




Speech By
Hon. Curtis Pitt

MEMBER FOR MULGRAVE

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Federal Member for Petrie

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (2.50 pm): As I said yesterday in response to a contribution of the member for Indooroopilly, saying it over and over again does not make it true. The federal LNP government—their side of politics—has just implemented a very similar scheme, so obviously they are the ones who are out of touch as they do not even know what their mob are doing. Speaking of their federal counterparts, members can imagine my surprise when, following our big debate about the GST yesterday, I saw what LNP federal member for Petrie, Luke Howarth, said via Facebook. I table a copy of his Facebook post.

Tabled paper: Extract, undated, from the Facebook page of Mr Luke Howarth, regarding GST payments [\[1991\]](#).

Mr Howarth did not come into the debate to back Queensland. No, of course not. He said that the current system rewards 'poor performance'. He went on to ask, 'What do you think?' Plenty of people told him what they think. I think he has backed One Nation's plan for a per capita share, which puts us out of pocket by about \$2.4 billion. Mr Howarth should think about joining One Nation or moving to Western Australia, because he will not be very popular in his seat of Petrie, which will be well and truly in play at the next federal election after that performance. He is not standing up for Queensland and that is for sure. We know that the Productivity Commission report says that we would be up to \$1.59 billion worse off under one of their allocations, but Mr Howarth has gone further. Essentially, he is saying that the current system rewards poor performance. Essentially, he is backing the \$2.4 billion loss that we would see under the proposal of the member for Buderim, the leader of One Nation in this House. Under the existing system, the independent Commonwealth Grants Commission takes account of these factors and gives a fair share of the GST pool to deliver our services. By saying that getting our fair share reflects poor performance, essentially Mr Howarth is saying that that poor performance would send \$2.4 billion out the door; that it would be taken away from Queensland. What services would Mr Howarth want to cut? What would he want to cut? What hospitals would he want to see closed? What schools would he like to be shut down? What roads would not be built? Will he tell the voters of Petrie that they would need to share that pain?

The member for Petrie has sold out Queensland. There is no other way to say it. He has done exactly the same thing that Queensland senator Matt Canavan did when he became a senator for Western Australia by advocating that half a billion dollars in roads funding be given to the Western Australian government. We know that Pauline Hanson was happy to sell out Queensland before the WA election. She was asked whether she would be willing to see the GST share of her home state of Queensland reduced, so that WA could get a better of deal. She said, 'Of course I will, no problem.'

That prompts the inevitable question: please explain. It is Luke Howarth who has to explain to the voters of Petrie and all Queenslanders why he is selling out Queensland. It is the Leader of the Opposition who has to explain if he agrees with Luke Howarth, next to whom he stood when the member for Petrie swore when the Prime Minister was asked a question about the lack of women in the Turnbull government. They have to get on with the job of supporting Queensland.

(Time expired)