



Speech by

John-Paul Langbroek

MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE

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HORNIBROOK HIGHWAY

Mr LANGBROEK (Surfers Paradise—Lib) (6.04 pm): Many members tonight have told us about the iconic nature of the Hornibrook Highway bridge, about how many people of the peninsula have played, walked, worked, fished, ambled, proposed, watched many a sunrise and sunset and adopted this piece of history into their hearts. This bridge is heritage listed and rightly so; it is a bridge of great value and great worth to the people of the Redcliffe peninsula. However, that is not exactly a major priority for those on the opposite side of the House. Here we have a government that is so concerned about its precious egos that it preselects someone completely unsuitable for the job of representing the people of Redcliffe.

It is not as if the Labor Party does not know this. Listen to the ads on the radio telling everyone how good the Labor candidates are. These ads are 30 seconds long and the Labor Party's faith in the candidates amounts to seven seconds because that is how long the candidates actually talk. The rest of the time we hear the drab voice of the Premier going on about how the by-elections in Redcliffe and Chatsworth are a referendum on the federal government's IR reforms. Shane Warne would not be able to turn a ball that much on a spinning Mumbai wicket. If this is a referendum, this is a referendum on the failing state of our health system, on the 'Dr Death' scandal, on the over 80 dead patients, on the culture of bullying and cover-up in the Department of Health. If this is a referendum, it is a referendum on our schools, on asbestos in the roofs and dust on school desks and work benches.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I suggest that the member for Surfers Paradise come back to the motion.

Mr LANGBROEK: Thank you, Mr Speaker. That is why the Labor Party does not know the importance of this bridge. We all know that the information that the bridge was important to the peninsula would not have been passed on by the former member, as it would have been difficult to hear residents when in South-East Asia or other parts of the globe.

Besides that, I think we should see exactly how important this bridge is. The bridge is so important that a local artist has written a song about the beauty of the bridge.

Mr Shine: Sing it!

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I warn the member for Toowoomba North.

Mr LANGBROEK: Peter Marcon, a local singer-songwriter, has released a single on his debut album entitled *The Bridge*. If people go to his web site, they will see that the song was inspired by the magic of Bramble Bay, especially the old Hornibrook bridge. Perhaps members opposite should support local artists, which they say they like to do, and buy the debut album from this talented local singer-songwriter and listen to the song that was inspired by the bridge that members opposite want to pull down.

While I like the Goodwill Bridge and welcome other footbridges for people in the city, the same level of nostalgia and history—a level that warrants a local to write a song on his debut album—is not there about those bridges. I certainly have not heard any songs to that effect. In fact, I encourage members opposite to buy Mr Marcon's album. It has some fantastic songs on it with some very relevant titles—titles such as *When I leave You*, which could be about the former member for Redcliffe or indeed the Labor Party's feelings towards the people for Redcliffe. There is another song, *I Wonder*, which could sum up the

thoughts of locals as to whether the government has decided not to build a rail line to the Redcliffe peninsula despite Labor councillors supporting the idea.

I think it is wonderful that the member for Robina made comments in favour of retaining the bridge, and I wholeheartedly endorse those comments. If the Premier commits \$30 million for pedestrian bridges in the city, why will he not pay for the upkeep of one of Queensland's most historic bridges? When residents of south-east Queensland think of Redcliffe, they think of the Hornibrook bridge, with its odd-looking bump in the middle, teeming on a weekend with walkers, runners, cyclists and more fishermen than you can imagine. Award-winning paintings, plenty of stories and even a song have been inspired by this bridge. I encourage members to support the motion.