




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR KAWANA

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MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.16 pm): The Deputy Premier let the cat out of the bag last week: there will be no independent Olympic delivery authority. They were taking it in-house to his own director-general who, incidentally, they have just appointed the Acting Coordinator-General. Funny about that. Who is it? Mike Kaiser—former Labor Party member and electoral fraudster, interestingly. The Premier tried to wash it all up today by saying, ‘There’s going to be this authority and all the other politicians are going to be involved in it.’ She said that Deloitte has done a report on it. Could members imagine the Queensland government’s instructions to Deloitte when it said, ‘We need advice. Can you advise how we can break this promise of having a body that’s not quite so independent? How can we include a red carpet coordinator in this body? How can the Premier maintain total control but still be perceived as independent of this body?’

The Deputy Premier said that they will deliver the infrastructure like they always have. That should send shivers down the spines of every Queensland taxpayer: Cross River Rail, \$5.4 billion to \$8 billion; Coomera Connector, \$600 million blowout; Gold Coast Light Rail, \$500 million blowout; Wellcamp—aka ‘Wastecamp’—\$220 million. The Deputy Premier says, ‘We’ll do the Olympic infrastructure just like we’ve done every other infrastructure.’ Blowout after blowout; that is what this government does. Even though the Prime Minister signed the deal he capped its funding, which means not even Albo wants to fund the blowouts. Albo does not even trust this state Labor government to deliver these infrastructure items.

This morning the Premier said that the state is best placed to build the infrastructure. On what planet does this Premier live? Really? She announced that the Gabba would cost \$1 billion a year and a half ago; it has now blown out to \$2.7 billion. The Premier was asked why. She said, ‘Commodity prices.’ She could not explain the commodity prices. Seriously? A 170 per cent increase and the Premier cannot explain it. Better still, yesterday the member for Burleigh asked the Auditor-General in a public hearing in this very chamber: ‘Auditor-General, can you please advise about the \$1 billion initial Gabba development Olympic infrastructure and the business case?’ The Auditor-General said, ‘Oh, there was no business case. There was just a media release from the government’—no business case, just a media release issued by the government! This is how they are planning it. The Labor government has no concept of budget blowouts and how it impacts on Queenslanders’ household budgets. People cannot afford to put food on the table, put fuel in their car or pay their mortgage, yet this government continues to spend money like drunken sailors. It is disgraceful. There must be openness and transparency with this Olympics expenditure.

This morning when I asked the Premier who will chair this body she said, ‘Not you!’ Well, guess what? I do not want to because we on this side know that the Olympic and Paralympic Games is not about our egos. It is not about the politicians, it is about the people of Queensland. That is why we want it to be an independent body, not through the eyes of the Premier who wants total control. We all saw

the front page of the paper the other day: 'Hands off my Olympics'. I have a message for the Premier: this is not your Olympics, this is not the Labor government's Olympics, it is the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. It is there for all Queenslanders, not to stroke the ego of an arrogant Premier who thinks this is all about her. The 2032 Olympics will now not be known as the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, they will forever be known as the 'AAA Games'—the 'All About Anna Games'. Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk will not let an independent body deliver this infrastructure because she does not want to give up control over the expenditure.

We see the dysfunction in the government in the rebellious backbenchers: the Chief Government Whip, the member for Mansfield, and the member for Nicklin attacking the government on RI in schools, despite what the education minister said. Then the member for Cooper put in a submission on the youth crime bill, not even supporting breach of bail. This government is a rabble. The backbenchers are rebelling because the Premier said under her government no backbencher has any prospect of promotion. Looking at them I can understand why. I completely agree with the Premier on that, but I do not agree with not having an independent body to deliver the infrastructure for the Olympics.