



Speech By
Dr Christian Rowan

MEMBER FOR MOGGILL

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Economy

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (2.31 pm): Last week was the fifth anniversary of the election of the Palaszczuk Labor government. I know those Labor members opposite will be celebrating and pleased with themselves and patting themselves on the back, but Queenslanders certainly have nothing to celebrate. Just look at today's announced unemployment rate of 6.3 per cent. It is the worst rate in the nation when compared to other state jurisdictions. Last week the Queensland Auditor-General also confirmed what we on this side of the House have always known—that the Palaszczuk Labor government simply cannot manage the state's finances, let alone Queensland's great economy.

Mr Bailey interjected.

Dr ROWAN: I hear the minister interjecting, but I will come to him soon. The Auditor-General's report was scathing—to quote the *Australian* newspaper, a 'grim assessment'—which painted a very bleak outlook for the future of the state's finances and gave Queenslanders every reason to further doubt the ability of the Premier and her Treasurer to properly manage taxpayer dollars. We know that debt in Queensland is heading towards \$91.8 billion by 2022-23. That is \$16½ thousand on the credit card that every Queenslanders owes—every man, woman and child in Queensland—and when it reaches that level that will be an interest bill of \$10 million a day, \$70 million a week or \$280 million a month.

The consequences of Labor's inept financial and economic management are adversely impacting every Queensland community, especially in the western suburbs of Brisbane and across the electorate of Moggill. Labor has effectively gone out of its way to ensure that residents and families in the electorate of Moggill receive less infrastructure and less investment in our schools and services and are paying higher taxes, higher fees and more government charges. We just have to look at traffic congestion on Moggill Road.

Mr Bailey interjected.

Dr ROWAN: I again hear the Minister for Transport and Main Roads interjecting—no progression on the Moggill Road corridor planning study for cyclist safety, no progression on solutions to deal with traffic congestion on Moggill Road, a lack of public transport that the Labor government is still not focusing on not only in the electorate of Moggill but right across the western suburbs of Brisbane. This Labor government will not even invest in a new hall for Kenmore State High School to accommodate the over 2,000 students who are there.

Mr Janetzki interjected.

Dr ROWAN: Labor simply does not care; I take the interjection from the member for Toowoomba South. If Labor's neglect of the western suburbs has not been intentional, it has been grossly negligent. The only thing that we can confidently say here in Queensland is that we have skyrocketing debt. This is intergenerational debt which is a shameful legacy on our next generation of our children and

grandchildren. There is \$3½ billion in additional and higher taxes, fees and charges that this government has allocated over the last few years. As I have said before, the unemployment rate in Queensland is 6.3 per cent—the highest and worst rate in our country. This government is an abomination to the people of Queensland. It is not doing its job. It needs to do more.