




Speech By  
**Linus Power**  
**MEMBER FOR LOGAN**

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Record of Proceedings, 17 July 2015

### **APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL**

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (5.43 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Appropriation Bill 2015 and the hard work of the Queensland Treasurer, the Department of Treasury and the ministers of the Palaszczuk Labor government. When we consider the impact of any budget we know that it has both a statewide impact and a local level of impact within our state. Both are important to the state. Both are important to the residents of the state electorate of Logan. Budgets are about now and the future; especially about the jobs now and the jobs for the future. That is what this budget is about.

I want to speak about the future, but so many of the speakers on the other side have been trapped in and have talked about the past. However, before we look to the future we should look a little bit to where we came from to start this budget. I noticed yesterday in this place the former treasurer did the same when he reflected on his own budgets. He said of his own budgets, and here I quote from *Hansard*, that we 'should go down on bended knee and thank the LNP'. I know! The unbelievable arrogance. The former treasurer went on to say that Queenslanders should say 'thank you' to him for his budget. In fact, he said it three times. He said we all should say for his budgets, 'Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.' What should we thank the LNP for?

Everyone knows that employment is important. Work brings dignity. At the last election Mr 'Say Thanks To Me', the member for Clayfield, promised that unemployment would be four per cent. So should we say 'thank you, thank you, thank you,' for four per cent unemployment? No. They have one of the worst records on unemployment in the country. Unemployment grew to 6.9 per cent. The voters in Queensland did not say 'thank you, thank you, thank you,' at the last election. They said, 'No. No. No thanks, Tim.' At the last election the public servants, the nurses, the teachers, the firefighters—the people who serve us—were told by Campbell Newman, 'You have nothing to fear.' Just a few short months later tens of thousands of hardworking public servants were sent packing. What were these public servants told by the LNP that they should say? They apparently have to tell the LNP, 'Thank you. Thank you. Thank you for sacking me.'

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Hart): Order, members! Order! Member for Logan, just pause it there a second, please. Let us just calm down, folks, and we will get on with this. It is going to be a long night yet.

**Mr POWER**: I do get excited, Mr Deputy Speaker.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER**: Member for Logan, hang on. Is everybody ready to start again? Member for Logan, you have the call.

**Mr POWER:** Instead, at the election every one of those sacked and their families told those opposite, 'No. No. No, thank you.' The LNP promised not to sell our assets. Then, without asking Queenslanders, the LNP budgets of the previous government sold \$10 billion in assets without asking. Then the member for Clayfield had the Strong Choices idea to sell off billions more. The LNP now tells us that we should say, 'Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.' for their Strong Choices sell-off, but we know instead in January the voters of Queensland very firmly said, 'No. No. No, thank you.'

The LNP promised a higher growth of the economy in Queensland, but instead the cuts and the sackings hurt consumers and sapped confidence. They topped it off with, by the best measure we have, two quarters of negative growth. The LNP says we should say, 'Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.' for them crashing the Queensland economy. Instead, the people of Queensland have said, 'No. No. No, thank you.' to the LNP.

In the Logan area there were service cuts to the services that Logan families need. There were young mums who, when they had their babies, had their midwifery services cut from the Crestmead Community Centre and the Browns Plains Community Health Service. What were they supposed to say as they travelled on the 560 bus all the way to Loganholme? We were told they were supposed to be grateful and say, 'Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.' But instead very clearly they said, 'No. No. No, thank you.' Let us look at the buses these mums might need to get to the hospital. The number of runs and routes cut meant that each and every week the buses that serviced the people of west Logan stopped at 3,000 fewer bus stops. So as they waited for buses that were not coming, as they watched as their bus stops were being ripped out of the ground, what were they supposed to say? The member for Clayfield says that they were supposed to say, 'Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.' But instead we know they said, 'No. No. No, thank you.' When those mums finally got home and they turned the lights on, they turned on the oven to heat up the food and the kettle to have a cup of tea, they could be comforted that the LNP had given them a 43 per cent increase in electricity prices. What would the LNP and the member for Clayfield want them to say? They would have them say, 'Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.'

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr POWER:** However, we know that at the election electricity users from across the length and breadth of Queensland said to the LNP, 'No. No. No, thank you.'

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Hart): Order! Pause the clock. Member for Logan, take your seat for a second. Member for Logan, you are being very provocative and I am having a bit of trouble controlling those opposite. Can you come back to the long title of the bill, please?

**Mr POWER:** Certainly, I will come back to the long title of the bill. I will stop reflecting on what we were told by the previous speaker, which is that we should get down on bended knee to thank the LNP. I will stop reflecting on the fact that, for all the budget disasters that they presided over, we were supposed to say, 'Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.' Now I want to turn to the future. I want to speak to the bright future that this budget looks to deliver.

More seriously, I need to reflect on another government that lost the confidence of the people of Queensland. After the 2012 election, we on this side of the House looked very deeply at our own failings. I have huge admiration for Premier Palaszczuk taking the lead in admitting that we got it wrong when it came to selling off major assets that Queenslanders value and strategically want to keep in public ownership and direct control. We got it wrong and we reflected on that. The then opposition leader, Premier Palaszczuk, led us to relook at our Labor values, reassess our Labor priorities and re-engage with the people of Queensland through listening deeply to them. That spirit of listening is a big part of this budget. The biggest part of this budget is that we have listened. We are listening now and we affirmed Labor's commitment to not sell public assets. This budget shows that, through Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk's leadership, Labor can help the state work smarter through working together. It is a positive budget that focuses on jobs, especially the jobs that are growing right now in the creative software and technical industries, and in educating workers and students through our TAFEs, schools and universities so that they are ready to create and take on those jobs.

We are committed to making our population healthier, not just through increasing our commitment to health but also through \$11.4 million to re-establish—and I am very proud of this—a primary school nurse service in Logan, after it was cut in the last term of the previous government. There is also \$2 million that expands the services for acute and ongoing mental health needs. Previously, we had announced, and will deliver through this budget, extra funding to reduce waiting times for patients at

Logan Hospital who need specialist ear, nose and throat treatment. New in this budget is \$4.8 million to improve emergency services at the Logan Hospital emergency department.

To help Logan residents return quicker and safer to their homes, this Labor budget will improve the Mount Lindesay Highway with \$5 million to improve the intersection of Camp Cable and Mount Lindesay Highway. I will continue to fight for the Mount Lindesay Highway, the Wembley Road overpass and roads in Logan in future budgets.

The education of Logan students is also a feature of this budget, including allocating funding for a full-time guidance officer at Park Ridge State High School and 11 more full-time teachers for our Logan schools. I was pleased to hear the education minister say earlier that those 11 full-time-equivalent positions can be flexibly adapted to the needs of the schools. Logan locals also benefit from funding for the Logan Metro Sports Park fields, funding for the Homestead Park fitness equipment and continuing the commitment to the irrigation system at the home of the Park Ridge Panthers.

I will continue to fight to restore services that were cut during the last term of government and I will continue to fight for the local area. However, it is also important to note that Labor's budget will be in surplus and we will steadily pay down debt. This is a responsible budget. For the first time in 16 years, it is set to forecast a reduction in general government debt over the forward estimates. This is a budget that shows that Queensland can do better through not selling our assets but still paying down debt. Truly we can work smarter by working together to create a better Queensland. I commend the bill to the House.