



Speech by

Michael Crandon

MEMBER FOR COOMERA

Hansard Tuesday, 27 November 2012

MOTION: PUBLIC SERVICE, JOBS

Mr CRANDON (Coomera—LNP) (6.17 pm): With the amount of tripe that has been coming from the other side of the House tonight, I find it difficult to know where to start. I will start with the private member's motion where 'Labor condemns the LNP'. I have some news for you, Labor: the people of Queensland condemned you at the last election. That is what happened. There are seven of you sitting over there, and there are seven of you sitting over there for a very good reason—and that reason is you mucked it up for 20 years. You could not get it right for 20 years!

Madam SPEAKER: Member for Coomera, please address your comments through the chair and refrain from using the term 'you'.

Mr CRANDON: Thank you, Madam Speaker. The second part of this private member's motion notes 'the Premier's refusal to say how many people'. I am sorry, but the Premier is not refusing to say anything. Before the election he told the people of Queensland that there were 20,000 too many public servants. The fortunate thing is that we do not have to go that far. There are not 20,000 too many. We have been able to find some reductions, but I will tell members what: the Bligh government had 41,000 people in its crosshairs—41,000 people, double the number that we suggested might have to go—but at the end of the day we have been able to pull that figure back.

The third part of the private member's motion states 'expresses its concerns to the thousands of families who face a bleak Christmas'. The people of Queensland, unless you have not noticed, have been facing a bleak Christmas every Christmas for years and years and years, and it is on your shoulders! The reason the people of Queensland put this government into power is that the people of Queensland know that there has to be some short-term pain for long-term gain. Okay, they might have a tough Christmas this year just like they did last year because of the members opposite and the years before that, but they are going to have a good future—the right future for themselves, for their children, for their grandchildren. My grandchildren should not be paying off their \$100 billion debt—\$65 billion projection and climbing, climbing, climbing and \$92 billion of projected debt in a few years time and we would be paying off that for three generations.

Mrs MILLER: I rise to a point of order. My point of order is that the member for Coomera used the term '\$100 billion debt' which I understand others have had to apologise for.

Madam SPEAKER: Order! Member for Bundamba, take your seat. The member, in the full sentence, put it in context. I will not take frivolous points of order.

Mr CRANDON: Madam Speaker, thank you for your protection. I rise here to speak in support of the amendment moved by the Treasurer. Earlier, the member for Chatsworth—as did the Treasurer—mentioned that Queensland's fiscal position and outlook is unsustainable. That came from Queensland Treasury. The member did not say that this view is also reinforced by the Queensland Treasury Corporation, which said—

The State's debt has reached unprecedented levels. Together with its published forward estimates showing an even greater volume of debt required, Queensland is now in uncharted waters.

That occurred under the watch of those opposite. Without corrective action gross debt is expected to be \$92 billion in 2015-16.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr CRANDON: I thank the member for giving me that nice segue. Gross debt is expected to be \$100 billion by 2018-19. That is where the numbers come from.

Those opposite do not understand that there is a subtle difference between government and business. Government does not create jobs; business creates jobs.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr CRANDON: The members opposite should listen carefully. They can keep on increasing the number of people in their employ, but they are not creating any economic benefit for the state of Queensland. The businesses of Queensland, as referred to by the member for Broadwater, are the ones that create the jobs in this state. Our target is to bring unemployment down to four per cent over the next six years. The major difference between the two sides of this parliament is that the members opposite do not get it; we do.

Mrs Miller interjected.

Madam SPEAKER: Order! Member for Bundamba, I will ask you to withdraw that as it is unparliamentary.

Mrs MILLER: I withdraw.

Mr CRANDON: Madam Speaker, thank you once again for your protection. I have taken so many notes here, I just want to touch on some of them. I have 30 seconds to go, but I am sorry I cannot address them all. We talked about \$85 billion debt in forward estimates, but let me finish on water assets—\$7 billion or \$8 billion worth of water assets when it should have cost \$4 billion, maybe \$5 billion for the same ones. Do the members opposite know why that occurred? Because they did them on a cost-plus basis. Do they know what that means? You are guaranteeing profits. The bottom line is that we promised the people of Queensland that we would fix the problems and grow the Queensland economy for all Queenslanders.

(Time expired)