



Speech by

**Hon. R. E. BORBIDGE**

**MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE**

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Hansard 27 April 1999

**GOVERNMENT ELECTION PROMISES**

**Hon. R. E. BORBIDGE** (Surfers Paradise—NPA) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.11 a.m.): Despite what the member for Brisbane Central may say on this particular issue, the fact is that he has broken a core election promise to the people of Queensland and a core commitment to the member for Nicklin for his support on the motion of confidence in this House. When the member for Brisbane, as Leader of the Opposition, was negotiating with the member for Nicklin he gave the following commitment—

"5. Labor can deliver its capital and current program without imposing any new taxes or increasing existing taxes and charges above current real levels."

That was signed by the man who is now Premier.

What has happened in the intervening period? Compulsory third-party insurance is up \$40. This means third-party insurance premiums have risen by almost \$60—25%—in two increases in nine months under this Government. Premiums for the average motorist are now almost \$290. For the benefit of the member for Brisbane Central, that is almost 20 times the CPI.

The fire levy has been increased by 14%—almost 11 times the CPI—despite the fact that there was \$18m in reserves when this Government came to office. The dogs are barking because the rumours are all over the Public Service that the 14% increase in the fire levy is not going 100% to the provision of fire services in this State but that components are being milked to go elsewhere. What makes a mockery of this Government's commitment to small business is the fact that butchers' meat inspection fees are up by as much as 300%.

Time expired.

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