



Speech by

Mrs J. SHELDON

MEMBER FOR CALOUNDRA

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GOVERNMENT ELECTION PROMISES

Mrs SHELDON (Caloundra—LP) (6.45 p.m.): The Government's contribution to this debate tonight has been one of hypocrisy and deceit—just as the Government deceived the member for Nicklin. The Government has said that it would not raise taxes or charges above the rate of inflation. Indeed, this is mentioned in the Premier's appalling amendment. However, the Government has added up the rate of inflation over the past 12 years. I believe that action is totally unheard of, even by a mob of con artists such as those opposite. Everyone knows that the consumer price index is calculated over one year. To add it up over a period of years is fooling no-one. If any corporation did such a thing the media and the public would be right onto them. However, we find that the Government of this State rules by deceit.

If the Premier is the Brutus of Queensland politics, one should ask: who is his Cassius? Possibly it is that little man sitting over there. When we look at the Premier's amendment, the first thing we see is the CPI shonk. Then we find compulsory third-party insurance, which has been jacked up twice in the 10 months since this Government came to power. What does the Government have in mind for the next two years? What lies is the Government going to tell the people of Queensland?

When I became Treasurer, compulsory third-party insurance had not been increased for some years. Although Mr De Lacy had been told that he had a disaster on his hands, he would not increase compulsory third-party insurance premiums. When the coalition came to Government we had to act responsibly and do something about it. It was one of the first things I did because otherwise the CTP scheme was going to fall totally into neglect. We would have found that people would not have been insured when they had accidents. The coalition made the responsible decision which Labor had ducked.

It is rot for this Premier and this Treasurer to stand up and say that the coalition broke its promises and this Government did not. This Government has twice broken its promise in this regard. This issue came up whilst the coalition was in Government and one of the last things I did was ask for a complete and independent review of CTP. I said I would not raise the premiums until such a review was conducted. Now I see that Mr Hamill is acting on my suggestion. Good on him! At least he is following what I put in place.

That review would have shown exactly what Mr Hamill is no doubt trying to say. It is hypocrisy for Labor to say that it was a tax under the coalition but not under this Government. I believe the people of Queensland know what a mob of shonks those opposite are.

I turn to the increase in the fire levy. Again we see an adding up of the CPI over 12 years. It amazes me that the member for Nicklin is reported as saying that this is a moral decision by the Premier. I ask: where is the morality in hitting people with a 14% increase? It has also been said that the meat increases were necessary because the butchers were poisoning everyone. I do not believe any butchers were doing that. One has to query an increase of some 300%.

The Premier has told a complete lie in his amendment when he says that we did nothing about the QFRA report and we let the fire service run into disrepair. When the coalition received that report we made a public statement in our mid-year Budget review whereby we put an extra \$20m into the QFRA. What has the current Minister done with that \$20m? It was over and above our Budget allocation. It was a mid-year Budget review. The Government siphoned off that money in the same way that it siphoned off the disaster relief money from the Treasurer's Advance Account. This Government cannot

adequately look after all the people who have been affected by disasters because the money has been siphoned off.

May I say also that the Premier has said that he would bring in my land tax reductions. Not long ago, he said to a property council lunch, "Yes, we will fulfil Joan Sheldon's commitment." When will they bring in these land tax reductions? That is yet another false promise by this very false Premier and his false Government.

Now we see that we have had three tax increases, supposedly justified under CPI. What a joke! This whole amendment should be thrown out for the absolute lie that it is, particularly when one looks at these three tax increases—especially the CTP—which Mr Hamill, when in Opposition, said was a tax. So I guess that now he is in Government, he cannot say that it is not a tax. We have an increase in the fire levy of 14%, we have an increase in butchers' fees of 300%, yet the claim is that there are no new taxes and charges. What a joke!

Time expired.
