



Speech by

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MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA SOUTH

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QUEENSLAND ECONOMY

Mr HORAN (Toowoomba South—LNP) (11.39 am): I want to speak today about the working class and low-income people in Queensland who have been belted into financial poverty through the financial mismanagement of the Bligh Labor government. Just last week I had a lady crying in my office. She is typical of so many people who are trying to pay their own way. She is part of a single-income family with kids. These people cannot afford the increases in costs. We are no longer seeing small, modest increases. The increases are massive. Whether it is the increase in car registration, whether it is the price of the car because of stamp duty increases, whether it is the 45 per cent increase over the past couple of years in the cost of electricity, whether it is the massive increase in the gas price, whether it is the access fee for electricity, whether it is the access fee for gas, whether it is the huge increase in rates because the government is withdrawing the 40 per cent infrastructure subsidy for subdivisional works and infrastructure works and is cutting out annual grants to local government for roads—all of this is adding to the huge impost on people. Also, there are the massive increases in rates caused by forced amalgamations and the cutback in financial support that is usually given by state governments.

The government's debt is the people's debt. Nothing in life is for free and it is the people who have to pay. The people who are hurting are the working families, people with kids, people on low incomes, self-funded retirees—the people who just cannot find any more money. They have run out of money because of this government's financial mismanagement. It went bust in a boom. The government had \$67 billion worth of debt before the financial crisis. Now, that level of debt has gone to \$87 billion—some 30 per cent more than New South Wales' debt, which is a basket case.

It is about time we started to think about people on low incomes. They cannot bleed any more. The cost increases are too much for them. We have to do something about this debt so that people can live a decent life.