




Speech By  
**Michael Crandon**

**MEMBER FOR COOMERA**

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

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (11.34 am): It is with great pleasure that I rise to address the Treasurer's presentation of the 2013-14 budget, a budget for growth, rebuilding and resilience. I wish I had the time to address some of the inaccuracies and some of the untruths that have been put to us today by the Leader of the Opposition. Unfortunately I do not have the time, as I really need to talk about the benefits to my community that this budget has delivered.

**Mr Johnson:** And to Queenslanders.

**Mr CRANDON:** And for Queensland. I take that interjection. Firstly, I want to congratulate the Treasurer for staying the course in difficult circumstances on some very, very difficult matters. This is the Newman government's second budget in the aftermath of major floods, cyclones and droughts affecting all Queenslanders—and these events have cost the people of Queensland dearly, either directly or indirectly. One focus of the first budget for the Treasurer was to bring down the cost of living—such mechanisms as the freezing of registration on the family car for three years and reinstating the stamp duty rebate for the family home, just to name two. These actions helped all Queenslanders but particularly those most in need.

So what does this budget hold for the people of the Coomera electorate? My focus today will be on three important areas—policing, education funding and support for those with the greatest need. First of all, I will talk about policing. One of the major issues for my electorate leading up to the 2009 election and certainly continuing on through the 2012 election and right up until today is the issue of policing—and, of course, we are talking about break and enters; we are talking about physical injury to persons; we are talking about hoodlums, hoons and so forth.

In the lead-up to the 2012 election, there was a promise that we would have something in the order of an additional 100 police for the Gold Coast and Logan City areas. To date across Queensland we already have 300 additional police, and there are 267 more police slated. This is on the way to achieving a total number of additional front-line police of 1,300—1,100 new officers and 200 coming from the back office to the front, to be at the coalface, if you like.

In terms of education, in my electorate one of only two new high schools to be built was opened this year and there is more funding to go towards enhancing that high school as well as other high schools in preparation for the 2015 influx of year 7 students and of course the growth which is very, very apparent in the Coomera electorate. I point out as a matter of interest to all members in the House that the \$100 million maintenance budget for this year follows on from the \$200 million top-up maintenance budget from last year, and virtually all of the schools in my electorate received the full amount—the \$160,000—to assist them in catching up with the maintenance that is so desperately needed.

I also point out that the Gonski proposal by the federal government would in fact disadvantage the most disadvantaged community in my electorate. One of the schools in the most disadvantaged community in my electorate would be 2.8 per cent worse off under Gonski. Why? What do they have

against the children in those areas that are doing it so tough? We have a different plan, a better plan, to deliver a better education for our children, and that is our Great Teachers = Great Results plan.

Support network funding—and this includes child safety, disability services and social inclusion funding—totals over \$6 million throughout the Coomera electorate. About \$2 million is in the Logan part of my electorate and about \$4 million is in the Gold Coast part of my electorate. This will support those in greatest need, and there are many people in Coomera, as I have just alluded to, in disadvantaged situations. There is a total of \$780 million in rebates alone for people in those circumstances to assist with their electricity and gas bills. There is a total of \$5.2 billion of concessions across the state. Many of those dollars are going into the areas in my electorate that need help.

In a nutshell, it is economics 101. Scarce and finite resources versus so many needs. Those opposite focus on negatives. I alluded to that a short while ago, and I hope my colleagues on this side of the House will take the opportunity to point out some of the errors in the Leader of the Opposition's speech today. We on this side of the House try to do more with less and deliver for the people in a sustainable way. That is the difference. We try to deliver in a sustainable way: doing more with less. Let me explain it to those opposite in simple terms as it may be easier for them to understand. Let's use the family budget. How long would you last? Let me set the scene. As a financial planner I was able to help people work through their issues. First of all, as I said, I will set the scene.

**Dr Flegg:** Paint a word picture.

**Mr CRANDON:** I will paint a word picture. I take that interjection. The scene is set like this: the client has no savings and they have come to their financial planner for some advice and some help.

**Dr Flegg:** They've got a good financial planner.

**Mr CRANDON:** Of course they have. I take that interjection. Currently their expenditure is 10 per cent more than their income. Therefore, every year there is more debt being added to their existing debt.

**Mr Boothman:** You've lost them.

**Mr CRANDON:** I have lost them already? Keep thinking. Beaker, listen up. They have a big mortgage with an interest bill that is making a big difference to how their family enjoys—or does not enjoy—the hard work they have been putting in over the years. The interest bill on that debt is their fastest growing expense. Some things are costing more than they should. They are paying for things in the marketplace for which they could have got a better result or the same result for less expenditure if they had had a look around and spent some time seeing whether or not they could get a better deal. It is that contestability thing.

**Mr Hart:** Did they buy a desal plant?

**Mr CRANDON:** No, they did not buy a desal plant. We will not go into that at this time. I have not got the time. I am on a fairly tight schedule.

Income is not a certain figure for these people. It depends on how busy things are out there in the marketplace. On average, it could be that they would be receiving something like \$48,000 to try to make ends meet on a take-home basis. If things are good in the marketplace, if things move forward in the marketplace, they could end up with a little overtime and a bit of extra money. Let's say that takes them to about \$53,000. On the other side of the coin, if it is quiet they could be pushed back to a nine-day fortnight and therefore lose around 10 per cent of their income to take them back to \$43,000. They come to me and ask what I recommend they do.

The first thing I would do is refer to the fact that they have no savings and we have to try to turn that around. They have massive debt that is growing and we have to try to turn that around. So we have a look at their assets situation. We look at how they are spending their dollars to find out whether or not we can save some money. That is the first thing.

The second thing is we look at what assets they have and we see whether there are any assets they no longer need. We consider the possibility of selling those assets. I suppose you could liken that to selling the land that we no longer need in our education system because we are always buying and selling land as a government. We are going to sell land over here in order to buy land over there to put it in the right place. I can refer to the Coomera electorate, where we are buying additional land for additional schools. In fact, I have a new school which has been announced—one of the 10 PPP schools—and which is due to be in place by the 2016 school year. Where do you get the money from to buy that land? This land over here that you do not need any more you sell and bring it across. It is a matter of tidying up your affairs, trimming the fat, making sure that the things you are doing are smart, cost effective and, most importantly, you are not living beyond your means.

I want to make one final point. It was an irony we heard from the Leader of the Opposition when she talked about 1 William Street. She is taking a swipe at this government for putting forward a proposal to save \$70 million a year in rent by building one building to bring all of our departments into one place. But she loses this point: Cbus, which is a union superannuation fund, owns that building. Cbus has something like seven or eight buildings around the country which it is doing exactly that sort of thing with. It owns the building. Union labour is being used to build the building, adding to their assets. Finally, the returns on that building are going into the Cbus super fund for the benefit of those people in their retirement. Once again, I congratulate the Treasurer for his outstanding efforts in these tough circumstances. I commend the budget to the House.