



Speech by

DESLEY BOYLE

MEMBER FOR CAIRNS

Hansard 17 April 2002

CORPORATE ASSISTANCE GRANTS

Ms BOYLE (Cairns—ALP) (6.49 p.m.): Tonight I rise to oppose the motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition and to strongly support that amended motion moved by Minister Barton. The original motion is indicative of a desperate opposition indeed. It is trying desperately to rain on our parade. The parade of the Beattie government, in terms of increasing business for Queensland, growing existing businesses and expanding new businesses into Queensland, is indeed a fine and growing parade—one of which we should be absolutely proud.

I must say that I am amazed by this motion moved by the National Party team. It is worthy of a scratch of the head. Who do they think of their constituency would support this motion? Not business—not small, not medium and not big business. Those businesses are doing business with this government and are happily doing so, because it is in their interests to not only expand their own businesses and to increase their profit line but also to provide jobs. Those jobs are welcome in the broader community. So are the people who are benefiting from this initiative by gaining jobs and by growing their businesses going to support the National Party? Not at all! They are supporting this government for the initiatives taken by the Premier and other ministers.

It is interesting to note that one of the three Liberal members of this parliament was listed to participate in the debate, but apparently he changed his mind. Instead, all of the contributions from the members opposite have come from five National Party members. It will surely be of some interest not only to those present but also those in the press gallery and in the constituencies to see just how the Liberal Party vote on this motion. They know and they cannot pretend to be naive that business will be happy if all of their commercial-in-confidence arrangements and all of their business competitive details are released to the public. How could Liberal Party members, who are supposed to be the supporters of business, vote for such a motion? If this motion was passed by this parliament and then all the details of all arrangements that any government—not just a Labor Party government—made with small business all the way through to big business were made public, what would happen? There would be no deals! There would be no business expansions! There would be absolutely no new companies moving to this state! Instead, they would choose to go to New South Wales and Victoria. If the commercial-in-confidence details were published, would Virgin be operating in Queensland? No, it would not! Would Qantas's new airlines subsidiary be coming to Cairns? No, it would not!

The National Party can be accused of naivety or idiocy, but the Liberal Party at least should know better. This arrangement not only has never been put in place by a National-Liberal Party coalition in this state but also, in reality, it never would be—not that we intend to give them the chance, because this government is parading very finely in terms of the excellent contributions that it is making to the taxpayers of this state.

I forget which of the members opposite it was who said, 'Well, it is all about performance and the people of Queensland are entitled to know the benefits,' but I can tell the member that the people know that the benefits are jobs. People who are unemployed in Cairns received hope through the various initiatives, but particularly through the Australian Airlines initiative. All of the businesses in Cairns are gearing up already to benefit from that initiative. Those people and those businesses know the benefits.

The member for Callide, in the middle of his contribution, actually said something sensible. It was that this is all about performance. That is the issue. I agree with the member absolutely. I say to

him to go to Cairns, if he dares, and admit what he said in his contribution and the questions that he asked. Businesses in Cairns will tell him, 'This is performance.' This is the kind of government performance that businesses want. Would they rather have Australian Airlines coming to Cairns with all of its benefits and not know the details of the training arrangements but know that there are training arrangements, to not know the details of the marketing arrangements and benefits that the government will provide with Australian Airlines, but still have them? I bet to a man and to a woman that they will say that, because the benefits flow on so dramatically throughout the community. There will be 350,000 extra tourists to Cairns and 350,000 extra jobs for Cairns. If commercial-in-confidence means that we do not know the absolute details of the training arrangements, or the marketing arrangements, we say 'Hooray, good deal, do some more, Minister Barton and Premier Beattie,' because this is the way in which businesses can expand. All of the small businesses that go through our Office of State Development say, 'Do some more.'

Time expired.