




Speech by

Hon. Jeff Seeney

MEMBER FOR CALLIDE

Hansard Tuesday, 19 June 2012

MOTION: BUDGET STRATEGIES

 **Hon. JW SEENEY** (Callide—LNP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning) (6.22 pm): For the best part of the last hour the parliament has been treated to one of the greatest displays of self-delusion that anyone in Queensland politics has ever seen. The power of the human mind to self-delude is unlimited, especially if you are an ALP member in Queensland politics today. In face of all of the evidence from all of the sources, the ALP—the Labor Party remnant—can still come into this parliament and seek to indulge in self-delusion. The report that was delivered by the Commission of Audit is profound in the message that it delivers to every Queenslanders, and that message cannot be ignored. But that is not the only source of information that is available to Queenslanders who want to consider this question. When the LNP was elected and received briefing notes from Treasury, the first thing that the Treasury briefing note said was that the state's financial situation was unsustainable—eerily similar to the words that were used by the Commission of Audit when it examined the situation.

But the greatest message of all was delivered by the people of Queensland—the people of Queensland who had the chance to vote, who took their water bills and their power bills with them to the ballot box and who voted in that great democratic tradition to pass their judgement on the sustainability of the financial management of the former Labor government. Despite that massive landslide—the biggest landslide in Australia's political history—the message is still denied by those who sit opposite. They still deny the reality. I said on the first day this parliament met that if members of the Labor Party wanted to regain any credibility the first thing they should do is come in here, stand up and apologise to the people of Queensland—acknowledge the extent of their failures and apologise to the people who would bear the burden of those failures not just for a day or a week or a year but for generations to come. Generations of Queenslanders will bear the brunt of the crazy financial management that the former government indulged in.

Tonight we heard from the member for South Brisbane the sort of nonsense socialist philosophy that drove that government—the sort of socialist philosophy that says that all you have to do is spend and run up debt and that is a good thing. There are a couple of things that we on this side of the House—that we on this side of politics—know inherently and instinctively that the Labor Party has never learned. Firstly, if you want to spend money, you have to earn it. You have to earn it first. The other thing that it has never learned is that if you incur debt sooner or later you have to pay it back. That is what debt is. It is a responsibility to pay it back. Those two concepts were completely missing from the previous Labor government, completely missing from any financial management that it applied to the assets of Queenslanders and completely missing from any contribution that we heard in the parliament here tonight.

The people of Queensland know full well the record of the Labor government, and no self-deluded debate in this parliament will change that record. The legacy that the former Labor government left will be long remembered, and it should be long remembered. Generations of students who study public administration will study the Beattie-Bligh government's record as a record of failure—a record of failure that has been recognised by everybody in Queensland and everyone who has looked at the financial situation, a record of failure that has been recognised by everybody but the small group of people who come into this parliament tonight with this self-delusional motion. What a shame it is to see this parliament reduced to this—to see this parliament reduced to debating such a nonsense motion. Given all of the challenges that face Queenslanders, this self-delusion is the best that those opposite can do!

(Time expired)