



Speech by

Miss FIONA SIMPSON

MEMBER FOR MAROOCHYDORE

Hansard 16 September 1998

MEMBER FOR NICKLIN

Miss SIMPSON (Maroochydore—NPA) (10.10 a.m.): I register my disappointment at some statements made by the member for Nicklin, Peter Wellington, in his defence of the Beattie Labor Government when the Beattie Labor Government announced a major downgrade of capital works on the Sunshine Coast. Millions of dollars have been ripped out of the Sunshine Coast by the Labor Party, but today the member for Nicklin, most disappointingly, chose to defend the Labor Party by attacking the coalition in the Sunshine Coast Daily. The newspaper states, "... he understood that the Coalition's budget pledges were not fully funded or realistic." Mr Wellington's attack on the coalition must be replied to, because it is not only wrong but is also grossly unfair.

I am very disappointed in the member for Nicklin, Peter Wellington, because he refused a briefing from Queensland Treasury on the coalition's Budget when it was offered by the coalition. However, he accepted a briefing from the Labor Party's own accounting firm. It is now history that he then sided with the Labor Party to give it Government. If the member for Nicklin had bothered to do the fair and honourable thing and had received that full and independent briefing from Queensland Treasury on the coalition's Budget—a Budget that he now criticises—he would have more credibility today; he could be more truly viewed as an Independent.

The coalition's Budget delivered more to the Sunshine Coast and to Nicklin, and it was fully funded. As I have said, I am very disappointed that the member for Nicklin has, without question, chosen to believe Labor Party lies. When the Beattie Cabinet came to Nambour the other week, it promised big things and put out lots of press releases. However, there is an air of disappointment in its wake because the Sunshine Coast, particularly Nambour, has been short-changed.
