



Speech By  
**James Lister**


**MEMBER FOR SOUTHERN DOWNS**

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Record of Proceedings, 15 November 2023

**MOTION**

**Palaszczyk Labor Government Polling**

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (5.22 pm): When I saw that I was one of the very fortunate few who got a chance to speak on this motion I was delighted, because this is like shooting fish in a barrel.

**Mr Purdie:** So were we, mate.

**Mr LISTER:** I am glad to hear the member for Ninderry express confidence in me. This is a shameful low, even by the unique standards of turpitude of this Labor government. It is a deep stain on even it to appropriate \$400,000 for political polling for the benefit of the Labor Party. One would think that with the union movement's coffers being filled with the special deals that the Labor Party has done for it Blocker Bullock could have done this polling for it, but of course that is not the point, is it, because Blocker Bullock's polling is designed to get rid of the Premier? This \$400,000 has the sovereign purpose of trying to re-elect this Labor Party—this shameful rump of a government.

I want to make sure that my contribution to this motion is relevant to my electorate of Southern Downs, so I want to talk about what \$400,000 would buy in my electorate of Southern Downs. It would buy 20 kilometres of fencing to fix the farmers' fences that were burnt out in the last fires or dog exclusion fencing to protect the hardworking graziers in my electorate of Southern Downs from dog attacks. The Labor Party has closed two schools in my electorate, Lundavra State School and Bungunya State School—fine institutions and very important squares on the board in the communities in which they are located. We could reopen those schools that were closed with no notice at all—fine schools that had been a feature of the community in those areas for decades.

That amount of money could go a long way towards providing a dialysis service at Warwick for the many people in my electorate who have to travel to Toowoomba to have their dialysis done at great cost to them in terms of money and their health, because they would much rather be in their own home town to get the dialysis that they need on a weekly basis. What about Driver Reviver and that miserable decision by the Minister for Transport and Main Roads who claimed that it was not used and claimed that no volunteers could be found, but in the space of two weeks we could get 3,000 signatures on a petition? What a miserable and disgraceful decision that was, perhaps the worst I have seen in my time here in the parliament. We could rebuild the Gladfield Driver Reviver and make it even better and give those volunteers who were so proud of the work that they did there a chance to contribute once again.

We could build a roundabout at Goondiwindi at the intersection of Russell and Sandhurst streets so that the mums and dads who pick up their kids from school there do not have to wait half an hour to be able to turn right and head out to the west of Goondiwindi. What about the nursing homes that are part of the hospitals in Inglewood, Texas and Millmerran? We could buy a bus for them. We could probably even build a bus for 400,000 grand. We could buy a bus to take the residents there on outings to make sure that they have a good experience in the community even though they are residents in those really nice nursing homes.

Most importantly, we could fix one of the bridges on the Wallangarra railway line which this government has been silent on. I saw the Premier asked about: 'Will you rebuild the bridges on the Wallangarra railway line?' The Premier ummed and ahed. She dissembled and said, 'Oh well, we'd have to think about that. It's not really very well used.'

**Ms Leahy** interjected.

**Mr LISTER:** The Premier, as I understand things, member for Warrego, has not been there to see it. We need that railway line fixed. We need it for tourism and it is an important strategic asset for my community. We could fix at least one of the bridges or maybe more.

The fact that this Labor government tells us that it cannot build Emu Swamp Dam but it can spend \$400,000 on polling is a disgrace. This is a government which sang from the rafters that it was going to be accountable and open. That is perhaps the greatest falsehood put forward in history. Perhaps maybe the Premier promising that the member for Mulgrave would be returned as Treasurer ranks among those as well, but we will not go into that one. This money is not just a sum on a piece of paper. To this Labor government that borrows and spends and throws money around with gay abandon it might not mean much, but to the people of my electorate of Southern Downs \$400,000 is a very significant amount of money.

**Mrs Frecklington:** And it's their money.

**Mr LISTER:** Yes, it is taxpayers' money; I take that interjection from the member for Nanango. Most importantly, I want to speak about the children in my electorate who need to get a diagnoses for their conditions so that they can go to school and have a proper school program. We need more money for the Child and Youth Mental Health Service. How many extra kids who cannot see a paediatrician or an occupational therapist or a speech therapist would be able to do so in my electorate of Southern Downs and in other regional electorates if that \$400,000 was, instead of being spent on the personal interests of the Labor government, spent on the people in my electorate who deserve it? This is a disgrace and another example of the corruption of this rump of a Labor government.

*(Time expired)*