




Speech By
Kim Richards

MEMBER FOR REDLANDS

Record of Proceedings, 27 February 2019

MOTION

State Schools, Air Conditioning

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (5.27 pm): I rise to support the amended motion. I support calls for the LNP to explain how they intend to fund and implement the LNP's plan to air-condition every Queensland state school classroom. I question whether those opposite are really being honest with the Queensland public when they commit to air-conditioning every school. How many teachers will they cut? How many programs will they cut? How many students will they cram into classrooms to fund this promise? It is hollow and dishonourable leadership to score easy political points when making a broad policy announcement.

Queensland voters know better than to simply accept the LNP's word. They broke that trust with the voters when they sacked 14,000 public servants. They broke that trust when they closed our schools and sold off assets. I know our Queensland community will never forgive the LNP for closing the Barrett Adolescent Mental Health Centre.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. Member, resume your seat. Members to my left, I have been listening during this debate and I would appreciate the same courtesy being afforded to speakers from the government side as has been afforded to those members from the opposition. I want to make myself clear that the level of interjection is too high. I will start naming members and remove you from the chamber.

Ms RICHARDS: Those opposite continue to deny that in 2013 as a result of their fiscal repair strategy there was a cut of 519 teachers. Unlike those opposite, the Palaszczuk government always delivers. How can the opposition honestly tell the Queensland public that they can air-condition all state schools for \$1.5 billion? The price just keeps changing. The estimated cost provided by the member for Surfers Paradise in 2014 when he was the minister for education was \$2 billion. Their budget black hole just gets bigger and bigger. All school leaders know that there are more costs associated with air-conditioning classrooms than just the installation. Have the LNP considered the cost of upgrading the existing electrical infrastructure to support the extra load of all air-conditioned classrooms?

What about the many heritage buildings? Have the LNP considered the ongoing costs for electricity bills, maintenance, repair and replacement of those new units? Again, I call on the opposition to be open, honest and transparent with Queenslanders. These have been great big, bold promises with scant detail provided so far by the LNP. As seems to be par for the course, their numbers just do not stack up.

Without detail, those opposite are asking the public to speculate. How did the LNP arrive at this new funding figure? How will the LNP fund their commitment? Regardless of what commitments might be made, Queenslanders will judge promises based on track records, and Queenslanders know that the LNP track record is to cut, sack and sell. I am proud to be part of a Palaszczuk government that

continues to deliver for Queensland. This government does not just make promises; we deliver. We have a track record to prove that we deliver for Queenslanders. While the LNP cut, sacked and sold, this government is investing in employing and building. We are delivering for all Queenslanders.

Since 2015, the Palaszczuk government has invested in a remote kindy program which is now educating more than 160 young Queenslanders; we have closed the gap on attainment proportion of Indigenous students receiving a Queensland Certificate of Education to just 0.3 per cent; we have employed more than 4,000 full-time-equivalent teachers and more than 1,500 full-time-equivalent teacher aides; and we have delivered 13 new schools for Queensland families. In addition to these, the government is also investing \$97 million in the Advancing Clean Energy Schools program. This program will assist schools in a really true and meaningful way to reduce energy costs and the expense that comes with this to more than 800 schools through solar and energy efficiency measures.

The difference in the track record of this government and of those opposite is clear. The Palaszczuk government will be honest and transparent with the Queensland public as we continue to deliver for the state. Again, I call on the LNP to be honest, to be transparent and to explain how they intend to fund and implement the LNP's plan to air-condition every Queensland state school classroom.