




Speech by

Michael Hart

MEMBER FOR BURLEIGH

Hansard Thursday, 29 November 2012

TOURISM AND EVENTS QUEENSLAND BILL

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (12.13 pm): I rise to support the Tourism and Events Queensland Bill 2012, which was introduced by my good friend the member for Currumbin in her role as Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games. It is interesting to note that the LNP Newman team came into government promoting a four-pillar economy, those pillars being construction, agriculture, resources and, of course, tourism.

Mr Ruthenberg: Not much tourism on the Gold Coast, is there?

Mr HART: I will cover that in a minute. This is quite a simple bill. It merges Queensland Tourism and Events Queensland into one entity to be called Tourism and Events Queensland. It was interesting to note that the member for Bundamba stood in this place, mentioned the previous efforts of the Labor government and tried to praise those efforts. I really cannot support her praise of the efforts of the former Labor government as those efforts led us into a debt regime that has cost the state around \$65 billion, increasing to \$85 billion over the next few years. The effort of the former Labor Party led to a \$1.2 billion rusting desalination plant on the Gold Coast. The effort of the former Labor government led to a \$9 billion water grid in South-East Queensland that we do not use. We have dams with no pipes and we have pipes with no dams. Those are the sorts of things that have resulted from the effort of the former Labor government. There is no doubt that it was addicted to debt.

I am glad to see that the member for Woodridge is in the House. During the debate on the Appropriation Bill, she was asked where the money for the NDIS might come from. Her response was that it does not matter where the money comes from because it is federal money. I have to tell the member that it does matter where the money comes from, because it is not the Labor Party's money; it is the money of the people of Queensland and the people of Australia and we cannot waste it as the former Labor government did. You cannot claim that you are generating work simply because you have built up a Public Service of 214,000 people. That does not work.

The merger of Events Queensland and Tourism Queensland will lead to cost savings. There will be one leased facility instead of two; there will be lower phone bills, fax bills, printing bills and so on. There will be a lot of cost savings of that nature. The member for Chatsworth uses a certain word in these instances in this place and that word is 'genius'. This is genius. I commend the member for Currumbin for bringing this legislation to the House and I condemn the Labor Party for the debt that it left this state with.