




Speech by

Jann Stuckey

MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN

Hansard Tuesday, 15 November 2011

MOTION: COST OF LIVING

 **Mrs STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (5.56 pm): I rise to support the motion moved by the honourable member for Indooroopilly that this House condemns the Bligh Labor government's constant increases in the cost of living for Queensland families and businesses. Every time Queenslanders fill up their cars, turn on the tap, flick on the lights and pay their rego they are paying more as a direct result of the economic mismanagement and poor decision making of this tired and toxic Bligh Labor government.

The Minister for Community Services and Housing obviously has not listened to what is in the QCOSS Annual Poverty Statement this year which revealed that more than 480,000 Queenslanders are living in poverty. It showed the cost of household essentials such as electricity, water, petrol and rego had risen faster than CPI in the past five years, but it would appear that the minister does not want to hang around and listen. When I surveyed the entire Currumbin electorate 12 months ago cost of living was by far the biggest concern of the some 3,000 respondents, surpassing police, law and order and health for the very first time. People are hurting under this incompetent, heartless government. Despite Bligh's promise that nobody would be worse off under the Labor government's electricity changes—

Mr SPEAKER: The honourable member will refer to the Premier by her correct title.

Mrs STUCKEY: Despite the Premier's promise that nobody would be worse off under the Labor government's electricity changes, electricity prices have spiralled up 63 per cent and will rise by about \$120 this year. South-East Queenslanders' water bills are set to double over seven years because of Labor's bungled water reforms that ran roughshod over councils and households. Queensland is now the most expensive state in which to own and operate a car. Queenslanders are slugged an extra 9.2c a litre after this government promised not to introduce a fuel tax.

An LNP government will reduce water, electricity and car rego bills and save the average Queensland family \$250 to \$330 a year. We will reduce the cost of commuting for loyal public transport users by reintroducing discounted weekly fares for go card users. Queensland Labor has had a long period of opportunity to reduce regulation, but it has failed miserably. For the past week the *Courier Mail* has been asking this toxic Labor government to back off small businesses, exposing them for hammering businesses to the wall. The Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland recently released an update on its *Blueprint for fighting Queensland's over-regulation* and discovered the Bligh government has failed to deliver on regulatory reform and the situation has deteriorated dramatically. The CCIQ says the cost and burden of regulatory compliance is the single most important ongoing issue for the Queensland business community. It increases the cost of running a business and acts as a significant barrier to business growth, investment and productivity.

Over 80 per cent of Queensland businesses believed red tape had increased in Queensland over the past two years and they were right. In 2007, Queensland had some 70,000 pages of regulation but now it has over 92,000 pages of red tape, representing a 31.6 per cent increase. How could the Minister for Small Business stand in this House this morning and say she was 'proud of this government's record when it comes to reducing regulation'? It shows how completely unfit she is for the role and how out of touch she

is with what makes small business tick. This minister was advocating for more red tape, not less. The annual cost of this state based legislation has increased from \$4.8 billion in 2007 to now over \$7 billion a year in taxes, fees and other charges. The latest survey found 93.8 per cent of businesses indicated that government regulation affected the way they ran their business; 78 per cent indicated that government regulations affected their ability to employ staff; 70 per cent indicated that government regulation had prevented them from investing in business growth, meaning the current level of regulation is a disincentive to growing business in Queensland; 93 per cent of businesses believe Queensland has become a nanny state.

The impending waste levy bill or 'Scrooge' tax comes into effect on 1 December this year and is another kick in the intestines for small business in the lead-up to the busy Christmas trading period and the carbon tax is looming on the horizon, but our Labor small business minister told business to just wait and see. She has not a care in the world about supporting them, even though she is supposed to represent them. This minister is more interested in name calling and personal insults than she is in helping small business and tourism operators. Denial, deception and outright untruths have become the hallmarks of this Labor government, which continues to ignore the plight of countless small business and tourism operators, choosing to bleat the mantra that a wave of prosperity is about to wash over us.

I dearly wish that were true, but the fact remains that we are deeply in debt and more of the same will not erase it; just ask Queensland residents and small business operators. Today I stand before you and pledge that a can-do LNP government will work for Queensland, not for our own self-serving political agendas. We can be a can-do Queensland again. Anna Bligh and Labor: not again, not this time.