



Speech by

## Dr Mark Robinson

MEMBER FOR CLEVELAND

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### CLEVELAND ELECTORATE, JOB LOSSES

**Dr ROBINSON** (Cleveland—LNP) (9.41 pm): I rise to express my concern about the recent and continuing job losses in the electorate of Cleveland. The Bligh government has let down the people of Cleveland when it comes to jobs. Instead of jobs, jobs, jobs, workers have received cuts, cuts and more cuts. Many have either lost their jobs entirely or had their hours and overtime cut back dramatically.

This morning the Treasurer said that jobs are still the highest priority for the government. Unfortunately, the Treasurer's rhetoric has not prevented significant numbers of jobs being shed in Cleveland and the broader Redlands area. The outlook regarding future job losses is concerning.

The government has failed and continues to fail the people in several ways. Firstly, the government oversaw the closure of Fisher and Paykel in Cleveland earlier this year. Over 300 local jobs were lost. I asked the Treasurer in a question on notice how many of those sacked workers had received alternative employment as of 31 May. The answer from the Treasurer was basically that he did not know. He could not tell me that 200 had alternative jobs—not 100, not 50, not 10, not even one single worker. These 300 jobs are not being replaced.

Secondly, small and medium sized businesses in my electorate are under great strain. The government has done little to support them by creating conditions in which they can employ more staff. The only thing that this government has done for medium sized businesses in my electorate is to help them downsize and offload labour to become small businesses. Hundreds of small business jobs have been lost and they are not being replaced.

Thirdly, Labor state and federal government department offices have moved and are moving out of Cleveland. The EPA left and soon the CSIRO will leave—in total costing about 100 jobs. That is another 100 local jobs kissed goodbye.

Fourthly, Redlands tourism has great potential if properly stimulated to produce jobs. Projects like the upgrade of Toondah Harbour in Cleveland would create large numbers of new jobs, but successive Labor governments have repeatedly failed to produce anything. In 20 years, all it has to show are mud banks, resulting in zero jobs.

Then there is the coming loss of mining jobs on North Stradbroke Island. What will happen to North Stradbroke Island when the miners are gone? Again, the government has no plan to replace those local jobs. Further, there are the direct and indirect job losses that are caused by the downturn in recreational fishing, not to mention the last-minute decision to kick a new Redlands employment area out of the south-east urban footprint—again, a squandered opportunity to create jobs.

In summary, under this Labor state government we are seeing an evaporation of local jobs in Cleveland and the greater Redlands area, and no plans to replace them.