



Speech by
Jeff Seene

MEMBER FOR CALLIDE

Hansard Thursday, 22 February 2007

BEATTIE GOVERNMENT

Mr SEENEY (Callide—NPA) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.27 am): Again this morning we have seen the Beattie government's policy of divert and distract continue unabated. Is it any wonder that the Premier has something to be ashamed and embarrassed about? He has brought everything in the arsenal to try to distract attention. This morning, the moving of a motion to debate recycled water was simply a distraction. We will get to that later.

But the doozey of them all is the full-page advertisement in the *Australian* this morning. This is all that the Beattie government can do about building infrastructure: draw lines on maps. The government gets out a red felt pen and draws a line. How much did this ad cost? The government is trying to divert attention away from the dams that have not been built in south-east Queensland; it is trying to divert attention away from the pipelines that are behind schedule. This red line on a map, which depicts a line running 1,000 kilometres through semidesert, is complete nonsense and the government knows that it is nonsense. This is all about diverting attention.

The real question is: what is the Premier trying to hide? The real question is: what is the government frightened of? What is the Premier so frightened of? What are the revelations that we know are coming and from which the Premier is so desperate to divert attention?

This week the Premier has done pretty well in redefining the definition of 'loan'. The Beattie government has a whole new definition of 'loan' in a whole range of circumstances. A loan is not a loan is not a loan when Peter Beattie makes the loan. The government has loans in all sorts of circumstances. There are many more revelations to come from that issue and from the string of court cases that we are not allowed to talk about.

They are the issues that the Premier is desperately to divert attention from, but eventually they will be exposed. The Premier's embarrassment and shame will be seen by all of Queensland.