



Speech by

Dr Bruce Flegg

MEMBER FOR MOGGILL

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CLIMATE ACTION CAMPAIGN

Dr FLEGG (Moggill—Lib) (11.48 am): I rise to speak in support of Brisbane City Council's, especially Lord Mayor Campbell Newman's, house by house, street by street and suburb by suburb climate action campaign. Last Sunday I took the opportunity to go out and visit Brisbane's second CitySmart neighbourhood fair at Real Park in East Brisbane. These CitySmart community events are all about water conservation, energy efficiency, responsible and efficient use of natural resources, and repairing and restoring our natural environment to ensure that the legacy we leave for future Queenslanders is the prized quality of life that we enjoy today.

Our cities must adapt to more extreme climatic events, both drought type events and inundation type events. Campbell Newman's CitySmart climate action campaign is about a real house-by-house cultural shift in the way we use and value our natural resources here in Brisbane. It is about south-east Queensland, it is about Queensland and it is about Australia. Most importantly, it is about us taking responsibility for what we do and how that impacts on the environment. Councils are already doing things to increase resource efficiency and reduce waste. This stands in stark contrast to state Labor's long-established water policy of pray for rain.

The state government amended the Water Act in 2000 to reinvest itself with powers relating to planning for bulk water supply. Then it forgot that it had this responsibility for planning and delivering bulk water. It defies belief that this government should still be trying to shift the blame onto local councils.

If anyone does a historical search of when water conservation first became an issue in south-east Queensland, they would find that it was August 2004 when a young and active lord mayor start talking about a serious water sustainability issue. More importantly for a political leader, he started doing what he was talking about. The irony of it all is that this man inherited a very serious water supply problem.

Back then does anyone remember what we thought about water or what a few people in this House whispered in the corridors about this fellow from City Hall who was being melodramatic about a potential water supply crisis? Back then Campbell Newman was saying something about needing to create a cultural shift in the way we all thought about water. He said something really interesting at that time. He said—

Water is more than something that comes out of a tap and goes down a drain.

Back then this was a revolutionary concept. What the council of mayors has done, including all mayors in south-east Queensland from all political persuasions, is create a cultural shift in the way we think about and use water.

That is probably the best point at which to return to Campbell Newman's house by house, street by street and suburb by suburb CitySmart climate action campaign. Do members remember four years ago when Campbell Newman breathed a breath of fresh air into Queensland politics and blew into City Hall? Does anyone remember whether they actually cared let alone knew about their own water consumption? That is a change that was initiated by Campbell Newman. We walk around now aware of the water that we use. Four years ago even members of this House would not have been able to describe their own water use.

Through Brisbane City Council's water smart campaign our cultural change towards water sustainability will be applied to energy consumption, greenhouse gas emissions and the environment. Again, this is a Campbell Newman initiative on a house-by-house basis. It will change the way people think. At the end of the day, the only way we are going to make a serious impact on climate change and emissions is by a house-by-house awareness not just of our water consumption but of our carbon footprint due to our energy consumption. For those not aware of the CitySmart program, it is a one-stop shop for everyone to go and learn about what they can do to reduce their own environmental footprint.

Time expired.