



Speech By
Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

Record of Proceedings, 5 September 2019

MOTION

Palaszczuk Labor Government, LNP Plan



Mrs FRECKLINGTON (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (3.30 pm): I move—

That this House calls on the Palaszczuk Labor government to support the LNP's plan to—

- (a) introduce retail competition, allowing regional Queenslanders to shop around and save \$300 a year on their electricity bills;
- (b) open up the Galilee Basin and create a Queensland Infrastructure Fund;
- (c) attract resource investment, with more jobs and better job security for the resources industry with a 10-year freeze on royalty rates;
- (d) increase business investment and create more local jobs by guaranteeing no new taxes;
- (e) fight crime with a dedicated police helicopter based in Townsville;
- (f) establish a Townsville based Queensland dam company to plan, design and build more dams;
- (g) deliver water security by getting the Burdekin Falls Dam project shovel ready;
- (h) reintroduce breach of bail as an offence to hold repeat young offenders accountable for their crimes and scrap Labor's failed bail houses;
- (i) help parents protect their kids with a public sex offender register and tougher sentences for child killers;
- (j) introduce a royal commission into the building industry and subcontractor payments;
- (k) tackle the ice epidemic with a new drug rehabilitation and detox facility in Townsville to help those struggling with addiction;
- (l) back heavy engineering and manufacturing jobs with a \$20 million Built in Queensland Fund;
- (m) create a Queensland Industry Skills Council with regional skills boards to provide training that leads to jobs; and
- (n) supercharge the North West Minerals Province by boosting mineral exploration and reducing crippling energy costs with an energy audit.

The decision to hold parliament in Townsville cannot paper over the Palaszczuk government's dire record in North Queensland. No amount of spin, no amount of promises and no amount of reannouncements that we have seen again and again this week can fool the people of North Queensland.

We know that the Palaszczuk Labor government has failed North Queensland on all fronts. Crime has spiralled out of control. We know that Townsville now has the highest crime rate of any city in Queensland. How many homes have been burgled because of this soft-on-crime Labor government? How many people have been assaulted? How many cars have been stolen?

Labor's economic record in North Queensland is just as bad. Thousands of jobs have been lost under Labor, 8,000 people are out of work and more than 500 businesses went broke last year. House prices have completely collapsed in Townsville and, unfortunately, there is no—

Mr Powell interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Member for Glass House, I am the Deputy Speaker. I will issue the orders and directions in this chamber and there will be no quarrelling across the chamber.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: We know that, unfortunately, for the people of Townsville and North Queensland there is no mega infrastructure project like Cross River Rail here in Townsville to boost the housing market. There are no get-rich-quick investment opportunities for the Treasurer up here. Labor has been—

Mr HARPER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The Leader of the Opposition is misleading the House. There is—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is not a point of order. Resume your seat. Members, there will be no frivolous points of order.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Unlike the member for Thuringowa, the LNP does have a plan for North Queensland. We have listened to the people and we have adopted policies that will make this region safer and boost the economy. Our plan will cut crime in Queensland, our plan will cut unemployment in North Queensland and our plan will cut the electricity bills in North Queensland.

We will end Labor's crime wave up here in Townsville. We will give North Queensland people more police back on the beat. We will make stronger laws so that people feel safer and the police have the levers they have been screaming out for. One of those is to bring back breach of bail as an offence in an effort to tackle the crime and the scourge of the youth crime crisis that is happening right here in Townsville right now. We will give the people of Townsville an eye in the sky, like the two that are already on the Gold Coast. They work for them. Here in Townsville the people deserve to have that eye in the sky to bring down the crime rate and make sure the police have those levers to pull so they can do something about the out-of-control youth crime crisis that is happening right here in Townsville.

We have heard numerous stories time and time again from those on this side of the chamber who have been out listening to the community in relation to the crime rate. The member for Thuringowa in particular is an embarrassment to his community because his soft-on-crime approach in relation to not keeping the community safe—

Mr HARPER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr HARPER:—and I ask that that be withdrawn.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! While the member is making a point of order, I expect silence. Member, could you please repeat your point of order.

An opposition member interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have just asked for that to be done in silence.

Mr HARPER: My point of order is that I take personal offence and I ask the member to withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: The member has taken personal offence. I ask that you withdraw.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I withdraw. It is only the LNP that will introduce tougher sentences for offenders who kill children. We will let parents know if a sex offender is living in their street. We will tackle the scourge of ice in this region by opening a new drug rehabilitation and detox centre right here in Townsville. I have been to Townsville with many of my colleagues and we have listened to the issues around the scourge of ice all across regional Queensland and particularly here.

The LNP's plan will also kickstart the economy. We know the economy here in Townsville is stagnant after five years of the incompetent Palaszczuk Labor government. We know that for the last five years the people on that side of the chamber have completely ignored the regions. The only time they woke up to the regions was after the federal election when only one out of four people voted for the Labor Party here in Queensland. Only the LNP will stand up for the north.

(Time expired)