



Speech by

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BLIGH LABOR GOVERNMENT

Mr LANGBROEK (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.33 am): Today this parliament heard the latest chapter in the tale of Labor's mismanagement of the economy, yet yesterday the Premier had the gall to come in here and say that Queensland is recovering because of her government's policies. From 2009 to 2010, the number of companies that collapsed in the month of June skyrocketed by 47 per cent—up from 133 companies in 2009 to 196 companies in 2010. Nine companies per working day are going broke under the incompetent economic management of the Bligh Labor government. That is 196 businesses that will not be employing Queenslanders. Many of these businesses are owned by ordinary Queensland families. Many of these families have lost their homes, along with their business.

But day after day members of the ALP come into this place and make speeches about how well things are going. They are deluded! This long-term Labor government is crippling businesses with increased taxes, fees and charges. Rego, fuel costs, water charges, road tolls, business licences, public transport charges and environmental levies have all seen double-digit increases over the last year, and it is no wonder that businesses and families are struggling to cope! It offends me that those opposite continue to pretend that people are not suffering. How dare they pretend that businesses are not going under? It is time they owned up and acknowledged the damage that they have done to Queensland's great economic reputation.

As people head to the ballot box this weekend, they need to remember that Kevin Rudd, the former Prime Minister, said that everything was costed and everything was paid for. We had money in the bank and we had no deficit, yet now we have new taxes and we have debt and deficit—exactly what Labor has done in this state. It has given us a fuel tax in the last year and after the last budget we now have a waste tax. During the term of the Borbidge-Sheldon government, from 1996 to 1998, we had no debt, we had no deficit and we had money in the bank. But that is not what Labor will do. That is what Queenslanders need to remember when they go to the ballot box. Labor members will say anything before the election and do something else afterwards!

(Time expired)