



Speech by

Jarrold Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

Hansard Wednesday, 24 November 2010

COST OF LIVING

Mr BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (11.56 am): I rise to raise the issue of cost of living pressures and the extent to which this government has added to the burden that Queensland taxpayers have to endure through incompetence and continual neglect. At a time when the global financial economic climate can be described at best as fragile, Queenslanders are feeling the pain as basic services, such as water, electricity and food costs, continue to spiral way out of control.

Often there is a debate that centres on the issue of affordable housing, yet the more prominent issue is actually affordable living. People should be able to afford to live, and that is what should be meant by the basic essential services that every human has the right to have. In my electorate, the majority of the issues raised by my constituents relate to cost of living pressures, whether that is utility expenses, which are increasing at a rapid rate—basic services such as electricity and water; petrol costs since the government scrapped the fuel subsidy last year; council rate increases and excess fees and charges, despite the fact that the government's council amalgamations were supposed to reduce duplication and streamline local governments across Queensland; registration costs that are now the most expensive in Australia; and the list goes on.

The problem is that this government seems to be in crisis management all the time, whether it is trying to fix issues with the Queensland Health payroll or trying to justify a fire sale of Queensland assets, to name but a few. Waste and mismanagement will be this government's legacy. I know that at the moment taxpayers in the Kawana electorate are feeling the pain, but the government is continually turning the other cheek. The most disadvantaged people who feel the pain are those hardest hit, and that is those on fixed incomes such as pensioners and low-income earners.

The Premier always talks about what is in the Labor Party's DNA. As I have said in this place before, D equals debt, N equals negligence and A equals arrogance. This morning we saw that displayed by the Minister for Health, because he could not explain to this House why it is costing \$210 million to fix the mess in a \$65 million project—a mess that was created by the Queensland Labor Party.