



Speech by
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MEMBER FOR INDOOROOPILLY

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STATE GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE

Mr BEANLAND (Indooroopilly—LP) (5.45 p.m.): Unemployment is up and job creation is half what it was under the coalition, yet the Premier comes into this Chamber and defends his Government's record with yet another stunt. That is what this is: it is another stunt. This is a Budget document, nothing more and nothing less. It is just another stunt by the Premier, as we have seen time and time again. A few moments ago we saw another stunt pulled by the Minister for Transport, who tried to claim credit for the Pacific Motorway upgrade. Of course we know that Labor lost office through its failure to agree to construct the Pacific Motorway. I remember well the so-called teddy bear tunnel, the koala tunnel. I remember well how they were going to put a toll road down there.

Mr BREDHAUER: I rise to a point of order. We did not lose office over the koala motorway. We lost it over a secret deal between the coalition and the Police Union.

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

Mr BEANLAND: Again we have another stunt from the Minister for Transport, who has nothing to add to the debate. We have seen such stunts performed by all members of the Ministry in this place. We have seen stunt after stunt after stunt. They do not go to bed at nights thinking of jobs, jobs, jobs. They go to bed thinking, "What stunt can I pull tomorrow?" All we see are stunts, stunts, stunts.

Let us look at some of the details. The Government likes to direct attention to the Yellow Pages Small Business Index. It indicates that business confidence has plummeted from 60% to 43% during the calendar year. If one looks at New South Wales, which is led by the Government's colleague Bob Carr, business confidence has risen from 46% to 57%. In Queensland, business confidence has gone down, down, down. The record of this Government is that anything positive goes down, down, down, and it is no wonder when one looks at the calibre of Ministers.

I noticed that the Premier did not mention his net bet achievement. He ran right away from that stunt. All we hear from members on the other side of the House is rhetoric. Let us look at job creation: 37.3% of all jobs in Australia were created by the former coalition Government. That figure is now down to 16.3%, which is more than half. That is what we get from this Government. The Budget itself has a deficit of \$1,235m. Standard & Poor's and a couple of newspapers picked that fact up, but it was glossed over by the Government. It is on pages 93 and 94 of Budget Paper No. 2 for the world to see. Mr Speaker, you, I and everybody else can look at it. The unemployment rate in this State goes up and up. It is not coming down, as the Government would like to pretend.

I notice that the Government is even claiming the Goodwill Games, but we all know what happened there. It was a gain of the former Government. My colleague the member for Noosa, the former Minister, acquired the Goodwill Games for the State. The Government can never let somebody else take the credit.

I notice that Government members did not mention their great effort on Baywatch— what a disaster it was—or some of the other things, such as Technomart III. They are not mentioned in this stunt document, and neither is Expo 2002.

I should spend a little time talking about Expo 2002 because that would have been one of the great achievements for this State. The former coalition Government did the work to get it started. When

the opportunity came along, this Government just said, "No, we do not want it." There was an opportunity to really make this State the Smart State—an opportunity for technology and all the benefits that that brings to a State such as this. We see what happened in Silicon Valley in California. That sort of thing could have happened here, but no, not this Government, not these Ministers. They walked right away from it. Time and time again this Government has shown that anything that is tough, anything that requires a bit of extra effort, it walks away from. It simply does not produce the results. It is a Government of non-achievement and of red tape.

I will just spend a few moments looking at a few of the other issues. The matter of payroll tax has been mentioned in passing by one of my colleagues. What this Government fails to mention is that, in reducing payroll tax by 0.1% per annum, it ended up including the compulsory employer superannuation contribution in the calculation of that payroll tax.

Mr Borbidge: Another deception!

Mr BEANLAND: Yes, another deception. That means that at the end of the day the business people are paying more.

Time expired.
