




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR NANANGO

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MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance; Liberal National Party, Commitments

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): In 53 days Queenslanders will have the chance to change their state government. It will be a chance to bring to an end the failed Palaszczuk Labor government. Failure has been a hallmark of the Palaszczuk Labor government. No government in history has failed across the board like this one. They have failed on education, they have failed on health services, they have failed on crime, they have failed on infrastructure, they have failed on integrity, they have failed on the economy and, worst of all, they have failed on people's jobs. Queensland has endured five years of failure from the Palaszczuk government and we cannot afford another four years of the same failure.

In our schools, the NAPLAN results are going backwards. We are below the national average on every measure in every age group. Labor's answer to those failing NAPLAN tests is to dump the tests. Is it any wonder that Queensland is falling behind when that is the attitude of the state government? They do not like the results so they get rid of the tests!

In health, the improvements in patient care that were achieved by the last LNP government have been wiped out by this incompetent Labor mob. The LNP ended the surgery waiting list, but under Labor it has grown by 20,000 patients—that is, an 86 per cent growth in the waitlist under the Palaszczuk Labor government. Hundreds of millions of dollars have been lost on failed IT projects in our hospitals. Instead of fixing our hospital failures, Labor's answer is to just change a name. The decision to rename the Lady Cilento children's hospital was a waste of time, a waste of money and an absolute insult to a Queensland icon.

Youth crime rates have exploded, especially in places such as Townsville, Cairns and the Gold Coast. Regional Queenslanders have had to pay for Labor's soft laws with more assaults, more robberies, more car thefts, more break-ins and, worst of all, more hoons.

Our state's infrastructure has also been neglected. Labor has spent almost one-fifth—that is right, one-fifth—less than the LNP on infrastructure. Our urban and regional roads have been starved of investment. Plans for water projects such as new dams have gathered dust for the past five years because the Labor Party has no plan for dams or water in this state.

The Palaszczuk Labor government's integrity is in tatters as well. New laws had to be introduced after the former deputy premier's secret purchase of a Woolloongabba investment property. A CCC inquiry into the Premier's former chief of staff is ongoing after a company he co-owned received a \$267,000 grant from Labor. The list of ministers and Labor members of parliament who have had integrity scandals is too long to go through in the time that I have today. However, let us remember that Premier Palaszczuk herself was found to be in contempt of parliament for threatening the crossbench.

In the past two months, Labor has failed to show compassion, consistency or common sense on the borders. Yes, we need to keep Queenslanders safe, but we do not do that by refusing treatment to cancer patients and pregnant mums or poor little boarding school kids who just want to see their parents.

We do not do it by saying that Queensland hospitals are just for Queenslanders. That is un-Australian. Labor has been busy rolling out the red carpet for celebrities and AFL bosses rather than looking after the sick. Something is badly wrong when pool parties matter more than patients.

The Palaszczuk Labor government's most expensive failure has been its economic failure. Queensland started 2020 with the worst unemployment rate in the nation. We had the highest number of bankruptcies and the lowest rate of economic confidence. That dire performance was caused by five years of Labor incompetence and mismanagement. It should come as absolutely no surprise to any Queenslanders that the coronavirus crisis has hit Queensland's economy so badly when we started off in such dire straits. Today Queensland still has the highest unemployment rate in the nation. Around 234,000 Queenslanders are unemployed. That is almost a quarter of a million people—mums and dads, sons and daughters, aunts and uncles, grandparents—and the Palaszczuk government has no economic plan for those people. It has no economic plan to deal with the worst crisis in Queensland's history. No state budget means no plan for recovery. Members should not take just my word for it. Michael Ravbar of the CFMMEU said—

You've got to have leadership and strategy in regards to jobs and job security.

That's where I think the government is certainly lacking.

You've got to look after the whole Queensland economy—which they ain't doing at the moment.

Stephen Tait of the Chamber of Commerce & Industry Queensland said the Palaszczuk Labor government's economic response was 'neither visionary nor detailed ... more a rehash of announcements'. The CCIQ's Amanda Rohan said—

You'd expect they'd have more meat on the bones about where they want to take the economy.

There's a lack of transparency and leadership.

The CCIQ and the CFMMEU do not agree on much, so when they both say it is a dud government you know it is true. No-one should be surprised by Labor's economic incompetence. The Palaszczuk Labor government cabinet has next to no experience or common sense. In fact, the biggest skills shortage happening in Queensland is actually in the Palaszczuk government cabinet. Labor is clueless in the face of this crisis.

In stark contrast, the LNP does have an economic plan to drag Queensland out of this recession and the contrast could not be clearer. Ours is an ambitious plan to stimulate the economy, create a decade of secure jobs and get the economy out of recession. The LNP's vision is to make Queensland an economic powerhouse again, which is so important if Queensland is again to be the best place to raise a family, get a job and make sure that our kids have a secure future. The LNP's plan for a strong economy and secure jobs is based on investing for growth, unleashing Queensland's industries, supercharging the regions and securing our children's future. Only the LNP has a plan to get Queensland working again.

The LNP will immediately establish the economic recovery agency to kickstart stimulus projects and create jobs. The agency will be our economic recovery department of grunt. In its first 100 days the agency will coordinate action for delivering the New Bradfield Scheme. It will establish the Queensland Dam Company to progress the Nullinga, Urannah, Rookwood and Emu Swamp dams, complete the Burdekin Falls Dam upgrade and fix the Paradise Dam. The agency will audit all the stalled major projects and will fast-track approvals. It will issue tender documents for the \$1 billion South-East Queensland road stimulus package and fast-track approvals for the second M1. The agency will deliver four new ice rehabilitation centres. It will promote Queensland as the low-tax state for investment through our no-new-tax guarantee. The agency will implement Queensland investment partnerships to secure \$1 billion worth of private sector investment. It will reduce water prices by almost 20 per cent for Sunwater irrigators. The agency will establish an industry skills council to ensure vocational training meets skills shortages and it will fast-track air conditioning in every state school classroom to support local trades' jobs.

An LNP government will deliver a full state budget within the first 100 days so we can fund Queensland's road to recovery. It is only the LNP with a plan to get Queensland working again.