



Speech by

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BLIGH LABOR GOVERNMENT

Mr LANGBROEK (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.31 am): This morning on four different occasions the Premier attempted to answer questions about these loan arrangements regarding the Australian Workers Heritage Centre. Then of course we had the 'Minister for Illegally Blonde' come out with her attempt, hand on hip, trying to give her defence about the—

Honourable members interjected.

Ms JONES: I rise to a point of order. I believe the Leader of the Opposition just said that I was 'illegally blonde'; is that right? If that is what you said, I find that offensive and I find it offensive for every woman who sits in this House.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Ms JONES: Furthermore, I ask you to withdraw that comment.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The House will come to order! The minister has asked for a withdrawal. I ask you to withdraw that under the standing orders.

Mr LANGBROEK: I withdraw, Mr Speaker. As I was saying, there have been a number of attempts at explaining this issue. Unfortunately, those attempts will not appease the taxpayers of Queensland as to whether this is an appropriate use of taxpayers' funds.

This morning the Premier spoke about a loan in 2002, so let us have a look at the details of donations by the Australian Workers Heritage Centre to Labor Holdings. The amount from July 2008 to December 2008 was \$17,500 and then from July 2007 to June 2008 the amount was \$52,000. For the same period it had received from the Department of Communities \$25,000 in 2007-08 and \$1.7 million from the department of arts heritage trails funding. It still does not answer the question as to whether there are other organisations that can receive this sort of money from government organisations to repay loans to Labor Holdings, and that is what this government needs to answer. Over the last week we have seen the Premier—

Ms Bligh interjected.

Mr LANGBROEK: If you want to go back to your own seat and interject, that is fine. Over the last week we saw the Premier and the Treasurer wandering off all over the place—and we all remember the tour of 30 electorates in three days before the last election—but last week of course it was the 'saving her job' tour. Down the entire length of the coast of Queensland we saw the Premier not getting the same reaction, because of course the people in those places had no idea about all of the things that were promised before the 21 March election and what has happened five months later—promises such as the fuel tax that we all know the people of North and Far North Queensland had no idea they were going to get and of course the promise of 100,000 jobs, yet now there are press releases that talk about supporting 127,000 jobs. They had no idea then that their car registration would go up between 17 per cent and

22 per cent or, as we all know, that electricity prices would rise 40 per cent over the last three years. And there are only promises of more to come when the Minister for Natural Resources says that people should just turn off their appliances.

I also have been travelling not just the length of the state but also the breadth of the state. In the last couple of weeks I have been in Redlands and Cleveland and regions such as Gympie, Kawana, Surfers Paradise, Mermaid Beach, Townsville, Cairns, Burdekin, Yarraman, Kilcoy, Blackbutt and Kingaroy in the electorate of Nanango, Glass House, Cloncurry and Mount Isa. Everywhere I go people are concerned about corruption and trust. That is what the people of Queensland are concerned about—not 30 electorates in three days for some media coverage but the issues of corruption and trust.

In the last week between parliamentary sittings the Premier talked about Gordon Nuttall being charged with another 10 counts of official corruption and perjury. The Premier said that this was a sign that the system was working well. Well, I do not remember that when Bill Gunn instigated the Fitzgerald inquiry and all of the things that came out of it there was any sense that people were able to say, 'This is a sign that the system is working well.' Only this Premier can say that, with one of her former ministers now languishing in jail charged with another 10 counts of corruption and perjury, this is a sign that the system is working well.

The people of Queensland have serious questions that still can only be answered by a royal commission. This morning there have also been revelations explored further about a phosphate mine being approved in Mount Isa following another donation to the Mount Isa campaign and therefore there are now suggestions that that phosphate mine does not have to pass the same environmental tests that other mines have to pass.

Of course there have been questions about lobbyists and success fees that still need to be answered, and today we have asked the government about members of the ministry and their staff members who have been paid success fees. There are also the issues that have been identified over the last couple of weeks, and we still have not had clear answers from the government as to whether it has taken more money from people charged with corruption as we had identified in the last parliamentary week with regard to Ken Talbot.

Mr Fraser: Have you? Who was at the dinner?

Mr LANGBROEK: We definitely know that there is no-one on our side. We have not taken money from anyone charged with corruption, and the ECQ will release those details.

Mr Fraser: Prove it! Prove it!

Mr LANGBROEK: It is great to hear the Treasurer—

Mr Fraser: Prove it! Do you know?

Mr LANGBROEK: When I was travelling around the state I found that the people in the north and far north are concerned about wild rivers legislation and vegetation management—the regrowth moratorium that is killing the sale of properties. These are the issues in the north and west of the state. They are the issues that are leading to lower stamp duty returns to this government. This Treasurer is the worst Treasurer in the history of this state—the man who can get 36 per cent of the vote in his own electorate and put us into \$85 billion of debt going forward and \$13 billion of deficit. And he sits over there smirking at people suffering from the vegetation management regrowth moratorium!

Indigenous people are frustrated and suspicious about wild rivers legislation, and I turn to something said by Alison Anderson, a member in the Northern Territory who recently left the Labor government. I believe it applies to this government as well. She said—

I believed the Labor Party cared about Aboriginal issues, that Labor was the party to the Aboriginal cause. After four years in the system, I know I was wrong. Labor lives on the Aboriginal vote. It talks constantly about Aboriginal people, but what it's really good at is spending Aboriginal money.

The frustration of people like Noel Pearson and people in the cape is that their future is being affected by paternalism with the wild rivers legislation in that the remote area planning boards are being overruled by the minister, who says that there is no power for those planning boards.

These Indigenous people in the wild rivers areas had their land included in land-clearing legislation when there was no clearing going on anyway. So now they cannot take part in the new carbon economy. It is paternalism to protect the Greens. Of course, former Premier Beattie said that this was all about rivers, not catchments. Now that the legislation is stopping Indigenous people's self-determination, the government is asking them to say what they might want to do in the future. These Indigenous people say that they want to fix their health and education problems. They do not want to be told that their land was locked up in 2009 and that they will not be able to do anything with it. Noel Pearson says that this is an issue that will lead to a rise in Aboriginal activism because of their frustration.

There have been concessions made for the gulf communities. Mining legislation says that mining is going to be okay in the gulf, but in the cape there is great frustration as Chalco has been excluded. Therefore, it makes it difficult for those Indigenous people to know what they are going to do with their land in the future. They may want to do something with their land. They are frustrated and do not trust this government with what it is doing with this legislation.

As I have mentioned, in relation to vegetation management there is no consideration by this government for the concerns of people in rural and regional sectors. This is causing more budgetary problems through stamp duty receipts that this government is now not receiving.

The issues of corruption and trust concern people throughout Queensland. This government has issued a green paper about integrity yet cannot even put the submissions to the green paper on the web—all 11 of them—without censoring them. That is what this government does when it talks about openness and accountability. Even in today's paper we see that the Attorney-General, in amendments that were made last week to the Coroners Act, could not even put details in the explanatory notes about why the Coroners Act was being amended. He brought that legislation into this place and did not even tell the parliament and the people of Queensland the real reason the Coroners Act was being amended. That is the openness and accountability of the new member for Greenslopes.

No wonder people are cynical about what this government is actually doing in terms of those issues of trust and corruption. We know that the corruption goes all the way to the cabinet table. Last week we saw the 'save our jobs' tour of the Premier. Of course, the Treasurer was really happy to go along with the Premier. Last week in the paper we saw the Treasurer in his Bob the Builder hat and his Bob the Builder vest with the Premier and the member for Thuringowa. But as the week went on and as the tour went down the coast, he really did not want to be standing next to the Premier anymore. Finally, on the last day of the tour, on the Sunshine Coast, the Treasurer was not there. Next week, instead of being Bob the Builder, he wants to go off with his other hero, the Deputy Premier, to see a movie. It will probably be something involving the Deputy Premier in his other guise as Fat Bastard from an Austin Powers movie or Monsieur Creosote from the *Meaning of Life*. That is all we get. They can give it but they cannot take it. It is not good enough for the people of Queensland.