



Speech by

Hon. R. E. BORBRIDGE

MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE

Hansard 20 June 2000

FUEL SUBSIDY SCHEME

Hon. R. E. BORBRIDGE (Surfers Paradise—NPA) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.24 a.m.): The ongoing efforts of the Premier and his discredited Treasurer to tamper with the fuel subsidy scheme are somewhat reminiscent of two little boys playing with matches. The fact is that there are no facts to back up what the Government is saying. In fact, if we accept the figures of the alleged extent of rorting that the Premier and his Treasurer have been talking about over the past couple of weeks—and have been talking about this morning—there must be 60 fuel tankers per day heading over the New South Wales border with 55,000 litres in each tanker. The Government plucked a figure out of the air and expected people to believe it. It is a sort of political pluck-a-duck being presided over by the same genius who gave us net bet, the same genius who tried to close down one third of Queensland Rail, and the same genius who was one of the primary reasons for the defeat of the Goss Labor Government in 1995.

On all the independent evidence, Queensland motorists are getting the benefits of the fuel subsidy scheme. The reality is that the higher in the distribution chain one goes, the better the chances of properly administering that scheme. That was acknowledged by the current Treasurer and the current Premier when they were in Opposition. In fact, they congratulated the then Borbidge/Sheldon Government for keeping the gun away from the heads of petrol retailers, because they also knew that half the benefits of the fuel subsidy would be lost in administration costs if retail outlets across Queensland were forced to administer the scheme. So instead of getting the benefits, we would have had only half the benefits, and they know it.

Time expired.
