



Speech by

Hon. Andrew Fraser

MEMBER FOR MOUNT COOT-THA

Hansard Tuesday, 6 September 2011

MOTION: CARBON TAX



Hon. AP FRASER (Mount Coot-tha—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for State Development and Trade) (5.50 pm): I move—

That all words after 'House' be deleted and the following words inserted:

- Supports the need for action on climate change and acknowledges that the overwhelming majority of economists agree that pricing carbon is the most economically efficient way to deal with climate change; and
- Recognises that Queensland's high-carbon economy presents particular challenges in taking necessary action to deal with climate change; and
- Calls on the federal government to provide further assistance to Queensland to facilitate the transition to a cleaner energy economy.

Let us not take the pens-down-feet-up approach of the opposition. It has sought to recycle—at least they believe in some sort of recycling—its constant claim, because it has nothing to offer and nothing to proffer. This motion is about where one stands on the reality of climate change and, more to the point, whether one has the ticker to do something about it.

Mr Seeney: You don't even have the ticker to say it. You couldn't even say you support it.

Mr FRASER: Does anyone believe that great friend of the environment, the Leader of the Opposition, and the man who used to be formally known as Jeff Seeney? He is a man who comes in here as a mere shadow of the person he used to be. He is forced to read out the song sheet written for him by some young Liberal on level 6. He used to pride himself on baking people who read out a document in here. He is nothing more than a puppet. It is like an horror version of *Mr Squiggle*. The world is upside-down, Miss Jane, because we have a Leader of the Opposition who has completely debased himself in pursuit of the craven political opportunity that he sees before him.

We have to ask ourselves: if this mob really believes their own hype and if they really think that they are on the cusp, why are they all so unhappy? The reason is that they can see it, taste it, feel it and want to believe it, but they know that they are going to get there with a lunatic. They thought that they had brought a brand-new puppy that was going to be the light of their lives, but in fact they have brought a yapping mongrel of a dog that is running around the house, tearing up the furniture, barking at everybody, making a mess of itself and making a show of everyone.

Mr SEENEY: I rise to a point of order.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Stop the clock.

Mr SEENEY: I have given the Treasurer almost two minutes to address the amendment that he moved. He accused us of having nothing to offer and nothing to proffer. I think his avoidance of the subject confirms that he has nothing to offer. Mr Speaker, I ask you to rule on relevance.

Mr SPEAKER: I would ask the Treasurer to be relevant.

Mr FRASER: The point is that they have been sold a pup. What do the reports say that those opposite are trying to verbal? They state—

The introduction of a carbon price is estimated to have a relatively small impact for Queensland over the next decade.

Members opposite do not let the facts get in the way of the hysterical scare campaign that they have been seeking to prosecute.

The report states that between now and 2019-20 with a carbon price the state's economy will grow by 41 per cent. That is more than the nation, which is set to grow at 34 per cent during that period. With a carbon price, around 474,000 additional jobs will be created across the state in the same time frame. Those opposite campaigned for the GST and said that it was useful tax reform to be pursued in the national interest. Last year, the GST raised \$48 billion. It was a genuine great big new tax on everything and these characters said it would not hurt a bit. The carbon price will raise \$7.7 billion, which is one-sixth of the fiscal impact of the GST. These jokers are hysterically running a dishonest and untruthful campaign aimed at scaring people for base political purposes. They seek to pretend that this reform is not the way to deal with climate change, even though it is supported by the majority of economists. Let us remember that the GST had a 2.5 per cent impact on prices. What will be the impact of a carbon price? It will be way less than that at 0.7 per cent.

Who said that the estimates are on song? Who has said that they see this effect on the economy? None other than the Governor of the Reserve Bank. When it comes down to it, I will take what the Treasury says and I will take the Australian Treasury modelling, which has been replicated by us and which the Governor of the Reserve Bank has said is in line with his own estimations, more than I will take any of the empty rhetoric, discombobulating spin and untruthfulness of those opposite who refuse to confront the issue. Ultimately, this is a test of whether you can deal with climate change and stand up for what is right in the long-term interests of the state, which is exactly what we are going to do.