



Speech by

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INTEGRITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY FRAMEWORK

Mr LANGBROEK (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.32 am): Integrity starts with telling the truth. Today the Premier has come in here and waxed lyrical about integrity and accountability in her *Response to Integrity and Accountability in Queensland*. But there is nothing under the 'strong rules' section on page 8 that says, 'Tell the truth when you go to the ballot box.' When I travel around the state, that is what the people of Queensland are so angry about. There is nothing in the 'strong rules' to say that politicians and the Premier should tell the truth when they go to the ballot box.

'Strong scrutiny' is mentioned on page 11 and yet today the Premier has used the executive government to change the name of the Members' Ethics and Parliamentary Privileges Committee, without any consultation with the parliament, to the Integrity, Ethics and Parliamentary Privileges Committee. This was the very same committee that was looking into the matters of Gordon Nuttall in December 2005. The government used its numbers to absolve the former member for Sandgate of the issues that the Members' Ethics and Parliamentary Privileges Committee was going to deal with. Now the Premier has the gall to come into this House and change its name to the Integrity, Ethics and Parliamentary Privileges Committee.

We talk about integrity and yet we know that this is the same Premier who last week used the numbers to vote down legislation that would make members and ministers tell the truth in this House. The Premier has the gall to come in here and say that we have issues of integrity and accountability that can only be dealt with by this *Response to Integrity and Accountability in Queensland*.

Today we also heard the Premier talk about Labor Holdings and defend the resources that Labor Holdings has and which it built up over 20 years, potentially of corrupt donations. Who is to know, because we cannot find out? The Premier now wants to cut donations from private enterprise or corporations to all parties to \$1,000 when the government has this massive resource. Directors of Labor Holdings and lobbyists sit on government owned corporation boards and make investments affecting government, and of course that helps to build on the revenue they have. This change which the Premier is making will not affect union donations. The Premier said this morning that union donations may well be capped at \$1,000 but not the issue of parallel campaigns. Again, it is a distraction of the Premier. Unions will, as they did in the Work Choices debate, and as the Queensland Teachers Union and the Queensland Public Sector Union did at the last election, spend millions of dollars on campaigns to which the LNP has no access. The people of Queensland want a level playing field in terms of resourcing.

The Premier then says, 'We may well have public funding.' This is just more money spent by the Labor government. Someone else can pay—OPM, other people's money. Labor are very good at using that but not at ensuring that we have a fair, equitable election system. That is where the Premier, as I say, has come into parliament today talking about these issues. When I travelled around Queensland talking about saving jobs and stopping privatisation, we saw deception in the government's 'myths, not facts' brochure. Economists, university lecturers, investment bankers and other observers are talking about the sale of assets that the Premier has announced taking place over three to five years. Yesterday in the *Financial Review* whilst Forestry Plantations Queensland may be sold by the end of the year, the other assets are now slated to be sold by 2010-11. Again, there were a number of spurious claims in the 'myths,

not facts' document including the claim about raising \$15 billion which will save \$12 billion on investment in those assets. These are monopoly assets for which the government says it is going to claim all this interest, and yet it is talking about interest rates potentially of 12 per cent when of course we know it pays seven.

We have a loss of \$320 million per annum of income which is going to put pressure on future deficits. We have a disastrous record of privatisation from the government. It claims that the asset sales are only a particular percentage. We saw last week in the parliament the government did not know whether it was one per cent or what it was. I say very clearly, as I said last week, the LNP going to the next election will tell the people of Queensland what we will do after an election. We will stick to it afterwards and we will also be upfront and honest with the people of Queensland, and not change our minds before the writs are returned.