




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

Record of Proceedings, 25 May 2016

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Sale of Public Assets

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (2.57 pm): After hearing the Leader of the Opposition say yesterday that he would make a decision about asset sales 'in due course'—

Mr NICHOLLS: I rise to a point of order. The inference and the allegation are both untrue. I find them offensive. I ask that they be withdrawn.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, you know the requirement. Will you kindly withdraw unequivocally.

Mr DICK: I withdraw. One thing we know about the Leader of the Opposition is that he is back. Mr 'Strong Choices', Mr 'Asset Sales', the loyal sidekick of—

Mr SEENEY: I rise to a point of order. I do not believe I heard the Minister for Health withdraw. You asked him to withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you. I believe I heard him withdraw.

Mr LANGBROEK: I rise to a point of order. I refer to standing order 244(7) in which case the member needs to refer to another member by his title, not by Mr 'Strong Choices' and whatever else he used.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Surfers Paradise. I would urge all members to refer to members by the appropriate name.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DICK: They do not like it. They do not like it over there. One thing I will say is that the Leader of the Opposition never saw an asset he did not want to sell.

I will give him credit: he is not easily discouraged. Notwithstanding Strong Choices swung like a wrecking ball through the last government and took a government with a record majority in this House and turned it to rubble, notwithstanding Strong Choices wiped out the careers of 31 members of his parliamentary team, he will not be discouraged. Inside his heart the dream lives on.

It reminds me of the story of the frog who carries the scorpion across the river. They get halfway across and the scorpion stings the frog, and as they are both drowning the frog says, 'Why did you do that?' The scorpion says, 'It's in my nature.' There is one thing I will say about the Leader of the Opposition: it is in his DNA to sell assets; it is simply in his nature. The 33 per cent of those members opposite—a third of them—who voted for the Leader of the Opposition must feel betrayed that this radioactive policy that they thought was dead really was only just resting. Here we have it, and I will table the Strong Choices plan.

Tabled paper: Queensland Government: The Strongest and Smartest Choice, Queensland's Plan for Secure Finances and a Strong Economy [771].

Or, as the Leader of the Opposition calls it, 'my precious'. He is sticking by it; he will not give up. It is the most expensive—it cost \$70 million—collection of scrap paper in Queensland history, and of course that includes Can-Do's autobiography. The smartest and strongest choice the Leader of the Opposition can make is to use the next three minutes to get up and apologise to the people of Queensland for betraying their trust. Use the next three minutes to get up—

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Mudgeeraba, I cannot hear the minister. You are now warned under standing order 253A. You have had a pretty good go and it is only early. I call the minister.

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Mudgeeraba for her encouragement. The Leader of the Opposition has three minutes. Will he say to the people of Queensland, 'I heard you last January. I heard the message that you do not want to sell assets.'? Has he heard the message from Queenslanders that they do not want asset sales? Now is the time. He has three minutes; we will hear from him soon.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Caloundra and member for Chatsworth, you are now warned under standing order 253A for shouting across the chamber. The minister has finished his contribution. I now call the Leader of the Opposition.