




Speech By
Hon. Tim Nicholls

MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 29 October 2013

MOTION: NEWMAN GOVERNMENT, ELECTION COMMITMENTS

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade) (5.50 pm): Can I thank the Premier as well. I am certainly very happy to rise to support the amendment to the motion moved by the Premier and, of course, to completely disabuse the people of Queensland of the falsities being spread by the opposition over there. Madam Speaker, when you talk about a contract, when you talk about a breach of a contract, it is something that you need to do with clean hands. The law requires you to come forward and say, 'I am accusing you of something but, Your Honour, I have clean hands. I myself am not at fault.' So when you consider the ridiculous motion put forward by the opposition this evening, let us have a look at whether the opposition come to this matter with clean hands. Let us see whether they have not—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): Order! Those on my left will cease interjecting. The Treasurer has the call.

Mr NICHOLLS: Thank you for your protection, Mr Deputy Speaker. Let us see whether they have not themselves committed a fundamental breach with the people of Queensland. When we do that we need to look back at recent history, because undoubtedly the Labor Party's record is one of broken promises and not clean hands. They shamelessly said anything before the election in 2009; in fact, they shamelessly said anything before the 2012 election. Thank God they were not elected because there would be more broken promises from the Labor Party.

What did Andrew Fraser say to Madonna King on 13 March 2009, eight days before the 2009 election? Madonna King asked, 'Yes or no, are there any assets you are planning to privatise?' Andrew Fraser answered, 'No ... We don't have any plans.' Then they broke their promise not to repeal the fuel subsidy. Let us look again at what they said: 'Make no mistake about it. We'll be delivering a fuel subsidy scheme. It will stay in place.' That was Andrew Fraser on 16 January 2009. And they broke their promise on electricity prices by saying privatisation would not raise the cost of household power bills. And what did they do? What did the former Premier promise? 'Nobody will be worse off.' What was the result? A 60 per cent increase in the cost of electricity over five years and the loss of control over being able to do something about it and their then Treasurer wrote to the Australian Energy Regulator and said, 'We want to charge more. We want you to increase the value of the assets.' So when you ask the Labor Party whether they come to this with clean hands, they have to say they do not. They broke every aspect of their contract with Queenslanders in 2009 and they were rewarded for it.

Then look at what we have said we will do. We have said we will show Queenslanders that we are a can-do government and that we are serious about delivering a brighter future. We promised to grow a four-pillar economy, to lower the cost of living, to deliver better infrastructure and planning, to revitalise front-line services and to restore accountability in government. I will focus on the cost of

living, because what was the very first bill introduced by the Newman LNP government into this parliament? The cost-of-living bill—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, those on my left!

Mr NICHOLLS: And it was the second bill passed, after it went through a committee, by this government. And what did it do? The average family saw about \$330 reduced from their taxes and charges as a result of that bill. What were we facing at that time? Queensland families had seen under Labor a \$700 increase in household power bills.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Those on my left will cease interjecting.

Mr NICHOLLS: Queensland was the most expensive state in Australia to own a motor vehicle and tolls were increased by 30 per cent on the Gateway Bridge before they flogged off the Gateway Motorway. So what did we do? We reduced it. We froze car registration for three years—not even a CPI increase. We reintroduced the principal place of residence concession, saving families over \$7,000 when buying their house. We introduced the \$80 subsidy for fuel purchases. The Minister for Transport has promised in relation to public transport fares, unlike the Leader of the Opposition, to reduce the increase in those fares by 50 per cent, has increased travel through the use of the weekly go card ticket and has introduced savings such that a regular commuter from my electorate of Clayfield will now save around \$430 on transport. We are delivering on our contract.

(Time expired)