




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR MERMAID BEACH

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MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Leadership

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (2.45 pm): The rumours and whispers are turning into a dull roar that the Premier is perceived, through Labor pollster Mr John Utting, respected for his work in UMR Research over the past 30 years, as a weak, ineffective and do-nothing Premier who will shortly be replaced by everyone's sweetheart—although 'everyone' does not include me and perhaps others—Kate Jones, the member for Cooper. The Premier, who seems to be a political puppet of Left Wing hardliner Deputy Premier Trad, has had enough of early morning interviews, strategy meetings and late-night dinner functions. She is set to further enjoy her overseas trade portfolio by jetting off to a trade commissioner's job, a la Peter Beattie and Bob Gibbs.

I still remember then premier Peter Beattie walking across the aisle, strutting on the floor of this House and mumbling to his own ego, 'If it was up to you blokes', meaning the LNP, 'I'd be here for 100 years.' But, no! Like all good Labor political puppets, he handed over the premier's mantle to Anna Bligh and the rest is history. History is about to repeat itself with the scandal-ridden, impropriety-driven Premier Palaszczuk about to check out on her way to LA, London or any other exotic worldwide point of call as a trade commissioner.

Robbie Schwarten-backed Kate Jones, the member for Cooper, has had her CV splashed across the *Courier-Mail* in full colour to test the waters of public reaction to a takeover of the Premier's mantle, and Kate herself will drink to that. The favourite minister of the *Gold Coast Bulletin* and Gold Coast city councillors, Jones will be the Labor Party's last-ditch throw at the stumps to hang on to power after myriad failed public pub tests, starting with the black-throated finch holding up the Adani coalmine and costing hundreds of jobs in Queensland. Following that debacle, which ensured that we had the Morrison LNP federal government elected by Queensland, hundreds of members of the Labor-Greens alliance, led by Bob Brown, raided farms across Queensland. The Labor-Greens alliance members then ensconced the perception of the loony left running rampant in Queensland with protesters gluing themselves to streets in Brisbane's CBD, holding up traffic and preventing people from getting to work and schools.

On top of all of that, the stench of corruption is back in the Queensland government around real estate deals; David Barbagallo, the Premier's chief of staff, getting a quarter-of-a-million-dollar gift from the government to fund an app business venture; overseas jaunts in USA ski fields; and Labor members' law firms getting hundreds of thousands of dollars from legal support channels of which they have parliamentary oversight. Top that off with the ongoing rail-fail saga that Labor has overseen under various ministers, from Trad to Hinchliffe and now Bailey, and it is no wonder that when trains are late or shut down the catchcry of Brisbane rail commuters is an automatic shout of, 'Rail fail, Bail-ey!'

Law and order has to be the biggest failing of the Annastacia Palaszczuk Labor government, with repeat crime offenders in Townsville out of control. The revolving door of juvenile offenders going through the courts and back out again is so frustrating for Townsville residents worried about break-ins

and car thefts that the three Labor members in Townsville are already racking up hours on the website Seek, looking for other job opportunities for next November. On the Gold Coast crime is in the news every day, with bikie members and their associates featuring heavily in murders, drug busts and gang-war payback after the Palaszczuk Labor government watered down the LNP's tough-on-crime bikie laws.

What do the faceless men of the Labor Party do when faced with a leader who is leading the party into the political abyss where there will be no spin-off jobs for their Labor mates? They swap horses and run the member for Cooper as a sweet-smiling, cleanskin candidate, as the Labor Party did in New South Wales with Kristina Keneally. That failed, and the member for Cooper will fail, too, particularly if she cannot shake the left-wing warrior of a Treasurer as her running mate glaring over her shoulder.

Bring on October 2020 for the sake of all Queenslanders. This is the first left-wing Labor government we have ever had in Queensland. It has been a disaster for Queensland. Queenslanders have woken up to the fact and they are waiting with baseball bats on the verandah, a la Paul Keating, for 31 October 2020.