




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR MULGRAVE

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MOTION: COST OF LIVING, SENIORS AND PENSIONERS

 **Mr PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (3.57 pm): This is the second distraction this week. It is a distraction from what we are meant to be discussing this week—overall that is, of course, the Queensland budget. Yesterday we saw the Treasurer download and dump a secondary document into this whole budget process which is, of course, a distraction from the failings of the budget itself. So what this distracting motion is all about is again trying to avert attention from the fact that the Newman government have failed to actually do what they said they were going to do and stick up for Queenslanders against this Tony Abbott-led federal government.

What we know is that they have failed to actually address the issue of concessions adequately in the budget. They had their opportunity yesterday and they have not done this. What they have done is actually kowtow as usual. We know that the Premier has been giving advice to the Prime Minister—‘Copy me. Copy me.’ Well they have; he has cut, cut, cut. It has been a budget of austerity federally and, of course, now it is also about hurting people. He is hurting pensioners. He is hurting others because we also know that there are going to be other cuts besides the ones to pensioners. Besides those cuts, over the next decade we are going to be seeing \$80 billion in cuts—\$50 billion in Health, \$30 billion in Education. Those opposite must—

Ms Davis: Support the motion.

Mr PITT: I take the interjection from the member for Aspley. She says, ‘Support this motion.’ Why didn’t this government actually support the motion moved in this House by the Labor opposition? On 6 May we said—

That this House:

1. notes that the Abbott Liberal National government is currently considering breaking election promises by implementing massive spending cuts that will affect funding for health, education, pensioners, minimum wage earners and students; and
2. calls on the Premier, the Treasurer and the entire Newman government to stand up for this state and reject the federal government’s plans that will adversely affect vulnerable Queenslanders.

They did not support that motion. They did not support it. In fact, they tried to defend their mates in Canberra. That is the sort of thing we have come to see. They talk about duplicity. Well, take a good look in the mirror because that is exactly what this government is. It is about hurting Queenslanders and hurting vulnerable people.

We keep hearing this nonsense about a strong plan. It is the wrong plan for pensioners, it is the wrong plan for job seekers and it is the wrong plan for families struggling with the cost of living. Every member opposite knows this is a distraction because we saw them clear out. They are embarrassed to sit here and hear their leader speak. They did not want to hear what he had to say.

During question time today the Premier talked about loaded questions. He had the opportunity to move a straight motion, just like the one the opposition moved on 6 May calling for people to stick up for Queenslanders and attack Tony Abbott but he could not help himself. He had to rope in the

carbon tax and something about condemning the Labor Party. That is the sort of nonsense we see from this government. We see it all the time. People should not be surprised because under this government there have been broken promises all along. They have broken promises every single day of the week, it seems under this government. No-one trusts them anymore. Just like they said there would be no new taxes before the last budget, they said there are no new taxes in this budget. They even suggested there were no increases. Taxation per person has increased. It has gone up by \$330 since the Newman government came to power. It has increased by I think \$73 in this budget. That means more pain—

Mr Stevens interjected.

Mr PITT: They are in your budget papers, member for Mermaid Beach. You might want to have a look. They do not understand the sort of pain they are inflicting on people in this state. This LNP government is not managing the economy for working Queenslanders. It is not looking after the people it said it would look after.

Let us talk quickly about the carbon tax. Campbell Newman, the now Premier, said before the election that he was saving \$120 per year for households on electricity. What do we know? He knew all about the carbon tax before he made that commitment. He knew that he could not honour that commitment but he made it anyway. What he fails to mention is that he also knew about the Household Assistance Package, which was offsetting the carbon tax for our most vulnerable people.

We have crocodile tears being cried by the Treasurer when he says that he wants to do whatever he can to help out. They are crocodile tears because he described the Prime Minister's cuts to concessions as 'a strong decision'. He said it was a strong decision when he was providing his response to the federal budget. Shame on those opposite! What did the Treasurer say before the election? He said this government would reform electricity tariffs to 'lower your bill'—not to keep it at bay, not to manage it but to lower it just like they said they would lower the cost of living. I table that document.

Tabled paper: Letter, undated, from Mr Campbell Newman, Leader of the LNP, and Mr Tim Nicholls, member for Clayfield, regarding the 2012 State election [\[5324\]](#).

That is exactly what they have not done. They have hurt Queenslanders across-the-board. They should be ashamed of themselves.

Mr Kempton interjected.

Mr PITT: Guess what? You are going to face an election and your pensioners are going to belt you.