



Speech By
Jann Stuckey

MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN

Record of Proceedings, 7 September 2017

MOTION: BUY QUEENSLAND

 **Mrs STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (5.56 pm): I am losing my voice but I will try. I add my opposition to this motion and commend fellow LNP colleagues for exposing this policy for what it is. Scrape off the spin and there is very little—

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Minister for Industrial Relations, given that the member for Currumbin is clearly not well and she is not taking your interjections—

Ms Grace: I am not interjecting on her.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Nanango! Given the circumstances, I think if we can allow the member for Currumbin to be heard so that not only the House can hear it but so too can Hansard. The member for Currumbin has the call.

Mrs STUCKEY: Scrape off the spin and there is very little there—a tired old policy idea from the eighties. It is a policy that exposes Labor as not only inexperienced but also grossly incompetent and dangerous. We know that Labor are prepared to stoop to any level, to spend taxpayers' money like drunken sailors, to steal LNP policies and call them their own, and to say anything to dupe Queenslanders into voting for them. Bereft of direction or original ideas, they are little more than tools of the unions—marionettes whose strings are constantly pulled by their union puppet masters and they do not seem to care.

Let us look at their track record on supporting small business. Who can forget Bligh and Fraser's 'buy local' backfire with Bangladeshi T-shirts. Premier Palaszczuk and her comrades are no better, carrying the same DNA as their union-loving, small business-hating lefties that came before them.

Words are cheap—but for me tonight they are not. Small business want government to get out of their way. They have indicated that they do not want direct assistance unless they have suffered from a national disaster. They want government to get off their backs. They want a competitive business operating environment and to be rid of the 92,000 pages of red tape Labor lumbered them with during the Beattie and Bligh years.

When the member for Ashgrove got out of the way as minister, giving the small business portfolio the flick early in this term of government, it was met with a sigh of relief from many small businesses right across Queensland. Like so many of her Labor colleagues she does not have a clue what makes small business tick. She does not have a clue of the daily challenges they face. By contrast, many of us in the LNP have small business in our blood or I would not be bothered to get up and speak tonight. I have firsthand experience of the mountains of choking red tape created by successive Labor governments. The LNP in government made significant inroads by removing countless inhibiting pages of job-restricting red and green tape and increasing the payroll tax threshold. We put the responsibility on to individual departments to reduce regulatory burden.

Small Business Week was an initiative of the LNP government during my time as minister. Labor did not even bother having one in 2015, and I am told they outsourced the event in 2016. Our buy locally, buy Queensland campaign was designed to encourage people to buy from their local shops and support local jobs. Labor's Buy Queensland policy is irresponsible and is actually putting Queensland jobs at risk.

Listen to the sage advice from Nick Behrens, former policy and advocacy manager for CCIQ and now an in-demand consultant in his own business, QEAS. Nick, like many small and larger business advocates, asks why this Labor government would gamble almost \$41 billion in existing free trade agreements to win \$3 billion. Labor are putting this huge amount of money at risk. According to a Treasury document, there are nine countries with free trade agreements which spent \$40.7 billion on goods from Queensland suppliers in 2016-17. I table that document.

Tabled paper: Document depicting free trade agreement countries and the value of Queensland exports [\[1628\]](#).

What will happen to them when they hear that the Queensland Premier has declared war on them, saying she will no longer be bound by free trade agreements? We need look no further than the 2018 Commonwealth Games to see how serious this government is about buying local. The minister sat back silently while contracts and tenders were lost to Queenslanders. She did not flinch when they were given to offshore companies. How many jobs have been lost already? The opening and closing ceremonies were the first to go offshore. Now there is concern that our meter maids are being passed over for an imitation. Love them or loath them, they are synonymous with the Gold Coast. They are part of our colour and history.

I remember launching the procurement process as minister in 2013. Two briefings were held. About 1,100 people attended on the Gold Coast and some 700 attended in Brisbane. The government can carry on about their roadshow being a success, but 130 people a pop is not many at all. Just recently a Queensland company were told that they missed out on a contract for furniture and mattresses. Only the LNP has a plan to build a better Queensland. Labor thinks that a job is a public servant. Small businesses in Queensland are not fools. They know recklessness when they see it.

(Time expired)