



Speech By
Mark Robinson

MEMBER FOR OODGEROO

Record of Proceedings, 19 September 2018

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (6.51 pm): I rise to deliver my address-in-reply. I acknowledge His Excellency the Governor, Paul de Jersey, for his address at the opening of parliament. I also acknowledge Queen Elizabeth and congratulate the member for Mulgrave on his appointment as Speaker.

It is an honour to be re-elected for the fourth term and with increased support. I am deeply honoured by that increased support and the trust that the people of the Cleveland district, now called the seat of Oodgeroo, have placed in me and in the Liberal National Party. I appreciate the support in every suburb of the electorate: North Stradbroke Island, Ormiston, Wellington Point, Birkdale, Cleveland and Thornlands.

I am grateful to the residents of the Cleveland district for their continued support. We have continued to achieve much on their behalf, whether in government or in opposition. Sadly, though, when in opposition we have had to fight hard for our fair share of state funding for things like health services at Redland Hospital; better education in our schools; a safer community; better transport, whether rail, bus or ferry; roads; job creation and small business; and to stabilise the situation on North Stradbroke Island after Labor laws are stalling the island's economic transition, which is impacting on 2,200 people in the three townships. We will continue to fight for our fair share and to hold this government accountable for it.

I want to thank my campaign team and the volunteers for their hard work and dedication. Key campaign volunteers include Chris, Mike, Ann, Henry, Emil, Julie, Shaun and Paul and many others. I also thank my staff—Sue, Josh and Simeon—who worked tirelessly throughout the previous parliament. I also thank my dear wife, Julie, and our wonderful children for their support and help. I acknowledge the hard work of the LNP candidates in the Redlands district: Matt McEachan, Cameron Leafe and Julie Talty.

The strong win in the Cleveland district provides the platform for continuing to pressure this government for our fair share. Early signs are that this will continue to be a fight, with little investment being planned in Redland Hospital, roads and transport, among other areas. I look forward to this term—to serving in the community and here in the parliament, on the panel of Deputy Speakers and in the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee.

In terms of jobs, business and major projects, small and medium sized businesses, including small tourism operators, continue to employ the vast majority of Redlanders. Sadly, many are struggling under the weight of Labor's taxing regime, including direct taxes, levies, fees and charges, and the de facto high cost of water and power and car registration. Then there are the compliance costs and the regulatory burden that Labor inflicts on businesses—various forms of red tape and green tape.

More local jobs need to be created to reduce the number of people who have to leave the Redlands every day for work, clogging up our state roads. Very few job-generating substantial projects, sadly, are being planned, and no big-ticket items of infrastructure are being planned for the next four

years at this point—public transport items, road duplications, hospital upgrade and other major infrastructure. Sadly, with no pipeline of big-ticket infrastructure items, few jobs are being generated from government investment. Again it comes back to the faithful small and medium sized businesses to create jobs and turn around the bad employment figures under this Labor government. It is about local people getting ahead despite their government.

There is no worse or better example, depending on how you look at it, in Redland City than North Stradbroke Island. The 2,200-plus North Stradbroke Island population continues to struggle under the weight of Labor's laws and Labor's stalling economic transition strategy. The LNP's carefully managed plan to phase out sandmining was to happen over a lengthy period of years to allow a smooth economic transition over time. Instead, Labor rushed through a decision, without a plan, to close the mine prematurely, by 2019. The local residents of the three towns overwhelmingly opposed this rushed decision. Sadly, Labor pushed ahead, in line with its inner-city Greens preference deal to save the member for South Brisbane's seat, resulting in hundreds of workers being sacked over a number of years and hundreds more jobs being put at risk.

Last week it was revealed that Labor's ETS was stalling badly, when Minister Dick was replaced as lead minister at the same time as it was revealed that only two of 23 projects had been completed in two years. Those two projects were the sprucing up of some camping grounds and a festival—good projects but not major infrastructure projects, not large-scale job-generating projects. That explains why there has been little job creation and net job losses on the island. The Premier admitted that much in question time on Tuesday, admitting that a hundred jobs were lost with Sibelco in recent times—but many more over time and then hundreds of indirect jobs put at risk. The Premier admitted that only five people who were sacked had been re-employed. Out of all of those who had been sacked, only five people were re-employed in all of that time—and some of those five are possibly part-time or on shorter term contracts. That is definitely a Labor broken promise.

Then minister Kate Jones and then premier Bligh had previously promised 400 ecotourism jobs. That was their promise to plug the jobs gap that their decision was creating, but Premier Palaszczuk has forgotten all about that promise and the member for Cooper would also like us to forget that promise. Sadly, they all ignored the warning from Brisbane Marketing that the government would have to build five Tangaloomas to plug the jobs gap created by shutting down mining so soon. Brisbane Marketing went on to tell then minister Jones that it could take 17 and up to 20 years, based on other regions, for that level of job creation to be achieved. Then minister Jones ignored the tourism experts, because she knew better and because the facts did not suit what Labor wanted to do and had already predetermined to do. As they failed to produce the jobs in the previous promise, I have no faith in the new round of promises that are coming and will come from Minister Jones about tourism jobs. They did not happen under her leadership as the minister then, and little is happening quickly now.

Debate, on motion of Dr Robinson, adjourned.