




Speech By
Jarrold Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

Record of Proceedings, 16 August 2016

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (5.28 pm): As I indicated in my contribution to one of the earlier committee reports, this budget was all about raids, rip-offs and writedowns. It was clear from this estimates committee hearing that the Minister for Training and Skills, the Hon. Yvette D'Ath, is out of her depth. She has too much on her plate to worry about skills and training. Just as we saw with the Minister for Employment and unemployment going up, we see that under the Minister for Training and Skills apprenticeships are going down, school based traineeships are going down and traineeships are going down.

In this House and during estimates, they spruik about the great policies that they have with respect to apprenticeships. It is not a very good policy when the statistics show consistently over 18 months apprenticeship completions going down and apprenticeship take-up rates going down. It is all going down.

Mr Krause interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from the member for Beaudesert. What about Jobs Queensland? Let me tell the House about Jobs Queensland. What Jobs Queensland? It was the pinnacle of the Palaszczuk government's jobs package. I see the member for Sunnybank smiling because he knows I am right. It was their pinnacle election commitment. The member for Sunnybank and the chairman of the committee, the member for Ferny Grove, whose head is down low now as he sits in his chair, went to the election with Jobs Queensland as the pinnacle jobs package. It was going to create lots of jobs in Queensland. From the estimates hearing it was clearly evident that no jobs have been created because Jobs Queensland itself has not been established. In fact, on the day of the federal election—under the cover of a federal election—they put an ad in the *Courier-Mail* for board positions to serve on Jobs Queensland. What sort of smokescreen was it, on the day of the federal election, to put an ad in the paper advertising for Jobs Queensland board positions? We heard the Minister for Training and Skills advise the committee that they had been inundated with applications. In that case, why did they not do it 18 months ago? Jobs Queensland was their big employment package.

At an estimates hearing the Premier said that she was forced to talk to the Minister for Training and Skills. One would have liked to have been a little fly on the wall when the Premier was having a stern talk to the Minister for Training and Skills. When we look at her charter letter—charter letter? What charter letter—it says get Jobs Queensland up and running. The legislation was passed at the end of last year. The only position appointed was that of chairperson of the board of Jobs Queensland. Was it a merit based selection process? Did they go through a merit based selection process to get the best person? No! Who says so? The deputy director-general of Education and Training. We know that a Labor mate, Rachel Hunter, got the gig and, as the deputy director-general of the department of education said, it was unmeritorious. There was no merit based selection process, despite the promises that that was going to happen.

Then in the witness stand we had the CEO of TAFE Queensland. She tried to tell the estimates committee that TAFE needed rescuing, but then admitted that in the bank account of TAFE Queensland sits \$100 million. It does not seem that an organisation needs rescuing if it has \$100 million sitting in the bank. They do not know what to do with it. That is the problem. They need rescuing? They cannot get the money out of the door and they do not know what to do with it. The reality is that the scaremongering of the Minister for Training and Skills in relation to TAFE was wrong. It never needed rescuing.

TAFE has an 80 per cent occupancy rate. Jodi Schmidt, the CEO of TAFE, has more explaining to do, because she said that they have an occupancy rate, but what she did not say is how much of that was administration and teaching, because I suspect that that 80 per cent means a lot less teaching occupancy rate in TAFE. We have a TAFE campus in Gympie that is sitting dormant and vacant. Universities want to come in, but the government is not letting them in. This morning they talked about the private sector. They said, 'We want the private sector and the not-for-profit sector,' yet we have vacancies.

Mr Walker interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from the member for Mansfield. Mount Gravatt is sitting there, wanting deals done—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Millar): Order! Members, interjections will be taken from the correct seat.

Mr BLEIJIE: I love taking interjections on the run from the member for Mansfield, as he runs past. We see that TAFE did not need rescuing. With Fair Trading we see that red tape is up. The minister responsible for Fair Trading is sitting opposite. The property sector already has duplication documents and they are adding more documents. And they buggered up the Keno. They forget to put it into legislation, which they admitted—

(Time expired)