



Speech by

**Hon. R. E. BORBIDGE**

**MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE**

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Hansard 21 June 2000

#### **FUEL SUBSIDY SCHEME**

**Hon. R. E. BORBIDGE** (Surfers Paradise—NPA) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.17 a.m.): If anyone needed any proof that the Premier and the Treasurer had their own agenda in respect of last week's fuel tax debacle, we have seen it overnight. In this place last evening, there were conflicting figures given by the Government in respect of the extent of cross-border trade. We were told that it might be \$200m; we were told that it could be \$100m; and the Premier said, "Well, it might only be \$60m to \$70m."

What happened yesterday that was very significant and which the Premier and his Treasurer should have welcomed was the public announcement by both Shell and BP that they would welcome making all their records available to an investigation by the Auditor-General. I would have thought that any Government that was fair dinkum about fixing this problem would have accepted the invitation when, under parliamentary privilege, they had been accusing players in the industry, including oil companies, of participating in major rorts.

So not only do we have a situation in which the Premier and the Treasurer refuse to send in the Commissioner for Stamp Duties when he has a statutory right to be investigating; we have a situation now in which the Auditor-General has been invited to check the books and the Premier and the Treasurer say no. Why? Is it because they might be scared of what the Auditor-General does not find? They might be worried about the advertising campaign that was funded to the extent of \$400,000 which may have contained libellous and defamatory statements.

Time expired.

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