



Speech by

## Fiona Simpson

MEMBER FOR MAROOCHYDORE

Hansard Wednesday, 1 September 2010

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### MOTION: SALE OF PUBLIC ASSETS

**Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (5.56 pm): This is a Labor government that is in crisis because it has sold out its grassroots members. It has sold out the people of Queensland. They are now in revolt. When those opposite say that they are out there standing up for the people of Queensland, they are so loud that you cannot hear it above a whisper in the street. Where is the strength of the Labor Party that would stand up for the workers and oppose asset sales? They have gone to water. How interesting that we have seen 'Big' Bill Ludwig strolling the carpet of the Queensland parliament today. The boys in the back rooms are pulling the strings, telling those opposite what they are supposed to do and what to believe. But they are in crisis because they are in disarray for selling out their people.

Let us remind this House just what a Labor promise is worth. It is worth zip, it is worth zilch, it is worth zero. Who could forget the infamous backflip of the Minister for Transport, Rachel Nolan? When I asked her on 21 May last year in this parliament about the government's proposed sale of Queensland Rail she claimed that Queensland Rail was not for sale. Then four days later on the front page of the *Sunday Mail* it was.

**Mr Springborg:** But she didn't know.

**Ms SIMPSON:** She claims that she did not know. It was the worst kept secret, because that is why I asked the question in parliament. This dishonest government was trying to tell people it had a plan before the last election and then post election its plan was a secret plan because it was to flog off the assets. The minister claimed ignorance of this plan until it happened and professed at the time that she did not support the sale of Queensland Rail. Then when it happened she rolled over, just like these other members of the Labor Party on the benches opposite.

There is a message for this government: you cannot sell out the people of Queensland without them feeling betrayed, without them feeling misled and without them being angry. For this government to say that it is going on the listening offensive is only an acknowledgement that it has not been listening to the people of Queensland. The Minister for Transport sold out Queensland Rail. With the smell of ministerial leather in her nostrils, she rolled over and said that she completely supported this government. Since then we have seen a similar thing occurring with all of the adamant supporters of the Labor Party who claimed that they were against privatisation. Now they are all in love with this plan. They are willing to get behind their leader and continue to support a plan that is not in the best interests of Queensland. They are selling off the house to pay the grocery bill. It does not make sense, it does not add up and it does not address the fundamental waste and the dysfunctional way that this government runs Queensland.

Queensland has lost its AAA rating, not because of a global financial crisis but because of the absolute incompetence of yet another Labor government that could not run a chook raffle. One thing you can trust about Labor is that it will always waste money. Tragically, that is what has happened in Queensland. They have broken their promises about asset sales, they have broken their promises about the petrol tax and still they are just not listening. Leaving Labor members of parliament in charge of Queensland's vital assets is like leaving Dracula in charge of the blood bank. If you cannot trust them with money, how can you trust them to keep their promises?

Not only did Premier Bligh and Labor break their election promises on asset sales but also they keep reinventing the story about the funding for current projects in the capital program. They are at odds with what they said before the election, when they claimed all these projects were fully funded. Now they claim that cannot be done without the asset sales. Whatever way you turn, when you tell one lie and try to cover it up with another lie—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! You will withdraw that. It is unparliamentary.

**Ms SIMPSON:** I withdraw. If they tell one gross mistruth and try to cover it up with another gross mistruth, the people of Queensland will not wear it. They are sick of being misled. There is a message for this dishonest Labor government: it is that the people are feeling betrayed and they are feeling ripped off. The Labor ministers and the backbenchers, who claim that they are listening, simply are not listening to the people of Queensland. There is waste in this state that needs to be fixed. We have identified a number of areas. We can talk about the wasted pipelines to Traveston that are still being built to provide 10 times the capacity that is required without the Traveston dam. That is half a billion dollars down the drain. That is a disgrace. That money should be going into hospitals and the infrastructure that is required. It should not be spent on a dam that will not be built. Another example is the new Queensland driver's licence. The cost of that started out at \$20 million and now is up to \$112 million. There is so much waste that this mob has lost touch with the value of \$1, but Queenslanders remember. They know that they are paying the price of this government's blatant mismanagement and blatant waste.

*(Time expired)*