



Speech by

Evan Moorhead

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

Hansard Wednesday, 17 October 2007

FEDERAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN

Mr MOORHEAD (Waterford—ALP) (11.39 am): I always encourage our nation's political leaders to come to Beenleigh and meet the people of my electorate. It is important that the people who want to run the country know what is important in our community. But the people of Beenleigh are rightly cynical at this last-minute, last-ditch attempt to get votes by the Prime Minister in the face of an election. Mr Howard has not been to Beenleigh in some years. The last time he came to Beenleigh was in 2001. And guess what? That, too, was just before a federal election where the federal seat of Forde was on the line with just a five per cent margin. John Howard must be worried about losing Forde, not generally considered a marginal seat, if he has once again come to town. His job has been made even harder as the Nationals and the Liberals slug it out for the conservative vote in the seat, although I am yet to see either the National or the Liberal candidate come north of the Logan River.

Mr Lawlor: You're lucky.

Mr MOORHEAD: I am lucky. I take that interjection from the member for Southport. If Mr Howard was expecting adulation or a warm welcome, he might have been surprised. The front page of our local paper, the *Albert and Logan News*, not only suggested that Mr Howard is obviously worried about the federal seat of Forde but had photos of local residents showing their concern about dental services in our area and showing them directly to him. They should be concerned. As a community that is home to many pension recipients, Beenleigh has suffered by the decision of the federal government to axe the Commonwealth dental program in 1996. While Queensland has moved to fill the gap, dental waiting lists continue to grow due to the neglect of the federal government.