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Premier, who will pay the \$27+ million oil spill cleanup bill?

DESPITE all Premier Bligh's tough sounding election-eve rhetoric, local councils and the local community will now wear the cleanup cost for the toxic oil spill in Moreton Bay in March.

Shadow Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability Glen Elmes said while the toxic oil cleanup bill had blown out by more than triple Labor's forecast \$10 million, Queenslanders should not have to foot the bill.

Mr Elmes said the Deputy Premier should fess up about his election eve fib that the toxic oil spill cleanup bill wouldn't cost anywhere near \$20 million - and that councils would be spared the cost.

"Labor has told all sorts of lies about this government's slow response to the toxic oil spill in Moreton Bay from the way it ignored media warnings about the spill right through to the cleanup costs," Mr Elmes said.

"Most people will remember Premier Bligh made strong statements about forcing environmental vandals to take responsibility for their actions - and pay the cleanup costs for their mess."

"The EPA now says the full cost of containing and cleaning up this major oil spill on our beaches is not likely to be recovered. The Pacific Adventurer's insurance will only cover up to \$20 million of the cleanup cost," he said.

"Taxpayers and ratepayers will be out of pocket tens of millions of dollars that should have been used on infrastructure, job creation opportunities or essential services."

Mr Elmes said the massive cleanup costs were expected to be between \$20 and \$27 million but that this did not include the work of government departments and community organisations.

"If Premier Bligh is serious about making the worst polluters pay for their damage, she should also expedite cost-recovery from the Labor mates responsible for the state's worst environmental disaster - the 2005 Binary Industries chemical fire at Narangba," he said.

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