




Speech By
Curtis Pitt

MEMBER FOR MULGRAVE

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MEMBER'S STATEMENTS

Newman Government, Performance

 **Mr PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (2.49 pm): We have seen yet another week of arrogance and outright deception from the Newman LNP government. I cannot let the opportunity pass without picking up on the Premier's inane answer to a question this morning when he talked about what cars opposition members drove. The irony here is that I actually lease my ute but at the end of the lease period I will own that vehicle. In the case of my ute and of those assets on offer by the LNP, just like the head of the ACCC said when asked the difference between a lease and a sale, they are one and the same! Despite Queensland Treasury and now Standard & Poor's saying that a lease is a sale, the LNP is still spending millions of taxpayers' dollars to say the exact opposite. If we applied this 'lease is not a sale' logic to the Bligh government, it sold some above-rail assets—nothing more. Apparently, the Port of Brisbane, Abbot Point, the coal rail network and Forestry Plantations Queensland are all still controlled by Queenslanders and were never sold!

The Strong Choices political propaganda campaign is the most deceptive campaign I have ever seen. It would be like if John Howard's *Unchain My Heart* ads said that there would be no GST. Of course, then he introduced one. That is what this government is doing. It is spending our money to say 'no asset sales' while undertaking the largest asset sell-off in our state's history. If the LNP wants to run a dishonest advertising campaign, then it should pay for it, not Queensland taxpayers.

The Standard & Poor's report that the Treasurer so gleefully read from yesterday also included commentary that that 'small man's ego' tower at 1 William Street is a 'contingent liability' for the state and that a return to a AAA credit rating is unlikely over the next few years, even factoring in the Newman government's asset sales. This contradicts the Premier's claim that a AAA credit rating would be delivered from asset sales over the next few years. However, I should forgive the Premier for his lack of knowledge about the state's finances. After all, the Premier did say that his LNP colleagues in Western Australia were the doyens of fiscal management before their credit rating was downgraded—funnily enough, investing in infrastructure. I table a letter from the Premier who, as Brisbane Lord Mayor, wrote to the former Labor government begging it to borrow money and to disregard the state's credit rating. He was happy to take the state's money to rebuild Brisbane while condemning the debt used to fund that assistance, just like this government cuts the ribbon and smiles for the cameras when opening Labor infrastructure projects but decries the manner in which they were funded. What did Standard & Poor's say about the former government in September 2011? It said—

Queensland's financial management is excellent, in our view.

In June 2010 it said—

Although the rating remains on a 'stable' outlook, an upgrade may be possible ...

As Standard & Poor's noted in 2011, unprecedented natural disasters prevented a credit rating upgrade. Taxpayer funded ads that tell Queenslanders 'no asset sales' must stop immediately. If a private company were engaging in the sort of deception that these ads are, they would be legally liable for misleading advertising. Surely this government is not only breaching its own code; it seems to be breaking every other code as well.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 14 April 2010, to Hon. Anna Bligh, then Premier, from the South East Queensland Council of Mayors regarding a state budget submission [\[6419\]](#).

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