




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR NOOSA

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENTS

State Election

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (2.52 pm): Queenslanders have expectations of us as members of parliament. They want debate on issues impacting them with proffered solutions, not rock throwing, blame or posturing. As leaders, we set the example for our communities by our own behaviours. With the state election in six months time, let us demonstrate what Queenslanders are asking for—to be respectful, honourable and genuine. We can do this by committing to end the mis- and dis-information, smokescreens and divisions created prior and during campaigns. Queenslanders want to hear what we can deliver, not what someone else cannot. They want their issues debated factually, clearly and without whitewashing and personal attacks.

Some years ago, I said in this chamber that Queenslanders can handle the truth, and they can. Let us start with a debate on ending practices that hoodwink. An example is those reply paid envelopes for postal vote applications that are sent without letting Queenslanders know where they go prior to the ECQ. What about the data mining via newsletter subscriptions and other means to bombard households with robocalls and texts? What happened to privacy of information, as well as common decency?

Cost-of-living pressures include fuel prices. It does not matter which level of government is responsible; we are all weary of the excuses and lack of explanations as to the vast variations between suburbs and states. Then we have statistics that are used to deflect and confuse, with our communities caught again in the middle of the two sides stating vastly different 'facts' about everything from crime to electricity prices, taxes, insurances and all the way to environmental health. It is time that in every realm a national standard for comparative reporting is adopted that cannot be misconstrued showing how we stack up against other states. Yes, the government's financial reporting needs to be understandable by all, not just by analysts.

This election say it as it is and avoid the dangling of carrots. Promises are empty when there is no clarity around how these will be delivered, where the extra funds are coming from and which projects or services may miss out as a result. Making anything complex is its own form of hoodwinking, whether intentional or not, and does not pass the pub test. Make these coming months count for all Queenslanders on what they seek, with campaigns that are informative, not mis- or dis-informative. Remember, we are only as strong as our weakest and we need to lift our communities up every day, not drag them down. That includes during elections.