



Speech by

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Hansard 2 March 2000

BUNDAMBA AND WOODRIDGE BY-ELECTION RESULTS

Mr LUCAS (Lytton—ALP) (10.05 a.m.): Saturday, 5 February this year, marked an important watershed for a number of participants in the Queensland political process. The day marked a victory by brilliant local candidates in the Bundamba and Woodridge by-elections. Bringing home results universally recognised by all political commentators as resounding votes of confidence in the Beattie Labor Government, Jo-Ann Miller and Mike Kaiser showed that traditional Labor policies, sheer hard work and getting out there and talking to locals is what really counts.

But what about the results for our political opponents? In Bundamba, the Liberal candidate, Michele Cole, scored 14.85% of the primary vote. What a disgrace! But, as they say, it gets worse. In Woodridge, a decent local candidate Irene Allan was left floundering by a pathetically planned and executed Liberal Party campaign, seeing the Liberal's vote plummet to the astonishingly low figure of 8.91%. The Liberals first contested parliamentary elections in Queensland in 1949. The average coalition vote in by-elections since that time has been 44.93%. Both the Bundamba and the Woodridge results are the worst results achieved by a coalition in a Queensland by-election in the last 50 years, and I table those results.

The best that "temporary" Liberal Leader, David Watson, and "Mr Nasty", Rob Borbidge, could do in an outer metropolitan seat in a by-election against a sitting Government was to have one in 11 voters vote for them. Keep up the good work, Rob and David; Santo and Mike are just around the corner. But if we need to have a final word on an analysis of the by-election, then who better to go to than Liberal Party President, Con Galtos. His analysis of the reason for the crashing coalition defeats was, according to the Courier-Mail—

"In both areas people were told that if they didn't vote for Labor, then they would be facing government under Rob Borbidge. "

No wonder Labor got such a strong result! In 1998 the people threw the coalition Government out after only 18 months—the shortest Government in modern political history. The results of 5 February show that it will not be coming back to Government for a long time.
