



Speech By
Jann Stuckey

MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN

Record of Proceedings, 2 May 2018

MOTION

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Reports

 **Mrs STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (5.28 pm): I rise to speak to the motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition, the honourable member for Nanango. In condemning the Palaszczuk government for its arrogance, hypocrisy and secrecy it is important to note that this is not a new behaviour. It has been learned over many years as Labor thinks it is their right not privilege to be the government in Queensland. They have managed to hold onto power for 17 of the last 20 years or thereabouts. They are the party with the born-to-rule mentality, the party beholden to their puppetmasters the unions and of course always paying back the Greens to stop it stealing seats from them.

Over the past 14 years that I have spent in this place, I have seen some appalling decisions. Parliament was recalled to pass a motion to protect Gordon Nuttall in December 2005. To this day I feel sick thinking about what the Beattie government did. That is right: Peter Beattie—the Premier who left mid term under questionable circumstances and whom the Palaszczuk government made chair of Goldco for the 2018 Commonwealth Games.

Unfortunately, the 2018 Commonwealth Games is another example of the Palaszczuk government's arrogance, hypocrisy and secrecy. I am pleased to say that the Gold Coast shone in spite of this government's interference at every stage and in every way. There are too many avoidable blunders to mention here, but secrecy around the closing ceremony where this Palaszczuk government, and particularly the Minister for the Commonwealth Games, committed the ultimate sin—omitting our wonderful athletes from playing a role—is inexcusable.

Minister Jones can point the finger away from herself as much as she likes, but the buck stops with her. Her own director-general was privy to the final program and so was my director-general in relation to the Glasgow's closing ceremony and so was I. Was the minister too busy deciding which dress to wear to talk to her director-general?

Government members interjected.

Mrs STUCKEY: She can dish it out, can't she.

Ms BOYD: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Although the motion is extraordinarily lengthy, I fail to see any reference to the Commonwealth Games in it.

Mr SPEAKER: I have already said that there will be a broad interpretation of the motion. I will allow the member to continue.

Mrs STUCKEY: The question to ask the minister is whether she is not telling the truth or whether she was just too lazy to read her briefs. For the record, I am happy to advise the House that whilst I was minister for the Commonwealth Games my department did not undertake any investigations into axing or moving the 2018 games. I said as much in today's *Gold Coast Bulletin*, but the member for Cooper and the Premier chose to treat parliament as a plaything in an attempt to score cheap political points.

Rather, we got on with identifying and locking in the athletes village site and 17 or so sporting venues and securing funding from federal and council partners as none—and I repeat, none—had been secured for this \$2 billion event. There was no governance in place. Maybe that is why Bligh government treasurer, Andrew Fraser, did not hide his displeasure that the Gold Coast had won the bid for the 2018 games. Those from Labor who cast stones should look at some of their own ministerial papers.

The biggest cover-up of all, the 2010 Health payroll debacle, which was widely described as the worst IT blunder made by any government, happened while the now Premier and member for Cooper, or Ashgrove as it was called then, sat around the cabinet table. As I said, the Palaszczuk government's arrogance, hypocrisy and secrecy is not new behaviour. It is the norm and Queenslanders need to wake up to the wolf, or wolves in this case, in sheep's clothing. My documents from 2010 tell of a damning Auditor-General's report finding that a botched payroll system, which left nurses and doctors unpaid or wrongly paid for months, was approved despite awareness of the extent of serious risks.

These are the front-line workers Labor pretend to support. I say pretend because then minister and member for Rockhampton, Rob Swarten, pretended when questioned to be clueless about the workings in his department—a department he headed for more than a decade. It is little surprise then that the honourable member for Cooper, who was his understudy and boasts of that fact in this place, acts exactly the same way—arrogant, denying responsibility, deflecting blame onto innocent people.

During the 55th Parliament the Palaszczuk government commenced over 150 reviews. That is about one per week during their term of government. It is fair to ask what happened to them; in fact, what happens to any government reports? In recent times we have seen them so heavily redacted that they are useless and others are tabled under the cover of darkness or during a busy period of distraction such as the Commonwealth Games.

(Time expired)