




Speech By
James Martin

MEMBER FOR STRETTON

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ADJOURNMENT

Liberal National Party, Performance

 **Mr MARTIN** (Stretton—ALP) (7.24 pm): The upcoming election will be close, and the polls are currently suggesting that by the end of October Queenslanders may wake up to find the leader of the LNP as the premier. What will that mean for our community? The truth is he will not tell us. When journalists ask him about his policies he dodges their questions, and after 3½ years in the job he has not outlined any positive plans for the state. It is a small target strategy with slick lines but no policy detail. What we do know is that he has been very critical of our government's decision to make sure that the royalty rate mining companies pay for resources increases in line with global prices. These changes mean that Queenslanders will reap the benefit of higher prices for the resources that we all own. This has enabled us to increase funding to the health system and to deliver much needed infrastructure and funding of vital government services.

The Leader of the Opposition has said that he will renegotiate with mining companies so that more money goes towards their bottom line rather than supporting government services and infrastructure in Queensland and, of course, in Stretton. It means that unless the leader of the LNP plans on increasing other taxes, like stamp duty perhaps, he will create a big hole in the Queensland budget. His track record as a minister in the Campbell Newman government tells us that he is likely to try and fill this hole by cutting government services. We all remember what he and his colleagues did the last time they were in power: they closed schools; they closed youth mental health facilities; they packed more kids into classrooms; they sacked health workers; they cut health services; they sacked police officers and made them pay for their own protective equipment. In all, they sacked more than 14,000 government workers and we are still dealing with the flow-on effects of those cuts.

As a local member, I genuinely fear that the investments we have made in local health care and schools will be scaled back or worse—cut, sack and sold by the Leader of the Opposition. The new Eight Mile Plains Satellite Hospital which is due to open at the end of May will be a game changer for our community. It will mean locals will have access to a minor injury and illness clinic without having to go to the emergency rooms at QEII or Logan Hospital. The LNP have been continually attacking these satellite hospitals, and everyone knows the reason—it is because if they have the chance they will privatise them. In addition, the Kuraby level crossing is something that my community has been very much looking forward to. It is something else that might end up on the LNP chopping block. These are the kind of local investments that we need to protect, and that will be my focus over the coming months.