



Speech by

# John-Paul Langbroek

MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE

Hansard Wednesday, 19 May 2010

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## ELECTORAL (TRUTH IN ADVERTISING) AMENDMENT BILL

### First Reading

**Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.43 am): I present a bill for an act to amend the Electoral Act 1992, the Local Government Act 1993 and the Local Government Act 2009 for particular purposes. I present the explanatory notes, and I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

Question put—That the bill be now read a first time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

*Tabled paper:* Electoral (Truth in Advertising) Amendment Bill [\[2246\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Electoral (Truth in Advertising) Amendment Bill, explanatory notes [\[2247\]](#).

### Second Reading

**Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.43 am): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

Today I introduce a bill of great significance to Queensland. Ensuring honest and truthful election advertising is a crucial element of a fair and just democratic electoral system. This bill is about restoring confidence in our electoral process and restoring honesty in government. It is about ensuring that when people look to our state parliament—irrespective of what side of the political divide they stand on—they can respect our democratic system rather than be suspicious of our democratic system.

This bill will seek to introduce a series of offences into the Electoral Act 1992 and the Local Government Act 1993 and 2009, which will make it an offence for a person to authorise the publication of false or misleading electoral advertising. The bill also makes it an offence for a person to make a false or misleading statement purporting to be fact that is inaccurate or misleading to a material extent.

The bill also gives the Electoral Commission the power to direct the advertiser of the misleading or false information to withdraw it from publication or publish a retraction. Under this bill, all forms of publication are covered, including broadcasting or publishing of the advertisement even on the internet, if the website is maintained outside of Queensland.

Just over 12 months ago Queenslanders were subjected to a barrage of false claims and false election promises. Queenslanders now feel betrayed, feel let down and cheated by a democratic system that had no checks in place. When Queenslanders are told that their assets will not be sold, they have a right to believe their assets will not be sold. I seek leave to incorporate the remainder of my second reading speech in *Hansard*.

**Leave granted.**

When Queenslanders are told 100,000 breadwinners—100,000 fulltime jobs—will be created, they have a right to believe those 100,000 full-time jobs will be created.

When Queenslanders are told there will be no fuel tax—that the fuel subsidy will remain in place—then Queenslanders have a right to believe that there will not be a fuel tax.

Recently the State Government released a so-called green-paper on honesty and integrity in government.

A green-paper on honesty and integrity that refuses to deal with dishonesty in the Parliament and refuses to deal with dishonesty in political advertising can hardly proclaim to be a true discussion paper on honesty and integrity.

That's why it is left to the LNP to drive the reform agenda ... to drive the agenda that will restore public confidence in our parliament.

This Bill is the next step in the LNP's Honest Government platform. The true test will be whether the Government is willing to step up and support an honest election advertising campaign.

The amendments to the Local Government Acts are about ensuring that the same high standards of honesty and integrity are enshrined during Local Government elections as well.

We on this side of the House are committed to restoring honesty and integrity in politics and this Bill forms part of the platform.

I commend the Bill to the House.