




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL

Record of Proceedings, 5 September 2019

MOTION

Newman LNP Government, Performance

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (12.09 pm): I rise to support the motion because it is a history lesson. It takes us through exactly what happened in the short three years of the Campbell Newman government. They had one of the biggest majorities in Queensland's history and it was gone after three years—and we know why. It was because of the litany of things outlined in this motion. That is why I support the motion.

During the Campbell Newman government, the Leader of the Opposition was on the CBRC. She must have been on the CBRC when nurses were sacked here in Townsville, which is where they started. They started right here in Townsville. I remember it. I was working at the Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union of Employees. When we got the call it was unbelievable. The nurses were so distressed. They could not believe it, particularly with the workload that they had. I know that the Leader of the Opposition saw them yesterday, and they reminded her about the sacking that happened up here in Townsville. I know because they came and told me exactly what they told the Leader of the Opposition. She sat around the CBRC table and she made that decision right here in Townsville. We will never let them forget it. She was proud that there was not a worker that they did not want to sack. There was not an entitlement, a service or a program that they did not want to cut.

Mr Molhoek interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Southport, you have used a member's incorrect title. You have interjected while you are under a warning. You can leave the chamber for one hour.

Whereupon the honourable member for Southport withdrew from the chamber at 12.12 pm.

Mr Butcher interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Gladstone, you can also leave the chamber. You are under a warning. I do not appreciate your laughter during a ruling. You can leave the chamber for one hour as well under standing order 253A.

Whereupon the honourable member for Gladstone withdrew from the chamber at 12.12 pm.

Ms GRACE: There was not an entitlement, a program or a service that they did not want to cut. There was not a public asset that they did not want to sell. They had to be dragged up here to North Queensland. No wonder they hang their heads in shame like a fox in sheep's clothing, thinking that people are going to forget exactly what happened.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms GRACE: A wolf in sheep's clothing—whatever you want to be. They closed the schools. They closed the services that were required here in Townsville. Yet the Leader of the Opposition is saying that she was proud of her record while she was in the Campbell Newman government. I would hang my head in shame. That is what I would be doing.

When it came to schooling, in 2013, in just three short years, we had the biggest increase in student numbers in Queensland in recent history. That required 519 teachers just to keep up with the level of students in that year. How many teachers did they put on? They put on none—not one. They were under—they cut 519 teachers that would have been required in this region and throughout Queensland to teach the good students of this state.

They cut entitlements in industrial relations. They sacked industrial health and safety inspectors. They sacked the Electrical Safety Office. Yet here they come crying crocodile tears about coal workers' pneumoconiosis when those workers would not have had common law rights.