



Speech By
Hon. Curtis Pitt

MEMBER FOR MULGRAVE

Record of Proceedings, 7 May 2015

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Sale of Public Assets

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (10.14 am): Queenslanders made a strong choice on 31 January to reject the sale of our income-generating strategic assets. Unfortunately, the ghost of Campbell Newman still lives on in the form of a \$70 million hit to our budget. Without any mandate whatsoever, \$70 million was spent on asset sales preparation and Strong Choices propaganda. This money could have been spent on schools, hospitals, roads and unemployment programs. The money that those opposite wasted could have paid for the entire \$70 million regional capital fund as part of the Palaszczuk government's Building our Regions program.

It is time we learnt the real truth about what \$70 million of taxpayers' money bought for the people of Queensland. Mr Newman and his government flat out refused to release their asset sales scoping studies. They refused to outline the costs of preparing our assets for sale. The member for Southern Downs hounded us in opposition to release cabinet documents. He conducted a series of stunt motions in this House—no doubt auditioning for the job of Premier, and he is still doing it. I will not be moving any stunt motions, but I have written to the member for Southern Downs and I table a copy of that letter for the benefit of the House.

Tabled paper: Letter, undated, from the Treasurer, Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Hon. Curtis Pitt, to the Leader of the Opposition, Mr Lawrence Springborg MP, regarding access to cabinet documents held by the former government in relation to its Strong Choices asset sales program [380].

I am calling on the member for Southern Downs to make public all asset sales preparatory work that Queensland taxpayers have paid for. On 28 February the opposition leader told the *Courier-Mail* that the Newman government had always planned to make public these costs. Here is a direct quote from the member for Southern Downs, throwing the poor member for Clayfield under a bus yet again—

The former treasurer indicated that the information, as it was all consolidated, would be made available to the people of Queensland.

Sixty-eight days later, those opposite still have not released those asset sales studies.

In the murky world of LNP contracts, it is often hard to get to the bottom of who employed whom. When it comes to Strong Choices, there were not only subcontractors but also subcontractors to subcontractors. Apparently \$2.3 million was paid to Crosby Textor assisting the campaign management, including market research and web development. Perhaps the shadow Treasurer can advise the House whether the \$2.3 million represented value for money for Queenslanders. Did it represent value for money for Queenslanders then?

Ms Trad: No.

Mr PITT: Or now—

Government members: No.

Mr PITT:—since all of the Strong Choices rowboats have sunk? The Palaszczuk government will curb the waste and demonstrate the necessary fiscal discipline that we need to here in this state. The former government needs to get over the fact that Queenslanders rejected their plan and come up with a new one, because right now they have none except ours. In fact, when they were trying to court—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr PITT: Mr Speaker, they don't like it. When they were trying to court the members of the crossbench before we came into government, what were they doing? Mr Springborg wrote to the Leader of Katter's Australian Party, and said, 'If you can please tell us how to find \$1.7 billion in savings we will do that, too.'