Criag, see below full transcript of Seeney's comments re the Bruce Highway.

Regards,

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To: Rockemer, Bruce  
Subject: Seeney interview

Bruce, below is the transcript of the Jeff Seeney interview, pertaining to the questions relating to toll roads.

I reject entirely the assertion that what I wrote was, in any way, anything less than 100 per cent correct.

For a politician to deny the facts of this story on the assertion that the reportage was incorrect is an act of political cowardice.

Kind regards,

John Flynn

Question – Journalist: Europe has good motorways, France in particular (last question – press sec) has good motorways and a lot of them are toll roads, is that an option:

Seeney: Exactly, there’s a whole range of options to involve private enterprise and to involve industry in funding infrastructure generally and we have to look at funding all of those things, because the Government, just simply, the Government in Queensland just does not have the money to address the backlog that the Labor Government is going to leave us.

The Labor Government is going to leave Queensland a legacy, a number of legacies a number of terrible legacies, one is the 80 billion dollars in debt, the other is the profound backlog in infrastructure that’s necessary to pay back that debt.

Question Journalist: So you wouldn’t rule out tollroads on sections of the Bruce highway?

Seeney: I certainly would rule in the involvement of private investment and private funding in a whole range of models I’m not particularly in favour of toll gates and toll roads like that but there are a whole range of other models that allow private investment to invest in road infrastructure and we have to look at that, we don’t have any choice.

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We know that education makes a difference. As the Premier said earlier this morning, we are responsible for delivering prep, for delivering universal access to kindergarten and for putting the next building block in place for the future by putting year 7 into high school from 2015. What did the conservative government spend on education when they were last in government in Queensland? They spent $2.9 billion and now we are spending $10.342 billion. Every single cent is making a difference, every single cent is improving educational outcomes, including in literacy and numeracy.

We have much to do in Queensland. We traditionally had a year less education in Queensland but we have filled that gap. New South Wales has had year 7 in high school for almost 50 years, and we are now putting year 7 into high school from 2015 because that will give students the best possible opportunity for the future. We will not rest. The finish line is never reached in education. We will continue our restlessness to ensure we deliver the best possible opportunities for Queensland students.

Bruce Highway, Funding

Ms BOYLE: My question is to the Minister for Main Roads. Will the minister please elaborate on alternative funding proposals for the Bruce Highway?

Mr WALLACE: I thank the member for Cairns for her question. A stronger advocate for the Bruce Highway you could not meet. I can inform the House that there is a policy for the Bruce Highway for funding. It is the first policy the LNP has ever released for Main Roads and it covers the 1,600 kilometres of the Bruce Highway. In an interview in the Innisfail Advocate last weekend, the member for Callide revealed that the LNP is considering putting tolls on the Bruce Highway—tolls on the Bruce Highway.

Mr SEENEY: Rubbish. Mr Speaker—

Mr WALLACE: That is shocking and I table the article in the Innisfail Advocate in which he says that.

Tabled paper: Copy of article from the Innisfail Advocate, dated 11 June 2011, titled 'All stops out to fix Bruce: LNP'.

Mr SEENEY: Mr Speaker—

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Stop the clock. Resume your seat.

Mr SEENEY: Mr Speaker, that is profoundly dishonest and ridiculous. I find it offensive and I ask that it be withdrawn. It is absolutely absurd. I find the minister’s comments offensive and I ask that they be withdrawn.

Mr Lucas interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The member finds the minister’s remarks offensive and he has asked that they be withdrawn.

Mr WALLACE: I withdraw. The paper says—

Mr SPEAKER: Hang on, I have not finished yet. And as for the remarks of the Deputy Premier—

Mr Lucas: I withdraw, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: Now let us have the Minister for Main Roads.

Mr WALLACE: I withdraw that. But the paper that I just tabled says—

Campbell Newman’s Queensland LNP team will be putting all options on the table—including the possibility of introducing tolls—to deliver a decent all-weather highway linking the north and south of the State.

Mr Speaker, have you ever heard such bunkum in your life? Campbell Newman must say today whether he is going to back the member for Callide in this plan to toll the Bruce. Is he going to back him?

Mr SEENEY: Point of order!

Mr WALLACE: Does the member for Callide have the authority—

Mr SEENEY: Point of order, Mr Speaker!

Mr SPEAKER: Resume your seat, Minister.

Mr SEENEY: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The minister repeated the same dishonest absurdity that I found offensive before. It is equally offensive the second time.

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Those on my right.

Mr SEENEY: It is absurdly dishonest. I find it offensive and I ask that it be withdrawn.

Mr SPEAKER: Withdraw.

Mr WALLACE: I withdraw, Mr Speaker. Does the member for Callide have the authority to make these statements? We want Campbell Newman to stand up in regional Queensland and say why he supports tolls on the Bruce. Why does he support tolls? Everyone in regional Queensland will have to have one of these tags.
Mr SEENEY: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order.
Mr SPEAKER: Again, stop the clock.
Mr SEENEY: I rise to a point of order, Mr Speaker. The minister for the third time has repeated an absurd dishonesty that I have found offensive twice before. I find it offensive again and I ask that it be withdrawn. It is absurdly dishonest.
Mr SPEAKER: All right.
Mr WALLACE: I rise to a point of order, Mr Speaker. He said it to the *Innisfail Advocate*. He needs to accept this. He has a glass jaw, obviously like his leader.
Mr SPEAKER: Order! Let me rule on the point of order. As I understand the minister's answer, it was referring to a Mr Newman rather than the Leader of the Opposition. That was my understanding of it.
Mr SEENEY: I rise to a point of order, Mr Speaker. Government members interjected.
Mr SPEAKER: Order! Just resume your seat. Those on my right will cease interjecting; otherwise, I will take action under the standing orders. The honourable member for Callide has the call.
Mr SEENEY: I rise to a point of order, Mr Speaker. I find it offensive when the minister continues to attribute absurdly dishonest remarks to me. I never made the remarks that the minister is attributing to me. They are absurd, they are ridiculous and I find them offensive, and I will seek a withdrawal every time he makes them.
Mr CRIPPS: I rise to a point of order, Mr Speaker. Mr WALLACE: I rise to a point of order, Mr Speaker. Mr SPEAKER: Let me hear the minister's point of order and then I will take yours.
Mr WALLACE: I rise to a point of order. I was referring to Campbell Newman. He is not in this place. What is he going to do about—
Mr SPEAKER: Do not argue the point.
Mr WALLACE: I was referring to Campbell Newman, not the member for Callide.
Mr CRIPPS: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order.
Mr SPEAKER: I am listening to the point of order.
Mr CRIPPS: Mr Speaker, the article in the *Innisfail Advocate* that the Minister for Main Roads refers to is being selectively quoted from, and I quote directly—
Mr SPEAKER: No, I am sorry—
Honourable members interjected.
Mr CRIPPS: Mr Speaker—
Mr SPEAKER: I am sorry, that is not a point of order. Now, let us get this straight before the House gets right out of control. The member for Callide has asked for a withdrawal of comments made about him. I am not going to have a parade where we continue to malign a member who has taken a point of order. As I understood and tried to listen to the minister's comments subsequently, he had referred to a Mr Newman. I would therefore say to the member for Callide that I accept that if the minister continues a maligning of you, having ruled on a point of order, then I will sit the minister down. Minister, it would be better if you directed your comments away from the member for Callide because of the withdrawal and continue. Now, let me deal with the member for Hinchinbrook. What you are suggesting is not a point of order. As I have said repeatedly, those things are a point of view; they are not a point of order. I call the Minister for Main Roads.
Mr WALLACE: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Under Campbell Newman’s plan, everyone in regional Queensland will have to have a transponder—beep between Townsville and Cairns, Campbell Newman’s hand in your pocket; beep between Townsville and Mackay, Campbell Newman’s hand in your pocket; beep between Bobbawobba and Bowen, Campbell Newman’s hand in your pocket! He has got no plan for the Bruce Highway—beep between Rockhampton and Bundaberg! He has no plan whatsoever!
That is what Campbell Newman wants to do to regional Queensland. We on this side of the House will not stand for it. We are the only party that has advocated funding for the Bruce. Compare our record in government—$480 million a year to the Bruce compared to $100 million under the tories. No wonder Campbell Newman wants to bring tags into regional Queensland to pay for works on the Bruce! He is moribund! He has no plans! He wants to pay for that sinking tunnel that is now in bankruptcy using transponders in regional Queensland, and we on this side of the House will not stand for it. The Bligh government will stand up for regional Queensland, and that is why we are spending $1,600 for every
man, woman and child in Queensland. I say to the people of regional Queensland: no beeps for us! Stick by Labor!

**Cost of Living, Housing**

**Ms SIMPSON:** My question is to the Minister for Community Services and Housing. I refer to research by ratings agency Finch detailing that mortgage arrears in Queensland rose to two per cent of all mortgages, with Queensland the worst performing state in the six months to March this year. Will the minister admit that Labor’s failure to address the cost-of-living increases over the last decade is now costing more and more Queenslanders their homes?

**Ms STRUTHERS:** I thank the member for the question. I want to say very clearly that this government knows that the best thing we can do for families—the best thing we can do to ease cost-of-living pressures for families—is to give them a job and an opportunity to get a decent income and to give them an affordable roof over their heads. For those on fixed and limited incomes, who do not have much opportunity to get ahead, we need to build a strong base of concessions and rebates. What is this government doing? Unlike tory governments around the nation, this government has expanded its concessions—$1.4 billion worth of concessions and rebates for families who are doing it tough. In terms of concessions, pensioners around this state are going to get a boost to their electricity concessions, their rates concessions, their water rebate.

One of the big costs that families and individuals have is their housing costs. What are we doing in relation to housing? The member knows that on the Sunshine Coast we are building hundreds of units of housing, including under NRAS, the National Rental Affordability Scheme. With the help of the federal government under the nation-building program we are building more houses than we have ever seen under social housing programs in this state—more than 4,000 units of social housing. Under our state Future Growth Fund we will build another $90 million worth of social housing this year alone.

We know that many people are doing it tough at times, but the best thing we can do is boost the economy. What is this government doing? We are stimulating the construction industry, stimulating the tourism industry and building jobs for people’s futures. That is the best thing we can do, unlike the LNP. What is it doing? The member herself said in recent media reports—in fact, as late as yesterday—that the LNP cannot commit to increasing social housing. The LNP cannot commit to doing that. Shame on her!

Honourable members interjected.

**Ms SIMPSON:** I rise to a point of order.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Stop the clock. Let us hear the point of order.

Honourable members interjected.

**Ms SIMPSON:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. The minister’s comments are inaccurate and also offensive, as the full context of what I said—not what the paper said—is that we would actually look at working with the not-for-profit sector to deliver more housing.

**Mr SPEAKER:** That is not a point of order. I call the minister. Start the clock again.

**Ms STRUTHERS:** What did Campbell Newman do when he was heading up the Brisbane City Council? How much did rates go up? What did he do for the cost-of-living pressures for people in Brisbane? Let me tell you: rates went up 42 per cent under Campbell Newman—42 per cent! And what did he say? In 2004, when Mr Newman went to the people of Brisbane and said, ‘Pick me, pick me,’ what did he say? He said, ‘If rates go up by more than CPI, I will resign.’ Did Mr Newman resign? No, he did not.

**A government member:** Well, he did really.

**Ms STRUTHERS:** Well, he did. He finally resigned, but why did he resign? He cut and ran from the people of Brisbane. He cut and ran. Those opposite need to come clean on what they are going to do. They are prancing around the sidelines with their sandwich boards and their slogans, but they are not coming clean to the people of Queensland. We get little snippets now and then like the member’s commitment, or the lack—

(Time expired)

**South-East Queensland Water Grid**

**Mrs SCOTT:** My question is to the Minister for Energy and Water Utilities. Can the minister please explain the benefits of the South-East Queensland water grid and the cost to South-East Queenslanders of paying off this vital piece of infrastructure?

**Mr ROBERTSON:** The benefit of the South-East Queensland water grid is quite simple, and that is that we have drought proofed this important part of Queensland and we will not be needing new water