




Speech By
Shane Knuth

MEMBER FOR DALRYMPLE

MOTION: CARBON TAX

 **Mr KNUTH** (Dalrymple—KAP) (11.35 am): I support the motion, which seeks to scrap the carbon tax. I believe that the carbon tax will cost jobs and increase the cost of electricity. It affects basically everyone. Small businesses and people from all different walks of life and backgrounds will suffer as a result of this carbon tax. The conspirators used to say that we will pay for the air we breathe. I believe that this tax lays the foundation for that proposition.

There are other issues to consider. I mention the massive expansion of the ethanol industry, with sugar cane and grain. No doubt this would not only create jobs but also bring about clean energy through co-generation. Likewise, a mandated 10 per cent ethanol blend right across Queensland would see benefits flow to all consumers—not only to drivers but also in the form of cleaner air.

The carbon tax will increase electricity prices. Both the Labor Party and the Liberal Party supported passing on the cost of the carbon tax through electricity price increases.

A government member: When did we support it?

Mr KNUTH: You supported it last year. It is in *Hansard*; have a look. At the last minute the LNP backed the Labor Party passing the electricity price increases on to the consumer rather than to the energy companies. They believed that they needed to look after the energy companies because as time went by they were looking to sell our energy assets. The Treasurer was frothing at the mouth and hoping they could get this sale through. As such, they did not want the impost of the carbon tax placed on the energy providers.

This is a good motion. Hopefully common sense will prevail and we will see the carbon tax thrown out.