



Speech By  
**Jennifer Howard**


**MEMBER FOR IPSWICH**

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Record of Proceedings, 5 September 2019

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Newman LNP Government, Performance**

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (3.31 pm): It is great to be here in Townsville. Being here has given us all an opportunity to see firsthand and reflect on what the Palaszczuk government is doing in Townsville and all of regional Queensland. I know that I speak for everyone on this side when I say that we are all very happy to be here in Townsville. None of us were dragged here or felt that we were dragged here. On 4BC on 3 September the member for Currumbin said, 'I have been dragged up to Townsville for parliament in the regions.' I table that.

*Tabled paper:* Extract of transcript, dated 3 September, of 4BC radio interview with the member for Currumbin, Mrs Jann Stuckey MP [1450](#).

As I said earlier, it has given us an opportunity to hear about what the last LNP state government did to this town. It sacked 670 government workers, closed down the 122-year-old Stuart State School, sold off land owned by Townsville TAFE and closed down Townsville's biosecurity lab. Mr Deputy Speaker Stewart, you and other Townsville members do not need to be told what a disgrace that was. It just goes to show what the LNP does when it get into government. Its only agenda is to sack local workers, slash investment in public schools and infrastructure and then call it governing.

We saw the same thing in my electorate of Ipswich when the LNP was last in. When I was a candidate leading up to the 2015 election I had people running across the road and really going out of their way to tell me they could not wait to vote for me. They could not wait to vote for this government. They lost their jobs and they wanted to do the same to the LNP. They took away our tenant advice and advocacy service, IRASI, which supported so many vulnerable people in our community. They slashed \$21 million from the local health budget and sacked 84 staff. A number of public servants who lived in Ipswich lost their jobs as a result of the LNP sacking 14,000 public servants statewide. When the LNP scrapped the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program it robbed countless unemployed people in Ipswich of vital pathways to work. The LNP also has form in neglecting Ipswich when it comes to investing in much needed infrastructure to futureproof our growing city. I can guarantee that Ipswich will not see any investment in infrastructure if the LNP gets back into government.

I want to touch on the Ipswich Hospital redevelopment, which is another example of investment in our area. It will cost 500 extra hospital beds and cause wait times for elective surgery to blow out if the LNP gets in. We need to keep this infrastructure happening in our community. Work has started on the 50-bed mental health unit. I am very excited to see that. It will be completed by 2022.