




Speech by

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MEMBER FOR LOGAN

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BEATTIE-BLIGH LABOR GOVERNMENTS

 **Mr PUCCI** (Logan—LNP) (11.52 am): Semper fidelis—always faithful. In my Marine Corps days, that meant faithfulness to those you are serving. It was trust between you and the people who count on you. Today I rise in the House to talk about the lack of trust and the lack of faith the previous Labor government had in the people of Queensland. The opposition in the House today would have us believe that every problem the Queensland state has is a problem caused by a former conservative government. As the Premier said, they seem to have collective amnesia. There has never been any government that could compare to the 20 years of the bad ole Labor government. Thank goodness the voters of Queensland saw this lack of faith given to them by previous Labor governments and have now given the Newman team the opportunity to repair the waste, the ineptitude, the scandals and the arrogance of the bad ole Labor government.

Let us talk about these bad ole days which have seen the cost of living spiral out of control. Where should I start? How about the 31 per cent increase in tolls on the Gateway and Logan motorways? Then there are the three compounded 15 per cent increases that saw public transport fares increase by 50 per cent. Let us not forget the 24 per cent increase in vehicle registration or the doubling of driver's licence fees. And everyone felt it when the bad ole Labor government scrapped the fuel subsidy, adding an extra 9.2c per litre to the price of fuel for already struggling families.

Let us talk about the bad ole days where trust was breached time and time again. In the bad ole days of the Labor government, how many promises to the public were broken? We had the promise that privatisation of electricity would not cause electricity prices to rise. Instead, under the bad ole days of the Labor government they increased by \$700 per year for the average family. How about the fact that \$15 billion of assets were sold and yet in the bad ole days under Beattie and Bligh Labor racked up four times as much in debt—\$65 billion and rising, leaving nothing to show for it except an increase in the cost of living.

Another broken promise was about not removing the fuel subsidy which I mentioned earlier. Let us not forget the promised cyclone shelters after Cyclone Larry in 2006. I have talked with my far northern brothers and they have told me how the people in their areas suffered in 2011 when they were hit by Cyclone Yasi and no shelters had still been built. In the bad ole days of the Bligh-Beattie government, how many cost blow-outs and bungled inept decisions were made? They spent \$600 million on a dam that had not even been approved. They spent \$2 billion to build a desalination plant only for it to sit unused. They spent \$450 million on the Northern Pipeline Interconnector, otherwise known as the pipeline to nowhere. Do not forget the decision to buy a train without seats. If we talk about bungs, look at the decision to run a new health payroll system before it was ready, leaving a cost of over \$1.2 billion to fix and maintain, causing ongoing financial and emotional distress to thousands of health workers.

Then there is the lack of accountability. There were no checks and balances in place, thus allowing a fake Tahitian prince to embezzle \$16 million in taxpayers' funds from the health department. The bad ole days of the Bligh Labor government included forced amalgamations of councils. The lack of consultation highlighted the arrogance of a tired, bad ole government. It had no plan to tackle debt and this led to the loss of our AAA credit rating.

Over the past 20 years of the bad ole Labor government what has it given us? It has given us a train without seats, dams without pipes, pipes without dams, nurses without pay and a Tahitian prince that took \$16 million from the Queensland people. Next time you hear one of the opposition members talk about the bad ole days, I urge Queenslanders to remember the bad ole days—the 20 years of the Beattie-Bligh government, the real bad ole days for Queensland.

But now there is a new dawn and a new sheriff in town. The Newman government has a plan and is already giving Queenslanders help with cost-of-living issues. We have increased the payroll tax exemption threshold. We froze tariff 11 electricity prices. We are providing free rides on buses after nine trips, and that was all in the first six months. Unlike the previous Labor government, the Newman government is delivering cost-of-living relief and red-tape reduction for thousands of families and businesses across Queensland. We are growing a strong four-pillar economy, righting the ship and sailing it into the fair winds and following seas for all future Queenslanders, and I say we remain semper fidelis.