




Speech by

Jann Stuckey

MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN

Hansard Tuesday, 29 November 2011

MOTION: BLIGH LABOR GOVERNMENT

 **Mrs STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (6.06 pm): I rise to support the motion moved by the member for Gympie. The Bligh Labor government will be remembered for racking up a phenomenal \$85 billion in debt, estimated to cost nearly \$600,000 an hour in interest repayments alone and placing an enormous burden upon every man, woman and child in Queensland. It beggars belief how this government could have mismanaged our economy so badly as to inflict such levels of debt, especially considering the ferocity with which it gouges small business for every last penny and Queensland's abundance of resources.

This heartless, incompetent Labor government has repeatedly taxed the life out of small business, stripping it to bare bones with a constant stream of new and increased taxes, fees and charges. Labor has failed to deliver major infrastructure projects that were promised for the southern Gold Coast and elsewhere across the state. The construction of the heavy rail line to Coolangatta—a project promised by the Labor government for over 20 years—has fallen completely off Labor's radar. Now there is no budget and only a vague time frame for the delivery of this important transport infrastructure—one that gets pushed further and further back the greater Labor's debt grows. Promises back in 2004 to widen the M1 from Nerang to Tugun never eventuated and were pushed further from our grasp when promised federal funds were stolen to upgrade the M1 in Labor held seats around Logan and Beenleigh.

Here we are, though, on the eve of an election, and the tourism minister can only offer us a discussion paper. After 20 years in government, Labor thinks that offering this paper is a bold and frank way to engage the tourism industry. What, I ask, is bold and frank about this document when the first page declares 'the start of a discussion with the Queensland industry'? It is inexcusable for this lazy minister to only be commencing a discussion with this vital industry now. No wonder the tourism industry, along with many others in this great state, has lost confidence in the Bligh Labor government. It is no surprise, with a minister whose talents are limited to making announcements on anything, like new road signs, and spruiking holiday deals that do not exist.

On the other hand, the LNP is committed to giving control of tourism back to those who do it best—the industry itself. A can-do LNP government will govern for all Queenslanders, not ourselves. It goes without saying that we have been through some pretty tough times lately, with floods and cyclones affecting many people's lives and livelihoods. Labor is good at talking. It has no shortage of excuses and political promises. We have heard them spoken and broken time and again.

Queenslanders deserve more than talk. We deserve action. This Labor government cannot hide behind this string of natural disasters any longer. Figures from December reveal that Queensland was underperforming and it lost its AAA credit rating well before the floods due to appalling mismanagement that is so typical of this government. Who can forget the billion dollar Tugun desalination saga with more episodes than *Days of Our Lives* or the bungled health payroll system that stripped hard-earned wages from nurses and other health and hospital workers?

Labor's increased cost-of-living pressures mean that every single time Queenslanders fill up their cars, turn on the tap, flick on the lights, pay their rego or drive on a toll road they are paying more as a direct result of the economic mismanagement and poor decision making of the Bligh Labor government.

Now we have an impending waste levy bill, or the scrooge tax—another kick in the intestines for small business. Labor fast-tracked this one so it can collect the fees from Thursday this week. This is particularly hard to swallow considering Labor failed to update Queensland's outdated waste management policy for a whole decade, allowing Queensland's status to slip to the most littered mainland state in Australia for the last two years running.

Then of course there is the carbon tax. Denial, deception and outright untruths have become the hallmarks of this Labor government, which continues to ignore the plight of countless small businesses and citizens alike, choosing to bleat the mantra that a wave of prosperity is about to wash over us all.

I stand before you today 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. The Bligh Labor government is bereft of any vision. It has sold off the farm and squeezed the people in Queensland dry.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The House will come to order.

Ms Bates interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The member for Mudgeeraba, goodness me!