

Honourable members should make no mistake when they look at the sale of the likes of Queensland Rail—an extraordinary asset that was started about 150 years ago. That asset was built up through the contribution of taxpayers and the extraordinary application of many Queenslanders. It was a great job creator in the early part of the 150 years of this state and it continues to be so. It will be sold overnight to pay the interest on 18 months of debt, if we can believe the Treasurer's first assertion that the sale of assets was about debt repayment. But now over the past few days the government is walking away from that. It is saying that the proceeds of the sale of assets is going to go into running the arms of government and that it will not go into debt repayment. They cannot have it both ways.

The other thing we need to understand is that the difference between the LNP and Labor on privatisation is very simple. We do not believe that you fire sale these assets. We do not believe that you sell these assets, particularly those that return a very good revenue stream to the state, and throw away that revenue stream, which should be working for the taxpayers of Queensland. If the government is going to take that step, then it needs to be honest and open with the people of Queensland, to bring them into its confidence and not play a confidence trick on them, as we saw this government do at the last state election. That is the fundamental difference between the LNP and the Labor Party: openness, honesty, transparency, proper fiscal management, making sure that you balance the books, making sure that you cut your cloth to suit, making sure that you grow your economy in Queensland versus a government that believes that the private sector is something that simply needs to be fleeced for the future, that needs to be bled dry as some sort of blood bank for the government so that it can continue with programs whilst not necessarily cutting its cloth to suit. That is the big difference.

Certainly, one of the biggest issues that is faced by people in the electorates is the cost of living. So many people come up to me and talk about the cost of living—the cost of just simply putting food on the table and the cost of increasing interest rates. At a time when interest rates are increasing, which is causing a great degree of heartache and strain on families throughout Queensland, we are seeing the government put up electricity prices, we are seeing the government put up water prices, we are seeing the government bring in a fuel tax—which is pummelling the family budget—and we are seeing record registration increases. Therefore, I support wholeheartedly and absolutely the intention, if the LNP can wrest the reins of power from Labor in Queensland, to freeze registration increases over the next three years. That will ease the burden on Queensland families. That will ease the burden on Queensland businesses. That will reinstate confidence in the economy, which will also help to grow the economy. That, with the other initiatives that were announced by the opposition leader today, will go a long way towards restoring the confidence of Queenslanders.

When it comes to running a government, it is not only individual announcements that make a big difference, it is the philosophy that underpins a government: being pro private enterprise, pro growth and smaller government versus, when it comes to the Labor Party, being anti private enterprise, no growth and larger government.

I will turn very briefly to the portfolio of the Attorney-General. There are some extremely worrying signs for the people who consume justice services in Queensland. Only under a Labor government is it possible to spend more and deliver less. I will give members a classic example. When it comes to Legal Aid in Queensland, the government will tip in \$12 million additional revenue this year. But is it going to deliver more services for Legal Aid clients in Queensland? No, it is not. For \$12 million more in taxpayer revenue in Legal Aid in Queensland, the government will deliver 4,100 fewer grants of Legal Aid services. How does that add up? Labor spends more and delivers less.

Twelve or so months ago we came into this place to pass telephone interception legislation—an essential crime-fighting tool and technique for our crime-fighting bodies in the battle against organised crime in particular. What has happened in the past 12 months? Not one single person has been employed to staff the operations of telephone interception powers in Queensland. Is it any wonder that Queensland again has been rated as the drug production capital of Australia? This government cannot deliver in any of its fundamental organs of government, let alone in the office of the Attorney-General. Is it any surprise that the people of Queensland are calling out for change and calling out for it to happen quickly.

Sitting suspended from 1.01 pm to 2.30 pm.

Debate, on motion of Ms Jarratt, adjourned.

## PRIVILEGE

### Integrity, Ethics and Parliamentary Privileges Committee, Report No. 107

**Hon. PJ LAWLOR** (Southport—ALP) (Minister for Tourism and Fair Trading) (2.30 pm), by leave: In accordance with report No. 107 of the Integrity, Ethics and Parliamentary Privileges Committee, I unreservedly apologise to both the member for Mudgeeraba and the member for Kawana in relation to the imputations contained in my answer to a question without notice on 25 February 2010 and also to the constituents concerned.