




Speech By
Joan Pease

MEMBER FOR LYTTON

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APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL (NO. 2); APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 2)

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (5.44 pm): That was a very entertaining speech from the member for Warrego, who is very proud to be claiming credit for the new hospital that the Palaszczuk government is delivering for her electorate.

I rise to speak in support of the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2017 and the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) 2017. These bills provide for supplementary appropriation for unforeseen expenditure that occurred during the 2016-17 financial year. As we all know, the Queensland economy is dependent on a fair distribution of the GST and any change to our GST distribution would leave Queensland worse off. The Palaszczuk government will fight to ensure that Queensland continues to get our fair share of the GST revenue.

I am really proud to be part of a government that will not support any changes that disadvantage Queensland, especially our capacity to support regional communities. Unlike the LNP, we will not be doing deals with parties like One Nation that want to see us lose money by advocating per capita allocations from the GST pool. The Productivity Commissioner, like the Commonwealth Grants Commission itself, rejects per capita allocation. Only the big states like New South Wales want per capita splits because it means that New South Wales would take money off other jurisdictions—one of them being Queensland.

One Nation is committed to a per capita share, even though its leader, Pauline Hanson, is a Queenslander and we would lose \$2.4 billion. Pauline Hanson, a Queenslander, has openly advocated to giving our funds away to WA. That would hit hardest in regional communities, like the member for Warrego's seat—meaning cuts to funds for regional schools, hospitals, roads and other services.

I can only imagine what baysiders would think about a Queensland senator openly advocating to give away our share of GST which would mean that our local schools like Brisbane Bayside State College, Darling Point Special School and Wynnum West State School would miss out on important funding. Also, our new health centre Gundu Pa and front-line health services would miss out, as would our police and emergency services, child safety and housing. In fact, all Queenslanders would be disadvantaged by this decision. I am really proud to be part of a government that is prepared to stand up for Queensland to ensure that we get our fair share.

In fact, whilst we are talking about GST, perhaps it is timely to raise the issue of the unfair application of GST to feminine hygiene products. This is something that is raised with me regularly as the member for Lytton and it continues what I consider to be a discriminatory and unfair tax on women. I would like the Prime Minister to have a good think about that.

Tim Nicholls and the LNP are determined to do deals with One Nation, a party that wants to give up \$2.4 billion in GST revenue. The LNP and Tim Nicholls continue to court One Nation and to do deals on a seat-by-seat basis. Tim Nicholls needs to declare which seat he thinks deserves to have funding ripped away. Would it be Warrego? Would it be Clayfield? That is what would happen if One Nation gets away with cutting our GST share.

If the Leader of the Opposition does not rule out a preference deal with One Nation today, it means that LNP supports taking \$2.4 billion in GST off Queensland this year. That equates to \$485 per person, and I do not know anyone in this room who would like to give up \$485. Under One Nation and the New South Wales LNP's equal per capita proposal, Queensland would lose more GST than any other state or territory.

The Premier, Anastacia Palaszczuk, has made it very clear that we will not be making any deals with One Nation and that our government will always put Queensland first. I think it is time that Tim Nicholls, the Leader of the Opposition, does the same. We will put Queensland first and we will continue to fight to ensure that Queensland gets our fair share of GST. I commend the bills to the House.