



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

BILLS

**Clean Energy Finance Corporation
(Abolition) Bill 2013 [No. 2]**

Consideration in Detail

SPEECH

Thursday, 27 March 2014

BY AUTHORITY OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Questioner
Speaker Ciobo, Steven, MP

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Mr CIOBO (Moncrieff—Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer) (12:47): If you listened to the Labor and Greens contributors to this debate, you would be scratching your head and wondering how on earth the world ever reached the stage that it has reached. If it were not for these grandiose schemes funded by taxpayers, there would be no innovation. We would still be living back in the dark ages. I wonder how the first aircraft became airborne, how the first ship or the first submarine sailed, or indeed how any of the advancements that have been made with respect to medical technology, computing, IT and communications were made. The government must have been at the epicentre of every single one of these innovations! If it were not for the government, how on earth would the private sector have ever innovated in any particular way? For goodness sake. I have got to say I am not surprised, because that lot over there have always been exceedingly generous with other people's money. There has never been a time when the Labor Party have said, 'No, we don't want to invest taxpayers' funds in that.' There has never been a deal that has been put to the Labor Party, or to the Greens, that they have not wanted to sign up to with taxpayers' money.

But the unfortunate thing about all of this debate is this. The Greens and the Labor Party wring their hands and stand over there with their faux concern about the next generation of Australians and they say, 'Why won't the Liberals and the Nationals do something to ensure the safety of the next generation of Australians?' If only they had 10 per cent of that concern for how the next generation of Australians are going to pay back all the debt that Labor and the Greens left. If only they had the smallest bit of concern for the fact that it will be our children that will be paying back Labor's debt for the next 20 years. If only they had the smallest bit of concern for the fact that, in five years, they managed to indebt the next generation of Australians for decades. Then maybe we on this side of the chamber would take them a little bit more seriously. Maybe they should have considered and recognised the fact that they have effectively put a ball and chain around the ankle of every Australian for the next 20 or 30 years, instead of just focusing on the fact that Australia does contribute about 1½ to two per cent of global CO2 emissions and saying, 'If only we had renewable energy and if only we had mass-scale investment then we could probably shave off about 0.001 per cent,' or 0.0012 per cent or 0.015 per cent or whatever the number is. For goodness sake; it is no wonder the Australian people woke up to the Australian Labor Party.

Mr Dreyfus: You want to do nothing!

Mr CIOBO: Now we have got the member opposite saying we should do nothing. Well, I have got a newsflash for you, buddy: it is called the Direct Action Plan. Under the Direct Action Plan, the coalition will deliver five per cent reductions on CO2 emissions, which, incidentally, is more than Labor was going to do. Under Labor modelling, CO2 emissions were going to go up. The only way they were going to actually achieve a reduction was by buying permits.

Mr Dreyfus: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

Mr CIOBO: You do not want to hear the truth, do you? They do not like it when the facts stand in the way of—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Vasta): Order! The parliamentary secretary will resume his seat. The member for Isaacs on a point of order.

Mr Dreyfus: The member opposite should pay some attention to the subject matter of the bill that is before the parliament. He is making no attempt to be relevant and should return to the subject matter of the bill.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The parliamentary secretary has the call.

Mr CIOBO: I think the fact that the shadow Attorney-General had been in the chamber for about a minute before he jumped up in many respects reflects the baseless nature of that point of order.

Mr Dreyfus: I rise on a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. He should withdraw. I have been here for the entire debate, and the member, who has not been here, should not be making reflections of that nature.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will ask the parliamentary secretary to withdraw.

Mr CIOBO: I am actually not prepared to withdraw that, because the reality is that that is simply untrue. I have been here for the entirety of the debate. The shadow Attorney-General comes wandering in and then he makes an allegation. It is simply unsubstantiated. I seek your direction, Mr Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The parliamentary secretary has the call.

Mr CIOBO: Australians see straight through the Australian Labor Party and straight through the Greens. That is the reason why they said, 'After six years of reckless spending, after six years of fiscal abuse, after six years of having all the wrong priorities, we think it's time for a change.' We are working to implement our policies. This was one of our pre-election announcements, and once again you are stopping us delivering our policies.
(Time expired)