




Speech By
Tim Nicholls

MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD

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MOTION

Federal Budget

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (12.03 pm): Listening to the Labor Party in Queensland talk about budget responsibility and bad budgets is like listening to Hugo Chavez talk about democracy, peace and prosperity in Venezuela: it has the same lack of authenticity but the same complete denial of reality.

We have heard the member for McConnel talk about promises and payments to be made over four years. Let us not forget the biggest promise that was made about something that would happen over four years in 2012, when Wayne Swan got up and said, 'Today I announce four years of surpluses.' We were waiting. The people of Australia knew you could not trust Wayne Swan because he had just delivered five years of deficits. In 2007 he had taken a budget in surplus with \$25 billion in a future fund, an education fund and a technology fund and blown it all and locked it in. Not only had he blown it but he had locked in an extra \$40 billion worth of expenses growth over the forward estimates. That was what the federal government that came in in 2013 had to deal with.

We heard the member for Woodridge talk about Labor's four surpluses, and he made the absurd claim that we had never delivered a surplus when in fact, as he knows, and as his Treasurer also knows because I see her eyes roll upwards whenever he says it—there must be something good going on there—we delivered two budgets with two surpluses in a row. In 2013-14 we delivered a \$486 million surplus and in 2014-15 we delivered a \$420 million surplus. We came to office after the mass fire sale of assets they never took to the people of Queensland. After they sold off the Gateway Bridge, after they sold off Forestry Plantations Queensland, after they sold off parts of Brisbane Airport and after they sold off Queensland Rail and bought off the unions, do you know what the outcome was? It was a \$260 million deficit. They sold off millions of dollars in assets and delivered dams without pipes, pipes without dams, trains without seats and trains without air conditioning. Does the Tugun desalination plant ever get turned on? Yes, a little bit to keep the pipes and membranes going. They spent money on a ski jump; we remember that one.

Mr Minnikin: In Chatsworth.

Mr NICHOLLS: In Chatsworth. We had the member for Cooper and the 'loo with a view'. We had \$480 toilet brushes going into their offices.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr NICHOLLS: Yes. Someone on the Labor side at least had the grace to mention the Health payroll system. Yes, there was the Health payroll system which cost hundreds of millions of dollars, 400 extra staff and took three years of hard work to fix up. Even their own premier at the time described it as a 'basket case' and I think she was going to take a meat axe to it. We also had the member for Woodridge who in 2013 admitted that the Labor Party got it wrong in his term in government. We do not need to hear lessons from them.

Talking about our fair share and the constant whinge of those who cannot do the best for themselves, that is certainly the case with this government. When you look at the GST distribution, we are doing better than our population share. We are at a relativity of 1.05. That means that for every dollar that goes out of Queensland in GST we get \$1.05 back. The relativity is there. Those opposite speak with forked tongue and they do not mention the actual relativities: New South Wales is below one; Western Australian is down at seven; and they will not tell you that they agreed to the new GST system last year. They signed off on it and it went through the parliament. No state is worse off. Every state is getting top-up payments, GST is increasing from \$67 billion to \$78 billion over the forward forecast and Queensland continues to get the relativities that it always has—in fact, better than it always has. This is a bad motion from a bad government—

(Time expired)