




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR SOUTHPORT

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DEBT REDUCTION AND SAVINGS BILL

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (5.09 pm): The contribution from the member for Ferny Grove is exactly what we would have expected to have heard in this House: another retelling of history. It was another giant fairytale from Minister Furner. How dare he talk about the need for transparency. There is nothing transparent about those on that side of the House. From the beginning of this term in our committees across all the portfolios we have seen a very deliberate attempt to shut down transparency through the lack of public hearings. That is just one example of the lack of transparency.

Ms Pease: We have had plenty of public hearings!

Mr MOLHOEK: We have had some public hearings, but we have had lots of private meetings in committees right across the board here in this parliament. We know full well that the intent of the committee process is to hold the government to account, to have open and transparent meetings and to provide the public with an opportunity to make submissions and open a window into what is going on here in government. I digress. Let me come back to this bill. The fundamental question on this bill is: can you trust Labor to save money?

Mr Hart: No.

Mr MOLHOEK: I take that interjection from the member for Burleigh. Members, can we trust Labor to save money?

Mr Boyce: No.

Mr MOLHOEK: I take that interjection from the member for Callide. Labor's track record in this respect is absolutely appalling. What we heard from Minister Furner was another fairytale, another wonderful story of how good Labor is, and a complete and absolute denial of the fact that it was a Labor government that sold off Queensland assets and then squandered those finances by inflating the Public Service when they could have been creating assets such as more public housing, hospitals and hospitals beds which Queenslanders would actually benefit from.

This bill says 'trust us'. We heard from the Treasurer in budget presentations late last year—very rushed budget presentations, I might add, prior to Christmas—that we are going to have to borrow another \$130 billion over the forward estimates. How do you save money when at the same time you are borrowing money? That is just simple maths.

Mr Hart: Labornomics!

Mr MOLHOEK: I take that interjection from the member for Burleigh. It is classic Labornomics to promise that we are going to save money. The other question I would like to ask the House, and I would love to hear from the Treasurer later on, is how much will this cost us? This would be one of the thickest pieces of legislation we have seen brought to this House this term—not that we have had a lot of legislation to consider so far. What will the establishment of this debt reduction and savings body cost the taxpayers of Queensland? Will it be another one of those failed entities that we have seen Labor set up?

Mr Hart: Jobs for their mates!

Mr MOLHOEK: I take that interjection from the member for Burleigh also: more jobs for their mates. This is about more jobs for their mates.

Mr Power interjected.

Mr MOLHOEK: I am not taking your interjection. We have heard so many promises from this Labor government. We heard the announcement by Minister de Brenni under the previous government when he was looking after housing that we were going to make this incredible commitment to more public housing and more affordable housing across Queensland: a 10-year plan to spend \$1.8 billion.

Mr Power: Relevance!

Mr MOLHOEK: It is relevant in so much as it goes to the heart of integrity and transparency. What he failed to tell Queenslanders is that it was actually a reduction on the real spend on public housing over the last 10 years. We have heard the current housing minister talk about record spending since World War II. Those on that side of the House might be surprised to learn that the record spending on public housing in terms of grants and acquisitions and new housing stock was in the final year of the previous Labor government. We have seen consistently low levels of spending over a number of years that has not kept pace with our growing population and the demands of a growing Queensland.

I will not be supporting this bill because I do not trust Labor to manage our money. I do not trust Labor to get this right. We have seen asset sales and money squandered. We have seen our state government employees' superannuation fund raided to prop up the state budget. We have seen millions, if not billions, of dollars of increased income from power dividends, from selling electricity to the southern states, prop up and underpin state budgets. We have seen more royalties come in than expected and all of those opportunities have been squandered. There is no way I could stand in this House and support this legislation as proposed.