




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR KAWANA

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APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (9.11 pm): Let us start with the member for Cairns, who said this evening that Treasurer Curtis Pitt will go down as one of the greatest Treasurers in Queensland's history. I was waiting for the encouragement; I was waiting for the nods; I was waiting for the agreement from the Labor members, the 'hear, hears!'—and there was a deafening silence. It says a lot about someone who has to stick up for himself when his 30 other colleagues do not stick up for him. I could feel the cringe when the member for Cairns said that Treasury Curtis Pitt will go down as the best Treasurer in Queensland's history. I was watching the education minister over there when the member for Cairns said that. The minister looked at the member for Cairns and did not know whether to smile, to laugh or to cry, so she went straight back to her phone or signing documents. I think that the member for Cairns and other members on that side will regret the day that he made those remarks.

The reality is that this is a bad budget. We know that this is an accidental government with an accidental Treasurer. We know that the health minister could probably fulfil the role of Treasurer, but he is just not there yet. Queenslanders will see in good time that it is a bad budget. It is a budget with a big maroon bow around it.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: Member for Brisbane Central, I am not sure if you have spoken yet but I have you on my list.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Ryan): Order! Order, member for Kawana and member for Brisbane Central, everyone has had a bit of fun. I will also remind members that it is disorderly to interject, but it is highly disorderly to be interjecting from someone else's seat. Members can return to their seats or otherwise they can be quiet.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Deputy Speaker, on that fine advice from you can I encourage all honourable members to please return to their seats because we are going to need the interjections as we progress in the next 18 minutes. I was speaking about the member for Brisbane Central.

Mr Stevens interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: Come a bit closer, Ray! I am not sure whether the member for Brisbane Central has spoken yet, but I will get to her electorate in a minute because I have a few things to say about the member for Brisbane Central, her electorate and the policies which will impact on her electorate. I also have some things to say about the member for Redcliffe, the Attorney-General, of course the Treasurer, and the police minister.

As I said, this is a budget wrapped up in a big maroon bow as jobs for the future. We are talking about apprentices, traineeships and young people trying to get jobs, and when they open this book they will see it is all fiction. What they are expecting when they open this book of jobs is how the jobs are going to grow in the future and where the jobs are going to be in the future, but what they will find is a plan to have unemployment increase in the future with projected unemployment to rise in Queensland. How that can be a projection of good jobs for young people in Queensland, I do not know. It is not a budget about jobs: it is a budget about paying back union debts for the election; it is about taking entitlements off public servants; it is about raiding super funds; it is about fiddling with—

Mr Stevens interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: Yes, I will take the interjection from the member for Mermaid Beach. I will deal with my electorate of Kawana and the Sunshine Coast, then we will get to the nitty-gritty of the budget and then the shadow police portfolio.

Talking about local infrastructure, we had a plan going into the election. Hundreds and hundreds of millions of dollars were to be spent on infrastructure on the Sunshine Coast, but of course the Labor Party has now snubbed the Sunshine Coast. I note that the member for Noosa is here today, and he would particularly note that in 2016 his constituents will need the hospital and they will need access to the hospital.

The Labor Party delayed the Sunshine Coast University Hospital by three years. They bought the block of land, they grew some grass on it, then said they were going to build it and then delayed it by three years. When we got into government we got the contract signed on the dotted line. We did the deal. We got the best outcomes for the people of the Sunshine Coast. Not only that, we brought forward construction of the Sunshine Coast University Hospital by six months. That was the first priority of the Campbell Newman LNP government. We got on with the job. We made sure that the kangaroos were appropriately moved on to another paddock and the hospital was built. As the member for Kawana, I am immensely proud when I drive past the hospital site. It is skipping along, it is very much being built and due to be opened in late 2016.

The problem is that the LNP had a plan for road infrastructure around the hospital that was going to be funded by the plan that we took to the election; however, because the Labor Party are an accidental government that was elected without plans, policies or any idea how to fund these important projects, the first thing they did was cancel the road infrastructure around the hospital. The Mooloolah River Crossing was going to provide better access to the north for people going up the motorway in the member for Noosa's electorate, for people getting to the hospital, and ambulance and emergency services going to and from the hospital. It was going to provide traffic decongestion off Nicklin Way going to Maroochydore up the motorway for the people in the honourable member for Maroochydore's electorate. But the Labor Party ripped it up, so there is no more road infrastructure around the hospital. We now have the situation, as we did with the Labor Party during the Beattie-Bligh government days, that the hospital is going to open, 10,000 Sunshine Coast residents will no longer have to travel to Brisbane for health care, and the roads will be the same roads that existed there prior to the hospital being built.

How can the Treasurer think it is good economics to have a road that is only one lane in some areas out the front of the hospital? Imagine the traffic congestion there will be around that hospital. The Treasurer has no idea! It will get to a situation where at the end of next year, when the hospital opens, they will realise there is a problem. They will all be there with the scissors, cutting the ribbons, saying, 'This is a great Labor project.' I have photos of the hospital site when it was a Labor project and there were plenty of kangaroos on the site. The LNP got on with the job. I tell you what: the photos I have from when the LNP was in government and the photos I have from when the Labor Party was in government show quite a contrast.

We see no future planning on the Sunshine Coast. There is no rail duplication, which the LNP took to the election. Those opposite do not care about rail. I know that a few rail upgrades are taking place at Nambour, but for the majority of Sunshine Coast residents there is no duplication and no investment in rail or road infrastructure. The Minister for Main Roads talks about the Bruce Highway upgrades. That is now in uncertain waters. I mention the most dangerous situation, getting off Sippy Downs.

This is not a budget about jobs. This is not a budget about infrastructure. It contains no new infrastructure items. This is not a budget about the cost of living because it increases the cost of living, with car registration increasing by 3½ per cent. Of course, that is higher than the rate of inflation. I reiterate the LNP's commitment to ensure car registration increased only by CPI.

A few weeks ago the health minister actually visited the Sunshine Coast. He found the hospital site and came there. The health minister got a couple of good photos in the local paper, in an article saying that the Sunshine Coast University Hospital was a good Labor project. He then announced that there was a \$1 billion black hole in funding for the Sunshine Coast University Hospital. Apparently the LNP did not fund it and there was \$1 billion black hole. I have read the budget. I have looked through the budget and I cannot find where those opposite have filled this mystery \$1 billion black hole. They have not filled it. That shows there was no black hole. It was misrepresentation by the health minister. He came to the Sunshine Coast and put fear into Sunshine Coast residents that somehow a government would open the hospital in 2016 and there would be no doctors, no radiation services, no maternity services, no water—

Mr Rickuss: No roads.

Mr BLEIJIE: Well, there will not be any roads now because of the Labor Party, but there will certainly be planning for patients.

I will now look at some portfolio related matters. This week I have spoken a lot about the minister who is in witness protection at the moment—that is, the police minister. I was being interviewed on 4BC this afternoon and I said, 'This is a very important matter about'—

Mr Pitt: So they got rid of all of their local programming?

Mr BLEIJIE: The Treasurer should know that the program was discussing the government's policy about body cameras for police officers. They were getting a pretty good run. It was your budget, your announcement. Then the announcer, Ben Davis, was asking me technical questions about the budget. I said, 'It is obviously the Labor Party's budget, but no doubt you have the police minister coming on to explain this.' He said, 'Well, we have contacted the police minister's office and we have had no reply.' I said, 'Well, of course, it takes 24 hours to get them out of witness protection, so she is no-go on the radio this afternoon.'

Mr Mander: You've got only nine minutes!

Mr BLEIJIE: Goodness gracious! Let's get on to the Attorney-General. The Attorney-General and the police minister are having a battle. I have never seen this before. The member for Lockyer has been here for a long time so I will ask him. Has he ever seen a minister, particularly in a leadership position, hold a press conference to say, 'We are going to start a witch-hunt to find the little birdie that leaked on the government'? Usually you do those things behind closed doors. I have never seen a minister actually call a press conference and tell the media, 'We have a leak in the government. We are going to track it down. We are going to start a witch-hunt.' That is what the Treasurer did today.

Mr PITT: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Over the past couple of years I have certainly become adept at listening to the member for Kawana. On this occasion I cannot say anything except that I find his comments offensive and I ask him to withdraw. It is actually factually incorrect.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Ryan): Order! Member for Nanango.

Mr Pitt interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Treasurer, I am ruling on your point of order. Member for Kawana, the Treasurer finds the statement offensive and I ask you to withdraw.

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw. Back on to the Attorney-General. Talking about leaks in the government, we on this side know that there is contention between the police minister and the Attorney-General in relation to the criminal gang laws and funding. Everywhere the police minister goes she is told by police officers, 'Don't touch the criminal gang laws. Keep them in place. Why are you setting up this task force?' But the Attorney-General keeps saying, 'No, we don't like mandatory sentencing. We are going to repeal or replace the laws. We are setting up a task force'—all this sort of stuff. We know that local members are being told by their communities, 'Keep the laws in. We don't want criminal motorcycle gang members back.' We know that there is tension on the other side.

One of the policies that is working very well from a policing perspective is the Safe Night Out Strategy. Overnight in this budget week the government just canned it. It has taken all the money away from the Safe Night Out Strategy. Currently there are community members on boards tackling alcohol fuelled violence who have no idea if those boards will continue to exist. I do not think they will, because all the money allocated to these boards is gone.

The Attorney-General was a member of the federal parliament when this happened, so I inform her that the drink-safe precincts were actually a Labor Party initiative. Then we formed the safe-night precincts. So they were started by the Labor Party, but overnight the Attorney-General and the police minister have just canned all the money for them. We know why. There was a *Gold Coast Bulletin* article.

Mrs D'Ath interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I have more to say about you, Attorney. Do members remember that a few weeks ago the *Gold Coast Bulletin* ran a front-page story titled 'D'Ath Vader'? It states—

Exclusive: Attorney-General using the force to keep the peace ... and keep you sober.

This related to a policy announced by the Attorney-General that police officers would go into pubs and clubs and breathalyse patrons.

Mrs D'Ath: Never said it.

Mr BLEIJIE: Ah! I was waiting for that interjection! The Attorney denies it, despite the fact that this was an exclusive given by the Attorney to the *Gold Coast Bulletin* with quotes from the Attorney in the story. But then what happened? The Attorney's office gave the exclusive. The Attorney was quoted in the story about this idea that it would help police prosecute these people by doing the breath test. A few hours later a press release was issued by the Attorney's office saying, 'It's not happening and it was never under consideration'—despite the fact that the Attorney was quoted and gave an exclusive to the *Gold Coast Bulletin*. Did the Attorney get a call from level 15, like the police minister did recently? I table a copy the 'D'Ath Vader' article from the *Gold Coast Bulletin*. May the force be with you, Attorney!

Tabled paper: Article from the *Gold Coast Bulletin*, dated 19 June 2015, titled 'D'Ath Vader: Breath tests at the bar' [812].

What a stupid idea: police breathalysing patrons while they are at pubs with their families. Talk about guilty until proven innocent! The Attorney-General is out of her depth. There is uncertainty in terms of the safe-night precincts. Overnight they got rid of the money. The Attorney-General does not know where this policy is going.

I turn my attention to the member for Brisbane Central and her position on safe-night precincts. Where does she stand? One of the biggest entertainment precincts in the state is located in her electorate, but she is about to close them all down! Hundreds of jobs in her electorate will be gone. Hundreds of jobs will also be gone in the Cairns electorate.

I turn my attention to the member for Bundaberg. When I was in Bundaberg with the former member for Bundaberg, Jack Dempsey, I met with the people involved with the safe-night precinct. They were so excited by the then member for Bundaberg. So ashamed is the current member for Bundaberg that she cannot even look up, ignoring that I am saying her name.

If members think it cannot get any better, how is this: the member for Bundaberg has this strange economic sense. I am not sure what degree she has in economics, but she came out and said that a 3.5 per cent rise in registration costs was not a technical rise. If you have X dollars and you add 3½ per cent, that usually ends up in a plus. I went to a public school, but when I went to school a figure times 3.5 per cent equalled an increase. What can we expect from the member for Bundaberg, because this is the member for Bundaberg who during the election campaign said, 'We have a plan. It's not a very strong plan, but we have a plan'? Then when the member for Bundaberg was asked how they were going to pay for all of these things, she said, 'We'll just borrow more money.' So X plus 3.5 per cent ain't an increase and money falls out of trees, apparently! If you believe in leprechauns, there is a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow!

I know a little bit about Bundaberg because my grandparents live in Bundaberg—they were helicoptered off the roof in the Australia Day floods—and they give me the feeling on the ground. I can assure the member for Bundaberg that the support that she received at the ballot box on 31 January ain't there anymore. I can assure her of that. What did the Bundaberg community do? Bring back Jack! Bring back Jack! Bring back Jack! They must be wondering, 'What have we done?'

But it is not just the member for Bundaberg. Let us take the member for Rockhampton. I need an extension of time. I have only mentioned 10 of them; I have another 40 to go! The member for Rockhampton sits there not knowing what he is doing. New Minister Fentiman sits beside him. The ministers sitting over there—Minister Fentiman, Minister Enoch, Minister Miles and Minister O'Rourke—must be thinking, 'Thank God for Jo-Ann Miller!', because Jo-Ann Miller has taken all issues away from the incompetence that we have seen from those over there. Given that I only have 16 seconds left, let me turn to the member for Ipswich—a member who stood in here last night and voted against her own community because she now supports the closure of the Ipswich police communications centre. This is a bad budget. It is a bad budget for jobs and the Labor Party ought to be ashamed of itself!