

Jeff Seeney MP eNewsletter 2016 - edition 11

Welcome to the latest edition of my eNewsletter. I hope you find this eNewsletter informative and of interest to you.

Topics covered in this issue include; time for Labor to appoint new Minister for Agriculture, Labor finally shares LNP position on fly-in-fly out workers, new campaign to encourage young drivers not to look at mobile phones, free Wi-Fi on Tilt Trains and Queensland small businesses struggling under Labor

Agriculture sector not interested in another union hack

Annastacia Palaszczuk must appoint a qualified and respected person to the now vacant Cabinet position instead of a union hack.

Farmers and primary producers are not interested in the political infighting among factions and unions whose main interest is having numbers around the Cabinet table.

This is now the third Agriculture Minister the Palaszczuk Labor Government has tried in nearly two years.

We all know Annastacia Palaszczuk is powerless in appointing her Cabinet members, the factions tell her who the anointed one is.

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry are far too important to Queensland to be left in the hands of another dud Minister or union hack.

Following the resignation of disgraced Bundaberg MP Leanne Donaldson, it is time for Labor to make a serious appointment to a vital portfolio.

Leanne Donaldson will be remembered as a CFMEU union hack who didn't pay her bills and whose sole link with agriculture was once having a vegie patch in her backyard.

Under the LNP, agriculture was recognised as one of the most significant driving forces of our state's economy.

Agriculture has been dropped to the bottom of the Cabinet pecking order under the Palaszczuk Labor Government.

Appointing Bill Byrne as acting minister while the factions and unions fight it out and come to an agreement is almost laughable.

Under the Palaszczuk Labor Government the real losers are Queensland's primary producers."

Labor finally matches LNP position on fly-in fly-out workers

- **The only two mines ever approved as 100 per cent FIFO were approved by a Labor government**
- **Annastacia Palaszczuk was a Cabinet minister when the Daunia and Caval Ridge coal mines were approved as 100 per cent FIFO**

- **It's taken the do-nothing Palaszczuk government two years to get to the position on FIFO that the LNP had when it left government**

The Palaszczuk Labor Government has again displayed its total lack of action in addressing key issues facing regional Queensland by finally reaching a position on the issue of fly-in, fly-out (FIFO) workforces for resource projects.

Deputy Opposition Leader and Minister for State Development, Deb Frecklington said the Palaszczuk Government's belated introduction of FIFO legislation followed 21 months of doing nothing for regional mining communities.

"It has taken Anastacia Palaszczuk's do-nothing government almost two years to get to the position on FIFO the LNP had when it left government," Ms Frecklington said.

"How ironic that Labor is patting itself on the back for solving a problem it created.

"The only two Queensland mines that have ever been approved as 100 per cent FIFO were approved by a Labor government that Anastacia Palaszczuk was a part of.

"She has been embarrassed into this position to make up for the decision taken when she was a Cabinet Minister to approve the Daunia and Caval Ridge mines in Central Queensland.

"The LNP always supported strong regional communities and wanted resource companies to do more to employ locals and support local businesses.

"What's taken Labor so long to come to such a common sense position?

"The Palaszczuk Government has no affinity or understanding of the issues affecting regional Queenslanders and has dragged the chain on this issue, like so many others."

Young drivers urged to keep their chins up

Young drivers will be encouraged to keep their chin up and not look down at their mobile phone, thanks to the winning idea from the latest Co-Lab Youth Road Safety Innovation Challenge. This idea will be developed for a social media campaign in 2017.

The winning team has come up with a great tagline for their campaign called 'Chin up', which encourages behaviour change and urges drivers to remain aware, look up and not be distracted by their phones.

Young drivers are one of the most vulnerable road user groups. It's confronting to realise 12.5 per cent of Queensland's population are aged 16 to 24 but account for nearly a quarter of all serious casualties on our roads.

Fatalities as a result of crashes involving young adult drivers/riders

- From 1 January to 30 April 2016, there were 18 fatalities as a result of crashes involving young adult drivers/riders, which is 23.7 per cent of the Queensland road toll. Of the 18, four (or 22.2 per cent) were the young adult drivers/riders, seven (or 38.9 per cent) were the passengers of young adult drivers/riders and seven (or 38.9

per cent) were other road users (drivers, riders, passengers, pillions, pedestrians and cyclists).

Young adult drivers involved in fatal crashes by licence type (2011-2015)

- 9.6 per cent Learners
- 58 per cent P-Platers
- 32 per cent Open licences

Young adult drivers/riders involved in serious crashes

- Young adult drivers/riders aged 16 to 24 account for 14 per cent of all licence holders in Queensland, but account for 22.8 per cent of all drivers/riders involved in serious crashes.

Free Wi-Fi on new look Tilt Train

Queensland Rail has introduced a free Wi-Fi trial on its refurbished Tilt Train for passengers travelling on the rail network between Rockhampton, the Wide Bay and Brisbane.

The new look Tilt Train hit the rails in mid-July following a mechanical upgrade and internal refurbishment. The Tilt Train's overhaul created an opportunity to upgrade the train to enable Wi-Fi access on board, with the trial commencing this month.

This is the first time Wi-Fi has been offered on the long distance Queensland Rail travel fleet and passengers will recognise a train offering the free Wi-Fi service via signage in the carriage.

Passengers on the Tilt Train can enjoy having entertainment as they travel up and down the southern Queensland coast and introducing the free Wi-Fi trial increases their options.

The 200mb limit means everyone on the train can get a fair share and will enable passengers to catch-up with the latest news, browse their favourite websites or check emails.

Queensland Rail will still continue to show the usual on-board entertainment which includes a selection of TV shows and tourism-related programming as part of its support for boosting regional tourism.

The Bundaberg and Rockhampton Tilt Trains, which travel between Brisbane and Rockhampton, are among the most popular trains in Queensland Rail's long distance fleet.

Last financial year, more than 180, 000 people chose to take a journey from either Rockhampton or Bundaberg aboard the electric Tilt Train and the replacement diesel services.

'Palaszczuk and Pitt are against us' - small businesses

- **Exclusive CCIQ survey reveals almost two in three small businesses believe the Palaszczuk Labor Government is working against them**

- **Even more small businesses rate the Government's performance as very poor or poor**
- **More than two-thirds say the Government is in the Pitts on growth and jobs**

The Palaszczuk Government's anti-business agenda has been laid bare, with an exclusive survey revealing almost two-thirds of Queensland small businesses believe the government is working against them.

Shadow Treasurer Scott Emerson said the extraordinary finding – from the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland (CCIQ) ReachTEL Small Business Survey – made a mockery of the Government's attempts to deny the economy was in trouble.

“This is proof positive of how badly Treasurer Curtis ‘Captain Risky’ Pitt and Labor have kicked small businesses in the guts,” Mr Emerson said.

“Confidence is so low that 60.9 per cent of small businesses – or almost two in three – say the Palaszczuk Government is actively undermining them.

“With no economic plan, this do-nothing Government has just stood by while business investment has plummeted by more than \$12 billion in the last year.

“We’ve seen the state’s domestic economy contract by almost \$4 billion, 23,000 full-time jobs disappear in the last month and 50,000 Queenslanders give up their search for work this year.

“The CCIQ lists Labor government inaction as one of the top factors driving down business confidence.”

In the survey of more than 1600 small businesses across Queensland on November 3:

- 61.1% of businesses rated the Labor Government's performance as very poor or poor
- 65.6% of businesses rated the Government's performance as very poor or poor for stimulating economic growth and jobs
- Asked when they would like the next election held, most businesses said as soon as possible

“They’ve had enough because there is no will from this Government to address small business issues such as cutting stifling red tape,” Mr Emerson said.

“It couldn’t be clearer – Captain Risky Pitt and this bad Labor Government are no friend of small business.

“We have that on the record now, from the businesses themselves.”