




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR EVERTON

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MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance; LNP Commitments

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.15 pm): When it comes to the Public Service wage freeze, the Premier is all over the shop. First it was effective from April, then it was effective from 1 July. First it was a wage freeze, now it is a deferral. Premier, what is it? It is chaos. There is no consensus, no consultation and no certainty. It shows that Labor has absolutely no clue. This is a total debacle, and it is one of the consequences of not having a budget.

Queensland is still the only state without a budget, the only state that does not have an economic plan to come out of the coronavirus crisis. The former treasurer, the member for South Brisbane, brought the budget forward to April, then used the excuse of the coronavirus to delay that budget. She then said she was going to deliver some financial statements in May. There is a new Treasurer here now. That promise by the government has gone.

We need a budget because we need to know how badly this state is going. Before the coronavirus, this state had the highest average unemployment rate over the last year, the highest number of bankruptcies, the lowest level of business confidence and the highest debt level in the country. That is why we need a plan to go forward. People deserve the right to know how many new taxes will be necessary to fund the promises that the Palaszczuk government has made and will make in the future. People have the right to know that.

In stark contrast, the LNP has made a commitment that in the first 100 days of a Frecklington government we will deliver a budget. If that means that senior public servants and I have to work through the Christmas break, then that is exactly what we will do. We will show in our budget within the first 100 days how we will fund some of the great plans that have already been announced by the Leader of the Opposition, Deb Frecklington, a woman who has a vision for this state.

The New Bradfield Scheme is the most visionary project that any politician has announced since the Snowy Mountain Hydro Scheme. It will be a new hydro scheme that will store the monsoonal rains of the north and put it to more effective use to provide the water security that this state needs. It will provide hydro-electricity and water to irrigate an area the size of Tasmania, west of the Great Dividing Range, which will stop all that sediment going to the Great Barrier Reef, and it will create not one year of jobs, not two years of jobs, but a decade of jobs right throughout this state.

That is the type of vision that we need. We need a budget so that we can explain to people how that will take place. There is the construction of the second M1. It is providing competition for all electricity consumers in the retail market throughout the regions. By guaranteeing businesses that there will be no new taxes in the future, that there will be no new taxes in the first term of a Frecklington-led government and, when it comes to royalties, that there will be no increase in royalties for 10 years, that is the type of confidence-building needed by businesses so that they will invest in this great state.

We want this state to once again be the economic powerhouse of this country—just like it was when I was growing up. This was the state that everybody wanted to come to—the place of opportunity. Over the last five years the Palaszczuk government has totally smashed that reputation to smithereens.

We have a plan that will be outlined in the budget delivered in the first 100 days of government. People will know that we are fair dinkum and that we are the only side of politics they can trust when it comes to managing the economy and creating an environment where businesses want to come to this state and invest. Investment leads to confidence and confidence leads to the creation of jobs.