



Speech by

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**MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE**

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### BLIGH LABOR GOVERNMENT

**Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.32 am): Today we have seen the technique of the Premier and this government. What we are going to see in the lead-up to the next election is a scare campaign about cuts. That is all they have. They have tried it before, just as Julia Gillard and federal Labor tried to do it about Work Choices. But they could not con the Australian public and neither will this government be able to con the people of Queensland again.

The Premier in her last answer to a question from the member for Beaudesert literally said that she justified the stance on privatisation. This is a desperate attempt to stave off her political assassination. She tried to have us believe that there was no discussion about privatisation and no discussion about leadership at yesterday's caucus meeting. In fact, once again there was a very clever use of words between her and her parliamentary secretary to analyse what was said. That is what the Premier has tried to be so clever about.

Last week the Premier claimed to have a mandate to govern. That is not what Queenslanders think. I ask honourable members: was there a mandate to sell Queensland Rail? No. Was there a mandate to sell off the ports? No. Was there a mandate to hike up the cost of power, water, rego, land rents, tolls and petrol? No. Was there a mandate to mislead, deceive and betray Queenslanders? No, there was not. Queensland Labor lost its mandate long ago.

The mandate disappeared when the spineless and witless caucus members condoned the wholesale deception that followed the last state election. They are the words of the Treasurer, the member for Mount Coot-tha, speaking about his own members in the Labor caucus. He called them spineless and witless. The mandate disappeared when the sycophantic, submissive and obsequious Labor caucus last night erased for all time any memory of a mandate from Queenslanders by yet again ignoring them. They say they are listening. They say they are hearing. But in the same breath we hear the Premier saying that she is not going to change anything.

Labor members will not stand up for their electorates. Labor members will not stand up for the rank and file. Labor members have not kept the promises made to Queenslanders. Labor is the party of the timid, the treacherous and the tactless. Labor is hopelessly divided, and it leaves Queenslanders without hope. Labor is internally at war. Yet those who protest the loudest in their electorates come into this place and do as they are told. As I said, in the words of the Treasurer, he called them spineless and witless. He is so charming. I note that he is not here today with his normal charming interjections.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! The honourable Leader of the Opposition, I have ruled before that you will not refer to a member who is absent. There may be good reasons why they are absent.

**Mr LANGBROEK:** I apologise, Mr Speaker. These sorts of utterances about his own side show why Queenslanders cannot stand the Treasurer almost as much as they cannot abide the Premier. Two-thirds of his own electorate in Mount Coot-tha do not vote for him. What about the honourable member for Murrumba, who I see here today, described as spineless and witless, or the member for Bundamba, or the member for Mundingburra, or the member for Keppel, or the member for Brisbane Central, or the member

for Sunnybank? It does not matter who the Labor Party leader is. Queenslanders know that the Labor Party MPs are responsible for deceiving them.

The federal election result in Queensland was a wake-up call to the Premier and the Labor Party. The LNP performance was greater than in any other state, with a swing of over 5.6 per cent and eight seats changing hands, including the long-time Labor held seat of Brisbane. The Labor vote in Queensland collapsed by nine per cent and that should come as no surprise.

On polling day before I went to my electorate I was at polling booths in Townsville. Union members were turning up and refusing ALP how-to-vote cards. One bloke was wearing a CFMEU shirt proclaiming on his shirt, 'Qld not for sale.' That said it very succinctly. 'You sold us out,' he told the ALP booth workers as he walked past, and he told me to keep up the good work. He was a lifetime Labor voter, yet he voted for the LNP because Queensland Labor has deceived him. I am determined that those people who voted for the LNP at the federal election will do it for the second time at the next state election.

There may be a change in the leadership of the Labor Party after the disastrous result in Queensland, but the problem is that Bill Ludwig will decide who is the leader, just as he and his union decided that it was time for Kevin Rudd to go. He decided that Julia Gillard would be Prime Minister and he will decide who replaces Anna Bligh. Labor can change the parliamentary leader, but it is the same old faceless union leaders who will decide who the replacement is. Big Bill Ludwig gets the final say on who leads the Labor Party, just as factional union heavies like Karl Bitar and Paul Howes knifed a sitting Prime Minister, ignoring the rights of the electorate to pass judgement on a hopeless and hapless federal Labor government.

Of course now we have a former union leader, the member for Brisbane Central—another one of the spineless and witless, according to the member for Mount Coot-tha—running around trying to get the numbers together for the ABA ticket—anyone but Anna. That is right. The member for Brisbane Central has looked at the booth results. She knows what is coming—baseball bats. But she is only interested now that it is her job on the line. She was not interested when it was the jobs of thousands of her former workmates on the line. There is only one number that the member for Brisbane Central needs and that is big Bill Ludwig's. Get on the blower to big Bill if you want to knock off the most unpopular Premier in Queensland's history.

It does not matter how unpopular the Premier is with Queenslanders. That is not what counts. The survival of the Premier comes down to how popular she is with Bill Ludwig. Labor members are too spineless and witless to do anything about it unless Bill Ludwig gives them the okay. If he told them to go picking water lilies in the Brisbane River, they would be over there doing it, led by Paul Lucas. I bet he is getting plenty of attention these days. His phone must be running hot with the Premier and the spineless and witless pretenders to the throne—and of course the numbers woman from Brisbane Central—all trying to impress the one-man selection panel for Labor Premier. Whoever takes over from the Premier will have voted for the sale of Queensland Rail, the ports, the forestry and the motorways. Whoever is chosen by Bill Ludwig to knock off the member for South Brisbane will have been at the cabinet table or nearby when they decided to betray the trust of Queenslanders.

No matter who leads the Queensland Labor Party, Queenslanders know they cannot be trusted. No matter who leads the Queensland Labor Party, they too have sold Queenslanders out. No matter who leads Queensland Labor, they have endorsed the huge rises in water, power, rego, tolls and charges. No matter who leads Queensland Labor, they gave us a fuel tax when they promised not to before the election. No matter who leads Queensland Labor, they too have been up to their ears in the deception, dishonesty and deceit played out on honest, decent, hardworking Queensland families.

Queensland Labor can no longer claim to be the party of the worker. It is the party of George Street carpet strollers who have never had a proper job. It is the party of union hacks who have made careers out of impeding private enterprise. That is what they are afraid of. Those opposite do not understand it. They have never filled out a business activity statement. They are only good at spending other people's money.

Queensland Labor is the party of high taxes, high charges and extremely low standards. It is the party of debt, deficit and deceit. It is the party of arrogance, hubris and conceit. It is the party of spineless and witless MPs, so detached from reality that they have repeatedly sold out their heartland. It is time that those opposite realised that Queenslanders have had enough of Queensland Labor.

They deserve better. Only an LNP government can deliver a better Queensland and a fairer go for them and their families. Queensland families know the only party that really cares about them and understands how difficult it is to manage a budget with all of Labor's cost of living increases is the LNP. The LNP is the only party that will look after families. The LNP is the only party that will get business moving again. The LNP is the only party that will bring state costs and charges under control. The LNP is the only party that can turn the Queensland economy around to make this state the best performing once again. The LNP is the only party that can get back the AAA credit rating and restore Queensland economic creditability. The LNP, in contrast to the Premier who just wants to embark on a scare campaign that will

not work again, is the only party that can deliver a fresh approach, a new vision and a prosperous future for Queensland.

The message for the spineless and witless Labor MPs opposite is clear. Queenslanders do not care who they choose to replace their current lame duck leader. Labor lame ducks are all the same. For the next state election Queenslanders have put Labor duck on the menu. In the meantime, we are going to keep working in the LNP to provide a new, fresh and strong vision for the people of Queensland and say that politics can and will be different. We will say things before an election that we will stick to afterwards. We will get rid of the cynicism about politics. The message for Labor is clear: the people of Queensland are waiting for them and they have had enough.