




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR EVERTON

Record of Proceedings, 30 April 2019

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.16 pm): We were entertained this morning by a ministerial statement from the Treasurer, who tried to wax lyrical about the economic performance of the current state Labor government. The only thing that was missing is that it should have begun with ‘once upon a time,’ because this Treasurer is in gaga land when we talk about the economic performance of this state. The very well respected CommSec *State of the states* report came out last week, and once again Queensland is wallowing down the bottom of the list when it comes to economic performance. Where did we come? We are coming sixth, only ahead of WA and the Northern Territory. That is not something to be proud of. Tasmania and South Australia are ahead of us, and that is an embarrassment to this state. This state, which was once the economic powerhouse of this country, is now wallowing down at the bottom.

We are sixth on four indicators. With regard to the other states, we are sixth in retail spending; we are sixth when it comes to equipment investment; we are sixth when it comes to construction work; and we are sixth when it comes to housing finance. This is an embarrassment for this state. Instead of owning that and coming up with policies to benefit this state, this Treasurer has her head in the sand. She continues to look for excuses and blames others for the economic incompetence that she displays herself. Last week the latest unemployment figures also came out, and embarrassingly this state has the second worst unemployment rate in the country at 6.1 per cent. It is very, very important to see how we stand in relation to different states and with the rest of the country.

Whilst we have a seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 6.1 per cent—this is the measurement the government likes to claim is the more accurate one—the national unemployment rate is five per cent, under the fantastic economic governance of the Morrison government. New South Wales and Victoria have unemployment rates starting with a ‘4’—and one of them has a Labor government, which is unbelievable. That is what this Treasurer—

An opposition member interjected.

Mr MANDER: I take that interjection. I should have said ‘once upon a time’ with that as well. This Treasurer has absolutely no idea when it comes to employment. We now have 162,000 Queenslanders unemployed. There was a jump of 20,000 in just one month. Last month unemployment was 5.4 per cent; this month it is 6.1 per cent. That is simply not good enough. This state government has no plan whatsoever.

Let us look at the record of the Palaszczuk government and the jobs that have been lost in the different industries. In the manufacturing sector, some 18,338 jobs have been lost in the four years of the Palaszczuk government. In the electricity, gas, water and waste services sector, 2,610 jobs have

been lost. In professional, scientific and technical services, 9,189 jobs have been lost. The number of Queensland full-time jobs lost under the Palaszczuk government is 19,522 in retail and 4,259 in rental, hiring and real estate services. I could go on and on. These are not numbers, figures and statistics; these are mums and dads, brothers and sisters, sons and daughters who cannot get a job in this state.

All we see from those on the other side of this House is the blame game—blaming everybody but themselves. If it is not the Morrison government it is the Brisbane City Council. If it is not the Brisbane City Council it was the previous LNP government. This government has been in power for the past four years. Labor has been in power for 25 of the past 30 years. The blame lays squarely at their feet.