



Speech by

Mr BRUCE LAMING

MEMBER FOR MOOLOOLAH

Hansard 20 June 2000

GST AND RELATED MATTERS BILL

Mr LAMING (Mooloolah—LP) (5.49 p.m.): I need only, and intend to, speak briefly on this Bill this evening. As I have said before, the Government has been doing little else other than wail and whinge about what it perceives to be the negatives of the Federal Government's new tax system, attempting to score cheap political points instead of looking after the interests of first home buyers in Queensland. Some 10 weeks ago I first raised the issue of the First Home Owners Grant Scheme in this House. Although I acknowledge that the legislation was introduced into and passed through the House, I have been persistently disappointed with the lack of promotion of the scheme by this Government. This is not good for potential first home buyers or builders. Nor is it helpful to the building industry in general, especially when one considers that this Government was able to find nearly half a million dollars to squander on advertising its now aborted fuel tax. One can imagine my surprise when, leafing through the *Townsville Bulletin*, I came across an advertisement, emblazoned with the "Beattie Burger" logo, claiming—

"To help offset the effects of the GST, first home owners buying or commencing to build their home on or after 1st July will be eligible for a \$7000 grant through the Queensland Government."

The deceit perpetrated on the taxpayers of Queensland is revealed by the fact that the Queensland Government is only the conduit for the delivery of the grant. The scheme was in fact initiated and developed by the Federal Government and the payments to the State following the introduction of the new tax system have had the cost of the First Home Owners Grant Scheme factored into them. Other States have clearly identified the scheme's Federal Government involvement.

Mr Borbidge: And funding.

Mr LAMING: And funding. While I am relieved finally to see at least some of the public of Queensland being advised of this great scheme, it is the cheap and deceptive conduct of the Beattie Government in claiming the scheme as a State Government initiative that galls me. But we should not be surprised by deceptive and misleading advertising from this Government in light of its recently failed fuel tax rip-off advertising campaign. To quote the Federal Treasurer—

"Hypocrisy, thy name really is Labor, particularly Beattie Labor."
