



Speech By  
**Deb Frecklington**


**MEMBER FOR NANANGO**

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**MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

**Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance**

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): COVID-19 has been suppressed in Queensland, but the economic crisis is worsening by the day. Last week Virgin airlines announced it was laying off 3,000 employees. Today we hear that 400 of those jobs may be from Queensland. As a part owner of Virgin, the Palaszczuk Labor government must guarantee that not one of those 400 jobs will be lost from Queensland.

Labor used Queensland taxpayers' money to buy a stake in Virgin, so it is down to Labor to now guarantee that not one of those Queensland Virgin jobs will be lost. Labor and the Treasurer made a lot of noise about the fact that Queensland taxpayers' money was going in to buy Virgin, but now their silence is deafening. It is not just airline workers who face an uncertain future; the pandemic is hurting every single Queensland industry throughout our economy.

Our economy was in trouble long before coronavirus. Thanks to the Palaszczuk Labor government's economic mismanagement and their higher taxes, Queensland started this crisis with the worst average unemployment in the nation, the highest number of bankruptcies and the lowest economic confidence. That is how Queensland started the worst economic crisis in 90 years.

Today more than 200,000 Queenslanders are out of work. I wish I could say that the worst is over but unfortunately I cannot. We know that closing the border will inflict further economic damage. There will be more business failures and more job losses, but the LNP has always said that our border controls are not set and forget. As the facts change, our response must change as well. It is a fact that the Victorian Labor government has totally failed to control coronavirus.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Do you want me to say it again? I am happy to. It is a fact that the Victorian Labor government has totally failed to control coronavirus. That failure has raised the risk faced by the rest of the Commonwealth. That risk was compounded by the Palaszczuk Labor government's flawed honour system checks at the border. Now that our borders have closed again, the economic response simply must be ramped up. If the tourism industry does not receive extra financial support, even more jobs will be lost.

Queensland urgently needs a plan for recovery. It is pretty clear that the Palaszczuk Labor government has no plan. It had no plan for the economy before coronavirus and it has no plan now. This is a government that does not even have a plan for a budget. If you do not have a budget, it means that you have no plan and certainly no plan for recovery.

Unlike Labor, the LNP does have a plan. We will deliver a budget within the first 100 days of the next election. Our plan will stimulate the economy, secure jobs and drag Queensland out of this recession. Our plan is based on four foundations: investing for growth, unleashing Queensland industry, supercharging the regions and securing our children's future.

Our economy needs immediate action. That is why the next LNP government will deliver a \$1 billion program of new rail and road projects across the south-east. These projects will bust congestion and create thousands of construction jobs. The SEQ Congestion Program will be fully funded by the state because I want to see workers with their hi-vis on get working. It was the Morrison federal government that has provided a safety net with JobKeeper and JobSeeker. My plan for infrastructure will be our 'JobMaker' scheme. The procurement process will be streamlined and fast-tracked to get shovels in the ground. The procurement process will give preference to Queensland construction firms. Now is the time to look after our own first.

In Brisbane's western suburbs, the LNP will invest \$245 million in duplicating the Centenary Motorway bridge. The Centenary Motorway is Queensland's slowest motorway, with a peak-hour speed of just 28 kilometres an hour through Jindalee. Labor ignored this bottleneck for years. We will also fix the worst bottleneck on Brisbane's north side. Our stimulus program will fund a \$90 million overpass at the intersection of Gympie and Beams Road at Carseldine.

On the bayside an LNP government will also invest \$100 million to fix the worst road in the Redlands. We will make Cleveland Redland Bay Road safer and faster by constructing four lanes through Thornlands, Victoria Point and into Redland Bay. The LNP will invest \$5 million in a business case for the Eastern Busway extension from Coorparoo to Capalaba. We know that that is welcomed by those opposite because the Palaszczuk government has done absolutely nothing in the last five years. That is the project that even the Palaszczuk government say—not that they will fund it—will bust congestion by delivering more high-frequency buses through the eastern suburbs.

The Mount Lindesay Highway out towards Jimboomba and Beaudesert will benefit from a \$40 million upgrade. It is one of the most unroadworthy routes in Queensland, according to the RACQ. Investment is needed urgently and the LNP will provide it. The LNP will also invest \$35 million to fast-track the Bells Creek Arterial Road at Caloundra. The landowner will match our commitment, meaning there will be \$70 million of investment to get the Sunshine Coast working again.

These projects will not just bust congestion but help to bust this recession too. Labor have no plan for our economy and we know they have no budget. They are flying blind through the worst economic crisis we have ever known. It is only the LNP that has a plan for Queensland, a plan that will stimulate our economy, create a decade of secure jobs and drag Queensland out of this recession.

Unlike Labor, the LNP will never neglect the Gold Coast. The SEQ Congestion Program will fund new on and off ramps at exit 45 on the M1. There will be 125 more car parks at Nerang Railway Station. On top of that, our commitment is to build the second M1. An LNP government will also develop a master plan for the northern Gold Coast Hospital and health precinct. The booming northern Gold Coast needs new infrastructure and better health services, and it is only the LNP who has a plan to deliver them.

The LNP will also take pressure off the Nerang and Pacific Pines high schools by planning for a new school west of the M1. It is only the LNP that has a plan to create jobs and invest for growth north of the Gold Coast. It is only the LNP that will open up and unlock the potential of our regions. That is why it is only the LNP that knows water means jobs. That is why the LNP backs the New Bradfield Scheme as well as the Nullinga Dam, Urannah Dam, Rookwood Weir, Emu Swamp Dam, raising the Burdekin Falls Dam and fixing Paradise Dam. The LNP will build dams and we will make water cheaper too.

If the LNP is elected on 31 October we will slash the price of water to farmers by almost 20 per cent on 1 July 2021. We will implement the recommendations of the QCA to reduce water costs by transitioning SunWater to a regulated asset based approach for financing asset renewals. I can see the water minister shaking his head. I would be shaking my head as well, because it is only the LNP that will make water cheaper for Queensland. It is only the LNP that knows water means jobs. They have been caught out on the hop because it is only the LNP that will get Queensland working again.