




Speech By
Andrew Powell

MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE

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MOTION

Sunshine Coast

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (5.26 pm): Christmas has come early because I get to follow the member for Pumicestone in this debate tonight. Those who reside on the Sunshine Coast and in the northern Moreton Bay region truly hoped that 2023 would have been a better year and that finally the Palaszczuk government would start listening and addressing the health, housing, cost-of-living and crime crises that are gripping our state. However, the end of the year is near and we are ending it disappointed and worse off than ever before. Again we see that the Labor government will do and say anything before an election to hang on to power. They are more concerned about their own political futures than the futures and the livelihoods of Queenslanders. I will use three examples.

In May 2021, the federal coalition government announced in their budget a \$10 million contribution towards the Bribie Island Road upgrade between Hickey Road and King John Creek. I point out that Bribie Island Road is a 100 per cent state road. The federal government did not need to chip in at all but, because of the strong advocacy of the member for Longman, my good friend Terry Young, they did. Instead of gratitude, what did we hear from the member for Pumicestone? Nothing but complaints that the funding would not arrive until the 2023-24 financial year.

Let us roll on to 20 January 2022. The now federal infrastructure minister, then the shadow minister, Catherine King, announced that an Albanese government would bring forward that funding. She said—

Under an Albanese government, I will get straight to work delivering this project now, not years down the line.

That announcement was lauded by the member for Pumicestone at the time. Members will remember what I said about the government saying and doing anything in the lead-up to an election. It is now the 2023-24 financial year. Has the project finished? It has not even started!

In April of this year, that same federal minister, Catherine King, announced a review of the infrastructure pipeline and the projects that the federal government had committed to funding. Just this month we heard from Catherine King on the outcome of that so-called 90-day review. Sure, the Bribie Island Road project has not been cut in the same way that the Mooloolah River Interchange has, but will it start this financial year? No! In fact, they are only rolling out \$1 million of the \$10 million to do the planning. The planning has not even started. That is a broken election commitment. Before an election they will do and say anything to win that election because they are more focused on their own political futures than the futures and the livelihoods of Queenslanders.

Let me move on to something else, a bit like the member for Pumicestone did when she spruiked a hospital for Bribie Island that would be delivered by May 2023. There is no hospital yet.

Ms King interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order, member!

Ms King interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Pumicestone is warned.

Mr POWELL: When it does arrive, it will not be a 'hospital'. The people of Bribie Island were promised a hospital by the member for Pumicestone but, instead, they are getting a multipurpose medical centre—no emergency department, no 24-hour care, no overnight beds and very limited services. The promised Bribie Island Satellite Hospital is little more than a clinic. Again, the member for Pumicestone and the Palaszczuk Labor government will do and say anything to win an election, because they are more focused on their political future than the future and livelihood of Queenslanders.

This brings me to my third example—I thank the member for Nanango for her contribution—which is the desalination plant. Thanks to the people of Bribie Island, the government was forced to rule out the island as the site for South-East Queensland's desalination plant. Have members noticed the language? Even in the motion tonight, it is only 'Bribie Island'. They have not mentioned Sandstone Point, Beachmere, Toorbul, Donnybrook or Ningi. There are plenty of other sites in Pumicestone for this desalination plant. I love the language the member for Pumicestone uses: 'As your local MP I will never allow a desalination plant on Bribie Island.' Remember her track record on Bribie Island Road and the Bribie Island Satellite Hospital? I am sorry, but the member for Pumicestone and the Palaszczuk Labor government will do and say anything to win an election because they are more focused on their political future than the future and livelihood of Queenslanders.

It is quite simple: whether it is Bribie Island Road, the satellite hospital or the desalination plant, you cannot trust the Palaszczuk Labor government or the member for Pumicestone. The only way our region can get the infrastructure it desperately needs, the health services we desperately deserve and for there to be no desalination plant in Pumicestone is to show Labor the door in 2024.