




Speech By  
**Hon. Jarrod Bleijie**

**MEMBER FOR KAWANA**

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Record of Proceedings, 6 June 2014

**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL; REVENUE  
LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (3.25 pm): Today, it is great to be able to speak in support of the appropriation bills, which outline a methodical, carefully balanced budget that will build a four-pillar economy and, of course, revitalise front line services. I want to start by applauding my colleague the Hon. Treasurer and Minister for Trade on the delivery of his third budget. He continues to do a tremendous job, having inherited a financial basket case from the wasteful, chaotic former Labor government made up of those members opposite whose legacy will always remain an \$80 billion debt which is costing Queenslanders the price of a family home—\$450,000—every hour.

Queensland has a strong plan. It now has a strong team. It also has a brighter future. But to have that brighter future, it is always good to look at the past. I remind those opposite in the House that we inherited a basket case economy. As we have heard in this debate, the members of the Labor Party opposite pumped billions of dollars into failed projects like the Traveston Dam—dams with no pipes to them and dams with no pipes at the end of them. They rolled out the red carpet in the health department for the fake Tahitian prince while denying hardworking medical staff their pay and their conditions, and, of course, over the past 20 years they have rolled out the welcome mat to criminal gangs to flourish in this state.

Despite grappling with these huge financial pressures, I am delighted that with this budget the government will deliver important infrastructure—tourism, resources and construction investments—whilst revitalising front-line services such as health. Health is very important. I want to deal with two issues. The first one relates to my local electorate of Kawana and the revitalisation of front-line services in the Kawana electorate and then I will deal with the Department of Justice and Attorney-General revitalising front-line services.

As I said, health is very important for the people of the Kawana electorate. I stood shoulder to shoulder with my constituents when we dealt with the delay of the Sunshine Coast Public University Hospital. For years we called for the construction of the Sunshine Coast Public University Hospital and it fell on the deaf ears of the Labor Party. It kept having a plan for the hospital.

**Mr Stevens:** Patience.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** They said that they were going to do it. I take the interjection from the Leader of the House. The members of the Labor Party had a lot of patience. They said, 'Be patient. We have no money. We can't afford it. But we've got a parcel of land.' For years I stood with my community watching this grassland build up, so much so that there was an abundance of food for the kangaroos. But that was the Labor Party. It ticked it off. It had completed the job, because it bought a block of land. It got a block of land from a developer for where the hospital was going to go and that was satisfactory to the Labor Party. It was not satisfactory to the people of the Sunshine Coast, who wanted a university hospital. They wanted a tertiary hospital. They wanted 10,000 fewer constituents

going to Brisbane each year because they could not get the health services on the Sunshine Coast. How times have changed in two years. Last week I drove past the hospital site with the health minister and it has nine cranes on site. It is going up. The land is there, the frame is built and the Sunshine Coast community can see this \$1.8 billion investment coming out of the ground.

**Mr Stevens:** Is it going to have a helipad?

**Mr BLEIJIE:** It will have a helipad. It was great to see an investment of over \$370 million in this budget being spent on the Sunshine Coast Public University Hospital because health services are not only a key objective of this government, they are a key issue for residents of the Sunshine Coast. Also in health care I welcome the announcement of a new ambulance station at Currimundi, that I am sure the member for Caloundra will be happy about as well. This follows the recent delivery of two new ambulances at Kawana. Across the state I welcome the funds to recruit an additional 100 ambulance officers and the commission of 155 new and replacement ambulance vehicles. The amount of \$6.4 million has been allocated towards additional beds for the Sunshine Coast community care unit and that is a welcome investment.

Quality education is a key strength of our strong plan for a brighter future for Queensland. We are working hard to deliver quality schools after years of neglect by those opposite. We have seen all members engage with their local schools, their P&Cs and their communities with the great investment from this government in terms of the Great Results Guarantee money, but also the maintenance money to try to clear the backlog, a backlog that the Labor Party left there. It is always important to remind community members that in only two years we have achieved this. In two years we have all but cleared some maintenance backlogs from our schools. We have got on with the job. We are looking at numeracy and literacy amongst our young people. We are getting on with the job. The Labor Party never could and they never would. It was all promises.

If I can turn to the opposition leader's budget response, there was no budget response. There was a lot of rhetoric. There were a lot of plans to have a plan. There were two big policy announcements: firstly, they were going to have a plan and people would find out about it at the election and, secondly, they were going to set up more bureaucracy because that was the answer. That is how Anna Bligh, the former Labor Premier, got away with saying she created 100,000 jobs. They just kept setting up these bureaucracies. The Queensland community understands that is not how you create jobs. Business investment creates jobs in the state. Businesses coming to Queensland creates jobs. It is putting a spotlight on Queensland so businesses can come and invest here. If they grow the economy people—young people—have jobs in the state.

Over the last two years in the Department of Justice and Attorney-General I have been particularly proud with this government to lead the charge in getting rid of criminal gangs in this state. I have been particularly pleased to help the Premier lead the charge in making sure young offenders are held responsible for their actions, dealing with the crime issues that we have seen up in Townsville, dealing with the crime issues we have seen in other areas—particularly Cairns and our regions. We only have to look at the statistics now coming through. All these criminal gang reforms were opposed by the Labor Party. This budget is an investment for the future of our kids in this state. This budget is about revitalising front-line services for families. This budget is about keeping communities safe. How do we do it? By having the laws in place to tackle the issues of the day. The issues of the day are criminal gangs, armed robberies, robberies, assaults on individuals and alcohol and drug related violence. I was particularly pleased we got \$44 million in this budget. We announced the Safe Night Out Strategy today. It is about making sure our communities are safe. If the Labor Party are ever elected back in this state as the government they will roll the red carpet out for criminal gangs. In the last few weeks we have seen stories in the paper about leaders of criminal gangs fleeing the jurisdiction, fleeing to international places where they can continue their illegality. Not in Queensland. Yes, we put these laws in place—these fair laws in place—but the results speak for themselves.

If I can refer to the Sunshine Coast police statistics from October to April this year, we have had a 54 per cent reduction in robberies and a 17 per cent unlawful entry reduction. In the Gold Coast district there has been an 18 per cent reduction in robberies and a 30 per cent reduction in unlawful entries. If we look at the Moreton Bay district, there has been a 55 per cent reduction in robberies and a 14 per cent reduction in unlawful entries. The Labor opposition leader can deliver an hour budget in reply speech and not say for once they got it wrong, for once they should have supported the government's reforms in terms of criminal gangs, they should have supported the youth justice reforms because they are working. Young offenders are working out that they will be held responsible for their actions. They want to get their life on track, the government wants them to get their life on track, and that is going to happen through our boot camps. I love hearing the hysteria from the member for Rockhampton when he talks about boot camps. He has condemned boot camps in his

own electorate. The Police Citizens Youth Club runs the boot camp in Rockhampton. Two weeks ago the member visited the PCYC, handed a cheque over and got a photo with them, despite the fact he does not support the programs of his local PCYC. The proof of the pudding is in the eating. The results are there in terms of making sure that our commitment to Queenslanders about revitalising front-line services, making our communities safer, developing this strong plan for a brighter future for all our men, women and children in this state is there. The ingredients have been there over the last couple of years. I think it is shameful that we are seeing these recycled assets of the Labor Party coming through. They are bringing back Kerry Shine in the electorate of the honourable member for Toowoomba North. This is a fellow who was Attorney-General, who let criminal gangs and sexual offenders thrive in this state and did not tackle the issue head-on. He has come out and attacked some of the laws that we have introduced in the last couple of years. Those opposite have not changed their position despite the fact that, looking at the statistics coming through, the laws are working. Young offenders are being held responsible for their actions, but they are also in programs to assist them get a job and an education so that they can contribute positively to society.

Compare and contrast this: a strong team with a strong plan with a strong leader—the plan is all about a brighter future—compared to that mob over there who have no plan, failed policies, failed leadership, failed candidates and failed members of parliament. That is what they are going to give to the people of Queensland in 2015. The people of Queensland will not accept that. The people of Queensland want positive policies for a brighter future for Queensland. They will get that from this side of the House: a strong plan for a brighter future—not from that mob in the Labor Party.