



Speech by

Hon. R. E. BORBIDGE

MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE

Hansard 10 November 1998

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Hon. R. E. BORBIDGE (Surfers Paradise—NPA) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.22 a.m.): I rise this morning to correct false statements made by the Premier in regard to the forthcoming Premiers Conference. I place on the record, as I have done on numerous occasions, that this side of the House, both in Government and in Opposition, will support all moves to get the best possible deal for the State of Queensland. In fact, there are numerous examples of how this Government is benefiting from the deals that the coalition Government negotiated with the Howard/Fischer Ministry.

I will tell honourable members a few of those examples: \$103m out of the \$120m available for bonus payments in respect of the sign-on for the new Medicare Agreement and \$65m for Briztram that this Premier walked away from. He did not want the \$65m in Centenary of Federation funding. Another example is the very considerable financial assistance negotiated by the previous Government in regard to the Cultural Heritage Trails project, which this Government, thankfully, has picked up.

We are seeing more of the Labor spin. The only reason that Queensland can be in trouble at the Premiers Conference on Friday is if the current Premier turns Queensland's presentation into amateur hour. The Federal Government has made it clear that the money collected from the GST will be distributed back to the States on a per capita basis. Taking into account the other commitments given, that means that Queensland will be compensated for taxes that we do not have. We will be compensated for not having an FID. We will be compensated for not having a bed tax. We will be compensated for not having a fuel tax. The only reason Queensland will be in trouble on Friday is if Mr Beattie messes it up.

Time expired.
