




Speech By  
**Yvette D'Ath**

**MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE**

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**MOTION: COST OF LIVING, SENIORS AND PENSIONERS**

 **Ms D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (4.07 pm): This is nothing but a stunt. It is an absolute stunt. It is all about politics. If it were not about politics you would have supported Labor's motion on 6 May. Even the media today are reporting that the Treasurer—

**Government members** interjected.

**Madam SPEAKER:** Order! Pause the clock. I know this is a heated debate and there are exchanges taking place, but it is becoming difficult to hear. I call the member for Redcliffe.

**Ms D'ATH:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. If the government were serious about its motion, it would have supported what Labor put forward on 6 May—

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.

We have heard the Minister for Communities talk about how they are really concerned about vulnerable Queenslanders, but they were not willing to support this on 6 May. The only reason they are supporting this now—

**Ms Davis** interjected.

**Madam SPEAKER:** Order! Minister, I would ask for interjections to cease. It is becoming difficult to hear. I call the member for Redcliffe.

**Ms D'ATH:** The Premier and the Treasurer and the LNP government are desperately trying to redeem themselves with the pensioners and the seniors out there across Queensland. Even the media today are reporting—

Treasurer Tim Nicholls has taken to talk-back radio to defend unpopular measures in his third Queensland budget, particularly assets sales and cuts to pensioner concessions.

Even the media can see what is going on here—that this government realise they have messed up big time. They are punishing Queenslanders and they are punishing pensioners and seniors, and they are trying to back-pedal as quickly as possible by once again blaming someone else. They are blaming the federal government instead of stepping up and taking responsibility for their own actions.

Let us have a look at what this government have actually done themselves over the last 2½ years. They promised a reduction in electricity prices and they promised a reduction in water prices, but all we have seen is more and more pain and these prices going up. Of course, they said in their own budget speech that the federal government are taking away around \$50 million in concessions—

**Mr Dowling** interjected.

**Madam SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Order! Member for Redlands, I ask you to cease your interjections.

**Ms D'ATH:** They seem to have found \$6 million to promote their Strong Choices, to have their big billboards out there, to have all of their ads on the TV and on the internet, to go out and have their forums, but we are still to hear what the dollar amount is that they intend to spend into the future. They would not answer this question in question time today. How many more millions of dollars are the LNP government going to spend promoting their Strong Choices and their asset sales? We have already seen their website changed; they have got the new plan up there already. Are they going to have the billboards again? Are they going to have the television ads again? Are we going to have the full page ads in the newspapers all over the state? How much more are they going to spend? They are talking about \$50 million in concession cuts from the federal government, but how many millions of dollars are they spending on this political advertising campaign on their asset sales? The pensioners and the seniors out there have the right to know.

If they are serious about putting up a motion that supports Queenslanders and condemns the federal government for the actions they have taken, why aren't they condemning them on the changing of the indexation for pensioners that will see them losing around \$400 a year? Why aren't they condemning them about the cuts to the seniors health card supplements, the increase in the fuel costs, the GP fee, the cost to go and get a blood test, the cost on pharmaceuticals, the extra \$5 on medicines every time they go to the chemist? Why aren't they condemning them for the attack on the most vulnerable, for those who are under 30 and who lose their job and who will get no welfare support at all for six months each year? Why aren't they talking about what is in their own budget papers—the cuts to the early childhood education, the cuts to universities, the cuts to the tool allowance for apprentices? Why aren't they talking about the cuts to the National Rental Affordability Scheme? They are bragging in their budget papers about the improvements on social housing, but they are not talking about these cuts. They need to get serious and stop the politics.

*(Time expired)*