




Speech by  
**Reg Gulley**

**MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA**

Hansard Tuesday, 19 June 2012

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**TREASURY (COST OF LIVING) AND OTHER LEGISLATION  
AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr GULLEY** (Murrumba—LNP) (12.05 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Treasury (Cost of Living) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill.

Battlers are always better off under Labor. Battlers are always better off under Labor.

**Mr Rickuss:** Who said that?

**Mr GULLEY:** They are clearly not my words, member for Lockyer, but now that I have your attention—

**Mr Gibson:** It was pretty awkward there for a moment.

**Mr GULLEY:** They are clearly not my words but they were spoken publicly during the campaign. They were words spoken at a public forum on the north side of Brisbane in February this year. They were words spoken at a public forum by a former ALP member of this House. During this speech I would like to explore this fallacy.

This bill has been declared urgent pursuant to standing order 137. I would like to add that this bill is urgent in order to deliver real cost-of-living savings to the good people of Murrumba who are now worse off after 20 years under Labor. Unlike the members of the ALP, we on this side of the House recognise that battlers were suffering from increased cost-of-living expenses and that urgent steps need to be taken to address cost-of-living issues.

At the last election, we on this side of parliament went to the electorate—in my case to the electorate of Murrumba—with a plan, a pledge. I am very proud to have signed the LNP pledge to reduce the cost of living, grow a four-pillar economy, revitalise front-line services, deliver better infrastructure and better planning, and restore accountability for government.

I now speak in support of this bill to deliver the pledge that I gave during the state election. Firstly, I would like to talk about reinstating the principal place of residence concession rate of transfer duty for the family home. This concession was taken away from Queenslanders by the previous Labor government on 1 August 2011. I am proud that a Campbell Newman government will reinstate the concession rate of transfer duty and deliver real cost-of-living savings of up to \$7,000 to Queensland families. Battlers were worse off under Labor.

Secondly, I support payroll tax relief for small and medium businesses by amending the payroll tax exemption threshold. I support the competitiveness of Queensland employers, who will now be able to employ more staff. I am proud to support any measure to create and maintain more jobs. Battlers were worse off under Labor.

Thirdly, I would like to support the measures in this bill to reduce the cost of electricity. I applaud the step to freeze tariff 11 and give the minister the power to regulate energy network charges for 2012-13. I will leave increased electricity charges with regard to the carbon tax for other commentators. During my

maiden speech I spoke of a pensioner who said that they went to bed at 6.30 at night during winter because they struggled to pay their electricity bills. Again, battlers were worse off under Labor.

Fourthly, I want to support the establishment of a new office within the Queensland Competition Authority—that is, the Office of Best Practice Regulation. With my training in accounting, I understand governance. I understand accountability. I believe in open and accountable reporting. I know that good governance gives rise to good outcomes. Good governance is based on organisations seeking to be of best practice, and best practice gives rise to good outcomes. The battlers were worse off under Labor.

Fifthly, let us talk about one of the clearest examples of regulation for regulation's sake—regulation that achieved almost zero outcomes and only served to push up the cost of living for the good people of Queensland and Murrumba. I am talking about sustainability declarations. I support the commitment given by Campbell Newman to get Queensland back on track by reducing real estate red tape by scrapping sustainability declarations. Again, battlers were clearly worse off under Labor.

Let us go on a history lesson of waste. Let us go on a journey of waste—a slow-motion train smash of high cost of living that has been coming for a decade. A decade ago the Queensland Labor government started to live beyond its means. Did it choose to be honest with Queenslanders and the people of the Murrumba electorate? No! It chose to raid the dividends of government owned corporations. Who can forget the cash raid of the electricity companies and—surprise, surprise—who is now paying higher electricity prices? The battlers.

**Mr Rickuss:** The whole system collapsed.

**Mr GULLEY:** Correct. We should also consider that the ALP continued to live beyond its means and was happy to count the billions of dollars of income from the QIC as operating income. But, alas, the winds of the stock market changed and the losses of the Queensland Investment Corporation under Labor were then treated as off balance sheet. Again, here our Labor government's honesty with the good people of Queensland was not there. It was not honest that it was spending more than it was earning. It then said, 'Let's put it on the credit card!' But what did the government do when the credit card got maxed out? It blamed the GFC for its own mismanagement. Instead of owning up to the public—

**Mr Rickuss:** They went to payday lenders.

**Mr GULLEY:** Yes, it did. It said, 'Let's go and hock the family silver.' There was no change in its ability to control its lust to spend money. But at last the credit card provider was not happy and had to increase state government charges. This decade-long deception came to an end. The music stopped. There were no chairs left to hide its lust of spending, and the slow-moving train smash arrived at the 2012 state election.

I support this legislation. I refute the statement that battlers are better off under Labor. Clearly, the good people of Murrumba and Queensland are better off with a can-do government under Campbell Newman.

**Mr Rickuss** interjected.

**Mr GULLEY:** Yes; I take that interjection. I support the minister in getting Queensland back on track. I commend this bill to the House.