




Speech By
Meaghan Scanlon

MEMBER FOR GAVEN

Record of Proceedings, 12 August 2020

MOTION

Liberal National Party, Commitments

 **Ms SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (5.15 pm): I am truly shocked by what the Leader of the Opposition's motion suggests for schools within my community, but I should not be particularly surprised given the LNP's track record in education. Of course, it was the party that closed down schools, sacked school nurses, cut \$40 million from the school transport assistance scheme and changed the formula for calculating teacher numbers in schools—this meant a cut of more than 500 teachers—and the list goes on.

Now those opposite have the nerve to come into this chamber and move a motion calling for our government to implement the LNP's plan on air-conditioning state schools. Being interested, I decided to take a quick look at the Leader of the Opposition's Deb 2020 website to see what the LNP's supposed plan is. The website shows that the LNP wants every public school classroom air-conditioned in Queensland by 2028. The LNP wants every public state school classroom air-conditioned eight years away. Under the LNP's plan, there are children who will start high school next year and never experience an air-conditioned classroom before they graduate. In stark contrast, our government will air-condition every state school classroom, staffroom and library throughout Queensland by June 2022.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms SCANLON: I suggest that those groaning look at the member's website.

We of course will also take over the maintenance and replacement costs to take pressure off our hardworking P&Cs—another element not included in the LNP's plan. To ensure that we hit our 50 per cent renewable energy target by 2030, we are installing over 190,000 solar panels on school rooftops to completely offset the energy usage and to support local tradies within our communities. This is already being rolled out, with panels already installed at Nerang State School, Worongary State School, Gaven State School and Pacific Pines State High School. Park Lake, Nerang State High School and William Duncan are in phase 2.

We have the runs on the board when it comes to delivering for our schools and upgrading our roads. I remind the Leader of the Opposition in relation to part (c) of this motion of the LNP's track record. Not only did they not contribute a single new dollar to the existing M1; they actually blocked planning for the second M1, just like they cut Cross River Rail. Both projects would be much further advanced right now if the LNP had not cut them when last in power.

Let us be clear: the Palaszczuk government is delivering the M1 upgrades. We are delivering Cross River Rail, which includes three new train stations for the Gold Coast. While the member for Coomera talks about us fast-tracking this project, I remind the member that his side of politics did not even support this project. We have gazetted the Coomera Connector corridor and have started the business case with the federal government. In fact, as part of this necessary planning we have been working on the environmental impact statement, which is with the federal government right now—something the LNP was too lazy to bother even starting.

This motion is nothing but a desperate attempt by the opposition to remain relevant while we on this side of the chamber and our Premier are focused on continuing our strong health response to this global pandemic and delivering our economic recovery plan to create jobs. We are focused on the health outcomes for Queenslanders, and that is why we contributed \$250 million for an elective surgery blitz to treat patients who had to wait longer as a result of this pandemic. I again remind the Leader of the Opposition of their track record when it comes to health. Those opposite sacked over 4,000 health staff, including 1,800 nurses.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! Order, members. You do not need to yell across the chamber. I am struggling to hear the speaker on their feet as it is.

Ms SCANLON: Those opposite do not like their history. It was in fact 1,800 nurses who were sacked, many of whom are residents on the Gold Coast who remember the track record of those opposite to cut, sack and sell. I remind those opposite of their track record. We will continue to deliver our strong economic plan. I oppose the member's motion.