



Speech by


## John-Paul Langbroek

**MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE**

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### LABOR GOVERNMENT

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.31 am): Today we celebrate International Women's Day and I acknowledge the magnificent contributions that every day all Queensland women make to this great state—the contributions they have made in this place and the contributions that they have made to building Queensland.

Under Labor the rising cost of living is already breaking family budgets. Price increases for water, power, fuel, taxes and charges are hitting Queensland families hard. Twelve days ago, Prime Minister Julia Gillard announced a new carbon tax and for the past 12 days Premier Anna Bligh and Queensland Labor have refused to oppose this tax on Queensland lifestyles. This morning we have seen a conga line of weak contributions from the Premier, the Minister for Finance, the Minister for Energy, the Minister for Primary Industries and the Minister for Transport—all advocating a new tax, all exhorting a new tax, all encouraging a new tax.

Why has the Premier not stood up for Queensland families? Why has Premier Bligh put her Canberra based presidency of the ALP before her responsibility to protect Queenslanders? A carbon tax will push up the price of fuel. A carbon tax will push up the price of power. A carbon tax will push up the price of food. A carbon tax is bad for Queensland business. A carbon tax is bad for Queensland families. The LNP will oppose a carbon tax every step of the way.

Queenslanders know they cannot trust Labor, whether it is about taxes on mining, taxes on carbon or taxes on floods, and they need only look at the recent flood events and Labor's management of them. Labor's attempt to keep secret crucial details relating to the operation of dams is a far cry from the promises made by Premier Bligh in the immediate aftermath of the Brisbane flood. The cover-up of documents relating to the operation of Wivenhoe Dam stinks. Brisbane flood victims deserve answers, not cover-ups. More than half of the pages of the dam manual were blanked out. The amount of water released from Wivenhoe was also kept secret. The great flood of Brisbane is quickly becoming the great Wivenhoe cover-up under Anna Bligh. Queensland Labor cannot help itself: lies, cover-ups, blanked out pages—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! The honourable Leader of the Opposition, that is unparliamentary. You will withdraw it.

**Mr LANGBROEK:** I withdraw.

**Mr SPEAKER:** You will refer to the honourable Premier by the correct title.

**Mr LANGBROEK:** Queensland Labor cannot help itself: lies, cover-ups, blanked out pages—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! The honourable Leader of the Opposition will withdraw that.

**Mr LANGBROEK:** I withdraw. The great flood is quickly becoming the great Wivenhoe cover-up under Premier Anna Bligh. They cannot help themselves: whether it is lies, cover-ups, blanked out pages—I beg your pardon, Mr Speaker. I withdraw.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! That is three times. If it occurs again, I will ask the honourable gentleman to sit.

**Mr LANGBROEK:** Many Brisbane people have lost everything. Many are not insured. They have not been able to get answers or money from the Premier's relief fund. On top of all that, the Bligh government is covering up the possible mismanagement of Wivenhoe Dam. Labor's handling of Wivenhoe is just the same as its handling of the health payroll fiasco; it is a cover-up from beginning to end. Who knows how much longer flood victims will wait for the assistance promised today. Already it has been two months and they are still waiting for the money that the Premier promised. That is the problem with Labor: they are great on promises, but hopeless on delivery.

There are two good reasons why Queensland should reject Labor at the next election. Three stand-out examples of long-term Labor mismanagement, incompetence and arrogance are the three ministers who have kept their jobs when they should have been sacked long ago. Those three ministers cannot be sacked because they run the factions and the factions run this long-term Labor government. The Deputy Premier, Paul Lucas, is the man who could not pay nurses. He is the man who cannot be bothered answering correspondence or even reading briefing notes. A man who is legendary for his detached and incompetent management has survived as Deputy Premier because he is Bill Ludwig's boy, the chosen one of the AWU faction.

The Treasurer, the member for Mount Coot-tha, has presided over this state's economic demise. Under his appalling financial management, Queensland's AAA credit rating is but a distant memory. Debt is soaring by about \$1 billion a month. In fact, the most damning statistic of all is that debt is rising faster than even he can sell assets. For the next two years budget deficits will be close to \$4 billion each year. Queensland's debt is more than triple the average of the other states and more than double that of the next worst state, New South Wales. Queensland has higher unemployment, higher taxes, higher water charges and higher power charges. Economic refugees are leaving Queensland and going to the other states. Net migration to Queensland is the lowest it has been for 30 years. He sold the assets and Queensland has nothing to show for it. He is the most arrogant and incompetent minister in a government replete with arrogant and incompetent ministers. Yet the Treasurer keeps his job. How can that be? How can it be that somebody who has trashed our economic record and saddled our children with debt that they will be paying for all of their working lives cannot be sacked by the Premier? He is the king banana of the old guard faction, another factional hack destroying Queensland.

Now we turn to the minister for not very much at all these days, Stephen Robertson. He remains as a minister solely because he stamped his foot and threatened a by-election if he did not get a chauffeur driven car or a ministerial title. He is an old stager from the left faction. He outplayed the Premier when she tried to move him up the back. The people of Queensland—

**An honourable member** interjected.

**Mr LANGBROEK:** Yes, you should be there. The people of Queensland know of his inept management and they know he should be sacked, but he is a factional hack and he will stay a minister for as long as he wants. Of course, there are many other ministerial duds on the Labor front bench. The Labor cabinet is a place where everybody rises to their own level of incompetence. No fool will be left behind by this long-term Labor train wreck. Queenslanders need look no further than the Deputy Premier, the Treasurer and the minister for exorbitant water bills and power price rises to know why this government has got to go. Factional deals keep hopeless ministers in jobs. This Labor government has useless, pathetic and inept ministers at every turn. Before the floods and cyclones, this government was a long-term incompetent disaster, staggering to the next election, bogged down by a pathetic zombie ministry, an ALP cabinet of the walking dead. After the reshuffle, the floods and the cyclones, nothing has changed. The zombie ministers are still there. They are just as hopeless and incompetent as they ever were and they are still running Queensland into the ground.

Queenslanders know that if they want to sack these zombie ministers they have to sack the government. If they want a Deputy Premier who actually cares about Queensland they must sack the government. If they want a Treasurer who will repair the damage of nearly 20 years of Labor mismanagement they must sack the government. If they want ministers who are chosen on worth and ability, not factional hacks, they must sack the government.

Labor is out of ideas. Labor is out of time. Labor is out of talent and Labor is out of touch with the needs of Queenslanders. After nearly 20 years of Labor, after nearly 20 years of mounting debt, after nearly 20 years of higher taxes and charges, after nearly 20 years of mismanagement of health, after nearly 20 years of a softly softly approach to crime, after nearly 20 years of ministers being selected because of factional loyalty, threat and obligation, after nearly 20 years of long-term Labor governments that only care about the next election, not the next generation, it is time for a change.

Only an LNP government can deliver a better Queensland and a fairer go for Queenslanders and their families. Queensland families know that the only party that really cares about them and understands how difficult it is to manage on a budget, with all of Labor's cost-of-living increases, is the LNP. The LNP is the only party that will look after families. The LNP is the only party that will get business moving again. The LNP is the only party that will bring state costs and taxes under control. The LNP is the only party that can turn the Queensland economy around to make this proud state the best-performing one once again. The LNP is the only party that can get back the AAA credit rating and restore Queensland's economic credibility. The LNP is the only party that has the guts to stand up for Queenslanders and oppose the ALP's unfair carbon tax. The LNP is the only party that can deliver a fresh approach, a new vision and a prosperous future for Queensland. We will work day and night between now and the next election to provide Queenslanders with a positive and energetic alternative to this long-term Labor government.