




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles
MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

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MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Achievements; Leader of the Opposition, Performance

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure) (2.10 pm): It is the last sitting week of the year, Queenslanders are 76 per cent double vaccinated, we are so close to opening up to families and friends for the holidays and it is beginning to look a lot like Christmas. In the 12 days of Christmas tradition, I have my own advent calendar for 12 days of great things the Palaszczuk government is delivering. It took a lot to narrow it down to 12 but here we go—and, in a gift I am sure all members will appreciate, I will not sing it.

On the first day of Christmas the Palaszczuk government is delivering Cross River Rail. On the second day of Christmas the Palaszczuk government is delivering Queen's Wharf Brisbane—there are 1,300 workers on site there right now. On the third day we are delivering the flagship \$3.34 billion Queensland Jobs Fund, creating jobs in traditional and new industries right across the state, which certainly has a ring to it. On the fourth day we are delivering a \$2 billion Queensland Renewable Energy and Hydrogen Jobs Fund to support infrastructure that creates jobs.

On the fifth day of Christmas we will build the electrolyzers that the world needs, in Gladstone with Fortescue Future Industries. On the sixth day we are delivering for local councils with the \$200 million very popular Works for Queensland funding program, which is creating 3,600 jobs. On the seventh day we are supporting two new residential developments in Carseldine and Oxley, which are going to be 100 per cent solar and battery neighbourhoods, saving homebuyers there thousands of dollars a year. On the eighth day the Growth Areas Team is responding to population growth challenges in South-East Queensland, including the Caboolture West development that will generate close to 23,000 jobs.

On the ninth day of Christmas the Palaszczuk government is delivering the Lansdown Eco-Industrial Precinct in Townsville. On the 10th day we are preparing for disaster season—grants are now open to help councils avoid flooding and lower their insurance premiums. On the 11th day of Christmas we are getting on with building the quarantine facility at Wellcamp so that we can keep Queenslanders safe from new variants of COVID-19. Finally, on the 12th day of Christmas the Palaszczuk government is delivering the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, which will generate \$8 billion in economic and social benefits and create 91,600 jobs, all while putting Brisbane on the world stage. As I said, it was a tough job to cut it back to just 12.

While we on this side of the House head into the festive season with optimism, it is more like a Dickensian Christmas carol on the other side. The words Charles Dickens used to describe Ebenezer Scrooge could just as easily apply to the Leader of the Opposition: squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching and covetous. The Leader of the Opposition is doomed to spend another Christmas with the Ghost of Christmas Past. What a terrifying tale the ghost of his past has to tell. He might be

desperate to forget his past but we will not forget. The ghost of the opposition leader's past begins with 14,000 jobs cuts and plans to sell just about everything we own when he was a cabinet minister in the Newman government.

The opposition leader's visit with the ghost of Christmas present will not look much better either. In 2021 he did nothing but criticise our health response. He attacked our hardworking doctors and nurses. He continued to undermine our border restrictions that kept Queensland and Queenslanders safe. He never—not once—put Queensland's interests ahead of Scott Morrison and their LNP bosses in Canberra. He gave permission to anti-vaxxers by being too weak to make his shadow health spokesperson quit her role in an anti-vax fake union. He cannot even say the word 'mandate'. He refused to support our crucial quarantine facility at Wellcamp.

I say to the Leader of the Opposition: Christmas is a time to change your ways. I have learned that there are some others on that side who have plans for the ghost of Christmas future that might visit the Leader of the Opposition. If he does not change his ways, the vision of the future is not a kind one. His stint as leader will come to an end with nobody there to mourn it. Meanwhile, on this side, we will keep on delivering for Queenslanders for Christmas and beyond.