



Speech by

Jarrod Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

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QUEENSLAND ECONOMY; CENTRAL QUEENSLAND, CORONER'S OFFICE

Mr BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (12.11 pm): The Labor Party has given up on Central Queensland. The Labor Party has given up on Mackay. No-one could have said it better than the young student to whom the Speaker referred yesterday, when he read from the statement hanging outside. In a nutshell, that young student said that if he were to become a member of parliament he would help reduce the bills to assist his mum. It is quite telling that a student wants to assist his mother. Let us help that student by providing some historical facts on how we can help his mother.

The first thing to recognise is where the higher fees, charges and increased pressures on the cost of living come from. They have come from 20 years of Australian Labor Party rule in Queensland. I am worried, because this morning in this place the Premier said that, essentially, Queensland is No. 1. Some economists would disagree with that. CommSec would disagree with that. If the threshold for being No. 1 in Australia is higher costs of living, higher rates, higher fuel costs—higher everything—then that is worrying. It is worrying for the people of Mackay and it is worrying for people right around Australia, because things will only get worse under this government. When we have a Premier who stands up and acknowledges that, we are indeed heading for dire trouble.

However, Can-do Campbell Newman will come to town. Can-do Campbell Newman will assist. Can-do Campbell Newman will help. Two days ago, we announced a coroner for Central Queensland to deal with issues from Caloundra to Proserpine. This is part of a can-do approach. Can-do Campbell Newman is not simply running into town sprinkling money around like fairy dust; he is coming to town and saying, 'If the LNP is elected to government at the next election, we will establish a coroner's office in Central Queensland.' Do members know why we are going to do that? Because the State Coroner recommends it. In his 2009-10 report, the State Coroner said—

In centres not served by a full-time coroner there is a risk that pressure of work and a lack of specialised expertise may mean some matters do not get the attention they need.

In my view these problems urgently require the appointment of a full-time Central Coroner in Rockhampton or Mackay so that people living between Caloundra and Proserpine can receive the same level of coronial services as those in the south-east ...

This is a part of Campbell Newman's plan to look at the issue of decentralisation, because we understand that government is not about Brisbane. We understand that government is not about South-East Queensland. Under Campbell Newman, we will be a government for all of Queensland, including the constituents in the electorates of Mount Isa and Broadwater. Their elected representatives continually come into this place and vote for rates rises and higher fuel prices, because it was the forced amalgamation of councils that increased rates in this state. The member for Mount Isa was there in the midst of it all. Shame on them! Shame on those members opposite! They continually vote to increase the cost-of-living pressures on the people of Mackay and right around Queensland.

The good news for the people of Mackay and the people of Queensland is that Campbell Newman thinks outside Brisbane. He thinks for Queensland. Under a Campbell led government, we would never have had a situation where a new courthouse does not have toilet facilities for females. Women have to go to the old courthouse to use the amenities. That would not happen under a Can-do Campbell led government.