




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

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**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL; REVENUE
AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (12.08 pm): I am pleased to report good news to the House and the people of Queensland. Since the election of the Palaszczuk Labor government, the May data figures for employment in Queensland reveal that the Palaszczuk Labor government has been responsible for creating almost 207,000 jobs in Queensland. What we have just heard from the Leader of the Opposition was arguably the most economically irresponsible budget reply that has ever been delivered in this House. It was the greatest mix of whingeing and incompetence since Alexander Downer was the leader of the federal opposition. It was not a plan; it was a letter to Santa—a wish list with no funding attached to it. It is 'Deb-onomics'. 'Deb-onomics' means writing a cheque with money you do not have for things you cannot afford. 'Deb-onomics' means cutting, sacking and selling and giving nothing back to Queenslanders, particularly regional Queenslanders. Say anything, promise anything, blow the lid off the spendometer, all aboard on the bus to the LNP Mount Fantasy.

I was actually quite surprised to see the Leader of the Opposition delivering the speech today, given everything we have heard about the spill now being on, but it showed that it was a speech more directed at the LNP party room than it was for the people of Queensland. It was a speech that sounded less like a budget reply and more like a recipe for a magic pudding. We all remember last year's offering—the air conditioning of all Queensland schools. That is what the Leader of the Opposition said in the House—air conditioning for all Queensland schools. That lasted as long as it took for her to walk out of the chamber. How can Queenslanders trust anything the Leader of the Opposition says when it takes her the time for her to get out of the House to abandon a promise?

What about her commitment to 30 per cent renewables? That flamed out in almost as shorter period of time—faster than Clive Palmer's political comeback. The Leader of the Opposition has learnt nothing from this experience. She stood up today and reannounced \$5.2 billion in unfunded promises. That is what she came into the House with, and then she added to it today. She made it worse. Let us take her 10-year freeze on royalties. Those resources belong to the people of Queensland, but if they implement a 10-year freeze how will they pay for their promises? They promised: building a second M1, \$2.4 billion; regional electricity commitment, \$768 million; air-conditioning schools, \$2 billion; four new ice rehab centres, \$56 million; land for Brisbane Metro, \$20 million; water infrastructure studies, \$20 million. Who is going to pay for that? They have ruled out taxes. They have promised a royalties holiday. They have said no more debt. What is left?

We know what is left because Queenslanders have seen this movie before. They saw this movie under Campbell Newman. What is left? They will have to cut over 10,800 government workers, calculated at \$1.3 billion a year over four years, to fund that \$5.2 billion of spending, or maybe there is another plan. What about Strong Choices 2.0? They will sell our assets. They will sack nurses, doctors and teachers to fund their reckless, half-baked spending spree.

The budget delivered by our Treasurer on Tuesday was unashamedly about creating and sustaining jobs for Queensland, and we have now reached almost 207,000. It is a project that has been the No. 1 priority for our government since we were elected in 2015. Jobs have been the core business of this government led by the Premier and Deputy Premier. One of its most evident achievements is the 207,000 new jobs created, with the ABS putting the growth of state final demand in Queensland at the head of the pack of the Australian mainland and there is more to come. Every one of those almost 207,000 jobs represents a Queenslanders whose life has been improved by their ability to find work because we have built an economy that is generating that opportunity.

I want to commend the Treasurer for bringing down a budget in challenging economic circumstances—a budget that not only stumps up for infrastructure and job creation, not only backs our regions and supports business and industry, but continues the unbroken run of surpluses delivered by the Palaszczuk Labor government, at five in a row. That has been exacerbated by a federal coalition LNP which fails to deliver to Queensland our fair share—the more than \$800 million in GST that we should be receiving. That is an incredible burden our state has to carry.

It is no surprise that the opposition are failing so badly. Let us look at what they said about infrastructure. They keep saying that the capital program has a \$500 million cut over the next three financial years compared to the last financial year. Budget Paper No. 3 lays out a commitment of \$49.5 billion over the forward estimates. That is up by around \$4 billion over last year's budget. One thing is certain about the forecast in Budget Paper No. 3; that is, on this side of the House we will deliver what we said we will.

Between the 2012-13 financial year and the 2014-15 financial year—that is, the Newman government—at budget time their capital underspend averaged 16 per cent. That is when the member for Everton sat around the cabinet table. Thanks to the commitment of the Premier and all ministers to capital delivery, we have worked hard year on year to reduce that average. In the previous financial year, the capital underspend in our state was around five per cent—not 16 per cent, but five per cent. I am pleased to report to the House that the forecast underspend for the current financial year is close to zero. They can talk the talk if they like, but Labor governments deliver. When we say we are going to spend money on capital infrastructure, we deliver. I will stand by this government's record every single day of the week.

What about the Leader of the Opposition's view on jobs? What about what she said on jobs? 'Fewer jobs,' she said—ignoring the almost 207,000 created since we came to office. She talked about the unemployment rate. The unemployment rate is 5.9 per cent. When the Leader of the Opposition left government, in which she was an assistant minister, the rate was 6.6 per cent. Youth unemployment in Queensland is lower. She even had the temerity to say that every number on the unemployment rate represented a Queenslanders. Can I say this to you, Mr Deputy Speaker: every one of the 14,000 jobs the Newman government axed was a Queenslanders too. They had the promise of a job and a future that she was so proud to take away from them when she sat at the CBRC table as an assistant minister.

What great news for the waste industry in New South Wales that we heard today. Under the LNP the waste levy will go. Queensland will become the only state in mainland Australia without a levy. Drivers, start your engines, because the trucks will once again start rumbling across the Queensland border, building the landfill mountains in Queensland with rubbish from other states.

What about the lecture on the gas industry? The hypocrisy of it. It is an industry built by a Labor government. What about the attack on Brisbane? What about all those Brisbane MPs? I am going to look forward to the member for Everton's response to that attack on our great state capital. Our capital benefits this state because tourists come from around the world and around Australia to contribute to the Queensland economy. This contribution benefits all citizens of our state. These tourists come to our state's capital to experience world-class sporting events and world-class arts events because we are building that infrastructure. We are building vital transport infrastructure so those tourists and those people travelling to our capital can move around. There was a chorus of negativity from the Leader of the Opposition that will keep Queensland in the slow lane.

It only took 10 minutes for the campaign of falsehoods by the Leader of the Opposition to jump the shark, and that is a big thing, even for her. The Leader of the Opposition had the temerity to say that the waste levy will pay for a new incinerator in Ipswich. That is what she said. It only took her 10 minutes to say something that is completely, totally and utterly false. The proponent of the waste-to-energy plant—and there is only one that has come to government—is not seeking any taxpayer funding from the waste levy. They are not seeking any funding at all from the government, but it is very hard to get the Leader of the Opposition and truth into the chamber at the same time. No wonder the move is on. Even her backbench knows that when she says something to their face it is not true. When she comes into the House and, through the Speaker or the Deputy Speaker, puts up a bold-faced lie in this House, she knows that it is wrong.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! Unparliamentary language.

Mr DICK: I withdraw. When she puts up a bold-faced falsehood in this House, everybody knows that is her form. She cannot get the basics right. She just makes it up.

Then we had the fiscal balance. We heard a new promise: the LNP will achieve fiscal balance. The warning lights are on. Achieving a fiscal balance will require at least another 10,000 jobs cut from the Public Service on top of the \$5.2 billion in unfunded promises. This is straight out of the playbook of the shadow shadow Treasurer, the member for Clayfield. When the member for Clayfield was the treasurer he kept promising a fiscal surplus. The return to fiscal surplus was the centrepiece of the first Newman LNP budget that the Leader of the Opposition was proud to frame when she sat around the CBRC table as an assistant minister. It was the reason, it was the explanation, for why they sacked and removed 14,000 public servants.

It turned out, for the member for Clayfield, the fiscal surplus was like a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow: he kept promising it and it could never be reached or delivered. By the time of the second budget the promised return to fiscal surplus was drifting off into the forward estimates beyond the next state election in 2015-16. They promised it and they could not deliver it. The people of Queensland have heard this falsehood before and they know that it will never be delivered unless 14,000 jobs—at least—are taken out of the Public Service. While it was a promise they could not deliver, they could deliver on the promise to cut, sack and sell.

There has been more dishonesty about manufacturing jobs. For weeks we have heard members opposite repeating in this parliament that thousands of jobs have gone out of manufacturing in Queensland. Honourable members do not have to take my word for it: the Queensland Government Statistician notes there has been a 5.3 per cent increase in Queensland manufacturing jobs year on year compared to 3.2 per cent at the national level. That means that Queensland's manufacturing sector employs 173,400 people, an increase of 8,700 people compared to the March quarter 2018. I have outlined these facts in the parliament on two separate occasions. I have written to the Speaker about this and I will write to Mr Speaker again about this absolute dishonesty and attempt to deliberately mislead the House.

In conclusion, we saw two visions laid out for our state this week in this parliament. On Tuesday, the Treasurer delivered the next chapter of our government's plan for a future built on optimism and opportunity, on fairness and partnership, that sets out a program to build confidence, promote business investment and deliver on our commitment to ensure no Queenslanders are left behind.

This morning we heard from the Leader of the Opposition an alternative plan—that is, if you could call it a plan. It was a disappointing contribution from a leader in deep trouble—desperate, reckless, profligate and entirely unfunded. The government, under the leadership of the Premier and the Deputy Premier, continues to work in the interests of all Queenslanders wherever they live in our great state to build a stronger and more resilient economy. The opposition, under the chaotic leadership of the member for Nanango, has no plan at all, just an unfunded wish list designed to keep her in the only job she is worried about: maintaining her position as Leader of the Opposition. She says there would be no new taxes and a 10-year freeze on royalties, which means two things: a massive blowout or asset sales. Stand by, Queensland, for Strong Choices 2.0.