




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

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MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST

LNP Opposition

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (2.20 pm): What a pedestrian effort from those opposite. What we see is, of course, a re-run of the previous Newman government plan—promise the world, promise a massive infrastructure program and promise no new taxes and when they get elected cut, sack and sell. That is their program. Under the Newman government we saw unemployment spike at 7.1 per cent. Growth flatlined at 0.7 per cent.

They had the biggest majority in history and they lost government after only one term. Why was that? They were economic incompetents. They sacked 14,000 people. They wondered why demand flattened. The Newman government held it over people's heads for so long before doing it that everyone stopped spending and the economy almost contracted. We saw an appalling economic outcome there.

Mr Hart interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order! Member for Burleigh.

Mr BAILEY: They ordered trains from overseas. They ordered trains that were disability noncompliant. They cut road funding by \$600 million.

Mr Hart interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Burleigh.

Mr BAILEY: I had mayors lining up to talk to me about the cuts that were made by the Newman government. They thought they would be the opposite, but then they saw the harsh reality. The reality is that one cannot say that there will be no new taxes and there will be a massive infrastructure program because it does not add up—that is unless one cuts, sacks and sells, and privatises. That is what they did last time they were in government. They were caught out. There are two words we will never hear—

Mr Hart interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. Member for Burleigh, you are warned.

Mr BAILEY: There are two words we will never hear in an opposition speech in this place and they are the words 'strong choices'. They are words that shall not pass their lips.

Mr Watts interjected.

Mr BAILEY: I hear the interjection from the disgraced member for Toowoomba North who had to resign because he could not comply with the health directives—one of the great performers over there!

That is their record. Compare their record to that of the Palaszczuk government. We have a unite and recover plan. Not only did we have a record budget last year, we added significant stimulus packages, particularly in my area of responsibility. There is a \$400 million road stimulus package across Queensland—across regional Queensland—which is targeted at growth areas. There is the

\$180 million stimulus package under the Roads of Strategic Importance program being provided in conjunction with the federal government. Today we announced \$23 million in further relief for the taxi and limousine industry which has been badly affected by the pandemic.

We have an economic plan and we are implementing it. We are rolling it out. There have been more than \$4 billion worth of concessions under our unite and recover plan. What we see from those opposite is the same old sleight of hand—they promise the world and do not say how they are going to pay for it. Lo and behold, if they get elected it is out the door with that plan and it is privatise this and privatise that. We know the agenda.

What we are also seeing happening, which is fascinating, is the opposition at war with its own headquarters—a headquarters that is beholden to Clive Palmer. The party president of the LNP works for Clive Palmer, literally. Nothing has been done about this for six months. We find out this morning that Malcolm Cole, Larry Anthony and Bruce McIver are all on Clive Palmer's payroll.

We have to wonder whether it is the Liberal National-Palmer Party now. Clive Palmer has come home to the LNP. He is a former life member. He has been out there agitating and now he has come home. He is part of this leadership challenge. We see a party at war with itself four months out from an election. We are going to see more of this over the next few weeks, I have no doubt about that. They are not focused on Queensland.

I saw the member for Broadwater's presser yesterday. Wasn't he angry? He said he was not challenging, but God he stormed off in a bit of a huff. I wonder why that was? Why would he have been so angry and huffy if he was not involved in anything? He doth protests too much.

We have the plan. We invest in infrastructure. We invest in jobs. We invest in roads. We invest in the Queensland economy. We have steered this state through the biggest health emergency in 100 years. We are the best performing state in one of the best performing countries in the world. That gives us the firmest foundation to recover economically. We are way ahead of many others. Like other states, we will do things at an appropriate time that is in Queenslanders' best interests and in the interests of their health. We continue to execute our unite and recover plan.