



Speech By  
**David Janetzki**


**MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA SOUTH**

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## **MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

### **Coronavirus, Quarantine Facilities**

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.15 pm): We have just had another example from the health minister of this government playing the politics hard. They play the politics very hard in relation to this issue, and they played it no harder than at Wellcamp last Thursday when, over a number of days, as the Leader of the Opposition has outlined, they started to build the case: there were large numbers coming up into hotels, they needed to pause the number of interstate arrivals into our hotels, and then there was a miracle. They turned up at Wellcamp with dump trucks and graders getting ready to build a quarantine facility. They were playing the politics as hard as they ever had before. It is time that we had leadership in relation to this issue in Queensland. We need leadership for the health crisis and leadership for the economic crisis.

The contempt the government displayed towards the Toowoomba people last week cannot go unremarked upon. We had the Deputy Premier stand up at Wellcamp last week and say, 'We've got to stop playing politics.' I reckon there was a mass outbreak of laughter across the Toowoomba region when they heard that because the Deputy Premier has played politics harder than anybody else on these issues.

They arrived in Toowoomba and the mayor did not know and the state MPs did not know—but we do not expect to be told anything. Worse than anything, if we asked the Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service if they knew, the answer would be, 'No, we did not.' If we asked the local Police Service if they knew the quarantine facility was going to be announced that day, the answer would be, 'No, we did not.' If we asked the local Ambulance Service if they knew the quarantine facility would be introduced, the answer would be, 'No, we did not.'

This shows the arrogance of this government. They simply come in to our community and announce the facility without any engagement whatsoever, without any acknowledgement of what it might mean. I have spoken with the local police officer and we might need another 50 or 60 police to deal with the quarantine facility. What is the modelling? How many ambulances will we need to transport COVID patients or those suffering serious illness down here to Brisbane? What do we need in terms of the health service? What protections will be on offer for the local Toowoomba community? There is not a single answer. The arrogance of the Palaszczuk Labor government was on display.

If there was anything that really irked me about this announcement, it was the launch of PNN, the Palaszczuk News Network, as it has been referred to in the *Australian*. They went live, without any conversations with Toowoomba people, on the PNN, the Palaszczuk News Network, to announce to the world what is happening in the Toowoomba region. There was little breaking, top-of-the-line graphics to announce to the world that a quarantine facility was coming to Toowoomba. If there is anything that displays the arrogance of the Palaszczuk Labor government, it is their use of the media and social media and their control over so many staffers.

During the last couple of weeks since we last sat, we have learnt how many spin doctors the Palaszczuk Labor government have. We know they have 18 in the Premier's office, but what was revealed during estimates? They have almost another dozen. They have been seconded out of ministerial offices into the Premier's office not to deal with important information; they are not disseminating important information about COVID or other important public information. They are putting up questions such as, 'Do you prefer hot cross buns or Easter eggs?'

**Mr Bleijie:** TikTok videos.

**Mr JANETZKI:** Or they are putting up TikTok videos. 'What is your favourite children's storybook?' The people of Toowoomba have been treated with contempt. The people of Queensland are also treated with contempt in the way the Palaszczuk Labor government use the media for their own craven political advantage. It happens day after day after day, not just in the numbers we see furnished in the Premier's media department but also throughout the ministerial offices—30 staff overall are disseminating information and manipulating the media for their own craven political advantage. There is probably nothing more craven—and the Leader of the Opposition mentioned it—than the sentiment polling. An amount of 500 grand was paid for by the taxpayer. Interestingly, we know now that it targeted the Livingstone Shire Council, which happens to sit in the middle of Keppel, a marginal seat. The people are sick of the manipulation of the media.

*(Time expired)*