




Speech By
Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

Record of Proceedings, 27 November 2014

STRONG ADVERTISING RESTRICTIONS (SAFEGUARDING TAXPAYERS' FUNDS) BILL

Introduction

 **Mrs D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (2.34 pm): I present a bill for an act to restrict government advertising in particular circumstances, to codify principles for government advertising and to establish the Advertising Review Committee to review and report on government advertising. I table the bill and explanatory notes. I nominate the Finance and Administration Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Strong Advertising Restrictions (Safeguarding Taxpayers' Funds) Bill 2014 [\[6639\]](#).

Tabled paper: Strong Advertising Restrictions (Safeguarding Taxpayers' Funds) Bill 2014, explanatory notes [\[6640\]](#).

This Strong Advertising Restrictions (Safeguarding Taxpayers' Funds) Bill should not have to be introduced. The people of Queensland should not have to suffer the waste of millions of dollars on political advertising. If we had had an open and trustworthy government, millions of taxpayers' funds would not be spent on political advertising campaigns, but this legislation is required because the Newman government is using taxpayers' money for shameless political advertising. It is using public money for spin to try to sell public assets, change pay and conditions of nurses and mislead Queensland patients about hospital waiting lists.

We are less than six months out from the election, and this government should not be using taxpayers' funds on political advertising for the LNP's political decisions. This legislation imposes the same standards that the LNP claim they are living up to in their own advertising code of conduct. If they claim they are doing nothing wrong with their current advertising, then they should have no fear about making sure that their own guidelines are actually enforced.

Labor will establish a truly independent committee to ensure that political advertising will not be produced and funded by the people of Queensland. Key elements of Labor's legislation include: adopting the language of the current code and legislating to uphold those standards; appointing a five-person independent committee, the advertising review committee, to approve advertising before taxpayers' funds are spent; ensuring committee members have bipartisan approval and have experience in law, consumer protection, public finance, public administration or media communication; and strict requirements for the period six months prior to an election, with exceptions for legitimate advertising such as preparation for natural disasters or road safety. That six-month period will come into force two years and six months from the last election date, or earlier if an election is called prior to that date and writs are issued. The legislation also imposes penalties for chief executive officers and ministers if advertising proceeds without proper approval.

This is about holding governments to account. The Newman government is wasting tens of millions of dollars of taxpayers' money on blatant political advertising. This Strong Advertising Restrictions Safeguarding Taxpayers' Funds) Bill will help to hold the LNP to their own commitments.

First Reading

Mrs D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (2.36 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

Question put—That the bill be now read a first time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Referral to the Finance and Administration Committee

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Finance and Administration Committee.