

Queensland Parliament Hansard Green

DATE: 16/03/2016

FILE: 16032016_000958_LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY_GREEN CHAMBER.DOCX

SUBJECT: Palaszczuk Government, Jobs

MEMBER: Mr LANGBROEK

Palaszczuk Government, Jobs

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.42 pm): It has been interesting to sit in the House this afternoon and listen to junior ministers opposite spruik about the odd job here and the odd job there that this government is supposedly trying to create—whether it is bringing forward projects in Townsville by about a month or whether it is other issues like fixing a roof in Cairns that takes the Minister for Public Works minutes to tell us all about. It is obvious when we look at the actions of the Premier and the Deputy Premier over the last week that for those opposite their interest is more in their own jobs than in jobs for the people of Queensland.

Last week at Point Danger the Premier was so adamant that her focus was going to be on job creation that everyone had to get behind her, but within four questions she would not rule out going to an early election. She let the cat out of the bag that that was really her focus as opposed to saying that she was really focussing on job creation. The Deputy Premier has supposedly been talking about the infrastructure plan. We pointed out that the total amount that we spent on capital works and capital grants in the three years we were in government was \$41 billion and under the Labor government four year capital purchases have been slashed by \$3.6 billion. That is thousands of jobs. That is going to cost thousands of Queenslanders jobs.

The Treasurer is now presiding over a situation in Queensland where the unemployment rate went to 6.4 per cent last month. We know that the Treasurer's focus on jobs extends to switching factions to save his own position and to appointing factional mates like Queensland Council of Unions president, John Battams, to plum, taxpayer funded board positions. Remember that John Battams is the financial genius who once said that Queensland's low property taxes only benefited millionaires and billionaires and argued for a hike in payroll tax. That was during our term in government.

That is the man the Treasurer appointed to sit on the board of QIC, the Queensland Investment Corporation—a body with more than \$70 billion in assets under management, according to its latest annual report. We now know that Mr Battams, a mate of the Treasurer, is touted to become the next president of the Queensland Labor Party. I quote from and table an article from the *Australian* titled 'Second pay-off for new ALP chief'—

The Palaszczuk government's hand-picked director of Queensland Investment Corporation is about to become state president of the Labor Party through a secret factional deal.

Mr Battams, who retired as Queensland Council of Unions president this year, has been elevated to the ALP top job after a deal was struck with the Left and 'Old Guard' faction.

Treasurer Curtis Pitt and Mr Battams are the two most senior powerbrokers in the Old Guard, the state's smallest faction.

Tabled paper: Copy of on-line Article from the Australian 4 March 2016 entitled 'Second pay-off for new ALP Chief.

It says there that the deal was hatched even before he was appointed to the \$60,000 a year role. People have a right to know whether the Treasurer was aware of his imminent appointment as president of the ALP before he was offered a plum board position.