




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

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MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Liberal National Party, Performance

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services) (2.22 pm): After those two contributions from members opposite, it is hard to tell whether it is 2013 or 2023! It is the same old stuff from the same old people from the same old Newman government. That is what we are getting from those opposite. Let us look at the record of the Leader of the Opposition—a lifelong professional politician, other than the three years he was in purgatory after being kicked out by the people of Mundingburra. He went down to the Gold Coast and did over the youngest ever elected female in this parliament for preselection. We remember his record. He was in the thick of it in the Newman government—the VLAD laws, the NGR train order from overseas, the billions in cuts and the 14,000 people who lost their jobs. The Leader of the Opposition was right in there. What do we see in the 44-page whinge of those opposite? There is absolutely no policy and no projects—just rhetoric. That is how substantial the Leader of the Opposition is.

When we look at the record of the Leader of the Opposition, we know that that is who he is. Do members remember during the pandemic when nobody was vaccinated? He equated our health response to putting a doona over your head. When people's lives were at stake, he did not understand the threat and just backed in his mate in Canberra. That is on the record. It is on YouTube; members can look at it. It is the absolute opposite of leadership. Do members remember the laptop? It was a conspiracy and all of these things were happening—until an investigation showed that it was nothing. Did he stand up and say, 'I was wrong.' No. He hid. He went to the regions. He never accepts responsibility for his small and short agenda.

Let's look at the current situation, where his front bench are out there aspiring to be the Newman government on health policy. Doesn't that send a shiver down the spine of every person in the health industry? He is putting the staff in the health sector on notice. I refer to the recent comments by the shadow health minister, the member for Mudgeeraba, who was part of the Newman government and has the same agenda. The member for Chatsworth talks about 'tough love' in terms of the Newman government. That is not what the people of Queensland thought. They saw it for what it was: cuts. We see current shadow frontbenchers talking about billions in cuts. 'Pruning' they say. They have a new, cute little word for cuts; it is called 'pruning'. We know that it is the same thing.

When we look at the recent document from the lightweight Leader of the Opposition we see that there is no policy, no projects, no commitment to building trains in Queensland, no commitment to road funding, no commitment to rail funding, no commitment to the hospital plan of this government and no commitment to the Energy and Jobs Plan. That is real policy. Our policy is very clear. It is the most comprehensive energy transition plan in the nation, if not the western world, and those opposite will not support it.

Those opposite are lightweight. Why are they lightweight? It is the same old faces over there: the members for Kawana, Broadwater—formerly the member for Mundingburra—Everton, Mudgeeraba, Nanango, Glass House, Surfers Paradise and Chatsworth. It goes on and on. They have learned nothing. They did not clean themselves out after losing, because they never accepted the reason they were tossed out—that is, they were an incompetent government. They were a savage government. They junked their election commitments from day one. They said that public servants would be safe but started sacking them within six months of coming to power. That is their record. When we look at that 44-page document we see that there is nothing in it.

The Leader of the Opposition is lightweight. Five months ago he made a virtue of standing on his principles. They are his own words: 'I stand on my principles.' What did he do? As soon as the wind changed, he folded like a pack of playing cards. Weak, weak, weak—that is the Leader of the Opposition. Those opposite know it. When Amanda Stoker joins their party room, watch that front bench get cleaned out. She will take someone's place and we will see the hard-right agenda. She is not coming in here to do nothing. Voluntary assisted dying laws are on the chopping block. Abortion laws are on the chopping block. There are right-wing priorities in that document, not right priorities.

(Time expired)