




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

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MOTION

Distribution of GST

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (5.40 pm): I will begin where the member for Indooroopilly left off. If he does not want to disadvantage Queensland then he and the members opposite will support this motion tonight. This is a very simple test of the leadership of the Leader of the Opposition. Do they support this cut to Queensland or are they going to finally stand up for Queensland? Some debates in this House are more important than others. This is one of those debates. The impact of this sort of change to the financial position of Queensland would be absolutely profound. We could lose up to \$1.6 billion a year under the proposal that the Productivity Commission has put forward.

We had the weasel words from the member for Indooroopilly. That is all we ever get from the leadership of the opposition—from the leader, the deputy and the shadow Treasurer. They try to weasel their way out of it at the end. When the division comes, they can put their hands up and support Queensland.

We could lose \$1.6 billion. Almost the entire cost of the Sunshine Coast University Hospital each and every year could be ripped out of Queensland. What would that fund? It would fund 6,146 doctors and 12,606 nurses and it would provide an additional 2.7 million dental appointments. That is what we are talking about in terms of ripping out \$1.6 billion from Queensland.

No portfolios have been more heavily pounded, more consistently and more viciously, by the federal coalition government than Health and Education. Some \$10 billion was ripped out when they tore up the National Health Reform Agreement. There was an 84 per cent cut to the national partnership agreements. They have taken \$57 million out of public dental care. I know members of the opposition are starting a public dental health scare campaign across Queensland. Every day until the election, whenever that is held, I will be reminding the people of Queensland who has gutted public health in this state—that is, the federal coalition government.

We are bound by a common identity founded on a shared set of values which is, at its base and at its most fundamental, a belief in a fair go. Queensland is being absolutely ripped off under this proposal. Horizontal fiscal equalisation is our policy response against the tyranny of distance and the inequity of the economic playing field. The findings of the Productivity Commission put that at risk and Queensland is right in the firing line.

The failure of the opposition to be heard on this is not only disappointing but completely unsurprising. We have called on the member for Clayfield to stand up for Queensland time and time again against all of the attacks we have faced from the federal coalition. What have we heard? We have heard nothing. He is completely missing in action. He is a dreary and uninspiring leader, lazy and apathetic, confused and dispirited, destructive and out of touch, but at least he is consistent. He is also racked by a politically dangerous liability of poor judgement. That is the weasel words we hear from them over and over and over again.

That is just the coalition. What about One Nation? Pauline Hanson, having sold out Queensland workers by attacking penalty rates, having turned her back on Queensland farmers by ramping up the backpackers tax, having let Queensland families down by protecting the big banks against a royal commission, has come out and said, 'We will not take \$1.6 billion out of Queensland. We will take \$2.4 billion out of Queensland.' She is not a senator from Western Australia. If you are listening, Pauline, I point out that you are not a senator for Western Australia; you are a senator for Queensland. It is about time you stood up and represented our state in the federal parliament.

Remember when she was on radio in Perth during the Western Australian election? She was very happy to sell out Queensland. Every member opposite is willing to get into bed with Pauline Hanson and One Nation to save their political skins. The member for Burnett, who is in the chamber, is right in the firing line. The member for Gympie is right in the firing line. Nanango and Lockyer—all of those seats—are at risk because they have a weak and uninspiring leader who has no policies and no ideas for the future of this state. They are willing to ride into government on the coat-tails of Pauline Hanson.

It is entirely unacceptable. It is entirely unacceptable to the Australian Labor Party. It is entirely unacceptable to the body politic in this state. The people of Queensland will not put up with it. They should rule out a preference deal with One Nation. The Leader of the Opposition is complicit with One Nation if he does not support this motion tonight.

Now is the time to put up or be quiet. Now is the time for the Liberal National Party to finally demonstrate, as this parliament reaches the conclusion of its three years, whether he believes in Queensland or whether he believes in Malcolm Turnbull. That is the choice tonight. All members of this House should support this motion.