



Speech by

JEFF SEENEY

MEMBER FOR CALLIDE

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STATE BUDGET

Mr SEENEY (Callide—NPA) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (10.24 a.m.): For the last couple of weeks the government's infamous battalions of spin doctors have been working hard to put a spin on what will be a disappointing budget for Queensland. The budget that will be brought down today will have only one purpose—and that will be to hide from the people of Queensland the obvious truth that the Beattie government is going broke. It is a government that is undeniably going broke, and we have seen the evidence of that in the last six weeks.

We have seen the Treasurer mortgage the power poles, we have seen the Treasurer squeeze every dollar that he can out of government owned corporations using financial management techniques that would put Alan Bond and Christopher Skase to shame. We saw the Premier come into this House this morning and table the media clips from the weekend that were favourable to him and his government, but he did not bother to table the media clips from last week where the Treasurer and the government were roundly condemned for the financial management techniques used to squeeze money out of government owned corporations to prop up the budget that we will see today.

The Premier did not bother to table the media clips that point out the obvious fact: this type of financial management cannot continue in the long term. The financial state that the Beattie government has run the Queensland government into can be hidden today within the glossy budgets and can be disguised by the spin that the spin doctors will inevitably put on it, but the truth cannot be hidden for much longer. The Beattie government is leading Queensland into a financial black hole for which Queenslanders will pay for generations to come.

It is undeniable that the state government is going broke. That can be seen to the people of Queensland in every measure that matters. It can be seen in the length of hospital waiting lists, it can be seen in the resources that are available to our kids and our schools, it can be seen in the cutbacks in so many government departments—

Time expired.