



Speech By
Hon. Tim Nicholls

MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 26 August 2014

MOTION: FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, BUDGET



Hon. TJ NICHOLLS (Clayfield—LNP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade) (5.45 pm): I move—

That all words after 'House' be deleted and the following words inserted:

- notes that under the budgets of the Rudd-Gillard-Rudd Labor governments national debt increased from \$67.2 billion to \$339.8 billion;
- notes federal Labor broke their promise and introduced a carbon tax, which added \$177 to the typical household bill in 2013-14 and would have added \$170 to the typical household bill in 2014-15;
- notes Queensland state Labor supported their federal counterparts in all these actions; and
- condemns the current opposition for opposing the repeal of the carbon tax.

How quickly those opposite forget that Tony Abbott was elected by Queenslanders to fix Labor's budget mess and end the toxic carbon tax. If there was one thing that the coalition was elected on, it was to stop the carbon tax and get rid of the job-destroying, business-destroying carbon tax that added to the cost of living for all Queenslanders. Queenslanders overwhelmingly voted to put an end to the five years of Rudd-Gillard-Rudd non-government, misgovernment and absolute failure of government that was the scourge of Australia for five years. Of the 30 seats in Queensland, 24 were returned to the coalition. That was the overwhelming message from the people of Queensland last year, and that is still the overwhelming message of Queenslanders; that is, the carbon tax needed to go to save people money.

How did the opposition comport themselves when it came to talking about the carbon tax? In April 2011, well before it came through, when the Deputy Premier moved a motion in this place asking the Labor state government to defend Queensland against the carbon tax, how did Labor vote? They voted against it. In September 2011 there was another motion by the Deputy Premier opposing the introduction of the carbon tax because of cost-of-living impacts, and what did Labor do? They voted against it. On 10 September 2013 the opposition in this place again voted against endorsing the Abbott government's election commitment to abolish the carbon tax, and as recently as June this year they again refused to support the repeal of the carbon tax. If there is one party in this state that has consistently, deliberately and with malice aforethought chosen to increase the cost of living for Queenslanders, it is the Labor Party in Queensland which has shamelessly followed the head office—the Kremlinistas in Canberra—down the path. I note with some disappointment the new member for Stafford again kowtowing to the comrades in Canberra and mouthing the lines that are sent up from Bill Shorten's office for him to parrot up here. Where was the comrade from Stafford back in May when it came to the budget? I did not hear him talking about it or squealing about the pain that was being suffered as he trundled into the practice that day and, I am sure, proceeded to charge the full rate for the medical procedure that he was practising on someone. Did he ever say anything about the former Labor government when they broke their promise to maintain a fuel subsidy in Queensland? Did he say anything about the 8c a litre extra that people had to pay? I did not hear the member for Stafford say anything about that. I did not hear members opposite say anything about that.

Mr Stevens interjected.

Mr NICHOLLS: I take that interjection from the member for Mermaid Beach. Did he say anything when Wayne Swan retrospectively ripped over \$100 million out of the health system, aided and abetted by the member for Redcliffe last year? He retrospectively took that money out of the health system, forcing Queensland to find it. Did he say anything when the principal place of residence concession—not on the farm but on the home that most people own—was ripped away from people? Did he mention anything about that? Did he talk about the waste levy that increased the cost of business? Did he talk about the increased land and gaming taxes that the old ‘mythbuster’ talks about? Did he talk about the increased motor vehicle registration fees which made Queensland the most expensive place in which to register a car? Those opposite speak with a forked tongue when it comes to the cost of living. All they do is deliver higher taxes, more debt and more deficit.

(Time expired)