




Speech By
Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

Record of Proceedings, 12 August 2020

MOTION

Liberal National Party, Commitments

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (5.00 pm): I move—

That this House calls on the Palaszczuk government to implement the LNP's Plan to Get Queensland Working:

- (a) no new or increased taxes to boost business confidence and create jobs;
- (b) build and own the visionary New Bradfield Scheme;
- (c) build a second M1 to get people home safer and sooner;
- (d) air-condition every state school classroom in Queensland because cool kids are smart kids;
- (e) break Ergon's monopoly and introduce retail price competition for electricity into regional Queensland allowing regional Queenslanders access to the same deals as South-East Queensland saving households around \$300 a year;
- (f) clear elective surgery wait lists by partnering with the private sector so Queenslanders get the surgeries they need on time;
- (g) build dams. The first stage of our water security plan is to get shovel-ready the Nullinga Dam, the Urannah Dam and raising the Burdekin Falls Dam;
- (h) fix Paradise Dam instead of ripping down a dam in drought;
- (i) set up a Queensland Infrastructure Fund with royalties from the Galilee Basin;
- (j) stop Labor's wasteful spending;
- (k) introduce a public sex offender register to help parents protect their kids from serious sexual offenders;
- (l) reducing water prices for Sunwater irrigators by almost 20 per cent per year from next year;
- (m) fast-tracking shovel-ready projects across South-East Queensland through our \$1 billion congestion-busting program to stimulate the economy; and
- (n) appoint 60 new police in both Cairns and Townsville over the next four years to crack down on crime.

Right now in Queensland we need to get Queensland working again. Members could ask: why is that? It is because after five years of the incompetent Palaszczuk government—we have had five years of economic mismanagement—Queensland has now been hit with the worst economic crisis in almost 90 years. Where do the Palaszczuk government sit? They sit flying completely blind through the worst economic crisis in Queensland's history.

Unfortunately, we have the new Treasurer in Queensland who is unable or unwilling to even provide Queenslanders with the confidence and the certainty of a state budget. Apparently, the only state in the nation that will not hand down a full budget this year is Queensland. What does that tell us?

Mr Millar: What are you hiding from?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I will take that interjection from the member for Gregory because what the government is hiding is its economic incompetence. They have no budget, which means no economic plan to get Queensland out of this recession. There is absolutely no plan to get Queensland out of this recession.

A government member: Sixty-four times.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: What does the LNP have? We have an economic plan. It is the LNP that is actually out there pushing the policies, talking about major infrastructure projects, talking about delivering a budget within the first 100 days. It is the LNP that has the plan to get Queensland working again. We have a government with their head so far in the sand the only number they seem to care about is 64, but they have no clue about a budget at all. They have absolutely no care for a budget.

Before coronavirus where was Queensland? Queensland had, on average, the highest unemployment rate in the nation, the lowest business confidence, the highest number of bankruptcies, all under the financial incompetence of the Palaszczuk government. No wonder the Treasurer refuses to hand down a full budget this year. The LNP have already committed to no new taxes because the LNP know that we must give confidence to businesses. Why? Because businesses employ people. It is only the LNP that has a plan for jobs across Queensland.

That is why I have already announced—over 12 months ago now—the big, bold visionary plan, which is the New Bradfield Scheme, creating tens of thousands of jobs, opening up a huge tract of farming land larger than the size of Tasmania. Imagine the produce that we could export around the world—clean, green, beautiful produce coming right out of Queensland. Who are the team to deliver that? It will be the LNP to get Queensland working again.

That is only just to start with—the dams. We have already made announcements around Nullinga, Urannah, Rookwood Weir, Emu Swamp Dam and raising Burdekin Falls Dam. It is us on this side of the House who are interested in water. Why? Because we know that water means jobs. If we add water, it means people can grow more and they can employ more. That is why the LNP announced last week or the week before that in the Burdekin we will adopt the Queensland Competition Authority's recommendations and slash prices by up to 20 per cent for irrigators who get their water through Sunwater. Again, it is only the LNP that has a plan to provide jobs in regional Queensland. In fact, it is only the LNP that will make it easier to get Queensland working again. It is only the LNP that will drag Queensland out of this recession.

I cannot believe that the new Treasurer of Queensland has determined to run Queensland so far into the ground with, on average, the highest unemployment rate in the nation, the lowest business confidence and the highest number of bankruptcies. Yet all the Palaszczuk government ministers are interested in is playing politics with people's lives and livelihoods throughout the coronavirus pandemic.

It is also the LNP that have a plan on crime and tackling those issues in North Queensland. Only the LNP will get Queensland working again.

(Time expired)