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SUBJECT: Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, Ticket Prices

MEMBER: Mr LANGBROEK

### Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, Ticket Prices

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (12.23 pm): As we have seen today, you cannot trust Labor with money, whether it is delivering a budget surplus—

**Ms Jones** interjected.

**Mr LANGBROEK:** I did get \$5 from the member for Ashgrove, which shows that Labor is quite prepared to give it away whereas on this side of the House we take care of our money very carefully. They are quite prepared to give it away.

**Ms JONES:** I rise to a point of order. I take offence at that, because I think the five bucks was for a very good cause.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Thank you, Minister. There is no point of order.

**Mr LANGBROEK:** As I said, you cannot trust Labor, whether it is delivering a budget surplus, the costs of building projects, pre-election promises and policies and now, of course, the projected ticket revenue from the Commonwealth Games, which is something we pursued today in question time and is what I want to speak about in this MPI. I am concerned that Minister Hinchliffe, the member for Sandgate, says that he is 100 per cent focused on transport, which is what we have heard from him in the past couple of weeks. People on the Gold Coast are concerned about the Commonwealth Games and whether this minister is focussed on the Commonwealth Games. What about his role as leader of the House? In the past week, we saw that he was unable to manage a quorum and he had to withdraw the Heavy Vehicle National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill because it did not have an appropriate message.

While the minister says he is focused on transport, my real concern is that taxpayers will have to wear the costs of the ticket projections that we have heard change just in the past couple of days. The Auditor-General's report from some time ago stated that ticket sales would generate over \$65 million in sales. It looks like the games will be family friendly, but not for taxpayers. Over the weekend, the government released the ticket prices for the games with an expected revenue of between \$50 million and \$60 million, which is a major decrease from the estimated ticket revenue provided in 2014-15 audit papers, which stated that tickets would raise \$65.3 million. Today we heard from the minister that that is okay, because it will all stay within the envelope of \$2 billion. In other words, the money is going to have to come from somewhere. As we always see with Labor, they are never concerned about that.

Today they have been talking about the cost of tickets and I am happy to go through that. Some of the detail released today included that, for the preliminaries at beach volleyball, tickets would cost \$30, but it turns out that for children it will be \$15. I do not have a problem with family friendly prices, but that calls into question some of the statistics and detail that we were given at estimates by the CEO of the Commonwealth Games. The numbers simply do not add up. For the beach volleyball preliminaries, it will cost \$30 for adults and \$15 for children; for the semis the cost will be \$80 and \$50; and for the finals the cost will be \$100 and \$75. However, at the estimates hearing of 28 July 2016, at page 82 of *Hansard*, the CEO of the games, Mr Peters, said—

The overall cost of adding beach volleyball to the games is just over \$19 million. We expect to receive revenue back through sales of seats et cetera, which will leave us at this stage with a cost of around \$9 million—\$9.5 million or \$9.2 million.

That means ticket sales will be either \$9.8 million or \$9.5 million. He stated further—

We are, as we say, value engineering now to look at how we fit the venue in. We are planning a 5,000-seat capacity at the moment. It may well be more economic for us to run a 4,000-seat-capacity stadium.

I table a copy of that excerpt.

*Tabled paper:* Extract from the Transport and Utilities Committee transcript (proof) of public estimates hearing on 28 July 2016, p 82.

Allowing for the fact that some sponsorship may go along with the ticket sales, with the numbers and the amounts that have been quoted for ticket prices how on earth are we going to have revenue of

up to \$10 million in ticket sales alone? It just does not add up at those prices. Even if we were to say that the average price is \$66—looking at just the prices for adults that we have seen so far—there would have to be 136,000 spectators at the beach volleyball paying an average of \$66. I do not think that is going to happen. Most importantly, the overall quantum of saying it will be up to \$10 million in ticket sales is 15 per cent of the total revenue of the Commonwealth Games, allowing for all sports. We have already heard from Peter Beattie, who is obviously running the games as opposed to the member for Sandgate, that we are only going to have revenue of \$50 million to \$60 million in ticket sales, yet at estimates we were told that it could be up to \$10 million in ticket sales from the beach volleyball alone.

I am very concerned, even though the Labor government says these will be family friendly games and supposedly we will be able to catch trains; let us hope that we can catch trains, under this Minister for Transport. The people of the Gold Coast know we can deliver great games, but unfortunately at the moment what we are seeing from the minister responsible for the Commonwealth Games is uncertainty about what is going to happen in terms of finances.