



Speech by
Jeff Seeney

MEMBER FOR CALLIDE

Hansard Thursday, 7 June 2007

**CLEAN COAL TECHNOLOGY SPECIAL AGREEMENT BILL;
APPROPRIATION BILLS**

Mr SEENEY (Callide—NPA) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.23 am): The motion that the Leader of the House has just moved is clearly ridiculous—clearly ridiculous—and it will not be supported by this side of the House. The motion that the Leader of the House has just moved stems from his mismanagement of this place. It stems from his own incompetence. He seeks to make a mockery of the traditional debates in this House because he is so incompetent that he cannot run the parliament properly. The member for Rockhampton has a great record in this place of cute one-liners. There is one that I remember that he should apply to himself now. As Leader of the House he could not lead a choko vine over an outhouse.

The other piece of advice that I would give to the member for Rockhampton—and it pertains to the entire government—is that if you cannot run this parliament then you cannot run the state. If you cannot run this parliament, then you cannot run this state. It is quite clear from the motion that has been moved today that the government cannot run this parliament. It cannot respect the parliament. It cannot have enough respect for probably the primary debate of the year—the budget debate—to properly schedule the budget debate so every member of this House can have their due. It is an indication of the extent to which this government has failed in everything that it has done.

It raises a whole series of questions about the practicalities of the debate that the Leader of the House is proposing. He is suggesting that we are somehow going to combine a debate that has already started with a debate that we have not yet begun and that we are then going to conclude one debate and presumably decide the fate of one bill and send the other bills on for consideration in detail through the estimates committee process. It is a nonsense! It is an absolute nonsense and it makes a mockery of what this parliament is about. It is simply brought before the House today because the member for Rockhampton does not have the wit to organise the proceedings in this place to an extent that allows the proper consideration of the bills.

The procedures for budget week are clearly set out. They happen year after year. There is nothing new. It is not rocket science, old mate! All you have to do is follow what has happened in previous years. It is very easy to organise the business of this House so that we can debate the budget bill in its proper context and we can consider the other legislation in its proper context. I believe every member of the government should be embarrassed by the motion that has been moved by the member for Rockhampton here today. I have said before in this place that when I first came here the member for Rockhampton was considered to be something of a hard man in this place, something of a mover and a shaker. He has become a joke! He has become a joke, and the motion that he has moved today indicates the extent to which he has become a joke.

This parliament deserves better. This parliament deserves better, and the debates that we have in this place deserve greater respect than the suggestion that the member for Rockhampton has put before the House this morning. Every member of this parliament should insist that the traditions that surround the debating of the government's budget are maintained and that those traditions are maintained in this House not just this year but every year and they are not imperilled by the government's inability to organise the basic functions of this parliament. We will oppose this motion.