



Speech by

Dr DAVID WATSON

MEMBER FOR MOGGILL

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LANG PARK

Dr WATSON (Moggill—LP) (Leader of the Liberal Party) (10.20 a.m.): It is time for the Premier to admit that the Government's plan for a second-rate super stadium at Lang Park would be an unmitigated waste of public money. Barely a week goes by without some further revelation highlighting the folly of this \$280m monument to the political shenanigans of "Bollinger Bob" Gibbs.

As a committed Rugby supporter, I have always had my doubts about the Premier's plan to prop up Lang Park by sidelining Ballymore. Now we find that the Government has added insult to injury with its half-baked offer of alleged incentives to the Queensland Rugby Union. The Premier is planning to spend \$280m on Rugby League but he expects the QRU to sell out for next to nothing. It has already been promised \$4.5m to upgrade Ballymore, so the Government's offer amounts to compensation for one year's catering and the right to clean toilets at Lang Park. We all know that the Premier is an expert on ministerial toilet brushes, but I doubt the QRU shares his enthusiasm. Today's news is just the latest reason in a long list of reasons why the Government should abandon its plans for a second-rate super stadium at a third-rate site. It is yet another nail in Bob Gibbs' political coffin. The Premier is still committed to filling the casket with taxpayers' money.

The Government's figures do not add up, even with Rugby. Without it, they collapse in a heap. The Premier cannot, in all conscience, commit a future Queensland Government to perpetuating this extravagant folly. This is a 50 year venture and there is no compelling reason to formalise binding contractual arrangements before the next election. Brisbane does not need another monument to Government stupidity.
