



Speech by

# John-Paul Langbroek

**MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE**

Hansard Thursday, 21 April 2005

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## LAND TAX

**Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—Lib) (10.27 am): I rise in the House this morning to highlight the utter mess that is the Queensland government's stance on taxation. On the morning of 22 March, the Queensland Treasurer said that he felt no pressure to reduce taxes in Queensland. When it was put to him that reducing taxes would be required in order to receive GST money, he suddenly recalled that he was planning to reduce land tax but that reducing other taxes would slash this plan. I put two propositions forward. The first is that the Treasurer is using the Queensland government's obligations under the 1999 agreement and announced yesterday to make preliminary excuses for the meagre land tax relief that he is going to provide in the upcoming budget. However, if that is not the case, there is still no excuse for the Treasurer short-changing Queenslanders who are paying exorbitant levels of land taxes.

I find it baffling that on 23 March, just one day after the policy hopscotch I just reported, Mr Mackenroth, the Honourable the Treasurer, was interviewed on ABC Radio saying that the big winner in taxation in the last five years has been the Commonwealth government. I beg your pardon, Treasurer. The Queensland government has received \$1.3 billion more than expected from GST receipts over the last five years, will receive \$3.3 billion extra over the next four years and Queensland's GST portion is growing by 11 per cent per year. Correct me if I am wrong, but the real winner from the GST has been Queensland. It would seem that the ability to reform tax is not only frowned upon in the Labor Party but also exorcised when signing the membership form. It is about time the Labor Party stopped riding the back of rising house prices and delivered a substantial and complete land tax reform package to the thousands of Queenslanders burdened by this outrageous tax.