



Speech by

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LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Mr MICKEL (Logan—ALP) (10.25 a.m.): Last night on the news we saw a saddened Leader of the Opposition—saddened because there was a bit of levity in this House. I do not know what his problem is. It is a sad-hearted Leader of the Opposition who never rejoices. I cannot understand why he feels so poorly, because he has had a great week. He attended the National Party conference, and it is out to win the young vote. He has had a brand-new strategy with it. The National Party has shown youth. It is all for tree clearing and the salinity problems that go with it. It has shown it is willing to thumb its nose at the constitution and reject the new young Democrat senator, John Cherry. Last night the Leader of the Opposition showed he is really in the groove: he is opposed to the airing of Sara-Marie's bunny ears! As I said, it is a brand-new strategy.

But the one strategy that did not work was letting the TV cameras into the National Party state conference. People who spoke with me said it looked more like one of Everald Compton's National Seniors conferences than a modern political party conference. But we all know that the Leader of the Opposition would not be the star turn at one of Everald's conferences. What we have is a back to the future Nationals. One can see the Leader of the Opposition and the member for Gregory standing around some cobwebbed lounge room flicking on the switch waiting for the HMV wireless to warm up so they can tune into *Blue Hills*. There is a black and white TV in the corner and the Leader of the Opposition is nudging the member for Gregory and saying, 'Look, Vaughan, there's the future.' At this time of backward thinking, the Nationals need someone with real experience, and the honourable member for Keppel has the unique experience to walk backwards and look forwards. In time, he will be able to walk backwards and look backwards—the perfect National Party combination and a sure-fire winner for the youth vote.
