



Speech By
Andrew Powell

MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE

Record of Proceedings, 18 February 2020

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SPIT MASTER PLAN

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (5.25 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Implementation of The Spit Master Plan Bill 2019. The Implementation of The Spit Master Plan Bill 2019 goes to the heart of the malaise that has affected Queensland's economy over the past five years. Unsurprisingly, it was not long after the Premier's election in 2015 that this malaise started to appear. The Spit Master Plan is just one of many examples across Queensland of how it has played out. Just a few months after the election in 2015, the Premier scrapped an ASF proposal on the Gold Coast and replaced it with, well, nothing. There was no new proposal, no new plan for jobs, no new plan for a community space and no new vision for the Gold Coast. Five years on, all that Gold Coast residents have received is a reported bill to the taxpayer of \$13 million to pay off the original proponent. A government which scraps a project and then takes five years to provide an alternative proposal is one bereft of ideas, bereft of direction and well and truly bereft of leadership.

Mr Lister: Just bereft.

Mr POWELL: I take that interjection from the member for Southern Downs—just basically bereft. For five years, the Gold Coast suffered under an incompetent and ailing Palaszczuk Labor government. Instead of building job creating projects like the second M1, a reinvigorated Convention Centre, a cruise ship terminal or a vitalised Spit, all that the Palaszczuk Labor government delivered for the Gold Coast in five years was more taxes, more debt, fewer jobs and less infrastructure. It is no surprise—

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): Order, members to my right!

Mr POWELL: It is no surprise that this inaction over the Spit was first started by the embattled Deputy Premier when planning minister. She is a Deputy Premier who in this term of government inflicted upon Queensland the average highest unemployment rate in the nation, the most bankruptcies and most long-term unemployed persons across Australia—not to mention the \$92 billion of debt she saddled upon Queensland. It is no surprise that it is now the member for Woodridge who is currently trying desperately to get the master plan implemented. It was only last month that the member for Woodridge proclaimed, 'Now it is time to get on with delivery for the Spit Master Plan.' I do wonder whether the minister's statement of, 'Now it is time to get on with delivery' were more aimed at the backbench doing the numbers of the Deputy Premier or at a project on which he has done very little for years. We already know that once he opposed the Deputy Premier by moving for the Labor leadership vote to be split 50-50 between branch members—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Glass House, you are straying outside the long title of the bill. Can I bring you back it to, please.

Mr POWELL: I again refer to the comments of the minister in saying that now it is time to get on with delivery. We also know that he was accused by colleagues of whipping up a push to topple the Deputy Premier following the 2019 federal election wipe-out. It took the minister two days to deny—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Glass House, this is the second time I have pulled you—

Mr POWELL: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not have to say it again.

Mr POWELL: The only thing that the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning is trying to deliver is his own promotion. The people of the Gold Coast certainly cannot take solace in the minister's past performance. He has already been dumped as the minister leading the economic transition of North Stradbroke Island—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Glass House, you have one minute left before we go to private members' bills. I am still prepared to sit you down if need be, so please come back to the long title of the bill.

Mr POWELL: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker Whiting, but it pertains to the ability of the minister to implement a master plan on the Spit. Given that he cannot handle an economic strategy on North Stradbroke Island, how will he handle a master plan? He was also overlooked to take on Cross River Rail despite being the infrastructure minister when the Deputy Premier was stripped of that project. For the sake of Gold Coast residents—

Debate, on motion of Mr Powell, adjourned.