




Speech By  
**Jarrold Bleijie**

**MEMBER FOR KAWANA**

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Record of Proceedings, 15 June 2018

### **APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL; REVENUE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL; BETTING TAX BILL**

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (4.31 pm): Labor is right: this is a Labor budget. It is absolutely a Labor budget. It is a dodgy Labor budget. It is a socialist Labor budget. It is a Bolshevik Labor budget. All it is is debt, taxes, taking from the rich, taking from the poor, taking from the middle class, taking from everyone. I absolutely agree that it is a perfect Labor budget.

It is a perfect Labor budget that will continue to put Queensland in the decline it has been in for a generation under Labor governments. This budget is no different. When Andrew Fraser was the Treasurer and I was in here, he got up and delivered the same great Labor budgets. Andrew Fraser was of course the Treasurer who lost the AAA credit rating. In this budget there is no mention of the AAA credit rating, there is no intention to get the AAA credit rating back, there is no intention to pay down debt, there is no intention to look at debt, consider it and worry about it. It is not even mentioned.

We had the shortest budget speech for a Treasurer in recent history. She was delivering a bonanza budget, yet the Treasurer could only manage 24 minutes of her important time. I saw that the Treasurer tweeted a handwritten letter to her children saying, 'Sorry kids. I can't be home much this week because I've been very busy writing the budget.' She was not that busy. It was only a 24-minute speech which would not have taken long to write. If the Treasurer had spoken about what is really in the budget, she would have had plenty to talk about in the hour that she had—the debt, no AAA credit rating, the taxes, the broken promises. This is a Labor budget through and through. It is a Labor budget which will, unfortunately, impact on all Queenslanders. It does not matter if you live on the coast or in rural or regional Queensland, it will impact on everyone.

There is an \$83 billion debt. That is more debt than the national debt when John Howard was elected in 1996 and he paid off the debt. All that the government members look at is coal. They think, 'Coal is going well so we've got all these royalties.' We have a Treasurer who absolutely hates coal. She goes into her electorate and says that she is anti Adani and anti coal, but then she rubs her hands together with Treasury and takes all of the coal money.

What will happen when we have the next property downturn? What will happen when we have the crash? What will happen when we have the next mining downturn and we have the crash and bust? And that will happen. History, unfortunately, will repeat itself and there will not be a cent for a rainy day, there will not be a cent for the property downturn and there will not be a cent spare for when the mining industry goes into a downward spiral—as history has shown us over the years.

That is okay for Labor because they then say, 'The LNP government will fix it when they get in. The LNP are the financial managers and they'll fix it. We'll just spend all the money we don't have.' This is a whopping credit card. If all of these little credit cards were put together, they would go around Queensland a few times with the amount of debt that we have got now—that \$83 billion debt. What is

quite concerning is that Labor have no plan to repay the debt. I have not seen much of the Premier this week. I have not seen much of the ministers today, I might add, after Mark Bailey's second secret email account was announced.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr McArdle): Member for Kawana, please refer to members by their right title.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I refer to the minister with the fake email accounts. We have not seen much of the ministers today. I heard that they had three television interviews lined up which they have canned because the mangocube email account has come to haunt them again.

We have seen the Premier get very arrogant with this little majority that she has. The Premier is getting very arrogant and we saw it during the week when she was speaking—where, basically, until she received absolute silence in this chamber from everybody, she would not continue with her speech. It was like, 'How dare you interrupt me. I'm the vice-regal Premier of the state. How dare anyone interrupt or breathe when I'm speaking.' This is the arrogance that is now coming out of the government, and it has always been there.

The Premier, the member for Inala, was a cabinet minister in the Bligh government that sold off all of our assets in Queensland in 2009. I was sitting over here in the shadow ministry when Rachel Nolan got up in question time and said that Queensland Rail was not for sale. The member for Inala was sitting over there as well at the time, and of course two days later they announced the budget and Queensland Rail was actually for sale. They did not let the minister in. The Premier is increasing the cost of water right around South-East Queensland, but she would not even know that because the government announced it when she was jetsetting around the world with celebrities, famous people and boxers. She would not know that the day she was in Las Vegas her government put in \$80 water increases on the Sunshine Coast.

The LNP delivered on the Sunshine Coast. We delivered the Sunshine Coast University Hospital. We would not have any commitment to rail duplication from the federal government or the state government, with that little bit there, had the LNP team not been a united team and fought the good fight for rail duplication on the Sunshine Coast. We have heard members of the government, ministers like the Minister for Main Roads, and particularly Mayor Mark Jamieson, saying that the LNP did not deliver for the Sunshine Coast. I am not going to cop that. Every time there is a minister on the Sunshine Coast, the mayor takes them on a great tour of the Sunshine Coast University Hospital. It was not the Sunshine Coast council that delivered the hospital; it was an LNP government that turned the first sod, brought forward construction of the Sunshine Coast University Hospital and got that hospital up and running—and, by the way, we saved \$200 million for the Queensland taxpayers in the process.

What is in the budget for Kawana? The government have re-announced a roundabout upgrade. The roundabouts were actually opened about a year ago, but there is \$5 million spare so they are now going to open some road out on to Kawana Way. That is the most they have given. Mr Deputy Speaker, you would know all too well about the traffic congestion on Caloundra Road, because your electorate and my electorate share that road, but there is no money in the budget to upgrade that road.

In terms of education, I cannot believe Labor government members have been out there criticising the fact that we will air-condition every state school classroom in Queensland. It is unbelievable that they have been tweeting how bad of an idea this is. I am taking note and I have printed every tweet from every Labor member who has been whingeing about air conditioning. When I go on my road trip around Queensland next week, they are the schools I will be doing my press conferences out the front of, and I will have those tweets from those Labor members saying they do not want air conditioning in their school classrooms. Every kid in Queensland deserves to be a cool kid because cool kids are smart kids, no matter where you live in Queensland. I cannot believe the education minister has been criticising the LNP's plan to air-condition all of our classrooms. It will be fantastic and we look forward to 2020 when we can get Deb elected as the premier and she and the LNP government can deliver air conditioning in all of the state school classrooms across Queensland. We can build the roads, the infrastructure and the priorities that Queensland actually needs.

**Mr Minnikin:** Have some train drivers perhaps?

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Indeed! I think a few months ago they were announcing new trains but they did not have any drivers.

**Mr Minnikin** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** They were not automated, either. I take the interjection from the shadow minister.

The government goes on about record spending in education. Of course! The population is growing. Poor baby Elizabeth. I would hate to be poor Elizabeth when she turns 21 and has to produce the record of *Hansard* because she has been quoted so often in this place. When Elizabeth is 21 her water bills will be through the roof and she will not have public transport or decent roads if the Labor government are still in power.

The LNP want to declutter our curriculum. We want to make sure the kids are getting taught what they need to be taught, not this ridiculous social engineering rubbish that the socialists are putting in our schools like the Respectful Relationships program or Safe Schools program. The LNP is going to get rid of them because we are going to concentrate on maths and English. There is no use our kids graduating if they cannot read, write or do maths. That is what we will be doing. They will be our priorities. We are going to invest in it.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr McArdle): Order, members.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Here we are; they are interjecting about kids being able to read and write. They do not want cool kids in schools; they do not want kids to be able to read or write. I cannot understand why they object.

While we are talking about the Sunshine Coast, let me talk about an issue. Members may know that I have been fairly critical of the Sunshine Coast Regional Council and I will put it bluntly. The local government on the Sunshine Coast has forgotten the 'local' in local government. They are running a corporate organisation now and they are forgetting their role and responsibilities to the constituents in their particular divisions. In a minute I will be tabling about a hundred pages of RTI documents that have been released from the Sunshine Coast council.

The mayor of the Sunshine Coast and the likes of Councillor Christian Dickson have been criticising the LNP again for what they are apparently not delivering on the Sunshine Coast. I think this will give an insight into how this council operates. There it is just a collective thought. The documents that I am about to table show that the divisional councillors are not sticking up for their individual constituents; they are doing what council want them to do, what bureaucracy wants them to do. When the mayor was challenged on a couple of these things, he wrote an email to all his councillors. He said—

Councillors, I am more than happy to lead as agreed and take it up hard to get the results we seek—but I want to know my team is right behind me (not 200 metres back) and are as committed as I am to getting the outcome ...

We can look at verge parking. When the mayor did not have an open forum on verge parking—

**Mr DICK:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I know that verge parking may be important to the member for Kawana, but it has nothing to do with the state budget. I would bring him back to a relevant contribution to the debate on the appropriation bills.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I have taken advice on this point. It is a very wide bill that we are talking about covering many SDSs. I do not see any point of order.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** The reality is that in our budget reply the LNP announced if the local councils are not going to fix local roads we will, and that includes parking on these local roads. Here we go; this is what the mayor said about not wanting to have an open forum. He said, 'I want to avoid providing platforms for would-be councillors looking for a profile issue.' He is deliberately making sure that people do not go there who would be running against his councillors at the same time.

Here is a doozy. I ran a campaign about paid parking at the new Sunshine Coast University Hospital and the issues surrounding that. Councillor Christian Dickson then emailed his other councillors saying, 'Hey, guys look at this. I've blogged on this site.' Councillor Christian Dickson is running a fake Facebook profile account and commenting on blogs of state MPs without identifying himself as a councillor in the Sunshine Coast council. He is hiding that fact. Now when we go to that particular blog—

**An honourable member** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Now that the RTI has been released, the comments have been deleted.

We also had the issue on the Sunshine Coast where the whale washed up and there was a funding issue about who was going to pay to take it out to the ocean, bury it or take it into the waste landfill. Councillor Christian writes, 'I've had enough of being nice guy and turning the other cheek. Jarrod is attacking our mayor, our council and our community.' No, I was sticking up for my community,

the electorate of Kawana and the people in Kawana. Councillor Christian Dickson also emailed when we ended up having the whale taken off the beach and put into the dump site. He said—

I would absolutely take the opportunity given by the Mayor to participate and share my views on all matters more regularly and should've ignored the officers of council advice and followed my gut instinct by sharing my strong level of dissatisfaction with the way the matter was being handled ...'

It says here in the subject line—

We let Jarrod have a win by letting this all occur in the first place. He's right, we need to stop giving away opportunities for him and others to belt us over the head.

If the council just did the right thing by the people of the Sunshine Coast they would not need anyone to belt them over the head and bring these issues to their attention.

Then we had Councillor Jason O'Pray admitting that he agreed with me but for the sake of defending council he went out there and blatantly told the people of the Sunshine Coast that the best resolution was for this whale to be buried on the beach because that is what council said. This is the reality and I table a copy of all those documents.

*Tabled paper:* Bundle of documents, released under the Information Privacy Act 2009, by the Sunshine Coast Regional Council [\[912\]](#).

Mark Jamieson stands up on the Sunshine Coast and attacks the LNP for not delivering, yet during the election campaign we announced the full duplication of the rail corridor and the Mooloolah River interchange—billions of dollars of investment on the Sunshine Coast. Now I see Mark Jamieson attacking the Labor government for not delivering on the Sunshine Coast and yet he asked people to vote for Labor. Thankfully, they did not listen to him on the Sunshine Coast and they voted in a great team of LNP members including the new members for Ninderry, Buderim and Nicklin.

I can give this commitment to the Sunshine Coast: the Sunshine Coast MPs will never let the Sunshine Coast community down. We will fight hard to have the infrastructure delivered: the rail duplication and the Mooloolah River interchange. We will work with council where we can to deliver the appropriate infrastructure. I finish where I started. This is a dud Labor budget, but it is a Labor budget through and through: higher taxes, higher unemployment and higher debt with no plan to pay it down.

*(Time expired)*