



Speech by

John-Paul Langbroek

MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE

Hansard Wednesday, 15 September 2010

BLIGH LABOR GOVERNMENT

Mr LANGBROEK (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.31 am): Today we have seen the real problem with this long-term Labor government. We know that it loves diversions. Today it even went for an offshore diversion. As commentators have pointed out, the cabinet is appalling. Today the health minister was demanding that we table briefing notes about a very serious issue, despite the fact that all or some of those briefing notes have been sitting in his office for as long as a year.

The Minister for Health is symbolic of the problems with this government. Inaction has become the norm. Serious issues go unaddressed. The Labor government is stagnant, problems are no longer addressed—they are ignored—and problems are routinely put in the too-hard basket. This morning we saw more than 400 of them. The too-hard basket in the health minister's office must take up his entire desk. If a decision is required, it goes straight in the too-hard basket; it does not pass go. The health minister's office has become a decision-free zone. Queenslanders deserve better.

Queenslanders deserve a government and ministers who work for them. Queenslanders deserve a ministry that cares about their problems and is prepared to act on their issues—not a minister who covers up, not a minister who cannot be bothered to read briefing notes, not a minister who normally is happy to go on for three minutes about anything apart from health. When we asked him about health today, he could not answer anything for longer than about 30 seconds. We expect more than a minister who has ceased to perform to even the lowest standards expected by the public.

The health minister is only one of the appalling cabinet ministers who deserves to be sacked, but he is the one who should be sacked today. The Premier should take him aside and give him the bad news: he is not up to it; he is letting down Queenslanders. We expect a better standard. We expect a better standard than we have seen this morning from the Treasurer, who is happy to carry on with his diatribe, as he normally does. But the people of Queensland deserve more.

Mr Fraser: What do you call that two minutes? Where's your policy document?

Mr LANGBROEK: We have put out the policies, and we will continue to do so—about the cost-of-living increases, increasing pensioner rebates for electricity and making sure that we will freeze the rego. Talk about a parrot!