



Speech by

**Jarrod Bleijie**

**MEMBER FOR KAWANA**

Hansard Wednesday, 4 August 2010

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## **APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL AND APPROPRIATION BILL: ESTIMATES COMMITTEE A**

**Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (12.49 pm): At the outset I want to give some advice to the Treasurer that it is he who should not be talking about leadership, particularly when we have a Premier with the highest disapproval rating of any Queensland Premier in the history of Queensland polls and when one of the most unpopular elected members of parliament is the Treasurer himself. So my advice is that the Treasurer himself should not be talking about leadership, and the Labor Party should not talk about leadership because only three weeks ago it decapitated and killed its own Prime Minister in his first term in office.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I rise to make a contribution to this debate on report No. 2 tabled by Estimates Committee A pertaining to the Appropriation Bill 2010, with further detailed scrutiny of that legislation. Those opposite certainly do not want to be reminded of the fact that they had their corflutes printed—'Kevin Rudd 07' and 'Kevin Rudd 10'. They certainly do not want to be reminded of the fact that they had to kill all of those posters and reprint them to start campaigning. That is why now we are seeing the real Gillard and the real campaign, because they were not ready for it!

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** They were not ready for it. Report No. 2 tabled by the committee examined the expenditure in the portfolios of the Premier, the Treasurer and Minister for Employment and Economic Development, and the Minister for Public Works and Information and Communication Technology. In terms of the Premier's portfolio, I want to discuss two issues that were raised at the public hearing. The first issue is the price of electricity and the ever-increasing and huge impact that is having on the family budget of many Queenslanders and on their cost of living. We all remember that it was Labor that privatised the distribution arm of the industry and it was Labor that promised that the privatisation would not result in increased prices for Queensland consumers. Since that time electricity prices have risen, and only last month they rose again. Cost of living increases are hurting, particularly at a time when there are so many who are struggling to get by.

Labor seems to pride itself on looking after those most vulnerable in our community. Yet when it comes to electricity and cost of living expenses, it is Labor that stands for higher taxes and levies and it is Labor that stands for debt and deficit. Without anticipating the debate that we will be having later this afternoon in relation to privatisation, I simply make the point that again it is the Labor Party that is privatising some of the money-making assets of the state. Clearly those on that side of the House are not quick learners. We saw the lemma Labor leader toppled during a privatisation crusade. We will now see the same happen in Queensland. Only time will tell, and I suspect that the Premier, the Deputy Premier and the Treasurer will be rolled shortly after the federal election.

The second point I want to raise is the issue of our much heralded AAA credit rating. In 2009 ratings agency Standard & Poor's downgraded Queensland's AAA credit rating. While the Treasurer does not

seem bothered by this scathing indictment of his stewardship of the Queensland economy, we on this side of the House understand the extra debt burden this places on all Queenslanders—costing over \$1 billion in extra payments, not to mention the damage it does to our investment potential in an international marketplace. I have heard members opposite congratulate the Premier and the Treasurer on their economic achievements over the past couple of years. Usually when people get congratulated, such as when my daughter receives an award at a ceremony at school, they have something to show for their achievements. But we have nothing to show for the achievements of the Treasurer and the Premier in Queensland apart from a downgraded economic forecast from AAA to AA.

Of course, one federal and state issue that has been prominent in recent months is the resource super profits tax, now renamed and rebadged the minerals resource rent tax. This was the tax that the faceless faction leaders—

**Mr Reeves** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Minister, I would ask you to listen because you really need to hear this.

**Mr Reeves** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** You really need to hear it, Minister.

**Mr Shine:** It's not relevant.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** This was the tax—it was mentioned in the estimates committee report—that the faceless faction leaders of the New South Wales Right used to knock on the Prime Minister's door in the middle of the night and politically assassinate him at the behest of Julia Gillard. This tax—whether you want to rebadge it, rename it or whatever you want to do—is a great big new tax on Queensland investment potential and it is a disgrace that the Treasurer and the Premier of this state have not stood up to Canberra. This new mining tax will hurt our future investment opportunities and jeopardise the jobs of thousands of mining workers across the state. As Tony Abbott has said, if you want to ease the cost of living and if you want to stop this great big new tax, Queenslanders and Australians have to change the government.

*(Time expired)*