



Speech by

John-Paul Langbroek

MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE

Hansard Wednesday, 17 June 2009

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL; INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT (ASSET RESTRUCTURING AND DISPOSAL) BILL; FUEL SUBSIDY REPEAL AND REVENUE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Declared Urgent; Cognate Debate

Mr LANGBROEK (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.46 am): We have heard lots of words in this debate already, but I rise to oppose the motion moved by the government and support the amendment moved by the Leader of Opposition Business. Clearly the Premier, who spoke about this legislation on 2 June but only brought in the last three aspects of it yesterday via the Treasurer, is saying that just talking about things in the lead-up to a budget implies that we all have to accept it the day after the bills are actually brought into the House. We all know when we come to the budget sitting that it is a four-day sitting and the 89 members of the House sit on Thursday and Friday so that they get to reply on behalf of their electorates on the Appropriation Bill and the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill—not some legislation that was brought in here in a secret whisper at the end of the budget yesterday with a tabled speech.

The most important aspect is that the asset restructuring bills are not even part of this budget. They are not even part of this budget. They are part of a plan for the future that was concocted in the lead-up to 2 June from a desperate government which does not know what it is doing and which has put this state into a debt that we will never recover from. Clearly, that is what this debate is all about.

I can tell the Treasurer that when we come into this House to vote on these, at whatever hour it is, we on this side will be united. We will look at the legislation. We are united. The reason we are opposing this is due to the lack of proof of urgency. It only came in yesterday! In terms of the appropriation bills, we will let you know when we come in to vote when the bells ring. We are opposing it because it is inappropriate that members—apart from me; I get an hour—get only 20 minutes to debate these four bills when normally in the budget week 89 members get a chance to speak up on behalf of the people of Queensland—not debate two bills rushed through and which do not even apply to this budget because the government is so embarrassed and ashamed and will not acknowledge its own failures in this regard. I support the amendment but condemn the motion.