




Speech By  
**Jarrold Bleijie**

**MEMBER FOR KAWANA**

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**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL:  
LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE**

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (4.48 pm): The chairman of the committee just spent five minutes prosecuting the LNP's good policies. He spent more time talking about the LNP's six drivers than he did about the Labor government.

**Mr Crandon:** We could send that out to our constituents.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I take the interjection from the member for Coomera. We on this side of the House could grab that speech from *Hansard* and send it off to help our re-election chances. He went on about the six drivers and when the honourable member for Mermaid Beach interjected about education, the member for Stretton said, 'Fantastic!'—it is a fantastic policy that the LNP have. He is the chairman of the committee. Maybe he was taking notes or learning a lesson from the member for Bundamba because if you saw her performance during estimates you would probably think she was a member of the opposition or crossbench, not necessarily a government member.

I do note that in all the committees after the first day—because the Premier had not quite worked it out but the Deputy Premier certainly did—those opposite realised that the member for Bundamba was going to cause some issues for the government and the Deputy Premier did not want to have any part of that so they kept stacking more Labor members on the committee to reduce the time the member for Bundamba could ask questions. I remember commenting, 'Poor Jo, the member for Bundamba, being stacked by her own party.' It was because the Labor government could not trust the member for Bundamba as she was going off the reservation, and so she should.

The committee looked at apprenticeship numbers under the Attorney-General and Minister for Training and Skills, which are on the decline. In estimates the Minister for Training and Skills said that we have to look at the completion rates, because they would have started under the LNP so they are only completing now. I also looked at the commencement rate of apprenticeships and traineeships in the 2½ years that they have been in government and they are dramatically on the way down. It is not just about completion rates; it is also about commencement rates. Fewer young people are going into apprenticeships and traineeships, because they do not have confidence that the Labor government has the policies in place. The TAFE sector needs rescuing, but there is \$200 million surplus sitting in the bank.

**Ms Boyd:** From you—they needed rescuing from you.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I will get to the member for Pine Rivers in a minute. They said that TAFE needed rescuing, but from what? They have \$200 million sitting in a bank account for a rainy day. They have fewer TAFE teachers under their watch. They are sacking TAFE teachers.

**Ms Boyd** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** The member for Pine Rivers says that that is not right. Perhaps she should look at her own budget papers, because in the next two years there will be a reduction of about 10 TAFE staff. That is a sacking. There are fewer TAFE teachers under their watch. If they were rescuing TAFE, I would have thought they would have more students, more teachers and more buildings, but no; for TAFE there are fewer teachers, fewer students and fewer buildings under the Labor Party's watch.

We have underutilised campuses, such as at Gympie. Philosophically, the Labor Party would rather have a TAFE campus without students than give it to a university or partner with a private sector and actually fill it with students who are learning and earning. They would rather have an empty TAFE building, because it is a TAFE campus. Because it is a TAFE building, they think it is okay that it is empty.

What are they doing with the campus at Mount Gravatt, in the electorate of the member for Mansfield? The Minister for Training and Skills keeps talking about a strategic asset management plan. Where is the report? How long does it take to finish a strategic asset management plan? I will tell you how long it takes. The director-general of Education said that they want to ensure that the TAFE sector is applicable for generations to come. I asked, 'Which generation?' For which generation of young people are we actually going to get the strategic asset management plan?

The member for Mansfield will talk about this in his contribution as well: I have a feeling that, after the election, they have it on the agenda to sell off the TAFE campus in Mount Gravatt and they are keeping the report secret. They are not releasing the report, because they do not want the public to see what is in it. Why have not they released that report? The Minister for Training and Skills has form when it comes to not releasing reports and when she does she blacks out a lot of it. I call on the government to release the strategic asset management plan. Let us not wait for generations. Let us find out now what is happening. God only knows that TAFE did need rescuing but not from the LNP. TAFE needs rescuing from the Labor government. They are sacking TAFE teachers, there are fewer students in TAFE and TAFE has money sitting in the bank.

The LNP has a \$100 million plan to create 20,000 jobs across Queensland: 10,000 new apprentices over the next four years and 10,000 young people who do not have jobs will get a job under our positive plan for the future. I do not have to reiterate the six key drivers, because the member for Stretton did that for us.