




Speech By
Michael Hart

MEMBER FOR BURLEIGH

Record of Proceedings, 22 March 2018

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Resumed from 20 March (see p. 546).

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (12.17 pm), continuing: I had got as far as thanking all of the people who had helped me during the election campaign. I would like to thank my mother and father for the support that they have offered me over my years in politics. My mother was with me on election night and congratulated me and my family on being elected for a third time. Unfortunately, my father, who lost his battle with cancer recently, was not there to see it, and I greatly miss him. My brother, Christopher; his wife, Josephine; my sister, Joanne; and her husband, Brad and their family also assisted greatly during the campaign, especially on election day.

This was a campaign that unfortunately degenerated into a dirty campaign, I would have to say. Those opposite have a habit of coming out with such rubbish as 'cut, sack, sell'. Nothing was more prevalent during the election than my opposite number saying to people as they came up to the polling booth and as they came up to pre-poll, 'Save your assets. Don't elect the LNP. They will sell your assets.' Nothing could be further from the truth. As we have heard in the last day or so, the only side of politics in this state that has sold assets is the Labor Party. It was quite bizarre to be standing outside a building on the corner of Park Avenue and West Street in Burleigh that was the ECQ office but used to be a Queensland Health building. Guess what they did to it?

An opposition member: They sold it.

Mr HART: I take that interjection. They sold it and they rented it back for the election. We have heard the Deputy Premier numerous times over the last three years say, 'We are not selling assets that earn income.' I can tell the Deputy Premier, who has never been involved in business in her life, that a building which earns income is an income-earning asset.

Mr Watts: What a revelation!

Mr HART: It is pretty straightforward, isn't it? A building that earns income is an income-earning asset. I have no issue with the government selling a building that is surplus to its use and selling land that is surplus to its use. If you look at the LNP's history and the Labor Party's history, that is what has happened on both sides of politics. The Deputy Premier has never articulated that what she is talking about selling is large-scale utilities that earn money for the state. When you get to that stage, it is very clear to the people of Queensland that the only side who has sold assets in this state is that side of the chamber over there.

I am going to borrow some words from the former member for Hinchinbrook, who was a great member in this House and is sadly missed. Just so I cannot be accused of plagiarism in the future, I will quote his words from one of his speeches last year where he outlined what the Labor Party had sold. He said—

The Energy Assets (Restructuring and Disposal) Bill 2006 facilitated the sale of Energex's electricity retail business, Ergon's electricity retail business—

Mr Watts: Did prices go up or down?

Mr HART: I take that interjection. Ever since then the prices have gone up. He continued—

... Energex's gas distribution business, Stanwell and Tarong's wind farms and Enertrade's merchant gas and gas transportation business.

They were all sold by the Labor Party, not the LNP. He continued—

In 2008 we had the Airport Assets (Restructuring and Disposal) Act and those opposite sold the Cairns Airport, they sold the Mackay Airport and the Port of Brisbane Corporation's interest in the Brisbane Airport.

They were sold by the Labor Party, not the LNP. Remember that these are the then member for Hinchinbrook's words.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Weir): Order! Member for Burleigh, I realise that you might be being a little provocative, but quite a number of members in this chamber have been warned. They know who they are. Take that into account.

Mr HART: The then member for Hinchinbrook continues—

Then there was the mother lode in 2009 when they had the Infrastructure Investment (Asset Restructuring and Disposal) Bill, where they sold Forestry Plantations Queensland and Queensland Motorways and the Port of Brisbane and Queensland Rail's above and below rail coal businesses and Queensland Rail's commercial rail services such as bulk freight and retail and regional freight and they sold the port corporation of Queensland's Abbot Point coal terminal.

Sold, sold, sold. Income coming in, debt reduction—no, that did not happen. We missed that one. That all went up against the wall. One of the other things they persisted with was this misconception that we sacked 20,000 public servants. For the first 12 months to two years in government they misled and lied to the people of Queensland and said that 20,000 public servants were sacked. That was completely wrong. When we left government there were 14,000 fewer public servants.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I say again that there are members in this chamber who have been warned. Be careful.

Mr HART: There were 14,000 fewer public servants. Some of those people took redundancies. Some of them left their positions and were never replaced. There were 14,000 fewer public servants; there were not 14,000 people sacked. This is the Labor Party rewriting history with its own version. At the end of this term, out of the last 31 years we will have had 26 years of Labor government in this state. It is a bit ripe for those opposite to blame everybody else but themselves because the Labor Party—

An opposition member interjected.

Mr HART: I take that interjection. The Labor Party have done nothing. They have managed to get the state into a huge amount of debt. They have managed to sell off half the farm. Half the farm is gone. What have they achieved from it? Nothing. What do they continue to do? They blame everyone else for their mistakes. At the end of this term out of 31 years we will have had 26 years of Labor government, but they will stand here and blame everyone else but themselves.

They blame the federal government for everything. It is the federal government's fault for everything. For health, education and Indigenous housing there were 10-year special deals where money was put on the table by the federal Labor Party. Without having the money to provide for those 10-year funds, they put that money out there. All of those things are expiring now. That is what is happening here. Instead of this government sitting down with the federal government in Canberra and negotiating in good faith with them, they come in here and try to stab them in the back and blame them for everything. Everything is the federal government's fault: 'It is not me; I am not at fault here. There is nothing to see here.'

I want to cover off on something that the Minister for Housing has been telling us recently about Indigenous housing. The federal member has put out a statement saying that this government is not negotiating in good faith and that they have not sat down and talked about how much money this government is willing to stump up for Indigenous housing. The federal minister tells us that this minister cannot point at one house that this government has funded and built. There will be plenty of houses that they have built with federal government funding, but where is their money? This is the problem. Where is the state Labor government's money?

In the few seconds I have remaining I would like to thank the former leader of the LNP, Tim Nicholls, who would have been a great Premier of Queensland, for appointing me as shadow minister for energy and water supply and our current leader, Deb Frecklington, for giving me the portfolios that I have. I would also like to congratulate Lawrence Springborg on taking the sensible decision to get out of this place. He is the best Premier Queensland never had.

(Time expired)