However, it is not all doom and gloom for the Labor Party. I must give credit where credit is due. There is one area where Queensland is smashing New South Wales and it is an area that no doubt makes the comrades on the other side of the House very proud, and that is Queensland is now the strike capital of the nation. Since the swearing in of this government it has overseen 150,000 working days lost to strikes, almost double that of New South Wales. What does the government say when faced with this embarrassing scoreboard? It passes the buck, but there is nowhere to hide.

That is this government's record. It is all its doing. It has been on that side of the field for 25 of the last 30 years. Thirty years ago Queensland was a powerhouse but now, economically, we are playing reserve grade at best. The Premier has no economic plan, only more taxes, more debt and more unemployment. On every economic performance indicator, this government has dropped the ball. As I have said in this House before, clever accounting and the resurgence of the resource sector is the only thing that is keeping this sinking ship afloat. That is because this is a government that takes no responsibility and continually passes the buck. This is a government that is arrogant and out of touch.

This is a government that lacks leadership, lacks vision and fails to foster the economic conditions in which Queenslanders can thrive. In line with true Labor traditions, this government has a clear strategy of shirking the hard work, fudging figures, totally ignoring the real issues and failing to make the tough decisions to deal with debt. As history shows, it is happy to leave the hard work and heavy lifting to a future competent LNP government.

In stark contrast, the LNP has a plan to arrest the debt, bust congestion, provide cheaper electricity and fuel, deliver safer communities, better education, better health services and lower taxes. Only a Deb Frecklington-led LNP has the plan, the motivation and the capacity to return our state to the economic powerhouse it once was.