



Speech by

**Hon. PETER BEATTIE**

**MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL**

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Hansard 27 April 2004

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Greenhouse Gases**

**Hon. P. D. BEATTIE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.43 a.m.): Finally today I want to make some reference to greenhouse gases. Now that the House has passed our new tree clearing laws, Queenslanders can look forward to being world leaders in the battle against global warming.

As the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics has previously estimated, our tree clearing package may reduce greenhouse gases by 25 million tonnes, that is, 25 megatons per year.

ABARE and another federal government body, the Bureau of Rural Sciences, have also estimated that the laws will save Australians \$600 million per year. Queenslanders will be making Australia's single biggest contribution to greenhouse gas reduction and enabling Mr Howard to reach his international obligations.

Our contribution is not just phenomenal on a national scale; it is also extraordinary from an international perspective. An analysis by the government, using figures from Europe—Environmental Issue Report No. 36 Greenhouse Gas Emission Trends and Projections in Europe 2003 (Dec 2003)—and Canada—Climate Change Plan for Canada, Government of Canada—shows we are punching well above our weight. Each and every Queenslander will take 6.84 tonnes of damaging greenhouse gases out of the atmosphere, based on 2001 census data. That is like every man, woman and child taking two cars off the road, mothballing more than seven million exhaust pipes. By contrast, under European Union plans, citizens of the EU will each reduce greenhouse gases by approximately 1.23 tonnes per year. Canadians will each reduce emissions by about 1.62 tonnes per year. We are leaving these leading developed nations in the shade.

So I congratulate the minister and all those who have been supportive of the legislation. For time reasons, I seek leave to incorporate the rest of my ministerial statement in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

So I congratulate the Leader of the Liberals for having the sense to support our laws.

But I ask where was he during the election campaign, and in the lead-up to the campaign when his friends in Canberra welshed on a deal to share in the \$150 million package for farmers?

I note his comments to Steve Austin on radio 612 last week, where he said "we haven't changed our position".

So, why wasn't he forthcoming during the campaign?

Why not share his position with the voters?

Why not join us in going in to bat for Queensland farmers and telling Canberra these farmers deserve Federal assistance?

The Member for Robina had the perfect opportunity during the election campaign to extract this from the Federal Liberals—and he did not.

He got bulldozed by the National Party and Queensland Country Life.

He let them muzzle him, gag him, silence him.

He can say all he likes now about the adequacy of \$150 million—but he had his chance and he chose not to take it.

At the very least, there is something he should do if he genuinely wants extra money from the Federal Government.

He should call on the Prime Minister to buy properties of high conservation value that the Member for Robina believes are significantly affected by the new laws, so they can be managed as conservation land in the long-term.