



Speech By  
**Christopher Whiting**


**MEMBER FOR BANCROFT**

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Record of Proceedings, 15 November 2023

**MOTION**

**Palaszcuk Labor Government Polling**

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (5.48 pm): I start by saying that it is a typical LNP low to use the words of a man who has passed away from cancer in a debate in this House. That man did so much for the laws of Queensland so that we could bring in voluntary assisted dying. They have no shame. They are using the words of a dead man in a political debate. That man contributed so much to Queensland. Talk about a disgrace. To add to that disgrace, the most corrupt government in Queensland's history was the Liberal National Party government under Joh Bjelke-Petersen. Without that hung jury, the former premier would have ended up in the slammer where half of you would have ended up as well.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Order! Comments will come through the chair, member.

**Mr WHITING:** I want to make three points. First, members of the LNP have a hide, trying to criticise us in their motion. The Newman government spent \$70 million on its failed Strong Choices advertising campaign. The survey part of this campaign revealed that Queenslanders reject privatisation. They prefer an increase to gambling taxes and mining royalties—anything but selling off the assets of Queenslanders.

Speaking of surveys and campaigns, that reminds me of mining royalties. I do not need polling to tell me that the Queensland Resources Council's \$40 million advertising campaign, trying to convince Queenslanders we should tax the big mining companies less, has worked—for us! So many Queenslanders have told me that they thought it was our ad. They came away convinced that we were right in imposing a tiered coal royalties scheme. They are supportive of those companies paying more for the huge profits they get out of our minerals and that, in fact, they should pay even more. I want to thank the Resources Council and encourage it to keep running its awareness campaign. It was one of the most effective campaigns for a government I have ever seen.

There is one part of the LNP Campbell Newman-era Strong Choices campaign—the \$70 million shocker—that always makes me chuckle; that is, the launch of 'Operation Boring' to save the Campbell Newman government. Its key strategy was to hide the member for Kawana. I quote from an article at the time—

The first step was to remove from public gaze those ministers who were seen as having offended public sensibilities: notably, Newman's "strutting Attorney-General Jarrod Bleijie".

I say to the LNP: this still applies. This finding of the survey is still relevant. Please do not listen to me: the more you wheel him out, the more votes we get. I hope that he has a really prominent role in next year's election campaign.

Secondly, I think these campaigns and surveys are very useful when they are used by a responsible government such as ours. We will use these tools to continue listening to Queenslanders and informing Queenslanders. We will tell them that we are delivering the best outcomes for Queenslanders. We want to ask, 'Have you heard about our \$8.2 billion support program?' That is what we are delivering. The cost-of-living rebates make a real difference to the lives of ordinary Queenslanders. We are not ashamed to let them know about it.

Under this program, 1.6 million households are receiving a \$550 cost-of-living rebate for electricity; 600,000 seniors and concession card holders are receiving \$1,072 off their electricity bills; 205,000 small businesses are receiving \$650 off their electricity bills; over 38,000 Queensland households have received Climate Smart Energy Saver rebates; 690,000 seniors have received 50 per cent off their car registration in the last year; 325,000 seniors have received free glasses through the Spectacle Supply Scheme; and next year over 64,000 Queensland families will save up to \$4,600, on average, through free kindy. What a great roll call of cost-of-living relief measures. This is the best in Australia. We can do this because Queenslanders own their energy assets. This is absolutely crucial, but the LNP would not have done it.