




Speech By
David Janetzki

MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA SOUTH

Record of Proceedings, 18 April 2024

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Energy Assets

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (2.00 pm): I join with the member for South Brisbane, who made a comment just before the end of the last debate about being rudely cut off, because I was prevented from speaking twice on the bill that has just passed through the House. I wanted to contribute a rebuttal once more to the asset sales argument of this government. For 15 years, we have heard the repetitive and monotonous claims about asset sales. There is only one party that has ever sold assets in Queensland, and I will run through them very quickly.

The Energy Assets (Restructuring and Disposal) Bill 2006 facilitated the sale of Energex's electricity retail business, Ergon's electricity retail business, Energex's gas distribution business, Stanwell's and Tarong's wind farms and Enertrade's merchant gas and transportation business. In 2008, we had the Airport Assets (Restructuring and Disposal) Bill and those opposite sold the Cairns Airport, the Mackay Airport and the Port of Brisbane Corporation's interest in the Brisbane Airport. That is the truth. Those on the opposite side can come in here and talk about asset sales but the truth is that those opposite have a 15-year history of selling assets. In 2008, there was an all-out sale of Queensland assets. They introduced the Infrastructure Investment (Asset Restructuring and Disposal) Bill where they sold Forestry Plantations Queensland, Queensland Motorways, the Port of Brisbane, Queensland Rail's above and below rail coal businesses, Queensland Rail's commercial rail services such as bulk freight and retail and regional freight, and the Ports Corporation of Queensland's Abbot Point Coal Terminal. That is the Labor Party. Those are the assets they have sold.

Those opposite cannot be trusted and we are reminded once more of why they cannot be trusted. Yesterday, the Treasurer leaked debt figures. Yesterday, through leaks to the media we learnt that in Queensland debt across the board will hit \$188 billion, up from \$109 billion today. Debt will always be lower under a Liberal National Party government. Why? Debt can be lower if you stop the blowouts. We have seen a plethora of ministers over there blowing it out. You can grow the economy in the right way by not breaking taxation promises, by encouraging investment and by getting behind productivity measures that deliver the best bang for buck and the best economic dividend for Queenslanders. If you respect taxpayers' money and treat it like your own, you will have a cabinet budget review committee process that delivers real projects on time and on budget. Instead, we have record debt, record taxes and record numbers of Queenslanders living in tents.

I refer to the Speaker's statement on 16 April regarding correspondence from the Leader of the House. That was the first time the matter had been drawn to my attention. In response to the Speaker's request, I correct the record and advise that I should have referred to the fact that 18 of 19 ministers did not make ministerial statements on the day in question. I also pulled down my post from X.