




Speech by

Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

Hansard Tuesday, 29 November 2011

MOTION: BLIGH LABOR GOVERNMENT

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Greenslopes—ALP) (Minister for Education and Industrial Relations) (6.11 pm): This week will go down as a defining moment in the direction of the future of Queensland. Since my election to the Legislative Assembly in 2009, the stark contrasts between the LNP's vision of the future and the Labor vision of the future have never been clearer. On one hand, we have a government that is focused on the future. On the other hand, we have an opposition that is mired in the past. We have a government with ideas, energy and enthusiasm to deliver a fairer, modern, more progressive and more just Queensland. On the other hand, we have an opposition seeking to entrench privilege and elitism in the education system with an election policy about independent schools written by elites and for elites. That is when they can be bothered to rouse themselves out of the hammock and do something for Queensland instead of their normal modus operandi, which is their arrogant and self-indulgent introspection. Of all the governments in the Commonwealth it is the Queensland government that has put education first. Since 1998, this government has made education central to its mission as a government. Our reforms have been substantial, far-reaching and transformative. At all times they have been focused on educational outcomes. What is the best thing for students and their families? We have at all times been focused on the needs of students.

What is that record of reform? Why is it so substantial? In 2003 we started trialling prep in Queensland schools. In 2006 we introduced 'learning or earning' laws, requiring all 16-year-olds to be either learning or in work. In 2007 we started prep, adding an extra year of school in Queensland. In 2008 we lifted the starting age for school by six months and this year we announced the joining of year 7 to high school from 2015. We are investing \$622 million to make that change—the right change for Queensland. We have introduced universal access to kindergarten. This government is investing \$321 million to deliver up to 240 new kindergarten services in Queensland. We have already created 22,500 new places. We are making schools safe; we are leading the nation by establishing the Queensland Schools Alliance Against Violence and the first anti-bullying day of action which we created in Queensland and which has been taken up nationally, and we are doing more work there. We are delivering world-class teachers and setting up five centres of excellence when it comes to teaching.

We have a record \$134.8 million Capital Works Maintenance Program this year—\$50 million more than any other annual Capital Works Maintenance Program in our state's history. We are the only state to achieve all of its national literacy and numeracy partnership benchmarks. We are receiving an additional \$48 million by way of a bonus payment. We established Queensland's first ever Tuckshop Day. We supported the Stephanie Alexander kitchen garden program and supported the Daniel Morcombe Foundation by taking their programs into Queensland schools. We have also passed legislation introducing lifetime bans for teachers convicted of serious criminal offences as well as legislation to implement the new national childcare framework in Queensland, improving transparency and raising standards in kindergarten. Just last week we announced the Queensland Education Trust, a bold policy proposal for the future. We are locking in and locking up 50 per cent of LNG royalties for the one thing that matters in Queensland and the one thing that matters for the 21st century: investing in the people of our state.

What have we seen from the opposition? We have seen tasers for teachers, an 85 per cent capacity idea for schools policy that would cost the state \$1 billion for no purpose and transitioning year 7 to high school over five years. What a debacle that would be! That is the most ridiculous education policy in our history. Now we see from them an education policy written by the elites and for the elites. Maybe I should finish with some quotes from someone who knows the LNP well. What was said on 15 November 2008 about the LNP? The quote states—

So in my quest to help the TV producers find some A-grade dorks, I turned to the one place I was guaranteed to find them—the Liberal National Party.

...

Only bogans act this way in public. Were they stunned into a stupor by the bright lights of a big city like Cairns?

Of course that referred to the 'fettagate' disaster. It goes on—

They are all affable and capable. I'm certain they could all run a farm better than most people.

I'm just not sure we want them running the state.

In fact, this bunch of bogans would be better off as actors on the small screen, where we can laugh with them, instead of at them.

Who said that? The star of the future, Gavin King, the LNP candidate for Cairns. He thinks they are a joke, a bunch of bogans and that they should be on TV so Queenslanders can laugh at them. They are laughing at them today. There was not one of them in the House today discharging their duty as members of parliament. Not one of them was here to debate legislation. That was the most gross abrogation of responsibilities. They are not fit to be in opposition. They are not fit to govern Queensland.

(Time expired)