




Speech By
Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

Record of Proceedings, 26 May 2021

DEBT REDUCTION AND SAVINGS BILL

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (2.00 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the bill before the House which is so wrongly titled. It is supposedly the Debt Reduction and Savings Bill 2021, but the only bit of truth in that is '2021'. I have no idea where they got the rest of it from. The LNP opposition firmly opposes this bill. Firstly, the name of the bill is misleading. This omnibus bill, which deals with 18 separate acts and regulatory instruments across many portfolios, is just a smokescreen designed to cover the fact there is actually no real debt reduction.

Instead, what we see in this bill is the assignment of a value to the Queensland Titles Registry, creating Registry Co and bringing that asset value to the Queensland Future Fund. This incompetent Labor government has valued the Queensland Titles Registry at \$4.1 billion but they have no clue at all how they got that valuation. New South Wales and Victoria leased their titles offices for a value of \$2.6 billion in New South Wales and \$2.85 billion in Victoria. No details have been provided as to why Queensland, with a much smaller titles office than New South Wales or Victoria, can miraculously just pluck a figure of \$4.1 billion—

Mr Mickelberg: It doesn't make sense.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I will take that interjection. It does not make sense. The establishment of Registry Co is being used to offset debt. I will tell you another thing that is offsetting debt at the moment: the sale of Queensland government land assets which is happening across this great state of ours. A beautiful big country place—

Mr Millar: Berrigurra.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON:—Berrigurra has just sold for over \$30 million. A couple of hours ago the Queensland state owned farm Redvale in my electorate of Nanango was sold under the hammer because the Labor government is flogging off our assets. They have sold that property. Redvale is prime agricultural land that I saved from being sold by the Bligh government. It was on the Bligh government's books. That is another reason I entered this place, because those opposite only know one thing and that is how to sell off our assets. They have done it today. Redvale farm in Kingaroy went under the hammer. Look at them over there! Their heads are all down because they know the only way a Labor government can pay down debt is by flogging off assets. How can we support the agricultural industry going forward if we are going to flog off all of the research assets? Give me a break! Today in Kingaroy Redvale went under the hammer. It was a beautiful Queensland government owned property. I can see that the member for Ipswich West has his head down. He is mortified because as leader of the agricultural sector—he should be the minister for agriculture—it would not have been sold. I can continue my angst about the sale of Redvale, but we know that the only government that has ever sold Queensland assets is the Labor government.

There has simply been no effort to reduce debt. In relation to savings, in his first reading speech the Treasurer stated that there would be \$3 billion in savings over four years. I can see a group of schoolchildren in the gallery from Fairholme College. I am not sure what year they are, but I dare say

that those girls will be part of paying off the state Labor debt for generations to come. It will not be these Fairholme girls: it will be their grandchildren who will still be paying off the Palaszczuk Labor debt. To all of those hardworking Fairholme girls—

Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mrs Gerber): Order! Pause the clock. Members across both sides of the chamber will cease their interjections.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: What a great school Fairholme College in Toowoomba is. I acknowledge all of those girls in the gallery. The future is yours for the taking here in Queensland—we just have to get rid of the Labor government so you can do it!

The Treasurer did not state what savings would be measured against. At the public briefing the Deputy Under Treasurer could only commit to \$3 million in savings over the next four years. They are talking about \$3 billion worth of interest on the current Labor government's debt but they are only planning to reduce debt by \$3 million. It does not make sense. I am quite sure the year 9 economics class from Fairholme, is probably thinking, 'What?' It is called 'Labornomics'.

Mr Mickelberg: It's a new term.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: It is a new term. It does not make sense. The bill before the House today is a complete and utter con job. It is a con job to try to make all of those Labor members of the backbench think, 'My goodness me! We have no talking notes about what Labor is doing,' so all of their talking points are just about what the LNP is not doing.

Mr Mickelberg: Incapable of independent thought.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I will take that interjection. They are completely incapable of independent thought. You could tell that by the Deputy Premier's space announcement this morning—

Ms Boyd interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. The member for Pine Rivers will cease her interjections.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: It is a bit like the Deputy Premier's announcement today about Gilmour Space Technologies. It was like reading my press announcement during the election campaign. I actually really quite enjoyed it. I do not think he even changed any words. He just said, 'Deb Frecklington came up with this great idea, so let's back it.' Well done on that, Deputy Premier. That is the only thing I will praise you for. The Deputy Premier is part of the cabinet that has agreed to bring a bill before the House with a long title that does not even make sense. There is no debt reduction; there is no savings plan. It is a complete and utter con job.

In the short time I have left I really want to talk about the Queensland Productivity Commission. I only wish that the good Speaker Pitt was sitting in the chair—no disrespect to you, Madam Deputy Speaker—because it was Treasurer Curtis Pitt who brought in the Queensland Productivity Commission. It was his baby—a Labor government policy to make sure we could have openness and transparency. Then the Queensland Productivity Commission did the job they were employed to do; that is, report on the incompetence of the Labor government. That is exactly what they did, and guess what the Palaszczuk government has now decided to do? 'Oops! We don't like that report so we're going to rip it up. We're going to bring it in-house and we're going to call it red-tape reduction.' By the way, there has been no red-tape reduction since the former Newman government because we know that those opposite have just added more and more layers of bureaucracy. They got rid of the one commission that was working towards good governance, openness and transparency—

Mr McDonald: Introduced by them.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: They introduced it. They actually were reporting on how ridiculous this government is, so they get sacked. What sort of good government is that? Seriously.

Then we have the word that has not been spoken in this chamber ever since she left—that is, Trad. Building Queensland was Jackie Trad's baby. What are they doing to that? They are wiping her off the slates of the Palaszczuk government's books. They are chopping that. There is nothing left. I can see the ministers over there saying, 'I know. She was on my team but I'm now stepping up.' They are getting rid of the legacy of the former member for South Brisbane.

We have heard all of the country members on this side of the House talking about what the Palaszczuk government are doing to our regional newspapers. It shows how out of touch they are. They have absolutely no clue as to what the effect will be. We have incredible local papers that are popping

up everywhere. I have to give a shout-out to the well-respected tattoo artist whose shop is right beside my electorate office. He and his partner are very relieved that the amendment in relation to the inking has been taken out.

This is a complete con job. It is a terrible bill. It certainly should not pass this House. There are no savings and there is no debt reduction plan, so the bill should be named something else.