



Speech by

John-Paul Langbroek

MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE

Hansard Thursday, 9 June 2005

PETER BEATTIE ARTWORK

Mr LANGBROEK (Surfers Paradise—Lib) (1.13 am): When the member for Gympie arrived a couple of weeks ago on floor 9 of the Annexe and exclaimed in sheer horror that a signal box in downtown Brisbane had the Premier's face emblazoned on it, curiosity got the better of me and I had to have a look. As a credit to the artist, I must say that the painting is probably worthy of authorisation as a corflute, as the painting of the Premier, in my humble artistic opinion, is better than the portrait of the Premier behind this chamber, which I and others feel looks like a mix between the Attorney-General and the Premier. I am sure the Attorney-General is very happy about that, but the teeth are all wrong.

I was interested to read today—and I table a copy of the article from today's *Courier-Mail*—that the artist, Aileen Timbrell, was tossing up whether to put Peter Beattie on the box or Powderfinger frontman Bernard Fanning. The reason Ms Timbrell gave for her eventual choice was that the Premier has done a great deal for Brisbane and his contribution deserved to be recognised. I personally feel as though Bernard Fanning may have done more for the state of Queensland than the Premier. While this might seem outlandish, let us do some comparisons between Fanning and the band he leads and Beattie and the government he leads.

In an interview with *Australian Musician* magazine a member of Powderfinger Jon Coghill, drummer for the band, was asked this question: 'How do you see your role in Powderfinger?' He answered, 'Just 20 per cent of the band. I don't see my role as just the drummer. We're a democracy. We write together, discuss everything and help each other out.' This is in stark contrast to the Premier, who, after all, should know what democracy is yet seems keen to attack and destroy its pillars. We have legislation coming into this House to make the state a secret state and put even more documents through cabinet. The Premier makes decisions like the ones regarding the retrospective analysis of the Speaker's trips that see him overtaking his role as the leader of executive government and becoming the be-all and end-all of parliament. In the sense of the workings of the government it would seem that the Fanning-led Powderfinger knows more about democracy than the Beattie-led Labor government.

Powderfinger has put Queensland roads on the map—pardon the pun. Their very successful recent release was called *Vulture Street*. The Beattie government does not like roads. Just look at the Tugun bypass. It has been a proposed route in the UBD road directory since time immemorial. Powderfinger is the voice of a generation—modern-day philosophers in their own right expressing the views of thousands of young people everywhere. This government is only a voice for itself. It lacks insight and expresses whatever view suits it on any given day, only to change the next. When all is said and done, Fanning would have been a more appropriate choice for the box, even though the painting is uncanny in its similarity to its subject.