




Speech By
Michael Hart

MEMBER FOR BURLEIGH

Record of Proceedings, 5 June 2014

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

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (11.54 pm): Over the last few days I have had a chance to look at this budget, and I must say that as far as I can see this is a pretty steady-as-you-go type of budget. I think in a couple of my speeches last year, and maybe during my budget speech, I used the analogy of this state being like a massive ship that was heading—

Mr Dillaway interjected.

Mr HART: I will take that interjection: like the *Titanic*. When we took over two years ago, it was like the *Titanic* heading to an iceberg. That iceberg was what the Treasurer has described as an aeroplane flying into an abyss, and the Queensland economy was flying into an abyss. Over the last two years we have pulled back on the throttles of the ship and turned the rudder. Everybody knows that it takes quite a while to slow down a massive ship and turn it around, but I think over the last two years everyone in Queensland can see that we have managed to turn that ship around and we are finally heading away from the iceberg that was going to do so much damage. That is why I say that this is a steady-as-you-go type of budget. The throttles are set to 'idle' and we are just cruising away from that iceberg. The next step would be to slam the throttles open and head for where this great state needs to be: the land of milk and honey. We are going to do that in the future, and I look forward to helping the Treasurer push those throttles forward to get this state right back where it needs to be.

In my contribution last year during the appropriations debate, I did comment over and over again about the fact that the Labor Party did not have a plan. For 12 months since the last contribution I have been waiting and listening for that plan, and I have not heard it. I am not sure whether any other members here have heard that plan, but I have not heard it. We even had a cup of tea while we were patiently waiting, but that plan has not been forthcoming. When I listened to the Leader of the Opposition this morning I thought: here comes the plan! We are going to see the plan! But there was no plan. Of course the appropriate person to get up and give us the plan as to how the Labor Party can get the state going again would be the shadow Treasurer; but again there was no plan. He said that the Labor Party were the only ones that had a policy and a plan to get Queensland back into jobs and he talked about a plan—but there was no plan.

He did say something about something called Building Queensland, I think it was. That is some sort of independent body for infrastructure. 'Independent' for the Labor Party I guess means that it is stacked with the CFMEU, the ETU, the AWU and all those other union entities and maybe a few of the friends of the member for South Brisbane and some of those greenie groups. Just stack them up and they can be completely independent of everybody. And they are completely independent thinkers as well.

I think something that will hang around the neck of the Manager of Opposition Business and shadow Treasurer for quite some time will be the statement that he made that if there is a project that the Labor Party put up that did not stack up, it would not proceed. If the project does not stack up, it will not proceed. They have a massive history of that, don't they? Maybe we should talk about some

of these things. The desalination plant is one. The \$1.2 billion desalination plant on the Gold Coast did not stack up, but it did not happen!

A government member interjected.

Mr HART: The Wyaralong dam, there's another one.

A government member interjected.

Mr HART: There we go, it is all coming out now. The western corridor recycled water plant was \$9 billion worth of stacked up process. Yes, that really worked well for us, didn't it?

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Mr HART: The Traveston dam might not be a good example, because we know it did not stack up and it was cancelled, but hundreds of millions of dollars were wasted in the process. What about the Solar Bonus Scheme; there is another great idea. Genius!

Mr Crandon interjected.

Mr HART: We will get to exit 54 later, member for Coomera. Has anybody heard of ZeroGen? That was \$150 million down the gurgler. There is another thing that did not stack up. But did it proceed? Yes, it did until it fell over.

A government member: Tell them about the water recycling plant.

Mr HART: We have covered the water recycling plant.

A government member: Did we?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Ruthenberg): Order! Members, if you want to interject, you need to be in your correct seats. The member for Burleigh has the call.

Mr HART: What about the dams with no pipes and the pipes with no dams? What about the trains that were too high to go through the tunnels? They did not stack up. Actually, they could have stacked up, couldn't they? When they ran into those tunnels, they could have stacked up quite nicely I think! What about the trains with no seats? There is another wonderful idea! These projects do not stack up but have proceeded anyway. So members can see that the Labor Party has a fantastic history—

Mr Dillaway: Track record.

Mr HART: A fantastic track record, thank you. That is probably a better word to use. It has a fantastic track record of suggesting projects that really do not stack up but it proceeds anyway because, after all, it is Labor money that it is wasting here. Oh, no; hang on! It is not Labor money; it is the money that belongs to the Queensland public that it is wasting. It is the money that it has gone out and borrowed and the Queensland public has to pay back the interest. This is something that should be added to the mythbusters mystique that the shadow Treasurer keeps fondly mentioning to us.

I turn now briefly to the contribution from the member for Gaven. This is all I will say about that—Clive-onomics. It is Clive-onomics. I do not think I will go any further with that.

This is a great budget. Health spending is up six per cent to \$13.6 million and Education spending is up seven per cent. In my electorate alone there is \$5.69 million worth of Child Safety grants, and we all fully support that, and \$6 million worth of disability service grants. We are going to get an extra 267 police. That is fantastic. That is exactly what we need. Law and order was a major issue in my electorate during the last election campaign and has been for the last couple of years, and more police on the beat will do something about that. I congratulate the police minister and the Treasurer for finding the money to give us an extra 267 police officers. There is \$3 million to operate the police helicopter for another year. That helicopter on the Gold Coast is just an absolute boon for policing. It is doing some fantastic things. It is really assisting our police officers.

Specifically in my electorate there is \$200,000 of a \$1 million refurbishment of the Burleigh fire station. Our fires—it is very close to where I live—are going to be very happy to have new tiles on the ground and a better looking fire station. There will be 10 extra public housing dwellings in my electorate and extra accommodation at Varsity College Junior School. There is also about \$1 million worth of Great Results funding spread over all of the schools in the electorate. I also thank the Minister for Sport and Recreation for the master plan for the Fleays fauna centre in my electorate. We are moving ahead via the Minister for Transport, who is in the chamber, and the Gold Coast Waterways to put in a pontoon so we can link Fleays and the Tallebudgera recreation centre in order to get kids exercising between those two places in canoes and maybe having a walk. These are all great things. Queensland is a great state with great opportunities, but we need to make the strongest and smartest choices, and that is what an LNP government will do.