




Speech By
Jarrold Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

Record of Proceedings, 5 September 2019

MOTION

Newman LNP Government, Performance

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (11.31 am): Do we have a copy of this motion? Is there a copy of the motion that has been distributed by the government? If it has had all week—

Ms Palaszczuk: Where's the Leader of the Opposition?

Mr BLEIJIE: The Leader of the Opposition is right here and I assure members—

Mrs Frecklington: I'm right here!

Mr BLEIJIE: Why did the Premier not move the motion then? If the Premier is so concerned about Townsville—if the Premier is so concerned about regional Queensland—where has the Premier been on this issue? I tell members what—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Ms PALASZCZUK: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Honourable members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK:—because we have members in Townsville!

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Hold on, Premier. Members, I could not hear what the Premier's point of order was. Premier, I will ask you to repeat your point of order.

Ms Palaszczuk: I've finished, Mr Speaker.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The Premier has just misused and abused the standing orders to make a debate point while someone was on their feet and I ask that she be disciplined pursuant to the standing orders.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member. I could not hear what the Premier had said. Premier, will you withdraw your comments?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you.

Mr BLEIJIE: I will tell the members in this House what happened when the LNP was in government: crime went down in Townsville and crime went down in Queensland. The economy was up; crime was down. We have heard the three North Queensland members speak more this week than

we have heard in five years. The reason they have not spoken is because they are ashamed of the record of the Palaszczuk government over the last five years. They are ashamed about their record in government with regard to regional Queensland—

Mr Dick interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE:—particularly when they know that their leader spends more time overseas than she does in regional Queensland. The gallery would be very interested to know—

Mr Dick interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE:—that the Premier will finish here and then fly to Switzerland.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Minister for State Development, you will put your comments through the chair and I ask you to withdraw that last statement.

Ms Palaszczuk: This is not relevant.

Mr DICK: I withdraw, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister.

Mr BLEIJIE: I hear the Premier's interjection relating to relevance. It is a pretty broad motion and she does not like what she is hearing because she knows—and the ministers over there know—that the Premier will be at the nose end of the plane on her way to Switzerland in two days time, leaving the integrity crisis behind.

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The motion is about cuts to Townsville. It is not about the member for Kawana and his relevance deprivation.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, Leader of the House.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker—

Mr SPEAKER: Please resume your seat, member. In response to the point of order, the motion is a broad motion. It does pertain to a number of elements related to the Townsville region. I do ask the member to come back to that point, but in doing so I will say that there is also a counter position which can be put because this is a motion being debated in the House.

Mr BLEIJIE: It would help if members of this House had a copy of the motion from the government, but I will tell the residents of Townsville what I am speaking about.

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. The Minister for Small Business will put her comments through the chair. It may be timely to remind members who are under warnings that there will be no interjections from those members.

Ms Palaszczuk: Can't mention the word 'Townsville'.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from the Premier about mentioning Townsville. I think the residents of Townsville are very concerned that the leader of the state spends more time overseas than she does in Townsville and regional Queensland, because when she is overseas jetsetting around at the front end of the plane she is not thinking about regional Queensland.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Mr Speaker, I find the member's comments offensive and I ask him to withdraw.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Kawana, the Premier has found your comments offensive and asks that they be withdrawn. Will you withdraw?

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw. The LNP will look after regional Queensland. We backed the Carmichael mine well before 18 May. The day 18 May was the dropped ball in Queensland when all of a sudden this Premier—the weakest Premier in Queensland's history—found regional Queensland. Only the LNP will make Townsville and regional Queensland the first priority for our government, not the Labor Party.

(Time expired)