



Speech by

John-Paul Langbroek

MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE

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FEDERAL ELECTION

Mr LANGBROEK (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.34 am): Queenslanders are in no doubt as to what they will get if Labor is elected at the federal level. We have seen it all before: say and do anything before an election but after the votes have been counted the promises turn to dust. I say to the people of Queensland and Australia: in Queensland the real Anna Bligh stood up after the election. Julia Gillard is trying to say after just two weeks of a five-week federal election campaign that she has suddenly decided to be real. Now we are going to see the real Julia Gillard.

What has she been for the last 2½ years as Deputy Prime Minister and for the first two weeks of this campaign? It strikes me that the Labor hierarchy said to her yesterday, 'Now get out there and be spontaneous, Julia. Remember, learn those lines but be spontaneous about it.' A face-change artist is what we have from the Prime Minister of Australia. She is trying to sneak to the polls saying, 'This is the real me now; it wasn't the real me before.'

That is the Labor way—con the voters; say anything and do anything. As Labor icon Graham Richardson proudly proclaims, 'whatever it takes'. Anna Bligh and Julia Gillard are from the 'whatever it takes' school of politics. They are schooled by factional heavies like Bill Ludwig and they know no bounds in their thirst for power.

Queenslanders cannot be fooled, however, because they have too recent a memory of what happened in March last year. The reason Labor's polling is going backwards in this state is that voters know from bitter experience what to expect. No matter what Labor says before the election, it will not stop the waste, it will increase taxes, it will increase the cost of living and it will increase the already enormous debt. The truth is this: the only way to stop the waste, to decrease taxes, to reduce the cost of living and to reduce the debt is to vote Labor out on 21 August.

It is clear that Queenslanders are very concerned about the Premier's new role as president of the Labor Party. Queenslanders remember the Premier saying last year that Queenslanders could count on her. Now we have the Premier failing to do her job as Premier and failing to stand up to Canberra, as seen with the negotiations over the GST for the health reforms. She gave up valuable resources to Canberra. It turns out that we are losing over 40 per cent for these health reforms. The last thing the Premier needs is a second job as president of the Labor Party. The Premier should be concentrating on fixing the Queensland economy and getting tourism back on its feet. The Premier should not be taking on any other jobs until she has done the job that Queenslanders pay her to do.

We heard again today in a question from the honourable member for Callide that business investment in Queensland is down over 20 per cent over the last year. It is up two per cent in the rest of Australia. So Queenslanders know what to expect from Julia Gillard because they have seen it all with our Premier, the member for South Brisbane. As I said, they will say and do anything to get elected.

Untruths are in Labor's DNA. The Premier told untruths about asset sales. She continues to tell untruths about jobs, job creation and job growth. We saw it again in the House this morning. Bearing in mind that the Premier said last year that she was going to create 100,000 breadwinner jobs—at that time there were over 114,000 unemployed Queenslanders—the last unemployment figures show that there are

nearly 131,000 unemployed Queenslanders. Yet this Premier and this Treasurer continue to go out and spread the untruths about full-time jobs and the fact that the number of unemployed people is decreasing when the number is increasing. It is up nearly 17,000 compared to March last year.

On another issue, the former Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd, told untruths about global warming being the greatest moral challenge of our time. We saw that he turned his back on that. That is what the people of Queensland will remember.

In ministerial statements this morning we saw the real Premier stand up and talk about the appropriate use of the Public Service. She said that she had issued an edict to the Public Service that there should be no politicisation of the Public Service or public sector bodies or places where politicians can go. We all remember in 2007 the former Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd, doing press conferences in hospitals. He was given free access to Queensland hospitals to do his press conferences. Very obviously, the same opportunities were not given to other federal politicians in the last election campaign. We have the Premier today talking about the appropriate use of the Public Service.

Of course today we heard the Premier and the Treasurer bleating on about how their economic strategy is working. We had the Treasurer, the member for Mount Coot-tha, talking about data. He was talking about data in a way that shows he has no real contact with everyday Queenslanders—Queenslanders whom I meet as I travel around this state on the Gold Coast and in Caloundra. I am talking about people at the coalface of the empty shopfronts in Cairns, on the Sunshine Coast and on the Gold Coast where small businesses are suffering. That is the point: he is good at looking at a row of figures but he has no idea because he has never had a real job! He has no feeling for real people because he is not a real person. We have not even seen the real member for Mount Coot-tha. He has not bothered to tell us whether he is real, but he is not real because he has not even had a real job. He tells us that the recovery is underway. Tell that to the people of the Gold Coast and regional centres around Queensland where shopfronts are empty and where people are struggling to pay the bills caused by the policies that he has brought in that have raised the cost of water, electricity and tolls. This government has been in power for nearly 20 years and the Treasurer has been part of it since 2004, and all he is doing is looking to deflect the blame and do as the Premier did this morning—that is, cloak herself in 'I'm proud to be a Queenslander'.

Mr Fraser: What did you tell them when you were overseas?

Mr LANGBROEK: When I was overseas he asks if I was talking up the economy or talking down the economy. I will tell him what I was doing: I was telling them how we are going to fix the economy in a great state that could be so much better, and what a great reception I received from prefectures in Japan in Osaka and prefectures in Saitama where relationships were established under coalition and National Party governments—none established by the Labor Party—relationships that we are determined to grow and to prosper, not like under this government where it has turned in on itself and has no idea about doing anything except trying to get elected and doing and saying anything to get elected. I was giving hope to investors when talking about what a great Queensland it has been since I have grown up here and how much better it can be, but not under this lot.

Of course today we did see a little bit of the real Andrew Fraser, the real member for Mount Coot-tha, who has complained to CommSec, the Commonwealth Bank, about its report in today's *Australian Financial Review*. But of course the real Andrew Fraser, the real member for Mount Coot-tha, does not think that people in Queensland read the *Financial Review* so he can write to David Hancock, Commonwealth Bank of Australia's executive general manager, and complain about the CommSec report, but in the Gladstone *Observer* he quotes from the report because he is quite happy with parts of it. That is the real Andrew Fraser—standing up and quoting from that report in a letter to the editor in the Gladstone *Observer*.

We know what this Labor government has given us. It has lost our AAA credit rating. It has given us increased water charges. It has given us a fuel tax. It has given us asset sales. We all know about the waste in terms of the Traveston Dam, the recycled water pipeline, the Health pay fiasco costing hundreds of millions of dollars, \$9 billion spent on a water grid and a desalination plant that the government refuses to take ownership of. With regard to the federal government, in 2007 Kevin Rudd promised a Building the Education Revolution program, insulation in people's roofs that has ended up costing people's lives, GroceryWatch, FuelWatch and a petrol commissioner. They are the examples of what Labor has delivered federally, and we all know what it has delivered at the state level: tax, land tax reform, a fuel tax that was brought in when we did not have one and of course a waste tax in this year's budget.

At the federal level when Labor got in, it said that everything was paid for, but—presto—on the eve of a federal election when it has been borrowing \$100 million a day it has come up with a resources tax. Once again we do not have the details of that, but we know that after the election we will see all of the details. Very obviously Queenslanders know that we can be so much better and we are going to be much better after 21 August, and Julia Gillard is part of that sad tradition of telling untruths to voters. These Labor governments have in common incompetence, waste and a total disregard for taxpayers' money. Queenslanders have struggled under the burden of two high-taxing, incompetent Labor governments for the past 2½ years, but change is coming on 21 August.