




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR NANANGO

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MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): This summer of disasters has shown how heroic ordinary Queenslanders are in times of tragedy. However, it has also shown how the Labor government has left Queensland dangerously exposed. Queensland is facing a \$1.5 billion repair bill from these disasters, but we are already \$83 billion in debt because the Labor government cannot manage the economy. It means there is nothing left in the bank when there is the next fire, the next flood, or a cyclone comes our way. Queenslanders hit by disasters now face being slugged with even more taxes because of this terrible planning. No matter what the problem is Labor's solution is always tax, tax, tax and more tax. I have ruled out introducing any new taxes because the LNP knows that you cannot tax your way to prosperity.

Labor has no plan to help the Queensland economy. Instead, as we have heard this morning in question time, it is turning its back on the resources industry and deliberately destroying thousands of jobs, even with the Deputy Premier calling on coal workers to reskill. Just last week at the Queensland Media Club, the Premier could not even bring herself to say the word 'Adani'. Her leadership on this international issue is an embarrassment. Even the state government's own resources expert, Commissioner Chestnutt, said the process was an absolute mess. The unions are also outraged by the radical agenda of those opposite. They know Labor is selling out on jobs and turning its back on the very important resources industry.

This Labor government is a mess and the rot starts at the top. On this side of the House the LNP is a united team, backing jobs and the Queensland resources sector. Those opposite are hopelessly divided and dysfunctional. Labor is betraying all of Queensland, but it is betraying regional Queensland most of all. The gap between the regions and the city is only widening under Premier Palaszczuk. There is a crisis in rural maternity services. It was shocking to hear that mums are being handed do-it-yourself birthing kits. I can imagine the fear of being a mum-to-be in the bush and being handed a do-it-yourself medical kit because maternity services in the bush are being shut down. This is a shocking disgrace in maternity services in regional Queensland. This incompetent health minister blamed the private GPs. No wonder private GPs are handing out do-it-yourself birthing kits: we cannot trust the Palaszczuk government to support mums in the bush in their regional maternity services. This government could not be more out of touch if it tried. It has shut down 26 regional maternity services since 2000. The Chinchilla Hospital is once again on maternity bypass after being closed down for most of last year. Women deserve better no matter where they live.

It was the LNP that reopened maternity services that were shut down by this Labor government. Mums in the bush deserve exactly what mums in Brisbane get. An LNP government would not waste time, effort and money on renaming hospitals; it would put patients as its priority. Just getting out of an ambulance and into a hospital bed is an achievement under this Palaszczuk Labor government. Since

Labor came to government ambulance ramping has jumped 24 per cent and if you are unlucky enough to go to Logan Hospital the rate is 40 per cent. The Premier has broken her election commitment to provide better health services in this state. The health system is in chaos and it is at crisis point.

Queenslanders deserve safe communities. We have a serial sex offender walking our streets without GPS tracking. Those opposite are the ones who have let serial sex offender Robert John Fardon live in public housing.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! There is not permission for you to start debating across the chamber. It has been made very clear by the Speaker what the expectations are. If you continue like that I will start to name members.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Those opposite have the right to be embarrassed because it is the Palaszczuk Labor government that has let this serial sex offender wander our streets living not 100 metres away from a childcare centre and a stone's throw from a school. The public are rightfully disgusted by the Palaszczuk government because they know that the Palaszczuk government could not care less for their safety. They are terrified that someone with the sadistic criminal history of Fardon is walking free on our streets. In true Labor style the Premier, the Deputy Premier and the minister all passed the buck to the Police Commissioner.

Queenslanders want leadership. They want a Premier who is prepared to take responsibility. Queenslanders are rightfully asking what this Premier gets paid for if she cannot take responsibility for decisions of her own government. The public want answers, they deserve answers and they deserve accountability. The buck stops with the Premier. We must ensure our kids are safe from persons such as these predators. Our kids cannot defend themselves, but we as legislators can defend them. The heartbreaking story of little Mason Jett Lee exposed serious flaws in both the child safety system and the judicial system. It is time Labor released the report into how the department of child safety failed young Mason—no more cover-ups, no more secrets. We must be relentless in preventing harm to our children.

Sadly, passing the buck is just a theme under Anastacia Palaszczuk and her government. The Premier's press conferences last week and in the previous year have been littered with responses like, 'I haven't been briefed', 'I didn't see the media about that', 'There's been a disaster on', or, hang on, 'It's Canberra's fault', no, hang on, 'It's Newman's fault.' She says this despite the fact Labor has been in power for 19 out of the last 22 years. The Premier does not get it. Maybe because she is not briefed or maybe she simply does not understand. You cannot lead this state if you are not taking responsibility and owning up to your own government's mistakes. The Premier will not support an independent inquiry into bushfires, she will not answer questions about Ross River Dam and the releases and she will not call out poor behaviour by Labor members. When Robert Swarten called one of my team a terrible word we heard nothing. When the Deputy Premier of Queensland said the same terrible word we heard nothing. When Labor powerbroker Dave Hanna was convicted and sentenced, what did we hear from those opposite? What did we hear from the Premier? Nothing!

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! Members, it has been made very clear that you will not be debating across the chamber. I will start to name members who counter that direction. I make that very clear.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: When we heard about the vote rigging and the community was screaming out about the vote rigging around the Lady Cilento hospital, what did we hear from this government? 'I know nothing, I see something and I can't do anything about that'!

This is not leadership; it is cowardice. When I took this job, I said I would offer solutions because it is obvious that the Palaszczuk government is incapable of coming up with its own solutions. It will be the LNP team that will continue to work together for all of Queensland. We will continue to make sure that all of Queensland is heard. We will always stand up for jobs in the very important industries of resources and agriculture. We will make sure that decisions are being made in the best interests of Queenslanders.