



Speech by

CHRIS FOLEY

Member for MARYBOROUGH

Hansard 20 August 2003

PRE-ELECTION BUDGET HONESTY BILL

Mr CHRIS FOLEY (Maryborough—Ind) (9.06 p.m.): I rise to speak in support of the Pre-Election Budget Honesty Bill because I believe that fundamentally people have a right to expect honesty out of politicians. After my election I participated in an ABC debate with De-Anne Kelly and the mayor of Mackay on the notion that the public expected politicians to lie. My philosophy is that if you do not tell lies you do not need a good memory. If other states and the federal government are prepared to be transparent, why can't we as a government in Queensland do exactly the same? I contend that we need to get very serious about the public perception of politics and politicians. I note with some degree of pride in this parliament that the Premier of Queensland has issued a guideline in parliament this sitting requiring an openness and honesty which will give the general public some degree of confidence that aspiring parliamentarians will be in a position to deliver what they have promised.

It is always better to underpromise and overdeliver and not the other way around. I find this bill to be entirely in keeping with the philosophy of the guideline issued by the Premier this week, so I ask the government to support this bill. For the government not to support the bill is bordering on political schizophrenia. Let us pick up our game as a parliament and support this bill, which I commend to the House.