



Speech by

Fiona Simpson

MEMBER FOR MAROOCHYDORE

Hansard Wednesday, 31 October 2007

WATER ASSETS

Miss SIMPSON (Maroochydore—NPA) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11.38 am): One thing we can be guaranteed of is that the louder the abuse from Deputy Premier Paul Lucas the lighter he is on facts. When he comes out and abuses our local governments and says that they do not know what they are talking about with regard to compensation, he cannot explain why his government is talking about a \$2 billion compensation claim and has provided no facts to the electorate.

I think it is rather interesting to note that, as part of the Deputy Premier's abuse this week, he accused councils of ripping people off because property prices had gone up. That was a bit of an insight into how well the Deputy Premier understands the valuation system in Queensland. I refer to the *Hansard* yesterday and similar comments that he also made on the ABC this week. He stated—

... property prices are going through the roof. Members only have to look at their quarterly rates to see what is happening. Those councils do not have to do any extra work to benefit from skyrocketing land values which is increasing their rates base.

Perhaps the Deputy Premier should read his own government's web site. The web site of the department of natural resources states—

It is not the valuation which determines the amount of the rates you pay. Rather, it is the 'rate' which Council applies to the valuation which determines the amount of the rates you pay.

The department of natural resources web site also states that it is not unusual for rates to rise or fall even though there has been no change to unimproved land values. However, the same site talks about land tax and state land rental, transport duties and other parts of government web sites. It shows that it is the state that significantly benefits from the increase in valuations of property. Perhaps as a senior minister of the Crown he should do his research about the impacts of valuations. The greatest impacts of valuations are, in fact, upon the state's bottom line and not that of local government. Let us look at local government revenue.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The member's time has expired.

Miss SIMPSON: It has increased by 39 per cent over a similar period—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The member for Maroochydore will resume her seat. Time is at a premium in this debate.

Time expired.