



Speech By  
**Deb Frecklington**


**MEMBER FOR NANANGO**

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**MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

**Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance; Liberal National Party, Policies**

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): The LNP is counting down the days to the next state election. There are just 375 days to go until Queenslanders get to have their say on this incompetent Palaszczuk Labor government. After five years of failure, Queenslanders are saying that they have had enough of this Labor government. They have had enough of Labor's health crisis, they have had enough of Labor's nine new or increased taxes, they have had enough of having the highest unemployment rate in the nation and they have certainly had enough of the Palaszczuk Labor government full stop. Queenslanders want a government with the energy and the ideas that this state desperately needs. That is what the LNP will give them.

On Sunday, along with my deputy, I was delighted to welcome the endorsement of Amanda Cooper as the LNP candidate for the electorate of Aspley. There is no-one better to represent the people of Aspley in this House than Amanda Cooper. She has an outstanding record of public service and is a powerful champion for her community. Amanda has served her community and the people of north Brisbane for more than a decade as their local councillor. She was one of the many LNP councillors who have helped run Brisbane with competence and vision since 2008. Like me, Amanda is a working mum with three kids. She will bring valuable insights and experience into this House.

Amanda shares my passion for improving education. She knows that kids cannot concentrate in sweltering classrooms. Amanda knows that teachers cannot teach in sweltering classrooms. That is why the LNP will air-condition every state school classroom in the Aspley electorate. We will make it easier for kids to learn and teachers to teach, because we know that cool kids are smart kids. We will further support our hardworking teachers by decluttering the curriculum. The LNP will ensure that teachers are able to concentrate on literacy and numeracy in the classrooms. We can then get our NAPLAN results moving in the right direction.

Amanda Cooper also wants to see action to improve patient care at the Prince Charles Hospital. Under the Palaszczuk Labor government, waiting times for surgery at the Prince Charles Hospital have doubled.

**An opposition member:** What a disgrace!

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I take that interjection. What an absolute disgrace! That is what the Palaszczuk Labor government has delivered for the people of Aspley. I promise the people of north Brisbane that we will fix their health system. We will cut waiting times by partnering with the private sector. That will ease the pressure on our hospitals and give more support to our hardworking doctors and nurses. We will also bring back the targets that Labor has now scrapped, because targets are needed to drive performance and accountability. Queenslanders should not be waiting longer than clinically recommended times to get to hospital. It simply is not good enough.

Amanda Cooper's other priority for Aspley will be busting congestion. Thanks to years of transport neglect by the Labor government, Amanda Cooper has seen the north side almost grind to a halt. As a former LNP councillor, Amanda Cooper knows that all levels of government have to work together to deliver better roads and better public transport. It is only the LNP that will stop the political games that have held back infrastructure in this state. We will get traffic moving again. We will work hand in hand with the councils to bust bottlenecks and plan new roads across the south-east.

The LNP has the people and the plan that this state needs. The contrast with the Palaszczuk Labor government could not be any clearer. Labor does not have the right people and it certainly does not have the right plan. That is why, just in the last year alone, the Palaszczuk Labor government splashed out an astonishing \$67 million worth of taxpayers' money on private consultants—in the last 12 months, \$67 million to tell these incompetent ministers how to do their jobs. That was \$67 million to outsource the ministers' jobs over there. More than \$17 million was spent by Queensland Health and HHSs. Treasury spent more than \$10.5 million on external consultants. Queensland Rail spent \$8 million. The Premier's own department spent \$1.5 million.

Queensland already has more highly paid Public Service executives than it has ever had before, yet the Palaszczuk government still cannot operate without hiring another \$67 million worth of help. The Palaszczuk government has even hired consultants to advise on how it should cut back on consultants. This is all good news for those consultants.

**An opposition member** interjected.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I take that interjection. Honestly, it is laughable—\$67 million to tell ministers how to do their jobs. We know that this is all good news for consultants, but it is seriously bad news for Queensland taxpayers.

Worst of all, this spending spree is not delivering better services. Our health and education services are going backwards, not forwards. Crime is increasing. We only need to read the terrible stories about Townsville and the Gold Coast in the past 24 hours.

It is a familiar story for Queenslanders. Under this Labor government, people are paying more and they are getting less. Queenslanders always have to foot the bill for Labor's consultants, but they rarely get to see the consultants' reports, because the Palaszczuk government has an unhealthy culture of cover-ups, secrecy and hiding.

**An opposition member** interjected.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** They love redactions. Time and time again reports that should be in the public arena have been kept under lock and key. Unlike Labor, the LNP believes in open and transparent government. That is why I have called for the Palaszczuk Labor government to release all the information it is holding in relation to Paradise Dam and why it made the decision to release so much water down the drain in one of Queensland's worst droughts without thought for those people who are not in a position to grow crops with the so-called free water. The people of Queensland are looking forward to electing an LNP government because it is only an LNP government that can get Queensland working again.