



Speech by

CHRIS CUMMINS

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

Hansard 20 August 2003

PRE-ELECTION BUDGET HONESTY BILL

Mr CUMMINS (Kawana—ALP) (9.07 p.m.): I rise tonight to speak against the bill before us introduced by the Leader of the Opposition. While we probably all agree that budget transparency must be a cornerstone of good government, I think earlier today we witnessed a very transparent process of budget scrutiny in its final stages—something that was introduced by a Labor state government and what we now refer to as budget estimates. After more than three decades of corruption and mismanagement under state conservative rule highlighted by favours reliant on brown paper bags, cronyism and police corruption, it was a Labor government that brought to Queensland accountability and transparency.

The Leader of the National Party opposition in his second reading speech said that this bill is part of his positive politics agenda. Sadly, in the few months under the leadership of the member for Southern Downs, Queensland has seen no positive politics come from his side but simplistic, old-style, conservative politics. Tonight I hope the present leader of the state opposition will clearly state if he agrees with the Beattie Labor government and his Liberal coalition partners in supporting a four-year term for this state—a four-year state term for the Queensland parliament. Does the state opposition support four-year terms to be put to Queenslanders by a state referendum? Tonight I trust the member for Southern Downs will set the record straight—

An opposition member interjected.

Mr CUMMINS: I am glad the member asks that, because twice in his second reading speech on this bill he referred to it.

Mr Quinn: Who did?

Mr CUMMINS: Your leader. Haven't you read his second reading speech? Does the state opposition support four-year terms for the Queensland parliament? Tonight it is up to the member for Southern Downs to set the record straight on his and his coalition's present position. Tonight we have heard what a marvellous state government the open and accountable Borbidge years provided. Well, Queenslanders en masse disagreed. Queenslanders expected better when the opposition coalition was re-formed. Tonight this bill deserves to be defeated.