



Speech By  
**Hon. Cameron Dick**


**MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE**

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Record of Proceedings, 25 October 2022

## **MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

### **Leader of the Opposition, Performance**

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (2.10 pm): The Leader of the Opposition speaks about stillbirth, yet he has never retracted, withdrawn or apologised for his role in cutting ongoing funding to the support groups for women grieving pregnancy loss. For so long as the Leader of the Opposition fails to apologise for those terrible cuts and atone for the damage that he did, that shame will follow the Leader of the Opposition wherever he goes.

It was not just grieving mothers who were under threat when the Leader of the Opposition was in power. Women with gynaecological cancer, people with muscular dystrophy, even the amputees support group—all of them—had their ongoing funding cut by Campbell Newman and his protege, the Leader of the Opposition. It was only a Labor government, the Palaszczuk Labor government, which restored funding certainty to those 20 community groups defunded by the Leader of the Opposition.

If the Leader of the Opposition refuses to engage on his record in government, then he should at least be engaged on the economic issues our state faces today. In the last 24 hours, there have been two major reports that relate to the Queensland economy and our state's budget, yet the Leader of the Opposition has absolutely nothing to say. For years, we have put up with this Leader of the Opposition lecturing to us about the CommSec State of the States report. The LNP would say over and over, 'Isn't it terrible. Isn't it awful. How bad is Queensland.' Well, isn't it interesting now the wheel has turned that, when Queensland is at the top of the mainland jurisdictions, there is not one word about CommSec from the Leader of the Opposition. It is like it never happened. This says volumes about the character of the Leader of the Opposition.

Then today we had the report on state finances—the final and complete source of truth on the budget of our state—but there was not one word from the Leader of the Opposition. Why? As I said in the House earlier today, it is the biggest surplus on record. That is important. That is a significant matter of public importance and it ought to be a matter of public importance to the Leader of the Opposition, yet he says nothing. The Leader of the Opposition and those members opposite cannot bring themselves to acknowledge that the Labor Party has done a better job on the budget and managing it in this state than they ever did.

The member for Clayfield, the member for Broadwater, the member for Kawana and the member for Mudgeeraba all laid waste to public services in this state. No-one was spared—not even mothers grieving stillbirth—and all of it was for nothing. They never achieved the fiscal surplus they so craved. They destroyed their credibility as they laid waste to the livelihoods of Queenslanders, and they turned their back on women who had sustained a terrible loss.

Only our government, the Palaszczuk Labor government, delivered the fiscal surplus that they tried and failed to deliver. Now our government has delivered the largest operating surplus on record. It is a testament to the people of this state. It is a testament to their fortitude during COVID. It is a testament to their hard work. They are the people whom this government stands with. It is also a result

of our plans—like our economic recovery plan, which the Leader of the Opposition and the LNP scorned and attacked. Well, guess what. It worked. Even CommSec admits that our economy leads the nation on jobs. The savings and debt plan has delivered the savings and those savings are now paying off for Queensland.

Who could ever forget the member for Kawana embarrassing himself and wasting more parliamentary time. They complain about parliamentary time all the time. He came in here and embarrassed himself, wasting more parliamentary time in yet another one of his worthless parliamentary stunts trying to amend the title of the Debt Reduction and Savings Bill. Oh, the LNP guffawed and they all carried on. I tell you what, Madam Deputy Speaker: they are not laughing today.

Once again, today's sitting of this parliament has proven it and proven it conclusively. Only one party in this House has a plan for our economy, a plan for jobs, a plan for better services and a plan for better health care—only one party, the Australian Labor Party, that forms the Palaszczuk Labor government.