




Speech By
Hon. Curtis Pitt

MEMBER FOR MULGRAVE

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Liberal National Party, Performance

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Sport) (9.57 am): The state budget, brought down this week, has outlined Labor's economic plan for Queensland. Yesterday, the opposition had an opportunity to put a real plan on the table. What did it do? It poached some of our ideas—ideas that the LNP never had while in office—and presented them as pale imitations. The Leader of the Opposition presented just cheap knock-off versions. We know that the former member for Moggill, Bruce Flegg, labelled the member for Clayfield a very lazy treasurer. Now, he is leading the laziest opposition we have ever seen.

The big difference between our policies and the ones that the Leader of the Opposition talked about is that our policies are fully funded. Before the Leader of the Opposition stood up yesterday, the LNP already had a \$7 billion black hole. By the time the member for Clayfield had sat down, that black hole was \$8 billion. The Leader of the Opposition is making unfunded promises and promising more money for infrastructure. He opposes the pause in the contributions to the defined benefit scheme. That is \$2 billion. The Leader of the Opposition opposes the use of the surplus in the defined benefit scheme. There is another \$4 billion that the LNP has to find to fill its black hole. He would never realise the interest savings of \$800 million in his measures.

Of course, in terms of cash management and the GOC reforms, that is another big lump of \$750 million in the black hole that the LNP has to find. The Leader of the Opposition wants to scrap the planned three per cent surcharge on foreign buyers of residential property, which is digging the hole deeper by \$90 million. The Leader of the Opposition is criticising us, but is he criticising his colleagues in New South Wales, who are putting in place a four per cent surcharge?

The member for Indooroopilly attacks the 3.5 per cent indexation policy. In doing that, he is attacking the policy of the now Leader of the Opposition when he was treasurer.

Mr Emerson: It's twice the inflation rate.

Mr PITT: The shadow Treasurer keeps talking about 'twice the inflation rate'. Those guys opposite put it in. They built it into the forward estimates. They seem to have amnesia. Under their government, it was in the forward estimates.

If the members opposite want to put in place a freeze on car registration, that is another \$345 million that they will have to find. In addition, the LNP voted against the Ergon-Energex merger, a measure that will save \$680 million over the forward estimates.

Ms Palaszczuk: They wanted to sell it!

Mr PITT: I take that interjection from the Premier. They wanted to sell them off. Now they have great care about what happens with these GOCs. They are so compassionate when it comes to the future of GOCs, but they did not care about them when they wanted to flog them off.

Surely there is something that we can take from the speech of the Leader of the Opposition yesterday. I think what we took from it is that there was absolute silence and a noticeable absence of policy on privatisation. There was nothing. He could not even talk about what was there. We read about the fact that some of his colleagues are quietly backing a return to privatisation. They are obviously the ones who were not around for the last two elections where Queenslanders categorically ruled out asset sales. The Leader of the Opposition will be on his feet in a moment. Is this the time where we will find out an answer?