



Speech by

Fiona Simpson

MEMBER FOR MAROOCHYDORE

Hansard Wednesday, 18 August 2010

BLIGH LABOR GOVERNMENT

Ms SIMPSON (Maroochydore—LNP) (11.37 am): When Premier Anna Bligh and Labor say that they are from the government and they are here to help, watch out for their sticky fingers reaching deep into your pockets! Queenslanders face taxing times, and Labor's answer is to tax Queenslanders more. There is the half billion dollar petrol tax, rego is up 27 per cent and power is up 34 per cent—and water has been an absolute debacle. Once again I rise in this parliament to stand up for Queenslanders and the Sunshine Coast and highlight how the wasteful spending on the SEQ water grid—more than \$7 billion—which has no business plan, is now hurting people. That is particularly so on the Sunshine Coast, where our water security was robbed by a one-way pipeline while higher bulk water charges are now landing in ratepayers' mailboxes.

This debacle is compounded by the mess which is Unitywater—a council owned entity which council claims it does not control and the state government claims that it does. But the buck-passing has to stop. I table a number of water bills which show how this has got absolutely out of control and people are being charged ridiculous amounts wrongly.

Tabled paper: Bundle of accounts, correspondence and articles relating to water [\[2768\]](#).

One person's bill showed usage of 610 litres a day for last year rising to 10,228 litres a day for the same period this year. I don't think so! And their projected state water bulk charge? Some \$1,869.15—a combination of a failed policy and even worse execution. The Mooloolaba Bowls Club has just been hit with a \$10,000 rise for the half year, which it also says is outrageous and over the top. But one constituent—a pensioner—said about the arrival of her new water charge—

I was shocked and distressed. This amounts to stealing from innocent victims.

She went on to say that she had been saving for an electric bed so that she could raise her disabled sick husband, but this water bill was putting this out of reach. This is failed Labor policy that is hurting people!

(Time expired)