



Speech By
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MEMBER FOR NINDERRY

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APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation Bill

Economics and Governance Committee, Report

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (12.12 pm): I rise to speak to the Appropriation Bill 2019. Last month members of the Economics and Governance Committee considered the expenditure in the recent budget. Registration hikes, failed and dumped projects, discrepancies and major concerns with local government amendments, the lack of progress on Closing the Gap, and Labor's failure to support Queensland's once great racing industry were just some of the issues that were identified by the committee.

What was made abundantly clear is that the budget is a bad budget for Queenslanders. Two months ago in this chamber we saw the Palaszczuk Labor government deliver a budget devoid of any plan to move our state's economy out of the ballooning black hole of debt—a budget that shirks the hard work. It was a traditional Labor budget of higher taxes, more debt, fewer jobs and less infrastructure—a budget and a government that lack leadership, lack vision and fail to foster the economic conditions in which Queenslanders can thrive. It was a budget that introduced more new taxes, ripping another \$1.25 billion from the state's economy, plunging the state into more than \$90 billion in debt and slashing forecasted jobs.

When the government handed down its budget in June I likened it to being caught with your pants down. This government has been swimming with its pants down, the tide has gone out and Queenslanders are pointing and laughing. A \$90 billion debt, as we know, is no laughing matter. Little did we know back then that the \$90 billion debt was just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the Labor Party's subterfuge.

Earlier I referred to the committee's consideration of the expenditure of the Premier and Deputy Premier at estimates—opportunity for taxpayers to learn how their hard-earned dollars were being spent. Instead of hearing how this government is working to improve outcomes for Queenslanders, to improve efficiencies, to be more transparent and accountable and to grow jobs and the economy, we heard how this government has been hoodwinking the state—scandal after scandal exposing the true extent of this government's lack of openness, transparency, accountability and integrity.

It was disappointing to hear the Premier of this state give three different answers when she was questioned about why her chief of staff—her right-hand man, her most trusted adviser—was the beneficiary of a \$260,000-plus taxpayer funded grant. Hardworking Queenslanders, like the thousands

of families in my electorate who are struggling with the cost of living and the hundreds of small business owners who are desperately trying to keep the doors open, were gobsmacked when this information was uncovered. That astonishment turned to dismay when the Premier failed—she continues to fail—to do the right thing and dismiss her trusted adviser.

That dismay turned to sheer anger when they also heard that the Queensland Treasurer, the person who controls the state's purse strings, had purchased an investment property in the Cross River Rail corridor and failed to declare it. Not only that, but she thought it was okay to give the head of the CCC, Alan MacSporran QC, a call at home on his mobile, despite being fully aware that the matter had already been referred to the CCC and was currently under assessment.

At what stage does this Labor government become accountable to the millions of hardworking Queenslanders who dutifully pay their taxes and respect our laws?

Mr Power interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! Pause the clock. Member for Logan, you have had a really good crack this morning. You are now warned under the standing orders.

Mr PURDIE: When those we elect to govern cannot follow the same rules they expect the rest of us to follow, how can we have any trust in their ability to lead our state?

The two highest priorities of any government are to keep its citizens safe and to provide an economic environment in which they can prosper. What became clear during the estimates process is that the Treasurer of this state is more concerned about her personal prosperity than about the prosperity of hardworking Queenslanders.

We have already seen this government's abysmal track record on economic management. Thirty years ago Queensland was an economic powerhouse. Now we are battling it out for the wooden spoon. When it comes to crime, budget cuts to our hardworking and under-resourced police are leading to more and more horrifying tales of communities being held to ransom by repeat offenders, overcrowded youth detention facilities and a failure of the justice system to ensure sentences meet community expectations.

To say that this government has failed on its priorities is an understatement. Estimates has revealed the true extent of the government's lack of integrity and accountability. They continue to fail all Queenslanders and blatantly abuse their positions of trust. Queenslanders deserve better.