



Speech by
Jeff Seeney

MEMBER FOR CALLIDE

Hansard Tuesday, 5 June 2007

STATE BUDGET

Mr SEENEY (Callide—NPA) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.26 am): When the Beattie government came to power nine years ago, Queensland had a zero net debt. Today we will see Queensland's debt reach frightening levels.

This chart shows the growth in Queensland's debt since Peter Beattie has been Premier. That is the Beattie government record and Queensland's debt will reach frightening proportions today. It will be a burden on generations of Queenslanders to come. It will be many years before Queensland once again reaches a point of zero net debt. That is the legacy that the government has squandered.

The other element of Socialist Left economics that we will see today is an increase in taxes. The Socialist Left Treasurer will continue the tax grab which has been a feature of the Beattie Labor government.

Do honourable members remember the objections those opposite had to the GST, which has proven to be a river of gold for the Socialist Left government that sits on that side of the House? As well as the GST, today we will see an increase in state based taxes to record levels. Not only are the members of this Labor government not satisfied with the river of gold that they fought not to have; they also have to increase their own taxes to a record level.

The final element of Socialist Left economics that we will see today is the cost of government. Under the Beattie Labor government, the cost of government has grown from some \$4,000 for every Queenslanders to over \$7,000 for every Queenslanders. At a time when every one of the essential services that government operates has eroded away and is undoubtedly less than it was, at a time when we have had the health crisis, the water crisis, the power crisis and the child-care crises, we have seen the cost of government rise from \$4,000 to \$7,000.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I call the member for Keppel.

Mr SEENEY: That is Socialist Left economics.