



Speech by

## Fiona Simpson

MEMBER FOR MAROOCHYDORE

Hansard Wednesday, 16 September 2009

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### MOTION: SALE OF PUBLIC ASSETS, ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN

**Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (5.55 pm): I rise to support the opposition's motion that this House oppose the use of taxpayers' funds for an advertising and marketing campaign to promote the Premier's policy of privatisation of public assets. Queensland has a new tourism slogan. Emblazoned across the cars of angry Queenslanders the slogan upon bumper stickers—which I table—proclaims 'See Queensland first before Bligh sells it'.

*Tabled paper:* Sticker bearing the words 'See Queensland First before Bligh sells it.' [919].

*Tabled paper:* Photograph of rear of truck showing sticker [920].

The people are speaking, whether it is through slogans on the backs of cars and utes, or through the polls which show their disapproval of this government's dodgy post election plan to flog off their assets with more than 80 per cent opposed. The people have a message which they are overwhelmingly yelling in frustration, and it is this: 'Not happy, Anna.' Queenslanders are not happy with this government's deliberate betrayal. It is a betrayal. They were lied to by this government and they are angry.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! That expression is unparliamentary. You will withdraw it.

**Ms SIMPSON:** I withdraw. People are not happy with this government's deliberate betrayal or broken promise with regard to selling off state assets such as Queensland Rail. They are certainly not happy to have this Labor government using their money to try and spin a web of fairy floss excuses through taxpayer funded advertising.

Already we have seen a million dollar-plus advertising campaign promoting the Capital Works Program. This advertising campaign is a blatant waste of money. It would fund desperately needed front-line services such as hospital beds. At a time of record debt, \$85 billion and no repayment plan, at a time when Queensland has disgracefully lost its AAA rating—the first state in Australia to do so—this government is still wasting people's money trying to protect its own hide rather than sincerely protect the current and future investments of Queenslanders.

If the Premier were the leader of principles that she claims to be, she would have clearly told Queenslanders before the election of her plans to sell off Queensland's assets such as Queensland Rail. The Premier did not. Where is the honesty in government? Where is the economic planning? They did not tell the truth to Queenslanders and that is why people are angry. There was no advertising campaign before the election, was there?

**Opposition members:** No.

**Ms SIMPSON:** It was a secret plan that was buried so deep in the bowels of this government that even the transport minister claims she did not know about it until about four days before it was announced. So no wonder Queenslanders are angry. They are even angrier when they see their hard fought for tax dollars being spent on advertising campaigns, which are simply about protecting this government.

Let us talk about the issue of the asset sales. We have seen already in Victoria and Tasmania great concern where rash and improperly planned sales have led not to a honey pot of returns for government but a liability that government is now having to pick up. There is a message here. There is no simple honey

pot in flogging off the assets that produce the income for Queenslanders. Queenslanders know that, if you flog off the house to pay the grocery bill, they will end up having to pay a lot more money in the future. That is what this government is doing with its asset plan. It is flogging off the house to pay the grocery bill, and people know they will be hit with higher taxes and higher fares, which they are already facing under this government.

This government has been deceitful in the way that it has served the people of Queensland. These asset sales are not a plan for an economic future. There is no plan to repay the \$85 billion debt. This government is still wasting the people's money, and every time that they see an advertisement on the television trying to justify this government's deliberate misleading of the public they know that you cannot buy credibility in an advertising campaign. You cannot tell the people that they do not know what they are talking about. They are fed up with being ripped off. They are fed up with being lied to. They want a government—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Maroochydore, that is your second warning on that expression. If you use it again and continue to defy the standing orders, I will deal with you. Withdraw the expression immediately.

**Ms SIMPSON:** I withdraw. This government deliberately misled the people of Queensland and now we see this slimy advertising program that has been going on since the election to try to crawl its way back because of the disaster in the polls. People simply will not be bought off!