



Speech by

Michael Crandon

MEMBER FOR COOMERA

Hansard Wednesday, 24 November 2010

QR NATIONAL

Mr CRANDON (Coomera—LNP) (11.19 pm): During question time today the Minister for Public Works and Information and Communication Technology made various comments about QR National. Actually, he called it QR coal on more than one occasion but, then again, being a little bit mixed up is something that we have come to expect from the Minister for Public Works and Information and Communication Technology.

The Leader of the Opposition and the member for Surfers Paradise referred to the \$210 million that is needed to fix Labor's Health payroll fiasco. In trying to cover off the massive amount that has just been plucked from nowhere, the minister said—

And we are doing very well.

He was, of course, referring to the QR National float. He stated further—

I tell you what we got on Monday—\$90 million in profits on Monday alone.

The minister stated further—

On Monday the taxpayers of Queensland got \$90 million in profit and what do we get in a whole year out of QR? \$180 million. So in half a day we got what it took to get in half a year out of QR coal.

The game is up. It is pretty obvious. We have it all worked out now. We know where this \$210 million is coming from. It is coming from the sale of QR in 2012. It is going to be there after the 2012 financial year, but if you use the minister's way of calculating profits—\$90 million on Monday and then there was another profit on Tuesday and a profit again today—by the time we get there there will be a \$4 billion profit. Then all of our problems are over. No more worries. It is all done and dusted. Based on the way the minister works out his figures, all of Queensland's problems are going to be over.

Of course, the problem is that that is a paper profit. We have not made a brass razoo. We have not got one cent out of that asset, one-third of which is owned by the Queensland government, unless we sell the asset and we cannot. We are not going to sell it. We could sell it, but we are not going to.

If we did sell it now and take that profit now, that would be called a stag profit. A stag profit is a stock market term used to describe a situation before and immediately after a company's initial public offering—or any new shares, for that matter. The stag, of course—the government—would be taking that profit. But we are not selling until after the 2012 financial year. What effect will that have on the price? Eight hundred and twenty-one million shares are going to be sold sometime after 2012. I tell you what: I have had a little bit of experience in this and I can see the price coming back significantly in 2012 if all of those shares are dumped on the market to try to fill that hole of \$210 million that this government got us into.

(Time expired)