

Jeff Seeney MP eNewsletter 2016 - edition 12

Welcome to the 12th edition of my eNewsletter. I hope you find this eNewsletter informative and of interest to you.

Topics covered in this issue include; Adani Carmichael Mine announcement, Labor lackeys appointed to new Building and Construction Commission, new SEQ water app and Labor Government still spending more than it earns.

Bittersweet Adani announcement two years too late

- **LNP Opposition welcomes \$21 billion Carmichael mine and the thousands of jobs it will create after two years of delays and uncertainty under Labor**
- **Labor has been dragged kicking and screaming to support the project - any attempt to take credit is an absolute sham**
- **Annastacia Palaszczuk must guarantee these jobs will go to local workers - otherwise she has failed Queenslanders again**

The LNP Opposition welcomes the \$21 billion Carmichael mine and the rich vein of jobs that will flow for thousands of Queenslanders, but is disappointed Annastacia Palaszczuk has taken two years to come to the party.

Opposition Leader Tim Nicholls said in the two years it had taken for Labor to get their act into gear, there could have been thousands of jobs created and hundreds of millions of dollars of royalties coming into Queensland.

“This announcement is sweet because of the thousands of jobs it’s promising to regional Queenslanders, but it’s bitter because it’s taken two years for Annastacia Palaszczuk to come to the party,” Mr Nicholls said.

“Labor has been dragged kicking and screaming to support this project and any attempt to claim credit for it is an absolute sham.

“Annastacia Palaszczuk says these jobs won’t go to 457 Visa holders but admits there’s no written guarantee from Adani to ensure jobs go to local workers.

“I would have thought a written commitment would be wise to guarantee we can deliver these jobs to those who need them most.

“Queenslanders deserve a guarantee from Annastacia Palaszczuk on these jobs- anything less and she has failed them again. “

Shadow Mines Minister, Andrew Cripps, said as recently as three weeks ago the Palaszczuk Labor Government was still putting roadblocks in the way of this vital project, all to secure inner-city Green votes.

“Just a few weeks ago, the LNP led the charge in State Parliament to ensure this project wouldn’t be held up by further red tape from Labor,” Mr Cripps said.

“When we came into Government in 2012, this project had been languishing for years under the Bligh Government.

“We moved immediately to progress a Galilee Basin Development Strategy and the Coordinator-General’s Environmental Impact Statement process to get this project off the ground as quickly as possible.

“The LNP has been unwavering in its support for this project – it’s a shame Annastacia Palaszczuk and her Government have taken so long to see the big picture.”

Labor lackeys appointed to Building and Construction Commission

- **“Jobs for the boys” as Labor appoints union mates to board of Queensland Building and Construction Commission**
- **Move is a slap in the face for the Queensland construction sector and all homeowners**
- **Union hacks will ensure a return to outdated policies and bloody-minded attitudes that have plagued the building and construction sector for decades**

The stacking of the Queensland Building Construction Commission (QBCC) with Labor lackeys by Palaszczuk Government Housing Minister Mick de Brenni is a disgrace and a slap in the face for the state’s construction sector and ordinary homeowners.

LNP Shadow Housing and Public Works Minister Stephen Bennett said the appointment of former State ALP president and ETU boss Dick Williams as chair, and former Minister Robert Schwarten to the QBCC board was unprecedented and a blatant case of jobs for Labor mates.

“De Brenni’s actions are a disgrace and will cost Queenslanders dearly, and still Annastacia Palaszczuk stands by and lets the unions and the factions run this state,” Mr Bennett said.

“The QBCC plays a critical role as the building industry’s regulator, licensing contractors, resolving defective building work disputes and providing insurance to protect ordinary Queensland homeowners from dodgy work and practices.

“The QBCC is not Minister de Brenni’s personal plaything for bestowing jobs to Labor hacks and his union mates.

“Neither Dick Williams or Robert Schwarten have any building and construction industry experience. This is a government run by union thugs for union thugs.

“With the board now stacked with Labor lackeys we can expect the overturn of commonsense reforms made by the previous LNP government and a return to outdated policies and bloody-minded attitudes that plagued the building and construction sectors for decades under successive Labor governments.”

Mr Bennett said the return of former Minister Robert Schwarten is particularly disturbing given his key role as the IT Minister who presided over the single biggest failure of public administration in Australia’s history.

“Under Schwarten’s watch, Labor’s health payroll debacle cost Queensland taxpayers more than \$1.25 billion with current and former staff still being chased for ‘over-payments’ some six years later,” he said.

“Right to the end of his ministerial career Schwarten denied any responsibility for the payroll debacle, blaming high-paid public servants for the mess - and now he gets a plum gig handed to him by his mate Mick de Brenni.

“There are also serious questions about potential conflicts of interests of other members of de Brenni’s new board - especially their on-going roles in construction sector unions and other union links.

“Queensland deserves so much better than this union-led nonsense.”

New app to help South East Queenslanders during the wet season

For the first time, South East Queenslanders will be able to stay up-to-date with the latest news on the region’s water supply and spilling dams – all at the touch of a screen.

The free SEQwater mobile app provides the latest information about dam releases and water supply levels across the authority’s 26 dams.

As well as dam notifications, the app also sources critical alerts and warnings for severe weather, tsunamis and bushfires based on your GPS location and gives users important recreation safety and lake closure alerts.

Users are able to select which dams they would like to be notified of in terms of controlled water releases or spilling dams or which recreation lakes they would like to receive safety alerts about.

This app will join the already available SunWater app, which provides communities with the latest information, including operational updates and emergency preparedness notifications in regional areas.

South East Queenslanders are encouraged to download the new app or go to www.seqwater.com.au to ensure they register for dam release notifications ahead of summer.

Labor never learns – still spending more than they earn

- **Report on State Finances confirms Palaszczuk Government is spending more than it earns as debt continues to rise**
- **Only “Bottomless Pitt” could turn a forecast \$331 million surplus into a \$461 million deficit**
- **Employee expenses out of control as public service numbers hit more than 250,000 employees – the highest in history**

The Palaszczuk Labor Government is spending more than it earns and debt is continuing to spiral under their incompetent economic management.

Shadow Treasurer Scott Emerson said the release of the Report on State Finances confirmed we are seeing a return to the bad old days of Labor budget blowouts and deficits.

“Curtis Pitt has managed to turn a forecast \$331 million surplus into a \$461 million deficit,” Mr Emerson said.

“We learnt this week the Palaszczuk Government had increased the size of the public service by 12,500 positions since coming to office.

“We also learnt employee expenses grew at almost 8% in just one year.

“In Labor’s first year in office employee expenses grew at more than five times the population rate.

“The last time employee expenses grew by this much was during the bad old days of Anna Bligh and Andrew Fraser.”

Mr Emerson said the Palaszczuk Labor Government has also slashed infrastructure spending by more than 11 per cent, or almost \$1 billion, in just one year.

“Over the next four years infrastructure cuts are set to total more than \$2 billion,” he said.

“Labor has even failed to meet one of its fiscal principles that is there to ensure Queenslanders don’t get taxed even more than they should.

“This report illustrates why Labor can’t be trusted to sustainably manage the Queensland budget or grow the state’s economy.

“Queenslanders deserve better than a do-nothing Labor Government with no economic plan for state.”
