




Speech By  
**David Kempton**

**MEMBER FOR COOK**

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**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL; REVENUE  
AMENDMENT AND TRADE AND INVESTMENT QUEENSLAND BILL**

 **Mr KEMPTON** (Cook—LNP) (12.48 pm): There is a fundamental trap for new players in any business. It is the Friday night syndrome. How many times do we hear of business owners who see a till full of cash at closing time on Friday and, thinking they are doing well, grab a handful to spend up over the weekend. Why not? They have worked hard for it and it is their money. However, come Monday the bills arrive and the business owner pays them from the overdraft. Come Thursday the wages are due and again the business owner pays them from the overdraft. Come Friday the cycle starts all over again. It does not take a genius to work out where this business is headed. Andrew Fraser must have been a genius because that is exactly what he did to Queensland.

Another fundamental of any economy is as old as the abacus, that is, the triple bottom line. Responsible fiscal management means expenditure must be balanced between the economy, the environment and society. That is another fundamental that was lost on Andrew Fraser. He spent and spent on ill-conceived environmental initiatives to keep his green mates happy. He spent and spent on unfunded social and employment programs to keep his union mates happy. Andrew Fraser and Labor left the economy to chance. It is a testimony to the resilience of our great state that we survived for as long as we did.

By stark contrast—in fact, there is no comparison—our Treasurer has set about repaying the huge debt left by Labor, rebuilding our economy and restoring the faith of Queenslanders and those who do business with us. That task was been made infinitely more difficult as our government grappled with a health system in tatters, the loss of our AAA credit rating, the erosion of infrastructure, the neglect of our hospitals, schools and roads, soaring power prices and the list goes on. The Treasurer is steering a responsible course to recovery and has tied our future to growth, rebuilding and resilience. This budget was delivered by the Treasurer in the shadow of escalating debt, which is a legacy of the previous government, declining revenue from mining royalties and a lower than expected return on GST. The government has also had to factor in \$15.8 billion, which is the estimated cost of natural disasters in recent years.

Many Queenslanders have no experience of a government that puts the people first, makes the tough decisions and stands up and tells people if the forecasts and estimates cannot be met. The people of Queensland deserve that respect. The 2013 budget contains no surprises, and nor should it. In fact, the more predictable the budget the more comfortable Queenslanders will be with their government, as they know we are doing what we promised and are getting on with the job. Queenslanders had the living daylight scared out of them by the fiscal mess left by Labor. The election result of 2012 could not be more evident of this fact.

Our government has not put all its eggs in the resources basket, but rather has identified four strong and reliable pillars upon which to build our future. One of those pillars is agriculture, which is a topic dear to my heart. For 20 years I fought against the green Labor attack on the pastoral industry in Queensland, the erosion of the rights of our farmers, the handing over of land management to the

EPA, the Vegetation Management Act, the regional forest agreement, the east coast wilderness zone, national park expansion programs, the Water Act, the Wild Rivers Act, the Delbessie Agreement and many other debacles. The fundamental of any successful primary industry is security of tenure and access to resources and markets. In just 12 months our government has brought about huge reforms in tenure, vegetation management, water management and the removal of red tape. Support for our pastoral industry is music to my ears, and that that support has been reflected in this budget makes the tune sound even sweeter. More and more I hear of hope in the bush where there was only despair under Labor. Mine may be the most distant electorate in Queensland and the most remote, but I am confident that my electorate has not been forgotten. My constituents appreciate that many of the services they receive are in fact subsidised by the south-east. However, they are also proud of the contribution that they make to the state's economy.

At a glance, the budget predicts that by 2016 the government will maintain and improve on the growth rate of 2.75 per cent, will increase employment by 2.5 per cent, will increase exports by 20 per cent, will improve trading partner growth and achieve a budget surplus. The Newman government will deliver better services to Queensland in health, education, housing services, disability services and law and order. We will improve front-line services to all Queenslanders with 155 ambulances, 724 new teachers, 267 new police officers, \$537 million spent on our Great Teachers = Great Results program, \$868 million for disability care, \$1.7 billion for health infrastructure and \$28.3 million for hospitals in the home. Regionally, our government will allocate \$30 million to mining exploration, \$5 million to fight cattle disease, \$11.2 million to drought relief, \$790 million to the Bruce Highway upgrade, \$15 million to tourism marketing, \$2 million to aviation new business, \$327 million to the health maintenance backlog, \$82.8 million to regional and remote health care and \$80 million to reef protection.

Within my electorate of Cook there has been significant spending, for example, on the Lotus Glen refurbishment, the Mareeba Fire Station, the Mareeba State High School, the Hope Vale multipurpose centre, the Napranum Civic Centre, the Wujal Wujal sports oval, the Thursday Island Police Station, and improvements to the Mulligan Highway, the Peninsula Development Road and the Bloomfield Crossing. There is also money for work on the Captain Cook Highway from Cairns to Mossman and a share of the crocodile management funds. My electorate will also share in the state-wide Indigenous housing fund of \$238 million, which is partly funded by the federal government. While there is a long way to go, I am seeing a lot more hope and confidence in the Cook electorate now than there was 18 months ago.

There will be no grabbing the cash on Friday by our government and no deals with the Greens or the unions. Queensland is in safe hands.