



Speech by

**Hon. STEVE BREDHAUER**

**MEMBER FOR COOK**

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Hansard 20 July 2000

### UNEMPLOYMENT

**Hon. S. D. BREDHAUER** (Cook—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads) (6.50 p.m.): Fancy the member for Toowoomba South coming into this Chamber and using football analogies in an unemployment debate. Was this not the man who, when he mounted his last leadership challenge—the last but one, as we suspect—got the ball with the line wide open? But what did he do? He choked. When he had just one player to beat, what did he do? He did a heart muscle and got bundled into touch. He could not even make it anywhere near the line.

**Mr Braddy** interjected.

**Mr BREDHAUER:** The Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations is right. He did not get bundled into touch; he ran into touch. The member for Toowoomba South comes in here and criticises the Beattie Government, those of us on this side of the House, for trying to achieve an unemployment target of 5%. Let me tell the honourable member that I did a bit of football coaching in my day. I would much rather have a team of triers than a team of show ponies such as those on the other side of the House.

I would much rather have people who get out there day after day after day and do their best rather than have a mob which comes in here and whinges, whines, complains and knocks—a mob who cannot even get the basic facts right, as happened this morning with the member for Surfers Paradise. He came in here and suggested that a project for which we have already let a contract for \$20m, a project which will employ over 1,000 workers over the next 12 months, has not even started. Let me tell the honourable member: I would rather be on the Beattie team of triers than on the paradise team of posers. At least those of us on this side are out there having a go.

The member for Caloundra talked about the airport rail link project—how it was her own baby and that she was the one who got it started. Let me tell the member for Caloundra: this project started under the Goss Government. When I became the Minister when Labor got back into office, the project had progressed but it was languishing, so we kicked it over the line. Every time a person drives out to the airport they can see hard evidence of the fact that our partnerships with the private sector are actually delivering infrastructure to the people of Queensland and jobs to the people of Queensland.

The member for Toowoomba South also said how our record on employment had let down young people. Youth unemployment in this State is well below the national average and has improved dramatically over the past two years since we have been in Government. When those opposite were in Government, youth unemployment was higher than the national average. Through our Breaking the Unemployment Cycle program we have given young people the length and breadth of this State, including west of the Great Dividing Range, the opportunity to get jobs. Councils in that area are putting on apprentices and trainees in towns where the kids never had a chance before. All of the councils in every single electorate of members opposite are lining up for those apprenticeships and traineeships, and therefore those kids are getting jobs in their home towns.

I now turn to the railway workers. When the member for Gregory was the Minister for Transport, the statement of corporate intent that came down in 1997 said that his Government was going to slash employment in Queensland Rail to 12,000.

**Mr JOHNSON:** I rise to a point of order. That is a fabricated lie of the highest order and I ask the Minister to withdraw it. I find it offensive and I ask it to be withdrawn. He knows the facts. He knows the figures. There are two sets of rules here, Mr Speaker, and I am sick of it when it comes to him.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Gregory has made his point. He will resume his seat.

**Mr BREDHAUER:** I find the suggestion that I have lied to the Parliament offensive and I ask for it to be withdrawn.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr BREDHAUER:** I withdraw. He accused me of lying, and I ask him to withdraw.

**Mr Johnson** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! One of the things—

**Mr BREDHAUER:** Forget it, Mr Speaker. He is not worth it.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! This morning a ruling was made, member for Gregory, that the word "lied" is not parliamentary language, and it is not. When members call each other "liars", that is not parliamentary language either. Members should withdraw when they call a member of this House a "liar". I ask the member for Gregory to withdraw that term.

**Mr Johnson:** I didn't call him a liar. I said that what he said was a lie.

**Mr SPEAKER:** That is actually calling the member a "liar".

**Mr JOHNSON:** Mr Speaker, if it makes any difference, I will withdraw whatever offended him. He is pretty easy to offend, and I have not finished with him either.

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