



Speech By
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MEMBER FOR ALBERT

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APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Albert—LNP) (10.38 pm): I rise tonight to make a contribution to the debate on the 2015 appropriation bills. On Tuesday we witnessed a typical Labor budget: full of spin and no substance, a budget that has no plan for the future and will do little to promote jobs in the wonderful state of Queensland. I say to those opposite, who have chosen to steal from the public servants' superannuation funds and repurpose long service leave, rob the future of our students in terms of the uncertainty of the Great Results Guarantee funding after mid-2016 and force up the cost of living when it comes to registration: how can we expect this budget to be a responsible budget?

This budget is bad for jobs; it does nothing for growth. The Albert electorate is the home of the tradie. It is a key cornerstone of the economy. This budget has economic growth down cumulatively over the next three years, unemployment up cumulatively over the next three years and unemployment growth down cumulatively over the next three years. The lifeblood of the Albert electorate is growth. We have to have a strong economy. Our residents, our workers and our small businesses will suffer without a strong economy. For people sitting around the kitchen table looking at Labor's car registration hikes and future dramatic electricity hikes due to the fact that this Labor government is dumping government debt onto the electricity companies, it is evident that this government has no interest in dealing with the cost of living.

A government member interjected.

Mr BOOTHMAN: I take the interjection from the honourable minister. That is because of the hard work of the previous energy minister, Mark McArdle, in writing down \$8 billion of gold plating that the previous Labor government put in. I will quote from the *Australian* newspaper because it puts it so simply—

If you are having trouble understanding the Queensland budget, here is a simple question.

I have two bank accounts. I transfer part of an overdraft from one account to another. Am I better off?

According to Queensland Treasurer Curtis Pitt, yes.

Total public sector borrowings, which include both government debt and government owned corporation debt, will increase by nearly \$5 billion by 2018-19. So much for debt reduction!

Let us not forget that superannuation is sacred to workers and retirees. It is our nest egg after many years of hard work. It is the workers' money whether you are an employee or an employer; it is not the government's personal piggy bank. The hide of this government! To come into this chamber and present a budget that rips the payments from government workers' super funds is disgraceful. Workers now have to potentially sacrifice their hard-earned super to pay for this and previous Labor governments' debt rampages. In precarious economic times, with countries at the gates of economic

abyss, this government wants to raid workers' super funds to pay for their mistakes. It is in these precarious times that we must insulate these funds to ensure the viability of the super system. To do the contrary is ludicrous!

Mr Watts interjected.

Mr BOOTHMAN: I take the interjection from the member for Toowoomba North. Madam Deputy Speaker, it does not stop there. Those opposite plan not only to raid super payments, but long service leave. If the private sector tried to pull this trick, all the unions in this state would be up there rioting in the streets and protesting. How can a government come into this chamber and say that they are delivering for the workers when they are pinching their entitlements?

The residents of the Albert electorate have been passionate about fighting crime and forcing outlaw gangs out of our region. We want drugs off our streets; we want thugs who have committed deplorable crimes locked up. We all witnessed on TV the brazen acts of these criminal gangs as they claimed to own the tourist capital of Australia, the Gold Coast. The LNP drew a line in the sand and took a hardline approach. The good people of the Gold Coast own this town; not criminal gangs.

The Labor government wants to go soft on crime, with less money and fewer resources. They have decreased grant funding to the Crime and Corruption Commission for outlaw motorcycle gangs by \$1.8 million over the next two years and decreased staff by seven. It is good to see the Labor government is continuing the LNP government's commitment to deliver an extra 267 police officers, but I hope that this is over and above attrition rates.

I found it amusing that the Minister for Main Roads claimed responsibility for the upgrade of exit 54. I would like to remind him of the passionate work of local hardworking MPs such as Michael Crandon, the member for Coomera, Bert Van Manen, the federal member for Forde and me in achieving and announcing this fully funded upgrade prior to the last election. Once again this is just another example of this government taking credit for the LNP's work.

The Upper Coomera region has grown rapidly over the last couple of years. With limited upgrades to M1 interchanges around exit 54, this has led to a progressively worsening traffic situation for motorists and extensive delays, leading to downtime for local businesses that must transport their products to and from Upper Coomera and the Coomera region. This is a project that all of the local LNP members were truly passionate about, and it is a project that will create an enormous number of much needed jobs through the creation of the new Coomera town centre. This is a project on which the previous state and federal LNP governments worked extensively.

If the new Labor government is committed to claiming projects, then I am sure they can claim the new Energex powerlines along the river. This is a project which my former colleagues Michael Pucci and Michael Latter and my current colleague Jon Krause and I were very passionate about. Residents along the Logan River will be forced to enjoy their afternoon views of the Logan River with the added bonus of a high-voltage powerline. Under the previous LNP government the former minister for energy, Mark McArdle, brought Energex to the negotiating table with the community and council to seek a better outcome for all communities.

Logan Village dates back 150 years and is a key cornerstone in the history of the Logan area. I quote from the Logan City council website, which states—

Logan Village was a key site in the overall development of the region and the river traffic, which originally serviced it. Its initial role as head of navigation for the river with a major wharf and a store constructed in 1862 to service Robert Towns' plantation ...

The future of Logan Village now entails a high-voltage powerline through the heart of the town. This government has forgotten the residents of the Logan River.

In the budget I have also noticed funding of \$1.5 million for the Tamborine-Oxenford Road near Hayes Road. This is a project I have championed with the support of my local community. Work started some time ago, and we expect it to finish by the end of September. This is a precarious piece of road, and I greatly appreciate this much needed funding to rectify safety issues.

The Albert electorate is home to the Northern Darlington Range and houses many species of flora and fauna. It is a natural wonder admired by local residents and tourists alike. We are blessed in having so many volunteers who give up their precious time to participate in grassroots environmental programs. To my utter shock and disbelief, Labor has slashed grassroots environmental grants programs, whereas LNP delivered \$12 million over three years.

The Great Results Guarantee funding has been heaven-sent for our schools. It has empowered our principals, our teachers and our school staff to achieve remarkable results. We have seen fantastic results in NAPLAN, which clearly demonstrate that the Great Results Guarantee funding model works. Time and time again I hear from parents who are excited to see their children take a renewed interest in education. Seeing students show off their newly found skills is heartwarming for our educators.

At an open education briefing on 20 May 2014 it was stated—

Our 2014 NAPLAN results see Queensland continuing to improve. Queensland has outstripped the nation in improvements since NAPLAN tests began, with the most important improvements being seen in the early years of schooling. This is great news for the future of Queensland, but we must continue to focus on literacy and numeracy.

It was further stated—

We are on a trajectory of improvement that is clearly evident and some of the notable educators who have influence around the world have highlighted the work that we are doing in Queensland and recognise us as the fastest improving jurisdiction in Australia, but we are coming from a long way back and we need to acknowledge that.

When it comes down to it, our educators, our director-general and the previous minister for education, John-Paul Langbroek, can certainly truly be proud of their achievements.

I find it incredible that on page 12 of Budget Paper No. 4 there is no mention of Great Results Guarantee funding beyond mid-2016.

Ms Jones: It is the same as your budget paper, darling—exactly the same.

Mr BOOTHMAN: I repeat for the minister: there is no Great Results Guarantee funding beyond mid-2016.

Ms Jones interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Elmes): Order! Minister, the member is not taking interjections.

Mr BOOTHMAN: We understand the importance of numeracy and literacy—giving our children the best start in life, empowering educators to build a better tomorrow.

We in this chamber have witnessed the Treasurer saying ‘Jobs, jobs, jobs’, but nearly every pro-job project in the Albert area was started under the LNP government. This further emphasises this current Labor government’s lack of experience and blatant self-endorsement while stealing the entitlements of everyday hardworking government employees. This budget has nothing but a whole lot of spin, delivering nothing but lip-service: no plan, no vision.