




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR YEERONGPILLY

Record of Proceedings, 25 May 2016

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Sale of Public Assets

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (2.50 pm): Yesterday we saw the latest flip-flop from the opposition leader on asset sales. We heard him say ‘watch this space’ on asset sales, yet look at the chronology. How could we possibly trust the member for Clayfield and Leader of the Opposition on assets sales? Let me talk honourable members through the history. Before the 2012 election the LNP said that they would not have any asset sales without a mandate. That was their clear policy. Yet once they were elected they secretly spent \$100 million preparing for asset sales and contestability throughout government—\$30 million in Transport and Main Roads alone. That is what they did.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Minister, I apologise for stopping your train of thought. Members of the opposition, I cannot hear the minister. There is too much interjection. The next speaker will have a chance to make their contribution.

Mr BAILEY: They told Queenslanders that they would have no asset sales without a mandate, yet there they were with a secret branch in Transport and Main Roads preparing for contestability and privatisation—\$100 million in documented asset sales. When they lost the election, the biggest and most catastrophic election loss in political history in Queensland and this country, they said, ‘There will be no asset sales. We’ve learnt our lesson.’ They said they had learnt their lesson, but they flip-flopped again with the member for Clayfield in October last year saying, ‘We should be the regulator only.’ Let me outline what he said on ABC about the inherent contradiction between the government being the owner of a business and also a regulator. He said—

My very firm view is that governments should be regulators.

It cannot be any clearer than that. Yet to get the votes for the leadership—to get the National Party votes—he again said asset sales are off the agenda; he flip-flopped again. I note the National Party members sitting right up the back in exile. We know that the National Party members have concerns about asset sales and yet yesterday we saw the opposition leader saying ‘watch this space’.

How can we trust Tim Nicholls on asset sales? He has had six different positions in five years. In his book, his best mate ‘Can-do’ Campbell Newman, whom he was spruiking back in the Brisbane City Council, reveals that his position was more hard line than Strong Choices; the Newman package was actually the more moderate package. Tim Nicholls wanted the whole Commission of Audit. If he gets the chance, he will do it again.

Mr Seeney interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I do not need your assistance, member for Callide.