




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

Record of Proceedings, 28 November 2023

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Leader of the Opposition, Performance

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services) (2.32 pm): A choice between the member for Mudgeeraba and the member for Waterford for health minister? I know where my money is and I know where Queenslanders would put their money, too. The member opposite is someone who is so incompetent that she has been tossed out of this House 19 times. The Newman government was hardly a high-performing cabinet, but she could not even make 12 months.

Ms Bates interjected.

Mr BAILEY: There is the member for Mudgeeraba on the front bench with all of the other former Newman ministers—leftovers and recycled. You have to do more than rhyme and yell across the chamber, you have to do more than just a few song lyrics and you have to do more than whingeing and whining like the Leader of the Opposition does all the time if you want to have the privilege of forming government in this state. The people of Queensland have never elected a whinger as Premier, and they are not about to start. When the Leader of the Opposition went to the Media Club it was a chance to launch some policies and say something positive. It did not need to be too grand but say something positive. He had the opportunity, but instead we heard a defensive effort by him—saying that he was not like Newman, that he was a new man even though he was in Newman's cabinet and even though he was there with all of the others over there. He failed the test to put forward his vision for the state. The Leader of the Opposition is a lightweight. He is a little Newman in the way he goes about things.

Rhetorical questions are not a substitute for policies. That is what we saw today—more rhetoric and no substance. What is his plan for housing? Who would know? It is a nationwide issue, but he has no plans. In terms of health, there are no policies, no plans and no commitments from the Leader of the Opposition. We know that by not committing to progressive coal royalties he has no way of funding anything in health other than cuts. We know that the cuts are coming from those opposite, because they have no way of funding anything in terms of the existing program. We have one of the biggest hospital rebuilding programs in the nation.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Minister, read from it, put it down or table it.

Mr BAILEY: We have three new hospitals and more than a dozen hospital expansions to deal with the interstate migration. Why are people coming to Queensland? It is because they have confidence in this state and this government and this Premier. The criticism of those opposite towards the Premier is insulting. The Premier stood up for Queenslanders throughout the pandemic. She stood up for their health, saved many lives in Queensland and protected the Queensland public while those opposite called on us 64 times to open the borders, long before any vaccinations were available. That irresponsibility from those opposite continues.

Whether we look at issues around energy or health or housing, there are no policies coming from the Leader of the Opposition—just whining, just whingeing. One would think that those opposite would learn from being in opposition, but no. This year they have announced billions in cuts via the member for Chatsworth, who called it 'pruning'. He had a new term for it. We have seen them talk about tough love. The Newman government was tough love. That is what the member for Chatsworth said. We saw their recklessness on energy in that they support nuclear without having any plan, whereas we have the most sophisticated and thorough energy transition plan in the nation. When it comes to the energy transition and infrastructure, we know why those opposite get so offended. It is because we build it. We build railways. We have built Cross River Rail. We build light rail. We fixed the M1. We fixed the Bruce Highway after their cuts when they were in power. We have seen strong economic growth and strong employment growth under this government. We saw the economy crash when those opposite were in power, and look at all of them over there.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Direct your comments through the chair.

Mr BAILEY: The members for Broadwater, Glass House, Mudgeeraba, Kawana and Everton are all still there. They have not cleaned out and they have not learned, and there they are flailing and struggling against a government that has been in for nearly nine years. People know what this government stands for: jobs, infrastructure, new houses and new hospitals. We do not sack nurses. It is a fact that they sacked thousands of nurses when they were in power. The health system has improved and recovered because we are committed to working with frontline workers. That is a fact. I can guarantee that rhyiming and whining and whingeing will not get the Leader of the Opposition to the premiership.

(Time expired)