




Speech By
Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

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MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Liberal National Party, Commitments

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): Only the LNP has a plan to stimulate the economy, only the LNP has a plan to create a decade of secure jobs and it is only the LNP that has the ability to drag Queensland out of this recession. Our vision is to make Queensland an economic powerhouse once again. Our vision is also to make Queensland the best place to raise a family, to get a job and to get ahead. The foundations of the LNP's plan for a stronger economy and decades long of secure jobs are all around investing for growth, supercharging our region, unleashing Queensland's industry and securing our children's futures. An LNP government that I lead will build the New Bradfield Scheme, will build the second M1, will slash elective surgery wait times and will improve our kids' education. It is only the LNP that has a plan to secure Queensland's future for the next generation.

Queenslanders do need secure jobs now more than ever, but Queenslanders also deserve the right to feel safe when they are in their own homes. The right to safety has been removed by the Palaszczuk Labor government. For the last five years the Palaszczuk government has got softer and softer on crime. As a result, the crime rates have climbed higher and higher. Crimes like robbery, car theft and assaults have gone through the roof, and let me give the House some stats. In Townsville robbery is up by 165 per cent under Labor. In Cairns car theft is up 80 per cent. On the Gold Coast assaults are up 127 per cent. In Mackay car theft is up 144 per cent. In Caboolture and Deception Bay robbery is up 260 per cent since the Palaszczuk Labor government came to power. The Queenslanders that I talk to have simply had enough. They want action on crime, and that is exactly what an LNP government will deliver.

A week ago I was in Townsville and I announced that the LNP will make sweeping changes to Labor's broken youth justice system. The LNP will protect the community and we will back our police. There will be no more slaps on the wrist under a government I lead. Instead, there will be mandatory detention for young offenders on a third conviction. The LNP will send a very clear message to those offenders: if you do the crime, you will do the time. If you break the law, there will be consequences.

The LNP will scrap Labor's catch-and-release laws and bring back breach of bail as an offence. We will scrap Labor's \$70 million failed youth bail house experiment. We will introduce 24/7 monitoring of juvenile offenders who are on bail. We will let the courts recognise the youth offending history of adult offenders. We will be tough on crime, but the LNP is also committed to supporting vulnerable children and families. Our \$7 million justice reinvestment program will improve the physical, social and emotional wellbeing of young children in Townsville and Cairns. The community payback farms will give offenders the physical and mental skills they need to turn their lives around. The LNP's plan is a comprehensive strategy to fight youth crime, to protect our community and to rehabilitate young offenders. It is time to make Queensland safe again.

The LNP also has a plan to get hoons off our streets. It was about two weeks ago that I joined the member for Mudgeeraba, the member for Coomera, the member for Bonney and the LNP's candidate for Gaven, Kirsten Jackson, at one of Queensland's worst hooning hotspots. Queenslanders are sick of seeing hoons using our streets as a racetrack. They are sick of seeing hoons mock the police on social media. The LNP's plan will take our streets back. We will give police the resources and the laws that they need to deal with this problem.

Under the LNP's plan we will provide 100 new CCTV cameras to give police 24/7 vision of our worst hooning hotspots. We will roll out tyre-shredding road surfaces that will literally stop hoons in their tracks and we will introduce new laws that will target the members of those hooning gangs. Repeat offenders will be banned from driving for up to five years. The LNP will put the brakes on hooning, we will back our police and we will make our streets safe for Queenslanders.

I want every Queensland child to have a good start in life. In fact, I want every Queensland child to have the best start in life, and that means giving them the best education. Standards in our schools should be going up year after year, but they are not. The Palaszczuk Labor government has a record, and let us look at our NAPLAN results. They are going backwards. Queensland must do better and we will do better under an LNP government.

Two weeks ago I announced the LNP's plan to improve literacy in our schools. Reading and writing are foundation skills that kids must have to get a job and to succeed in life, so an LNP government will trial phonics screening in our schools next year. The trial will test around 12,000 Queensland kids who are in year 1. It will identify if they are struggling with reading or have a reading difficulty like dyslexia. The LNP's plan will find the kids who need help and we will make sure they get it, and this policy has been overwhelmingly received by parents and kids across Queensland.

As members can tell, my team has been very busy. I have even more policy updates for the House. Roads in South-East Queensland are grinding to a halt, so it is time to take bold action to bust congestion. I can announce that an LNP government will make off-peak rail journeys completely free for our seniors. From Gympie to the Gold Coast or Ascot to Ipswich, seniors will get free rail travel with the LNP. Free off-peak travel for seniors will mean less traffic on our roads, more seats on our peak-hour trains and more money in our seniors' pockets. The LNP's plan will save drivers time and save seniors money. The LNP will also encourage our young people to use public transport. We will provide \$500 public transport vouchers to full-time university and TAFE students in their first year of study. We will get students back into the classrooms and out of their cars. Only the LNP has a plan to bust congestion.

I have another announcement that will help Queensland get working again. Private investors have put 164 market-led proposals to the Palaszczuk Labor government, but only one of them has been delivered. What was that one? It was a toll road! The LNP will create Queensland investment partnerships to develop more projects with the private sector. My aim is simple: creating secure jobs for Queenslanders. We will work with investors because we on this side of the House know that investment means jobs. There will be less obstruction and more construction under the LNP.

Every child deserves to be brought into a safe and loving home. The brutal death of Mason Jett Lee, and many others like him, has shown that the child protection system in Queensland is broken. Four weeks ago I announced an LNP government will overhaul the child safety system from the top down. We will create the child protection force to save our children from abuse, from neglect and from violence. Our kids must be protected at all costs. Leaving vulnerable children in dangerous homes can be a death sentence and I will never accept that outcome.

The Palaszczuk Labor government has no plan, it has no budget. Only the LNP has a plan to drag Queensland out of this recession, a plan to stimulate the economy, a plan to create a decade of secure jobs. Only the LNP will get Queensland working again.