



Speech by

Mr M. HORAN

MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA SOUTH

Hansard 8 November 2001

PERFORMANCE OF PREMIER

Mr HORAN (Toowoomba South—NPA) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.23 a.m.): Yesterday we saw a pathetic performance in the parliament by the Premier who was smarting from his defeats of last week over the numberplate issue. He came into this House, traded insults and did everything possible to try to prevent the opposition from its legitimate role of providing checks and balances against the dangerous majority that exists within the government. This opposition will stand up for Queenslanders and we will fight to see that money is not wasted on projects like the footbridge. We will make sure that Queenslanders know that there was an \$820 million operating loss in the last budget. We will make sure that better systems are put in place in this state so that the waiting lists in Queensland hospitals which are growing at an ever-increasing rate are brought back to where they should be. We will make sure that this government is under pressure so that the ever-increasing crime rate in property crime is brought to a halt and we get decent policies and funding for the Queensland Police Service. That is the role of the opposition. We will not be trampled over by a Premier who likes to come into this parliament and do his level best, when he has copped a heavy defeat the week before, to trade insults and to try to hold down the opposition from its legitimate role of checks, balances, criticism and putting forward worthwhile and positive ideas.

The Premier does not like the fact that every time Queensland comes last in the unemployment stakes we put forward proposals as to how we can improve the unemployment figures in this state. The worst thing yesterday was his disgraceful reference to Heineken, which denigrated and showed disrespect to all those people who did not get justice when the Heiner documents were shredded.

Government members interjected.

Mr HORAN: Those opposite laugh, but they know that the Labor Party was covering up for its mates. There are now serious allegations that justice was hidden and justice was denied. There are allegations that there was a huge cover-up, but they continued to do it. Mr Numberplates might like to come in here and throw insults and try to prevent the opposition from doing its legitimate job, but we will stand up for Queenslanders.

Time expired.
