



Speech by

**Mr M. HORAN**

**MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA SOUTH**

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Hansard 30 October 2001

### **NUMBERPLATES**

**Mr HORAN** (Toowoomba South—NPA) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.23 a.m.): Today we saw a monumental backflip of Beazley-like proportions when the Premier came in here, obviously distressed about the numberplate issue. He said that now people can have a Smart State numberplate or a Sunshine State numberplate. It is a real flip-flop and a total backflip. As soon as he received the mixed reaction, he went to jelly. However, I have never seen a mixed reaction that was so one sided. Everybody in this state is proud to be a Queenslander and is proud to be a part of the Sunshine State. We are proud that our lifestyle and climate attract people to the state; we are proud that our lifestyle and climate attract tourism to the state and that they give jobs to people.

The big issue is that people are sick of the arrogance of this government and they are sick of a premier who wants to impose his Labor government's slogan on people's numberplates. That is what it is all about. It is the subtle use of taxpayers' money to put across the slogan that the government is running this year.

He should have put '5 per cent unemployment' on the numberplates. How would that be? That is another issue on which the government is only half smart. Now we will have a half smart numberplate system, where some people will have 'The Smart State' and some will have 'The Sunshine State' on their numberplates, because the Premier has gone to jelly after he received a mixed reaction on the issue.

We have the worst unemployment figures in Australia and it has been like that for 16 months. How smart is that? It costs us \$24 million to build a \$12 million bridge. How smart was that? The computers do not work properly in Parliament House. How smart is that? In the last financial year, we had an operating loss of \$820 million. How smart is that? Why would you turn your back on the greatest marketing slogan ever invented: the Sunshine State? That slogan has brought so much credit to Queensland and so much opportunity to our great tourism industry. To turn your back on the Sunshine State is not smart; it is stupid.

Time expired.

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