



Speech by

Mr BRUCE LAMING

MEMBER FOR MOOLOOLAH

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IMPACT OF GST ON HOUSING QUEENSLAND

Mr LAMING (Mooloolah—LP) (7.25 p.m.): We on this side of the House have heard and read the persistent comments from the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing regarding the effect of the GST on the public housing program. The Minister has publicly claimed that the introduction of the GST will cost Housing Queensland about \$90m over the next three financial years, yet the Minister is only telling Queensland about his first bid. I am advised that the \$90m figure was only his starting point. After laying his bid on the table and having the other States seriously question his figures, the Minister showed the other States his modelling. What was the basis of the Minister's modelling? Did his \$90m figure include items such as forgone rent revenue? I am advised that some of the figures that the Minister has included in his modelling are consistently higher than those used commonly by other State Governments.

Until the Minister makes his modelling public and allows it to undergo public scrutiny, the people of Queensland should be very wary of the Minister's claims. I am advised that the Minister's second bid at COAG was more in the order of \$70m. Was the \$20m he dropped from the bottom line just a figment of his own imagination?

One of the key issues that the Minister continually fails to tell Queenslanders about is the full GST compensation package specifically for State housing authorities—the very same compensation package which will see Queensland compensated to the tune of \$60m over the next three years. The apparent shortfall is only \$10m over the next three years. But there really is no shortfall, is there? What about the agreement signed that also allows the State Government to leave in place and collect the revenue from stamp duty on unlisted securities until, I believe, 2003 or 2004? The Office of State Revenue advised that last financial year the State Government collected over \$5m from stamp duty on unlisted securities. So for the next three years one could assume that the State will collect around \$15m in revenue from the retention of this stamp duty.

Time expired.
