




Speech by

Darren Grimwade

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

Hansard Thursday, 12 July 2012

CARBON TAX

 **Mr GRIMWADE** (Morayfield—LNP) (3.48 pm): I would like to contribute to the debate by continuing my speech in opposition to the carbon tax here in Queensland. Since delivering my speech earlier today, in which I was talking about the impact that the carbon tax is having on the cost of living all around Queensland, I have come across a few other scenarios through constituents and businesses about which I would like to inform the House. I was speaking to the owner of a local business, Redsell Air, which is an air-conditioning business. The owner of that business advises me that, before the carbon tax was introduced on 1 July, the gas he uses to recondition his air-conditioning services was \$400. He advises me that that same gas now costs \$1,200 to \$1,500 a kilogram, an increase in cost of some 300 per cent.

A government member interjected.

Mr GRIMWADE: I take the interjection because that is a massive increase. How is any business in Queensland supposed to offer employment opportunities and offer growth in employment in their own business when they are suffering massive increases in expenditure like that?

A government member: They pass the cost on to families.

Mr GRIMWADE: I take the interjection because what happens is that they pass the cost on to families. The main thing that the federal Labor government has not understood when it comes to the carbon tax is that businesses such as Redsell Air have a retrospective aspect to their business. For example, this particular gentleman would give a five-year warranty on an air-conditioning system. That was given in goodwill four to five years ago. If that air-conditioning system breaks down now and needs to be re-gassed, he needs to re-gas that air-conditioning system at today's dollars. So Mary Smith from down the road might ring up and say, 'The air conditioner has broken down.' In goodwill he will fix it under warranty, but where he would normally re-gas it at \$40 per tonne he now has to gas it at a 300 per cent increase in cost. That is a major hurdle in operating his business.

Earlier I touched on the aquatic centre, football clubs and all these costs that these associations will have that will flow on to mums and dads. But I am also advised by Wyatt Roy, our federal member for Longman, that the Moreton Bay Regional Council is one of 32 councils that have been added to the list of carbon emitters. Now that they produce over 25,000 tonnes of carbon through their landfill our local council will also be hit with the carbon tax.

A government member: Shame!

Mr GRIMWADE: It is shameful. I take the interjection. When the council is hit with the carbon tax, it will pass it on to ratepayers. When it is passed on to ratepayers, it increases the cost of living. We are a government that stands in this place to ensure the cost of living is kept low for Queenslanders, not increasing taxes like those in the Labor Party, and we stand to deliver.