




Speech By  
**David Janetzki**

**MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA SOUTH**

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**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL:  
FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (3.37 pm): The most remarkable thing about this year's budget was, in fact, how unremarkable it truly was. As soon as it was uttered, it was forgettable and it has already been forgotten. In respect of the budget hearings process before the Finance and Administration Committee, the performances were equally forgettable. The process did not start well, with the Treasurer's responses to the prehearing questions on notice arriving after the deadline of 10 am, before the committee hearing date. It did not get off to the very best start and from there, if possible, it only got worse.

As I understand it, the estimates process is designed to help the parliament in its scrutiny of the expenditure of the government of the day. However, on this occasion, all the estimates process helped do was prove that the government is ill equipped to properly manage Queensland's finances. Under questioning from the shadow Treasurer, the estimates hearing revealed the political prevarication and bureaucratic uncertainty in connection with the raiding of \$4 billion from QSuper's defined benefits scheme. The hearing revealed that the government continues to spend away our children's future, burdening Queensland with an unprecedented level of debt. As the shadow Treasurer enunciated, that is trending towards \$81 billion.

The hearing revealed nothing to suggest that the alleged jobs bonanza would positively impact the unemployment rate—already the second worst in Australia. If I heard correctly, the member for Kawana said that in outback Queensland today the youth unemployment rate is 56.2 per cent. That is an unbelievable figure. If I heard correctly, in Townsville we have seen a remarkable increase from 16.5 per cent to 28.1 per cent. Even in the Toowoomba and Darling Downs region, which is booming in many respects, the unemployment rate for youth and young people seeking work is well over 10 per cent.

Throughout the budget papers—and again during the estimates hearing—it is as though small business does not exist, let alone be a key driver of the Queensland economy and the employer of Queensland people. If the last couple of weeks have shown anything, it is the fact that federal Labor has not forgotten small business as they are proposing a small family business tax increase of \$4.1 billion on family businesses that work through discretionary trusts—a tax on small family businesses that put everything on the line to give it a go. Between this Labor budget and the antibusiness agenda of the federal Labor opposition, we have seen confidence among small and medium sized business owners in regional Queensland fall 16 points, second only to that in the Northern Territory.

There are concerns in relation to our credit rating. The CBA modelling of the S&P rating methodology indicates a leap in rating from one to three in the budgetary performance profile measure. This is an alarming trend. All this comes from a government or a Labor Party that oversaw the loss of our AAA credit rating during the height of the mining boom.

Again, in the estimates hearing we saw the shadow minister for industrial relations pursue his opposite number—the recently self-proclaimed greatest racing minister of all time, if I heard correctly. What we saw was why the Labor government will not chase down union bullying and intimidation. The shadow Treasurer has just outlined that we are the strike capital of Australia. During the September quarter there were over 14,000 days lost to strike action, which takes us to over 53,000 days lost for the past year.

Above all these revelations, the most alarming part of the estimates hearing process was that it revealed the government has no plan, no courage and no imagination. It has no plan to lift the stocks of regional Queensland in the face of unemployment, crime and a lack of confidence. It has no courage to say that without coalmining royalties the budget would look very different—that is \$3.4 billion different for those who would see the closing down of the coalmining industry. Worst of all, they have no imagination to address stagnant family incomes, deliver tax relief, or build a bigger, bolder and better Queensland. Only the LNP has that imagination.