




Speech By
Jarrod 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) (2.16 pm): In 2015 the now Treasurer came in here—he was not the Treasurer at the time—and tried to suck up to the right wing of the Labor Party when he made a speech about how bad the union movement was. If members remember, there were Labor luminaries who called him a gormless show pony because he was sucking up to one side of the Labor Party. Someone in his office advised him to come in here this morning to try and suck up to the left wing of the Labor Party after his speech this morning like he is an option to take over from Anastacia Palaszczuk as the Premier. They are going to have the member for Nicklin before the member for Woodridge for goodness' sake, and that is saying something!

The Treasurer believes that his little performance this morning had everyone covered and he is the next in line. It ain't gonna happen! The Labor Party will never have the member for Woodridge, the current Treasurer, as their leader because Premier Palaszczuk has checked out and is more interested in red carpet, glitz and glamour than the people of Queensland. Speaking of red carpets, today is an anniversary: it is the one-year anniversary since the Premier cancelled her cabinet meeting so she could attend a paradise party off a beautiful island on a superyacht, so that is the one-year anniversary today.

Mr O'Connor interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from the honourable member for Bonney. The Treasurer wants to lecture people on honesty. Well, I would say to the Treasurer that he sat around the cabinet table that authorised and approved the \$2.4 billion budget blowout on the Train Manufacturing Program. Those opposite try and say that the LNP is against train manufacturing. No, we are not. We support the workers. We support the train manufacturing. What we are advocating for is honesty, openness and transparency and to expose the cover-up of Minister Bailey. That is what we are trying to do. If the Treasurer wants to come in here and lecture people about honesty, tell us what happened at the CBRC? One would think that if the Premier were doing her job she would have said to Minister Bailey, 'For goodness' sake, how many more budget blowouts are there going to be? Get your act together!' and if she did not she was derelict in her duties.

The Premier has been continually asked about this train manufacturing budget blowout and it is like she has no idea. This morning she was asked about the lead story on Channel 9 news last night and she replied, 'Oh, um.' Authenticate it, for goodness' sake! None of her advisers told her what was on the news last night. It is like she forgot that she signed off on the project. She signed off on it. She is the chair of the Cabinet Budget Review Committee. The question that members in the backbench must answer today—although I suspect it may not be the backbench leaking against the honourable minister—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I reckon it might be someone high up in CBRC who has control of the finances possibly, because the quote from Labor members is—

There's a lot of angst on the backbench and the Premier's going to have to do something.

I like this—

The backbench is restless because of the damage it's—

that is, Mark Bailey—

doing to the government.

...

... the cover-up—

Labor's words, not ours—

had proved to be a damaging distraction, but they doubted Premier ... Palaszczuk would turf Mr Bailey as she was known to have a soft spot for him despite his ongoing blunders—including the ... 'Mangocube' ... scandal.

I quote another Labor MP—'He hasn't helped himself, and there's a definite sense of frustration because it's Bailey, again.' Who are the Labor MPs quoted in the *Courier-Mail*? Is it the backbench? Is it Minister Fentiman? Is Minister Fentiman lining herself up to take over? Is it the Treasurer? Who is it? Put your hand up. Tell us. Give us honesty. If you are prepared to put a quote in the paper at least do the decent thing and put your name to it. This government is in constant chaos and crisis. That is why the Labor Party members are leaking against Minister Mark Bailey. They want him gone. He is an embarrassment to the government. He is an embarrassment because of all his blowouts.

An opposition member interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection. You know what, I am happy to keep him there now. I think he should stay right up to the election. Absolutely he should stay. The disgrace Minister Grace, who is on the CBRC, said, 'everyone just move on'—move on from the blowout, move on from the cover-up, move on from the questions. No, we are not going to move on. There are so many questions that remain unanswered by the Premier. This train shame scandal gets murkier and murkier by the day. If there is one thing we know out of all of this it is that 'Hollywood Anna' has checked out. She is not interested in Queenslanders. She is over the job.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Walker): Member for Kawana, there is a comment you made in relation to calling the Premier other than her correct title. Will you withdraw?

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw.