



Speech By
James Lister

MEMBER FOR SOUTHERN DOWNS

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REVENUE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Mr LISTER (Southern Downs—LNP) (7.51 pm): I have been looking forward to making my contribution on the Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill. Much cleverer people than me have gone into the details of the bill in a clinical fashion. What I will enjoy doing is rebutting some of the scandalous falsehoods that I have heard emanating from the other side of the House. I heard a number of members—and it was not just the member for Bancroft—flagrantly deny that there was ever such thing as a GP tax. Why did they introduce it in the first place, and why was an amnesty necessary? I recall the then treasurer, in his usual style, doubling down and arguing that this was essential.

What this comes down to is a fault in the spending and taxing priorities of Labor governments. The Crisafulli LNP government is able to do things like this—that is, eliminate taxes—because we spend the money better. We understand also that applying a tax that will inevitably flow through to patients means that they are going to turn up at the local emergency department rather than at the GP. Labor never says, 'We're not spending the money properly. We're wasting it here and we have blowouts there. Let's fix those things.' They just reach into your pocket to take more. When the then treasurer and those around the cabinet table—

Mr Krause interjected.

Mr LISTER: I take that interjection from my friend the member for Scenic Rim and I will get to that because it is a very good point.

When the then treasurer and his cabinet colleagues contemplated this at the cabinet table, I am quite certain that there was no attempt to balance the ledger better and stop wasting money. They just wanted to grab more. What are the kinds of things that necessitate reaching out again and taking more money from the productive part of Queensland to prop up an unproductive government? I thought of the \$300 million spend on 'Wastecamp', the Wellcamp facility which held almost nobody and then was handed back to the people who built it for them. Do members remember the \$100,000 for the weight loss program for dogs? That was always an interesting one. I often had a laugh with my old friend the member for Cairns about that one. Well, I did the laughing; the member for Cairns seemed not to. We have had billions and billions of dollars in blowouts on projects like Cross River Rail and so forth because of the poor contracting and management of the Miles and Palaszczuk Labor governments and because of, in my view, the utterly corrupt association they had with thug unionists to extort more money from the people of Queensland.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order in relation to relevance. The member's speech does not contain much from the bill before the House. I ask you to bring him back to the subject matter of the bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Furner): Member for Southern Downs, I will bring you back to the content of the bill before the House.

Mr LISTER: Thank you. We are talking about taxes. The reason an LNP government is able to pledge and deliver on the removal of this iniquitous tax is that we do not waste funds the way the Labor Party does. My honourable friend the member for Scenic Rim spoke about what the government would have put the proceeds of this particular GP tax towards—things like trying to shield Jackie Trad from public scrutiny. That is another iniquity which I am so pleased we have been able to—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Southern Downs, once again I will bring you back to the content of the bill. Do not let me warn you again.

Mr LISTER: Labor have suggested throughout this entire debate on this subject that there was never a GP tax, that the GPs were all pleased about it. I heard the members for Bancroft and Logan say that the GPs were happy about it. That is not the feedback I got from GPs. I do not know what the context of their information was. Who are they kidding by saying that this tax never existed? It is brazen and it means that the Labor opposition are still fatally disconnected from the word on the street.

In relation to housing, I also heard Labor Party members say, 'We'll support any measure to improve the housing supply.' Why didn't they employ measures to improve the housing supply while they were in government, instead of indulging in distortionary practices which diverted resources away from people being able to afford homes, build homes and access the resources to build homes? We just saw inflation, taxes and red tape which all stemmed from poor spending, taxing and borrowing priorities of the Labor government. I am a great fan of this bill. I will certainly be supporting it. I commend it to the House.