



Speech by

Andrew Cripps

MEMBER FOR HINCHINBROOK

Hansard Tuesday, 29 November 2011

MOTION: BLIGH LABOR GOVERNMENT

 **Mr CRIPPS** (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (5.40 pm): I second the motion. When Campbell Newman came to the leadership of the LNP, one of the first things that occurred was the development of our plan to get Queensland's economy back on track. The plan is based on four pillars, being mining and resources, tourism, construction and agriculture. These are the uncontested strengths of the Queensland economy. These sectors of the economy need to be firing for Queensland to grow. The LNP understands that agriculture is an important part of Queensland's economy, especially Queensland's regional economy. The LNP has and is developing a strategic plan for each of these four pillars. They are, each of them, supported by the LNP's strategic infrastructure plan which was released first to ensure that there was a platform for the growth of the mining and resources industry, tourism, construction and the agriculture sector.

The strategic plan for agriculture was the first of the four pillars to be released. The leader of the LNP, Campbell Newman, and I launched the LNP's strategic plan for agriculture on Friday, 16 September. The strategy sets out an ambitious target to double our agricultural production in this state by 2040. The LNP's plan is focused on increasing agricultural production—not regulation, not compliance but production. I was pleased to table that plan in the House on 25 October. On that occasion I outlined the objectives of the strategy and the six priority areas in the plan to achieve its ambitious production goal. Those objectives and priorities are on the record, including the LNP's plan to re-establish a stand-alone department dedicated to agriculture as the vehicle to drive the implementation of the strategy, so I will not canvass them again in detail during this debate.

What I will do during the course of this debate, in view of the motion condemning the Bligh Labor government for failing to outline any vision for Queensland's future after 20 years in power in this state, is outline the response from industry to the LNP's strategic plan for agriculture. The peak representative bodies representing agriculture in Queensland warmly welcomed the LNP's strategic plan. The President of AgForce, Mr Brent Finlay, welcomed the plan and said the industry needed certainty and long-term planning. Mr Finlay said—

We welcome the LNP's focus on providing the right environment for profitable primary production and we look forward to having input into the implementation of this policy.

I'm particularly pleased to see the LNP's commitment to establish a stand-alone department of agriculture with a focus on improving farm businesses rather than increasing red tape.

The CEO of the Queensland Farmers Federation, Mr Dan Galligan, said that the QFF also welcomed the plan and described it as a very positive contribution to the discussion about the future of agriculture in Queensland. Mr Galligan said—

The QFF has been looking for a blueprint for the \$14 billion agricultural industry in this state. Clearly, the LNP has spent some time listening to industry views in forming this document.

Mr Galligan went on to say that a plan to grow the agriculture sector, which is a cornerstone of the Queensland economy, is a welcome step forward. The CEO of Growcom, Queensland's peak horticulture

body, Mr Alex Livingstone, was another industry leader to welcome the LNP's strategic plan for agriculture. He said—

It is good to see a political party with a vision to double food production by 2040 and committed to a long-term policy framework identifying the key planks required to achieve that vision.

Mr Livingstone said the LNP's policies reflected many of Growcom's own policy positions that have been articulated for some time and he called on other parties to outline their policies which would result in an equally bright future for agriculture in the lead-up to the state election. Lastly, Mr Steve Greenwood, CEO of Canegrowers, commenting on the release of the strategic plan, said a plan to strengthen agriculture, a cornerstone of the Queensland economy, was in itself a welcome move. Mr Greenwood noted the intention of the LNP to work with peak bodies, farmers and communities to implement the strategy and its aim of doubling production by 2040.

So there you have it: four leading peak agricultural industry groups welcoming the LNP's plan, amongst them statements recognising that the LNP has been listening to industry and that it was good to see a political party with a vision for agriculture. I table those press releases from those peak agricultural industry bodies.

Tabled paper: Bundle of media releases in relation to the LNP agriculture policy [\[6028\]](#).

Of course, the silent charge in these statements is the implied backhander to the Bligh Labor government. The Bligh Labor government has not been listening. It has failed to offer a vision for the future of agriculture in this state. In view of the evidence in respect of the agriculture sector, one of the pillars of Queensland's economy, the motion tonight should be supported by all members of the House.