



Speech by


## Trevor Watts

MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA NORTH

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### CARBON TAX

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (6.02 pm): I rise today to congratulate the Labor Party on working out a way to cool the planet by drinking beer. For those who may not be aware, before I came into this place I was a publican, and a proud publican. I have been in small business all my life, and pubs was the last business I was in. I was speaking to a publican the other day who informed me that his electricity bill with the carbon tax will be going up by \$30,000 per annum.

**Mr Costigan:** That's a lot of pots!

**Mr WATTS:** That is a lot of pots. So here we have the party of the working-class man—and you know who you are. You want to sit down and have a pot of beer. Guess what is going to happen? You are going to cool the planet with every sip. With every sip of beer the planet will be cooling, according to Labor's plan. I wanted to look into this a bit and talk about how this is going to work. Are we suggesting that the more beer people drink the cooler the planet will get? I thought that was not an outcome we were looking for.

I then started talking to this publican about other costs he might have under the carbon tax. He said that if he did not refrigerate the beer as much and let people take it away, that would save money. Then he would have to look at the transport costs of getting it from A to B and how that was going to work. The bottom line is that Labor has this plan that it is going to cool the planet by drinking beer.

Then I started thinking about the carbon tax and how it is actually going to impact on the working-class man. If we are going to hit the working-class man when he has a beer, how else is it going to impact on him? I noted recently that the deputy mayor of Toowoomba, Mike Williams, said that the council will have to put up rates by two to three per cent so that it can afford the increased cost of landfill.

So there we are: you mow your lawn—it is getting pretty hot—and you have a beer to cool down. You put the grass clippings in the back of the trailer and as you drive off you get taxed again. Apparently we can cool the planet by drinking beer and mowing the lawn if Labor are to be believed.

It astounds me that this tax is going to come through every part of the economy over a period of time. I do not understand why those sitting opposite are championing something that their illustrious federal leader promised would never be introduced. Still they say nothing.

It is very disappointing to me to see what is happening to people in my former industry who are already finding it difficult with the compliance costs and knee-jerk reactions that were forced on them by the party of those who are sitting opposite. Now they are going to contribute to cooling the planet by drinking beer.