




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

Record of Proceedings, 18 April 2023

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Achievements; Leader of the Opposition, Performance

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (2.10 pm): If we had seen a parody of the opposition leader and his speech, it would be hard to tell the difference. What did we say we would do? We said we would bring unemployment down. We said we would build Cross River Rail, and we are doing it. We said we would invest in the M1, and we are doing it. We said we would invest in the Bruce Highway, and we are doing that after they only did two or three years. We said we would keep our energy assets in public hands, and that is what we did. We did not sell it off like the Leader of the Opposition was so keen to do. We said we would invest in the second M1, and we have done it. We said we would keep Townsville and Gladstone ports. We said we would build social housing, and we are doing it—not cutting it, like the member for Everton and the member for Broadwater did when they were in power.

At the core of the LNP's dishonesty is their key policy of not mentioning the pandemic or thinking about the pandemic—they pretend it did not happen. That is their policy. When we hear the opposition say, 'There hasn't been proper planning in health,' it sends a shiver down your spine because the LNP's version of proper planning is to cut the health budget, to sack the nurses, to get into fights with the doctors and to call our world's best response to the pandemic tantamount to putting a doona over your head. That is the juvenile leadership of the Leader of the Opposition. He was in the thick of it as they sacked nurses and they cut health, yet he comes in here and says that he cares. Well, Queenslanders can see through that duplicity. He is a good blaggard and a good spinner, but he has no integrity.

We know his record. They worked him out in Townsville and they will work him out on the Gold Coast. He tried to sell off the port and he tried to sell off Ergon, and the people of Townsville sent him packing, so what did he do? He went to the Gold Coast and did over the youngest female MP in the House at the time, Verity Barton. He did the numbers on her and in his lust for power he did her over. The Leader of the Opposition cannot come in here and say that he cares about women MPs when he did over the youngest female MP to get a seat in this House after deserting his home town.

In fact, the Leader of the Opposition could not get through a press conference promoting three women candidates without attacking a current woman MP as a donkey, and then he went AWOL. He hid for a whole week from the gallery. In the last sitting week, he did not stand up for the four days of the sitting week—the courage of the Leader of the Opposition, when all he had to do was stand up and say, 'I got it wrong. I was mistaken and I'm sorry.' He could have said that but, no, he hid under the desk, behind the cupboard, in the room, until he thought it was safe to come out. He is the master of overreach. If you want to see the definition of a master of overreach, look at the Leader of the Opposition who always goes too far. He is the boy who cried wolf, and Queenslanders are going to work him out. He is all spin, he is all deception, he is all blaggarding but he has got no content.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BAILEY: Let us talk about the laptop. He talked about the laptop in press conference after press conference for months and months, and he was found out by the independent CCC. What did he do? Did he come out and say, 'I'm sorry. I got it wrong'? No. What did he do? He hid, just like he did in the last parliamentary session. When the going gets tough, the Leader of the Opposition gets hiding. That is the way he deals with it.

I will give our record against theirs any day of the week. Unemployment is at three per cent. We are building Rookwood Weir, Emu Swamp Dam and two hydro dams, and they have the temerity to talk about water security. This guy is making it up as he goes along and Queenslanders are going to see through his shallowness, his lack of integrity and his unfitness for leadership.