




Speech By
Hon. Curtis Pitt

MEMBER FOR MULGRAVE

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENTS

Liberal National Party

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (10.18 am): Just days after the election, the LNP actually threw out their only plan for reducing debt, and that was asset sales. Within days of the election the opposition leader had a conversion on the road to Damascus. He had apparently realised that selling our income-generating state assets had been rejected by Queenslanders. Then he told crossbenchers that he supported Labor's plan to identify more than \$1.9 billion in offsets and savings. Since that time, the LNP have fallen into a six-month-long policy vacuum when it comes to presenting any type of economic plan—not just a vacuum, but a black hole.

Today the LNP's time runs out. In their budget reply they must reveal their alternative plan for reducing debt in this state. There certainly were not any ideas in the so-called 'real economic plan' that the Leader of the Opposition brought down last week. It was a tired acceptance of their four-pillar strategy. Of course, they decided to add another pillar to follow the Premier's lead on a knowledge based economy.

Now their only plan is to create more jobs for more politicians. What a time to raise that: budget week! Queenslanders have a right to know how the LNP would fund infrastructure, health and education. They said no to asset sales for the time being until they can manage to persuade Queenslanders. They have ruled out sacking more than 24,000 public servants like they did last time; they have allegedly ruled out taxes, fees and charges massively increasing. On the expenses side of the ledger they have crowed about the need for more infrastructure and services and more sweeteners for business. How do they plan to pay for this, I wonder. We may find out at 11.30.

The Leader of the Opposition wants to take the same negative obstructionist approach that Mr Abbott, his mate in Canberra, has taken. He has an obligation to tell the people of Queensland what his alternative is. If the LNP use today's budget reply to do nothing but create negativity and continue to scare public servants, as they did for the last three years, then we will know that they are completely bereft of ideas. The LNP literally stands for 'no plans'. The Leader of the Opposition told his party faithful last week what he was looking for from the Labor Party. He said—

Our opponents who are now in Government promised to Queenslanders that they had a fully-costed plan to build infrastructure, to create jobs, to pay-down debt, to return the budget to surplus without increasing taxes, without selling anything, without borrowing more and without cutting services ... in the LNP we had a plan which wasn't contingent just on Strong Choices, but it was going to be added to by Strong Choices.

This budget delivered on everything the LNP asked for. Everything that the Leader of the Opposition asked for last weekend was in this budget. If they are not going to sell assets, raise taxes, fees and charges—and of course they do not want to sack people—then I will be very, very interested to hear what they say at 11.30.