



Speech By  
**Jarrold Bleijie**


**MEMBER FOR KAWANA**

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Record of Proceedings, 18 September 2019

**MOTION**

**Electricity Assets**

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (2.23 pm): If there is anyone who ought not get up in this chamber today, it is the Deputy Premier. The Deputy Premier should be in her office investigating her director-general's links to companies and so on. When ministers are besieged like the Deputy Premier is, they look for distractions.

**Ms TRAD:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The motion is specifically around the big-stick legislation on asset privatisation. I ask that you rule on relevance.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I concur with the point of order. Member for Kawana, please come back to the motion as it has been presented to the House. Otherwise I will sit you down.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Anna Bligh sold the assets in Queensland. Who worked for Anna Bligh when she sold the assets? The Deputy Premier worked for Anna Bligh. The Deputy Premier was the campaign manager for Anna Bligh when Queensland assets were sold. Who came up with the plan to sell Queensland assets? It was the Deputy Premier. She was elected the member for South Brisbane after Anna Bligh lost the election on the issue of asset sales. They are the facts that should be put on the table. The unions turned against the Labor Party. The unions turned against Anna Bligh. The unions are now turning against the Deputy Premier, with the anti-resources, anti-regions focus of this government.

The Minister for Mines and Energy just spoke about electricity costs, as he should. While in Townsville, just before we kicked off the parliamentary sitting day, I witnessed—as did the member for Burleigh—the member for Mount Ommaney complaining to the minister about the large power bill she had just received in the post. When the Minister for Mines turned around and saw me standing there, noting that I had obviously overheard the conversation, he said, 'Oh, no,' because he knew that I would bring it up eventually. This is a great opportunity to bring that up—an awesome opportunity!

**Ms PUGH:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I am offended. I ask the member to withdraw, as I asked the member for Burleigh to do the last time this was raised.

**Mr SPEAKER:** You are personally offended?

**Ms PUGH:** Yes, I am personally offended.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Do you ask for the comments to be withdrawn?

**Ms PUGH:** I am asking the member to withdraw.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member has asked that the comments be withdrawn. Will you withdraw?

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I withdraw. As the Deputy Leader of the Opposition has indicated, in this place we should talk about the truth of asset sales, the big-stick legislation coming in and the LNP's commitment. What we did differently was be open and honest when we put a plan to the people of Queensland. We

went to an election saying, 'This is our plan.' The history shows that the people rejected the plan. That is why our leader, Deb Frecklington, has told the people of Queensland that we will not revisit that plan. She has been open and honest about it. That is the commitment. We have said it—unlike Labor.

I was in this chamber—the member for Mudgeeraba was also present—when Rachel Nolan stood up in this chamber, put her hand on her heart and said to the cameras, 'Queensland Rail is not for sale.' Unfortunately, the then treasurer, Andrew Fraser, did not give her the memo that a week later in the state budget Queensland Rail was to be sold. Those opposite did that.

It is an absolute own goal for the Labor Party to come in here and move a motion about asset sales, being the only party in Queensland that has sold assets. In fact, when he sold Energex retail Peter Beattie said, 'Power prices will not increase.' He said that at the time. Now we see power prices increasing over 70 per cent under the watch of the Treasurer and the Palaszczuk government. That is the fault of no-one but the current state Labor government.

The reality is that the big-stick legislation is to keep the big energy companies honest. I cannot believe that the Labor Party is sticking up for the battling big energy companies. They have been ripping off Queenslanders for years. The Palaszczuk Labor government has been ripping off Queenslanders for years. Let me make it abundantly clear: if the Federal Court were to order a divestment, publicly owned entities would need to remain publicly owned and cannot be forcibly privatised. There are mistruths contained in this motion. What more would we expect from the Deputy Premier?

This is nothing more than an attempt to hide the fact that there is a deep integrity crisis engulfing the Palaszczuk Labor government. The facts speak for themselves. The Labor government sold the assets. The LNP went to the election in an open and transparent manner. That plan was rejected. We have said that we are not revisiting the plan. Will Labor revisit their plan? Who knows, because they never tell the truth.