




Speech By
John-Paul Langbroek
MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE

Record of Proceedings, 4 June 2015

MOTION: ABBOTT GOVERNMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (12.46 pm): I rise to oppose the government's motion and support the amendment moved by the Leader of the Opposition. It is interesting to note this diversion that has again been moved by those opposite, as we are seeing the disasters that are befalling the Palaszczuk government in their second 100 days in government—with the issues that have affected the member for Cook, the member for Pumicestone and the member for Bundamba. Not only that, this is a motion that is riddled with errors. Our amendment seeks to omit the last two paragraphs of the motion and insert another paragraph, but even the government's second paragraph states—

... notes that Commonwealth funding assistance for state based infrastructure is tied to the sale of state based assets well, that is not correct. That was a boost that was announced by the Commonwealth government.

This just shows again that this is a Labor government that cannot get it right when they move a motion on the run, as they try to bring something into the parliament that is a distraction from their hopeless administration. It just shows how they really—

Mr Pitt interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Thank you, Treasurer. You have had your chance to speak. It is the Deputy Leader of the Opposition's time to speak.

Mr LANGBROEK: Then there is the third paragraph where they have inveigled me, as the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, into their motion, and the Deputy Premier could not even get it right when she tried to speak to the amendment before it had even been introduced. The third paragraph relates to my supposed position—and I reject it entirely—at a press conference I gave at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre. The paragraph states that I had said—

... that the Abbott Government should allow Queensland access to the \$5 billion Commonwealth Infrastructure fund without the requirement to sell assets ...

Mr Speaker, I put it very clearly at that press conference, and I am getting the transcript of that sent to your office and I look forward to having this investigated and to receiving an apology from those opposite. I said that those opposite went into that with their eyes open. When asked about whether Queensland should be given an extra allocation—as Western Australia had subsequently—I made the point that I would always be happy for our Treasurer and our government, on behalf of the Queensland people, to get their fair share. I certainly did not make that point about the \$5 billion that had been announced by the federal government, as it says in the third paragraph, and I reject it entirely. I look forward to the Deputy Premier being able to prove that is the case, because I said that they went in with their eyes open so I reject that entirely and I look forward to it being ruled out when we come to this issue.

Of course, we should not forget that this government has already received an extra \$500 million in GST funding. When we look at the 2015-16 budget we see that they are heading for a 32 per cent, or \$6.7 billion, increase over the next five years. The other issue, of course, is—

Ms Trad: Try to wriggle out of it, JP. If it doesn't suit you, try to wriggle out of it.

Mr LANGBROEK: I am very clear about—

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Deputy Leader of the Opposition, I am unsure if you are raising a point of order in relation to the issue of the authenticity of the words that you have referred to. If you—

Mr LANGBROEK: You asked me to address this. I am addressing the issue.

Mr SPEAKER: What I am asking is: do you want me to rule on the issue of the accuracy of those comments referring to you?

Mr LANGBROEK: Yes, I do, Mr Speaker. I am happy to have that and I thought you had indicated to me that you would do that at the conclusion of the amendment being put and the subsequent motion, should the amendment be lost.

Mr SPEAKER: The clock is paused. One moment, please. Members, in light of the comments that the Deputy Leader of the Opposition has made, I call on the Deputy Premier to authenticate the accuracy of those comments that the Deputy Leader of the Opposition takes issue with. If the Deputy Premier is not able to authenticate the words that the Deputy Leader of the Opposition takes issue with, it is my proposal under the standing orders to delete those words from the motion. Deputy Premier, I am happy to allow you time to consider the issue and then produce what is required before the vote is taken.

Ms Trad: I might do it now.

Mr SPEAKER: Okay. Would you like to table it?

Ms TRAD: For the benefit of the House, I table the news article from Friday, 22 May 2015 in relation to funding deals with the Commonwealth in which the Deputy Leader of the Opposition is quoted at length.

Tabled paper: Article from ABC Online, dated 22 May 2015, titled 'Infrastructure audit "raises red flag" on economic cost to Queensland from road congestion, RACQ says' [\[566\]](#).

Mr LANGBROEK: I rise to a point of order. I am happy for the Clerk or someone else to consider that whilst we continue the debate. I would have thought that if it is a direct quote or a quote from a news story, there could potentially be a significant variation between that and the soundtrack of the interview. That is my only point. You cannot do it based on the—

Ms Trad: You asked me to authenticate. I did authenticate.

Mr LANGBROEK: You have not authenticated anything.

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, the clock is paused. The Clerk and I are considering this issue at the moment. I call the Deputy Leader of the Opposition to continue while we consider it.

Mr LANGBROEK: It is obvious, though, that even when it came to accessing any aspect of the \$5 billion, whether it is for Northern Australia or the asset infrastructure fund that the federal government announced, this government is not ready to do anything anyway. Its members have announced Building Queensland, and they finally announced the make-up of that just a couple of days ago. The point was that, even on the day of that press conference, they went into the election with their eyes open knowing what the federal government was proposing.

Mr Pitt: How many projects come to Northern Australia?

Mr LANGBROEK: When advised about the \$5 billion Northern Infrastructure Fund, the Treasurer, whom I hear interjecting, rejected it out of hand and then said the next day he was interested in getting some more information. It just shows that they have no idea. They are making it up as they go along. They are actually putting words in other people's mouths that are not true. In that case, it is obvious that this is a government that is more focused on the internal issues it is having with its own members of parliament, with ministers being included in that. It is obvious that this is a government, with just a few weeks to go until it presents its budget, that has no idea about paying down debt apart from, as I said this morning, paying down the debt that it owes to its union bosses, claiming the credit for LNP deliverables and focusing on its own internal issues.

When it comes to the matter of that history, tomorrow it will be six years since we sat in this House and looked at Labor's track record on asset sales, which was at the end of the budget week. I note that the current members for Woodridge—and back then it was Greenslopes—Bulimba, Brisbane Central, Stafford—now Sandgate—Ashgrove, Bundamba, Inala, Morayfield and Mulgrave

were all here on that great night for the debate on the Infrastructure Investment (Asset Restructuring and Disposal) Bill 2009 after they had gone to the election and had not told people they were going to do it. That is when the polls came out. It was 59-41. That is why we had the result we did at the 2012 election.