



Speech by

Fiona Simpson

MEMBER FOR MAROOCHYDORE

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MAROOCHY RSL CLUB, CARBON TAX



Ms SIMPSON (Maroochydores—LNP) (3.55 pm): On 28 February 2011, Premier Anna Bligh said—
We won't make a judgement about a carbon tax until we see what it is.

It has been almost four weeks since Labor's carbon tax details were announced, yet Premier Anna Bligh still refuses to stand up for Queenslanders and the many businesses and organisations who are going to be impacted by this tax, including the Maroochy RSL.

This morning I tabled in state parliament a letter and a copy of their energy audit with regard to how this tax will add up to \$71,000 extra in electricity costs. This is a job-destroying tax, yet this Labor government is failing to stand up and has been very silent in respect of the real costs. The other states have been doing energy audits and the modelling and they are saying clearly that there is a huge antijobs impact. But not this Labor government. It has had its eyes shut with the mentality of 'Don't ask, don't tell. Try to pretend it is going to go away.' But we know that it is a huge impact.

The more than 120 jobs at the Maroochy RSL Club are threatened. I have heard that from the club. They are desperately worried, because to add another \$71,000 to their energy bill is huge. This club has cut its energy usage. Yet despite that cut in energy usage, over the past 12 months they saw their bill go up \$1,500—and that was without a carbon tax. But this government is in denial. It is not standing up for businesses or community organisations across Queensland who have genuine issues and genuine concerns. They have been doing their energy audits, they have been getting the advice about the huge impact, which will cut jobs. But this government has refused to do the work, or has refused to reveal it. Either the government is incompetent or it is a contrivance when it says that it does not know and it does not want to know, but Queenslanders do.