



Speech by

Hon. R. E. BORBIDGE

MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE

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PUBLIC SERVICE

Hon. R. E. BORBIDGE (Surfers Paradise—NPA) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.17 a.m.): From what we have heard from the Government this morning, I think that we now understand why no-one in the wider community believes politicians. This morning, we heard the Premier and a range of his Ministers taking credit for the initiatives of the Goss Government, the Borbidge Government and, on two occasions, the Howard Government. If the Premier keeps this up, he will be taking credit for the initiatives of Premier Herbert.

The fact is that, after 12 months in office, in respect of economic development issues in this State this Premier cannot take credit for one signature project. However, he can take credit for the cost of the most senior levels of the Public Service growing by 60% during the first 12 months of the Beattie Government.

In response to answers to questions on notice, it has been revealed that, under the Beattie Government, there has been a 38% increase in the number of public servants on the highest levels of pay available. In 12 months, the cost of running the chief executive officer level has grown by a massive 77% under the Government of Premier Peter "Do-little". In August last year, just weeks after the election of the Beattie Labor Government, the highest packages offered in the public sector went up by 21%—from \$187,000 to \$227,000. As at 1 July last year, the number of people employed at the CEO level was 11. As at the end of March, that figure had increased to 16, with three of the five new top positions in Mr Beattie's own department.

The next highest tier in the Public Service has also increased, with a 30% increase in the number of public servants on the Senior Executive Service Level 4. In the meantime, there has been an overall 57% increase in the cost of running the top two tiers of fat cats under this Government.

Time expired.
