



Speech by

Hon. R. E. BORBIDGE

MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE

Hansard 22 July 1999

TIMBER INDUSTRY

Hon. R. E. BORBIDGE (Surfers Paradise—NPA) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.22 a.m.): A statement issued overnight by the Federal Minister for Forestry reveals how cynical this Government has been in regard to its treatment of Queensland timberworkers and the timber industry in this State. Overnight, effectively, the Federal Government has said that it will refuse to assist the Queensland Government kill the timber industry in south-east Queensland. This puts the responsibility for the process back where it belongs: in this Parliament with this Government. The article states—

"The Federal Government has warned that Queensland timberworkers and logging companies could miss out on at least \$20 million of Commonwealth support if the Beattie Government introduces a ban on logging in States forests.

...

'We won't help the Queensland Government buy out the industry,' Mr Tuckey said.

'Phasing out the timber industry in south east Queensland is totally inconsistent with principles laid down in the National Forest Policy Statement.' "

The facts are these: the Deputy Premier wants \$50m for the State. He wants that \$50m from the Federal Government. I ask: is that the cost that the taxpayers of Queensland and Australia will have to meet to honour Labor's deals with the Greens in exchange for preferences at the last election? The fact is that Dr Keto has issued the ultimatum.

Mr ELDER: I rise to a point of order. No.

Mr BORBIDGE: Does the Deputy Premier want it to be more, because dead cats are falling out of those trees that are left all around Brisbane at the moment.

The reality is that Dr Keto has told this Government, she has told the Labor Party, that if they do not phase out the industry the conservation movement will campaign against them at the next election. The members opposite have been exposed for the cheap cynics that they are.

Time expired.
