



Speech By  
**Jarrold Bleijie**


**MEMBER FOR KAWANA**

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Record of Proceedings, 21 February 2023

**MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

**Wellcamp, Future Use; Palaszczuk Labor Government**

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.18 pm): I intently listened to the Deputy Premier talk about plans and I was waiting for him to tell us what the plan for Wellcamp was because I recall the Premier said her Deputy Premier was going to come up with some exciting things for Wellcamp. She said, 'You won't believe it. You wait! Get the popcorn out because this man has some exciting things happening with a \$220 million'—stay in the chamber! I have not finished. Stay!

The Premier said that the Deputy Premier has some great ideas. However, he had five minutes to tell us what they were but all he knows is \$220 million was wasted, and for what? Next month he will hand the keys back. The Premier flew over Wellcamp the other day in a private jet to land in Miles so she could attend the melon festival. She did not go to Toowoomba. She could have flown into Wellcamp quarantine facility at the aerodrome to talk to the Toowoomba residents about crime, but no. Do honourable members know why? It is because there's more melons than felons with this Labor government; that is what they are interested in. This mob—this Labor government—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Unparliamentary.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I have not seen a more dysfunctional rabble since the dying days of the Anna Bligh government. That is what is happening. The backbench are getting nervous, and they ought to be.

The Premier did an interview the other day about her eight years in office. She did not do any TV sit-down interviews; she just did an interview with the *Courier-Mail* about her eight years in office and it was thankfully recorded and is available online. I would urge all honourable members, particularly the members for Pine Rivers and Pumicestone, to listen to the Premier's interview. In that interview the reporter Jack McKay asked the Premier, 'And your backbench, Premier? Are any promotions going to be happening in your backbench?', and the Premier flatly said, 'No.' What was the reason she said no? If we look at the backbench—and I agree—there is no talent; there is no prospect of promotion. It gets worse because the backbench who are now rebelling against the Labor government—their own side—would say, 'My God, if you can be the health minister like Minister D'Ath and get away with what she is doing, there is hope for me yet.' What a disgrace that you can be a minister like the health minister or the Deputy Premier earning nearly \$400,000 a year, be so incompetent, waste \$220 million at Wellcamp and keep your job. That is the Labor Party.

I love that in the interview the Premier was asked, 'Who would make a good Premier after you? Who would make a good Premier? Would Treasurer Dick make a good Premier?' The Premier said, 'He's doing a good job as Treasurer.' The Premier was asked again, 'But would he make a good Premier?' 'No, he's doing a really good job as Treasurer.' That is debatable. It means there is no prospect of ever seeing Treasurer Dick promoted to Premier.

Then she was asked about the Deputy Premier and the Premier said, 'He's doing a very good job as Deputy Premier.' What is more telling in this interview is that the Premier said, 'I am Premier. I am here to stay. I'm not going anywhere.' We see the arrogance and hubris again that has only been seen under Anna Bligh. There is so much *deja vu*; it is reminiscent of the dying days of the Bligh government—the arrogance, the hubris, the not listening to Queenslanders, the, 'I'm in charge. I'm doing what I want to do,' the fact that, in the Premier's words, 'No-one in the team, no-one in my whole cabinet or backbench, can do the job I'm doing, so I'm going to stay here forever to do it.' I say 'not if Queenslanders have a say', and they will next year. They will have a big say in that.

Those opposite talk about policies. The LNP is doing more governing from opposition than the Labor Party is doing from government. Learner's licence fees have been cut in half. They had to drag Minister Mark Bailey back from holidays to announce it. He did not know they were announcing it other than seeing it on the Premier's Instagram account. The patients tax has been kicked out for another two years. Then there is the renters tax and law and order.

We are continually seeing this Labor government copy the policies of the LNP. They are bereft of ideas. If it takes the LNP to keep driving reform in Queensland, so be it. We will do that because God knows the Labor Party has given up on Queenslanders.

*(Time expired)*