




Speech By
Hon. Curtis Pitt

MEMBER FOR MULGRAVE

Record of Proceedings, 16 June 2016

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Liberal National Party, Budget Reply

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Sport) (10.25 am): We have heard a lot of criticism this week from the LNP about our plan for advancing Queensland's economy. Today is the day of reckoning. Queenslanders must be told what the LNP's alternative plan is. They must be told where the LNP stands on asset sales. The opposition leader said he would reveal his position in due course, perhaps after a succinct and clearer campaign.

As treasurer he told us that there were only three options: to massively raise taxes; to cut jobs and services; or to sell assets. Which one will he choose? Any job creation programs should have been laid out last term when he was the treasurer because his asset sales were his answer for everything. After today, we will still have no idea what those opposite would do if they were on this side of the House and in charge again.

Let us tally up the member for Clayfield's spendometer so far. So far under his leadership, the opposition have: criticised our agency reprioritisations, but ours do not involve sacking everyone like theirs did; promised more money for infrastructure; ruled out the contribution holiday for the defined benefits superannuation scheme, that is \$2 billion that they need to find in their costings; ruled out utilising the defined benefits scheme, that is another \$4 billion that they need to find elsewhere; foregone interest savings of \$800 million from those measures; and promoted a car registration freeze which would cost the budget \$345 million over the forward estimates.

Whatever their economic plan turns out to be today, it will start at least at a \$7 billion black hole. That is over \$7 billion less to spend on infrastructure and services. Will the opposition leader identify \$7 billion worth of projects that he would cut from the budget to pay for it? If he does not in his budget reply then debt will rise and the surplus will become a deficit under the LNP. It is as simple as that.

The member for Indooroopilly has attacked the indexation policy which was his now leader's policy when he was the treasurer. Just three months after coming to government he changed the indexation policy to 3.5 per cent. That assumption was bolted onto the budget right across the forward estimates. Without that indexation, guess what? It adds to their black hole. Their black hole is getting bigger. He must address this today. We have not heard the member for Indooroopilly attack the Brisbane City Council's five per cent fee rises. It will be interesting to see where he lines up on that.

The LNP have failed to identify one single initiative that will reduce spending or will bring in more revenue. The member for Clayfield used to be 'Mr Strong Choices'. He said that we only had three choices. Now he is going to be 'Mr No Choices'. That is what we are going to hear from him—deafening silence because they have no other plan except asset sales.