



Speech by

Dr DAVID WATSON

MEMBER FOR MOGGILL

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HEALTH SERVICES

Dr WATSON (Moggill—LP) (Leader of the Liberal Party) (6.25 p.m.): We are seeing the same kind of incredible pattern of behaviour coming from members on the opposite side as we saw from the Premier this morning. It lacks any kind of credibility. Listening to the member for Cairns a moment ago reminded me of the 1995 election when members opposite put out those little brochures on privatisation. Where are those members now? The only person on that side of the place who had any decency, if I recall, was the member for Sunnybank. At least he had the integrity to tell the ALP that he was not going to do it, because he was not going to go and mislead the people of Sunnybank. I give him credit for that. But now he is a member of a Government that has no credibility and is misleading the people of Queensland.

In this time of Internet gaming and things like that, what we have over there is a virtual roulette for the truth. I guess we have the same small odds of getting the truth as we have of winning on a roulette wheel. If the truth were black, what we would see coming up over there all the time is red.

Mr Springborg: They are red.

Dr WATSON: They are red. That is probably why it comes up.

The Premier does not have any credibility on this issue, nor does the Minister for Health for repeating the same kinds of things we heard from the Premier this morning. We talked earlier about the issue of capital works. Back in April the Premier indicated that the capital works program was on time. He was going to spend the whole lot of it.

Mrs EDMOND: I rise to a point of order. Not only is it on time, we have spent more than 100%. How on time can you get?

Mr SPEAKER: Order! There is no point of order.

Dr WATSON: We will look at the capital works budget when we are done. I can tell honourable members that this Government's capital works program will probably be \$700m underspent on what it budgeted last year. That is the kind of backflip we will get. We will have to see what sort of explanation it will give. That \$700m of the capital works program that is underspent probably equates to 10,000 jobs for Queenslanders. Queenslanders ought to get more from the Government than they are getting from members opposite.

Let us look at the net bet affair which has been dominating Parliament for the past couple of weeks. We have seen the same kind of changing story there as we have seen with Health. Mr Beattie said that he had vague recollections of discussions with the member for Woodridge. Remember? Then what happened? Suddenly, we found a memorandum from the Premier to the Treasurer, directing the Treasurer to talk to the member for Woodridge or his mates. The Premier gave a rocket to the Treasurer because he got a rocket from the member for Woodridge.

Mr Reeves: What's that got to do with health?

Dr WATSON: It is all about credibility. What we said earlier today and what we are saying here is that this Premier does not have any credibility. The Minister for Health does not have any credibility. When she says that she is not going to privatise, it is the same thing as the Premier saying, "I had nothing to do with net bet." It is the same thing as saying, "The capital works program is going to be spent." They have misled the people there; they are misleading the people here.

Mr Lucas: What about Howard's promise on the GST?

Dr WATSON: Ignorant interjection! The member is not even in his correct seat. He should return to his seat.

It is like the current debate over the super stadium. Again, the Premier comes in here and tells us one thing. When we look at what the Government says day in, day out and when we look at the leaks to the press, there is absolutely no doubt that the decision has already been made: the new super stadium is going to be situated at the Suncorp Stadium.

Mr Borbidge: He is just working out how to tell Jim Soorley.

Dr WATSON: As the Honourable Leader of the Opposition says, he is just working out how to tell Jim Soorley.

This morning the Premier came in and said this about Suncorp—

"I outlined to them"—

that is the people he talked to last night—

"for the first time, because it has not been released publicly, our grand plan and strategy for the area surrounding Lang Park. That plan will be released if Lang Park is successful."

Then suddenly he had an afterthought and he said, "Hang on. I have to talk about the RNA", so he said, "Yes, there is going to be a redevelopment of the RNA as well, because that is part of our urban renewal program." We ought to have an independent evaluation of that program, because we cannot believe what the Premier says.

Let us talk about the privatisation of health services. We are constantly told that health services are not going to be privatised, but we know that the Government is already privatising catering and laundry services. We know that the Government is looking at selling off three nursing homes.

Mrs Edmond: That was you.

Dr WATSON: No, that is information from the Government. That is what was tabled the other day by the member for Toowoomba South.

Time expired.
