

Cheers and jeers as ALP debates how to choose its next leader

- by: *Sarah Vogler, AAP*
- From: *The Sunday Mail (Qld)*
- August 25, 2014 10:32AM



Anastacia Palaszczuk and Federal Deputy leader of the opposition Tanya Plibersek at the State conference. Photo by Chris McCormack. *Source:* News Limited


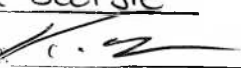
QUEENSLAND Opposition Leader Anastacia Palaszczuk has pledged to reverse a raft of government policy changes if Labor can achieve an unlikely win at the next state election.

Queensland Labor has just nine MPs in the state's 89-seat parliament, but has been buoyed by recent polling showing it has a fighting chance at the 2015 poll against an unpopular Liberal National Party (LNP) government.

Ms Palaszczuk told party faithful at the Labor party state conference in Brisbane on Sunday that her government would reverse the LNP's 24-hour ban on access to work sites for workplace health and safety representatives.

She said a Labor government would also end plans to put school principals on short-term contracts, ensure funding to learn English in schools was fair and reopen the Barrett Adolescent Centre for mental health, which the LNP closed.

"We enter the last seven months of this term in a strong position, having been a strong opposition to an arrogant, incompetent, hopeless government," Ms Palaszczuk told delegates. "If our last election result made the history books for all the wrong reasons, let's make the next election truly historic for all the right ones."

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No:	56197961
	12 JUN 2019
MP:	MR BLEISIE
Clerk's Signature:	

Earlier, The Sunday Mail reported that the next parliamentary leader of the Queensland Labor Party will be selected by members, MPs and the unions following a colourful showdown at the ALP's annual state conference.

Left was pitted against right and current MPs against some of their former colleagues as party members rose to debate how their future parliamentary leaders will be chosen.

Former MP Cameron Dick, who is considered a contender for the parliamentary leadership should he be voted back in at the next election, was cheered and jeered as he backed a proposal to cut unions out of the process with just members and MPs to share the vote 50-50.

"At this time the best model for our party going forward is a joint vote ... between individual party members having their voice heard and making a choice about the leader along with an open vote of the state parliamentary Labor Party," he told the conference.

But he was slapped down by MPs Jo-Ann Miller and Jackie Trad, who backed a move to allow unions, members and MPs to share a third of the vote each instead.

"Cameron, we know there's a bit of self interest in this," Ms Miller said before also taking a swipe at former Premier Anna Bligh.

"This is about respect for the members of the parliamentary caucus, for members of the branches and also unions and I've got to tell you I was sick in the guts when we had a leader of our parliamentary caucus who was there when they brought in privatisation. I bet that never would have happened (if unions had a third of the say)."

Ms Palaszczuk, who will address the conference on Sunday welcomed the "robust" debate.

"What we are seeing here clearly is the democratisation of our party," she said.