



Speech by

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MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE

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FEDERAL BUDGET

Mr LANGBROEK (Surfers Paradise—Lib) (10.14 pm): I rise in this place this evening to congratulate the federal Treasurer on a wonderful budget delivered last night. While there are some fantastic initiatives that will help galvanise Australian society and move our nation forward into the future, the most significant element of the budget was tax cuts. It is a fundamental ideological difference between the Liberal Party and the Labor Party that we see tax cuts as one of the first things that should be looked for by any government. At every opportunity a Liberal government will look for ways that it can deliver money back into the pockets of the citizens so that they can do with it as they wish.

Importantly, to serve up those tax cuts on the budget plate with a distinct family flavour is worthy of particular applause. Again, the coalition federal government is bringing Australia together and moving the nation forward by strengthening the basic unit of society, the family. On the other hand, to quote the Premier, he says that he 'feels no pressure to lower taxes'. This is disgraceful. Even though the coalition federal government has lowered taxes in this budget, we always feel pressure to do more and give as much back to the taxpayer as possible. I guess that is just the difference in philosophies.

This morning we had the Labor Party standing up here whingeing about the budget and what was not provided. Let us put all of this into perspective. Families on middle incomes will receive an extra \$20 to \$30 per week in tax cuts. The regular family could find many uses for this. Perhaps they will use it to start a child on an extracurricular activity, perhaps there will be a family outing every fortnight or perhaps the family will use the extra \$1,500 per year on a family holiday or on a computer for the children or, more importantly, save it for their future. What tax cuts do is raise the quality of life of everyday Australians.

Now I do not see why government members should be standing up here and whingeing. A large number of government backbenchers will receive an extra \$62.53 per week out of this budget. What will that buy? The tax cut equates to seven meals at the parliamentary cafe each week, a Sunday breakfast for them and two mates every week at their local cafe to read the Sunday paper and discuss what soapbox they will jump on for the week. It equates to 125 letters to people about the latest excuse as to why the Queensland government is wasting its GST windfall or, if members are feeling really generous, it is 625 stickers for yet another VSU campaign to protect student unions' rights to sting students for money to fund politically driven propaganda, or the tax cut will fund the distribution of 1,562 leaflets into a member's electorate outlining some sideline program designed to divert attention away from the failing health system.

If members save up for the whole year and keep every penny of the \$3,250 they will receive, on the first Monday in May at the Labour Day march they will be able to buy 110 union T-shirts, 325 BLF caps, or 1,000 beers for thirsty marchers. See, the budget was not so bad after all!

Time expired.