




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Budget

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (3.00 pm): If ever we saw an audition for the Treasurer's role, we have just seen it from the member for Woodridge, who stills lives at Greenslopes. We also know that the member for Woodridge is an expert at saying sorry, and he has a lot to be sorry for. He said sorry because they got the Health payroll wrong. He said sorry because 'we did not realise losing the AAA meant so much to Queenslanders'. He said sorry because 'we did not realise the effect of the debt and deficit budget'. He said sorry to the member for Mudgeeraba because he slanders her every time he comes into this place. He says sorry to this parliament because he cannot tell the truth in this place. There is a lot for the member for Woodridge to be sorry for but, most importantly, do members know what he is sorry about? He is sorry he is not in the Treasurer's chair! That is the greatest sorrow—other than the fact that the member for Woodridge thinks he should be in the member for Inala's chair. That is the place he wanted to be. That is the place the member for Woodridge really wanted to be.

Let us turn now to this budget—a budget that does so little to deliver for Queensland, a budget that was supposed to deliver jobs but sees unemployment rise, a budget that is supposed to pay down debt but sees debt rise, a budget that is supposed to build infrastructure but sees infrastructure spending as a proportion of gross state product fall to its lowest level in living memory, and a budget called a 'back to work' budget. The only person who should go back to work is the Treasurer. He is the one who should go back to work and deliver a budget that is actually going to provide jobs, that is actually more than just shuffling the deckchairs on the *Titanic*.

Today we heard from a variety of ministers opposite extolling their own virtues—and of course self-praise is the weakest praise of all, but that is all they have. What happened at the Ernst & Young budget lunch today? What did the host of the Ernst & Young budget lunch say? Paul Laxson is known to many people in this place, but what was his comment? He said that he does not understand the logic of raiding super to pay down general government debt—one of the most senior people hosting their own fundraising lunch saying he does not understand the logic, but that is because there is no logic. This is a dead budget. It is not a dead Norwegian Blue; it is a dead red! It has died on the perch. This budget is not going to vroom with \$4 billion of state superannuation funds and this Treasurer is a Treasurer who cannot deliver a budget. Domino's would not have this Treasurer deliver a pizza!