



Speech by

Peter Wellington

MEMBER FOR NICKLIN

Hansard Wednesday, 11 July 2012

SUNSHINE COAST, TRAIN SERVICES; CALOUNDRA SOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Mr WELLINGTON (Nicklin—Ind) (9.54 pm): This evening I offer the Premier another suggestion on what the state government could do with the taxpayers' money it could save by not proceeding with the politically motivated High Court challenge to the federal government's mining resource rent tax. I believe it is absolutely ridiculous in these times of hardship that the state government intends to join in a High Court challenge over the federal government's mining resource rent tax when it is obvious to everyone that after the federal election scheduled for next year Tony Abbott will be the next Australian Prime Minister. Whether you like it or not, it will happen and there will be no mining resource rent tax and no carbon tax in Australia.

My suggestion to our Premier is that the savings from the abandoned court proceedings could be better spent on providing toilets on the trains that travel between the Sunshine Coast and Brisbane. It is totally unacceptable that train passengers who take this trip from the Sunshine Coast to Brisbane but who need to visit a toilet during the journey have to get off the train at Caboolture, visit the toilet and then catch a later train to continue their journey to Brisbane. I believe that if the Premier proceeds with this High Court challenge it will show the double standards of this government—by depriving our elderly and disabled train passengers—

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member for Nicklin is misguided. There is no challenge. There is no joining.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): That is not a point of order, Attorney-General.

Mr WELLINGTON: I believe that if the Premier proceeds with his High Court challenge it shows the double standards of this government—by depriving our elderly and disabled passengers of important toilet facilities on our trains while claiming that the government has no money. What a disgrace—because at the same time they are going to waste taxpayers' money on pandering to Fortescue's mining interests, simply because they can. That is what is on the parliamentary record.

While I am on my feet, I table an article published in today's *Sunshine Coast Daily* written by Mr Bill Hoffman about the Caloundra South development.

Tabled paper: Article from the Sunshine Coast Daily online, dated 11 July 2012, titled 'Change brings business as usual' [\[518\]](#).

Can I say that I share the concerns of Mr Hoffman and the former mayor of the Sunshine Coast Regional Council, Bob Abbot, about this significant development, which, when completed, members may not be aware, could be of a size equal to Gladstone.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Ms TRAD: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. If the Attorney-General wants to interject, he should go back to his own seat.

Mr Bleijie: Mr Deputy Speaker, I am Acting Leader of the House. This is where the Acting Leader of the House sits.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Resume your seat.

Mr WELLINGTON: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I hope my actions in tabling this article tonight—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr WELLINGTON:—might prompt the Premier or any of his ministers to pick up the telephone, speak with Mr Hoffman and respond to the serious—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Nicklin! I am on my feet! Do you want to leave the House early?

Mr WELLINGTON: Sorry.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: It would help if you paid more attention to what was happening in the House.

Mr WELLINGTON: I thought there were interjections from them and I did not want to take them.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: On the point of order by the member for South Brisbane, the Attorney-General is within his right as the Acting Leader of the House to make points of order from where he is seated. The member for Nicklin has the call.

Ms TRAD: Mr Deputy Speaker, on the point of order: is that the Acting Leader of the House or the Acting Manager of Government Business?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is actually Acting Leader of the House. I consider that to be a most frivolous point of order, especially so close to the finish of the day. The member for South Brisbane has already been warned under standing order 253A, so now under 253A the member for South Brisbane will leave the chamber for one hour—basically the duration.

Whereupon the honourable member for South Brisbane withdrew from the chamber at 9.59 pm.

Mr WELLINGTON: I hope my actions in tabling this article tonight might prompt the Premier or any of his senior ministers to pick up the telephone, speak with Mr Hoffman and respond to the serious issues raised not just in this article about the Caloundra South development but also in previous articles that he has written about this significant development which is about to happen in the hinterland of the Sunshine Coast south of Caloundra. I agree that we need economic development, but let us make sure that the reasons for the decisions are all aboveboard and in our community's best interests.