



Speech By  
**Tim Nicholls**


**MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD**

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Record of Proceedings, 27 February 2019

**MOTION**

**State Schools, Air Conditioning**

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (5.51 pm): Mr Speaker, getting a lecture from the Labor Party on releasing costings is like trying to believe that Vladimir Putin believes in liberty and democracy or that Dave Hanna had nothing to do in the Labor Party. It is completely and utterly unbelievable. This is from a government that sprung four new taxes on the people of Queensland less than 48 hours from an election and then came back after they were re-elected and slugged them with another one-plus billion dollars on a waste tax that they did not talk to anyone about. This is from a government—Mr Speaker, I seek your indulgence—that went to the 2014-15 election saying that they had a debt action plan and then changed the way they counted the debt, raided the state's superannuation funds, raided every hollow log they could possibly find, and changed the way they calculated their debt. They said that half the debt owed by the state is not actually owed by the state: it is owed by companies that are state owned, but it is not owed by the state. They talk about an inquiry into the building industry, but they could not even get their own accounts in order. They come in here and have the hide to say to the LNP, 'Tell us your costings.' What a hide!

What do we have in the meantime? We have a government that is rolling in revenue as a result of the increasing price of coal. They stand up in here and say, 'Our exports are growing enormously,' as if they have been out there with shovels, driving excavators and digging the coal out of the ground themselves. You can see the member for South Brisbane or the member for Cooper doing that, can't you? Out there in pink reflective vests, hardhats and steel-capped boots—

**Ms GRACE:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I know that was not directed at me, but I think there is some parliamentary sexism that has come out in that and I think we should look at that.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for McConnel, there is no point of order. If you have issues that you would like to raise you have the appropriate channels.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** What they will not tell you, of course, is that they are reaping the rewards of the hard work of the LNP, who changed the royalty regime to make sure the people of Queensland got a fair price for their product, which was sold out of the ground by multinational companies.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for McConnel, you are warned under the standing orders. Member for Currumbin, you are warned under the standing orders for quarrelling across the chamber. I have been very clear about my expectations.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** A change in the royalty regime to make sure Queenslanders got the right price for their coal—a product that they own—is now benefitting a government that is writing up coal revenues every year, as opposed to an LNP government, that had to write down coal revenues which had been falsely projected by the prior government at \$5 billion higher. When it comes to fiscal rectitude, thank you very much but I think I will avoid a lecture from the Labor Party.

The days of students sitting it out in hot, uncomfortable classrooms is destined to continue under a do-nothing Palaszczuk Labor government—destined to continue under an education minister who can find \$500 million for two schools, one in her own electorate and one in South Brisbane—and she can do it at the drop of a hat; it is not even in the budget—but she cannot find enough money to air-condition schools in the rest of the south-east corner. This Premier and education minister travel in air-conditioned, chauffeur driven cars, work in air-conditioned offices and are feted by their bureaucrats who live in their air-conditioned offices, but they cannot find the money to air-condition our schools. This is an education minister who has time to kowtow to her union mates—an education minister who can spread union propaganda through schools—but who thinks it is all really just a bit too hard. Perhaps we should not expect any more from an education minister who, when she was the employment minister, said, ‘Youth unemployment is always difficult to address. I do not know that there is much you can change structurally. There is always an issue with youth unemployment. It is not new. It has been around a long time.’ If you are looking for a job in Queensland, under Labor it is going to be around a lot longer with 6.1 per cent unemployment, while the rest of the country is showing an improvement all the way through under a Morrison federal Liberal government, driving the unemployment rate down.

This is a government that can find \$265 million for a botched hospital IT system, \$239 million for other mismanaged IT projects and \$160 million for the rail fail, but they still cannot find money to deliver for students. Let me talk about this most importantly, because I know about this. For kids with disabilities it is even harder, and for the therapists and teachers who have to sweat it out in 40 degrees like they did at the beginning of this term—

*(Time expired)*