




Speech By
Jarrold Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

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MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.15 pm): That speech just came from a minister who announced a budget blowout of nearly a billion dollars on Cross River Rail and then went on leave the next day. They put an acting minister in place after he dropped his next budget blowout—a project that is now costing over \$8½ billion—and then he had to go. Steven Miles was the acting minister the day after the minister dropped his latest budget blowout. This is the man who said that anyone who promises to deliver a project on time and on budget is ‘a BS artist’, and then he stood up 10 times and said that Cross River Rail is on time and on budget.

Mr BAILEY: Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Well, if the cap fits, wear it.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: I will take some advice. Minister, that was clearly not a point of order and was frivolous. You are warned under the standing orders.

Mr Crisafulli: Ooh!

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, you can join him on a warning. That was completely inappropriate. Member for Kawana, you used some unparliamentary language during that last contribution. I ask you to withdraw and then you can continue.

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw. I have got great news for members of parliament.

Mr Harper: You’re leaving.

Mr BLEIJIE: No. I am not leaving but you will not be here much longer, mate, I can tell you that. I take the interjection from the member for Thuringowa.

In 11 days, the keys are going to be handed back for Wellcamp, aka ‘Wastecamp’. In 11 days, the government is going to hold a big soiree—and I hope we are all invited to the show—where Premier Palaszczuk and Deputy Premier Steven Miles get this golden \$220 million white elephant key and they hand it back to the family at the Wellcamp facility. There has been \$220 million wasted on this facility.

The government want to talk about cost of living, as the Treasurer did this morning. There is \$500,000 a day being spent by the Queensland Labor government on Wellcamp—to do what? The Premier said in August last year that there were ‘quite a few ideas’ coming through on Wellcamp and what they could use it for. She said there were some really interesting ideas, and then she handballed it to the Deputy Premier. That was in August last year. What are the great ideas? What is Wellcamp being used for—other than a bank account for the Labor Party to deposit \$500,000 of Queensland taxpayer money into every day? And they want to lecture us about cost of living.

The arrogant Treasurer got up this morning and he went through his checks—one, does his button up; two, checks his tie; three, fake smile; four, mirror; and, five, goes on to tell Queenslanders how great it is for them and how great it is to live in Queensland—like there are no cost-of-living issues, no housing issues and no youth crime crisis.

The reality is that under the Palaszczuk Labor government we have seen in the last six months they have said 150 times they would make energy cheaper. Since then it has gone up 22 per cent. Traffic congestion, increased fuel bills, not enough houses which in turn drives up rent, government fees and charges—increased, of course! Rego cost is up 28 per cent under the Labor Party. Licence fees are up 25 per cent. Bulk water prices are up 45 per cent for South-East Queensland homes. Power costs are up 162 per cent under Labor from 2021 to 2022 and they do not think there is a cost-of-living crisis. Under Labor, Queenslanders are paying more. They are paying more for their water, they are paying more for their electricity, they are paying more for their fuel, they are paying more for their rego, and they are paying more school fees. Queenslanders are paying much more under the Labor government in the last eight years. The arrogant Treasurer has the hide to stand up today like there is no issue, like Queenslanders should be thankful they have a Labor government. They are not, I can assure him of that. The chaos, the crisis, the dysfunction of the Labor government, as the Leader of the Opposition says, bears a window into the souls of this government and how they operate.

Take the example of the youth justice crisis. We have been talking about the fact that we introduced an amendment for breach of bail 2½ years ago. They claim they came up with the idea. They copied it word for word. Look at the decision-making. On the 26th, Boxing Day, we had the tragic death. On the 27th and the 28th, where was the Premier? At the Woodford Folk Festival. On the 29th, the Premier stood up and announced the youth justice reforms that the Deputy Premier said they had been working on for months. The RTI documents show that was absolute rot. They concocted it while the Premier was singing *Kumbaya* at the Woodford Folk Festival. That is when they concocted this plan. Then where did the Premier go? On the 29th she came in like a white knight on a horse, saying, 'I am solving the issues of youth justice,' dropped the announcement and then got on an international flight and flew to Paris.

She does not care about Queenslanders anymore. The Premier has checked out from this job. The Premier is more interested in the travel, the flights, being 36,000 feet up in the air, than in fixing the issues. She is more interested in the red carpet. She is more interested in the fun of the job. We need a premier who will roll up their sleeves and help Queenslanders in their times of need.

(Time expired)