




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

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MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Redcliffe Electorate

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (2.34 pm): Today it is a pleasure to stand in the chamber as the member for Redcliffe. This Saturday, 22 February 2020 marks six years since not only my election to this House but also the day that the Redcliffe community had their say and turned their back on an LNP government and the dodgy and corrupt former member. Just over five years ago, on 31 January 2015, my community did me the great honour of electing me again, this time as a member of the Palaszczuk Labor government. While those on the other side want to throw mud and talk about this government, rather than talking about what they have to offer the people of Queensland, we will talk about what this government is doing and what we have delivered for our communities.

The Palaszczuk Labor government has been righting the wrongs of the former LNP government since we came back into office in 2015, working on behalf of all Queenslanders. I am very proud to be a member of the government and the then minister who brought back Skilling Queenslanders for Work. That program helps so many, including many in my community, get the skills and training that they need to get into the workforce. Not only did the LNP scrap that program in 2012; in 2017, it took to the most recent election a policy of scrapping it again.

As the Premier says, there is dignity in work and I completely agree. While time does not permit me to list all of the wonderful investments in my community in the past five years, I will endeavour to highlight some. First and foremost is the Redcliffe rail line. It was a federal Labor government and a state Labor government that committed to that project, along with the Moreton Bay Regional Council at the time. I am very proud that we were back in government to see the rail line opened. One hundred and thirty-one years since the idea was first mooted, the Redcliffe peninsula line opened and Kippa-Ring was finally connected to Petrie and the broader Queensland Rail network.

I have been advised that over the past five years we have had about \$28 million of investment in our local schools, funding a number of support and capital works programs at a number of schools across the peninsula. The member for Kawana says we are politicising our schools. If that means visiting them and talking to the staff, the teachers, the principals and the students, then I am happy to do that each and every day. It is what gets me out of bed every day.

Over \$35 million has been invested in the Redcliffe Hospital on multiple projects, including the new Day Procedure Unit, additional acute bed capacity, an additional operating theatre and an MRI machine and, of course, we are building the car park that is well and truly overdue. It is a Labor government that is making that happen.

Nearly \$30 million has been invested in community housing, which is very important. I was disgusted when the federal LNP government cut funding for Indigenous housing because that meant the states had to stretch their housing budgets even further to assist. The federal member in my area is the assistant minister for homelessness who says that we should put a positive spin on homelessness

because the good thing is that most of us are not homeless. You know what? There are people living under the bridge and sleeping rough in my community who want more than that from the federal government, and the state is stepping up to help people who are homeless.

Around \$5 million has been invested in local sporting clubs through sporting grants and Gambling Community Benefit Fund grants, supporting over 85 community and not-for-profit organisations. All of that has been achieved by a Labor government without cutting, without sacking, without selling. Even Campbell Newman has said that he does not think the LNP can go to the next election and convince the voters that they will not do exactly the same thing.

On a very personal and a very serious note, I have to talk about the LNP candidate for Redcliffe. I would not normally talk about that person, but they are running for a fifth time and they should know better. Recently, that person made a statement about someone who is running for council, saying that they have never had a real job because they have worked in an office—I will be very up-front: an electorate office. I ask all the members in the LNP leadership, do you believe that your electorate officers do not have real jobs; that what they do each and every day is not real; that it is not a real job?

An opposition member: What does that have to do with us?

Mrs D'ATH: I take that interjection. Your LNP candidate says that this person has not had a real job for six years because they worked in an office serving the community. How disgusting! What does that say to the thousands of people who get up every day to work in an office, to pay their bills? It is disgusting and atrocious, and the LNP should call it out for what it is: their LNP candidate is attacking office workers.

(Time expired)