




Speech By  
**Mark Robinson**

**MEMBER FOR OODGEROO**

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

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (2.00 pm): This is my eleventh budget as the member for Cleveland and Oodgeroo and I am sad to say it is the worst budget I have experienced and worst in the history of Queensland. It is a budget of high taxes, big spending and unsustainable debt. In my time, Labor has set 72 per cent of those budgets, and over the last 30 years has been in power 83 per cent of the time. Queensland's long-term financial position, like Labor's unsustainably high state debt, is the direct result largely of successive Labor government budgets. Under Treasurer Trad, debt levels soared to the wuthering heights of \$90 billion or \$16,000 per Queenslander. The *Courier-Mail* got it right on page 1 the other day when it said, 'Owe No'. Labor's debt is so high and debt is climbing. If Labor is returned to government in October 2020, the debt is likely to break the \$100 billion mark in the next parliament.

Further, Labor has no plan to pay down or even stabilise its \$90 billion of debt. Even Labor's \$15 billion asset 'sale of the century' under premier Bligh and treasurer Fraser did not bring down debt. Labor does not even pay down debt when it sells assets and has the opportunity to do so. Imposing debilitating Labor debt is a shocking act of theft from our children and grandchildren. It is wrong to load future generations of Queenslanders with unsustainable debt. As such, the government is guilty of stealing from a child, stealing their future lifestyle and prosperity, jobs and opportunities. The Treasurer is loading them up with the burden of unbearable debt so that she can try to shine as Treasurer and position herself to be Premier.

This is a big-spending budget on the state's credit card, a budget of record high levels of tax with nine new taxes and, no doubt, more to come. Labor's \$1.3 billion waste levy will also add significantly to the cost of a new home. Redlands Coast young couples wanting to buy their first home will pay more. This budget was a chance to treat all Queenslanders fairly, to bring down rising state debt, to get the budget back into the black for real surpluses over the forward estimates, to bring down the cost of living and doing business and to bring down unemployment, especially in regional towns. Instead of being fiscally responsible, the Treasurer has blown out the debt to spend big on herself to save herself from the Greens.

In terms of Redlands Coast, it should have been a fair budget for the people of Redlands Coast and for the Cleveland district in the seat of Oodgeroo. In particular, the government had a chance to deliver a fair share of the infrastructure funds to the people of the Redlands, but it has not. The Redlands fair share of the infrastructure budget is over \$1.5 billion. Sadly, we see little invested in major road duplication, no rail duplication, no major hospital upgrade and no new significant funds for Straddie that will benefit Redlands any time soon.

Redlands Hospital, like Ipswich, Logan, Caboolture and Nambour hospitals, needs a major upgrade. Labor had five budget years to do something but has not. It took five years to master plan the hospital even though the master planning had been done in 2014. After five years, it is just starting on a business case. What about a new ward of beds to stop a bed block and to stop sick patients being

stuck in ED for up to three days? The government could have expanded the palliative care service, which is a need, into a full 10-bed unit and in-home care. The government could have constructed an ICU. There is the car parking need. We need to stop ambulance ramping. So much more could have been done if we had received our fair share.

The reannounced maternity water birthing suite and ED maintenance funding of less than \$2 million continues to be welcomed but, contrary to Labor claims and a taxpayer funded billboard at Redland Hospital, there is no \$20 million project nor any hospital upgrade in this budget. If there were a real \$20 million project or upgrade, as Labor claims, why is there no new building footprint, no new general ward beds and no new unit such as an ICU? Redlands residents will continue to experience among the longest ED waiting times—up to three days—before being admitted to a general ward bed and among the worst ambulance ramping in the state.

This Labor government is doing nothing but studies and cases and in fact misleading the Redlands community into thinking that it is upgrading the hospital. In fact, the member for Capalaba claims that \$20 million is being spent on the ED and birthing suites. Soon I will table the *Monthly Bulletin Don Brown MP* which reads—

As well, Kim Richards, member for Redlands and myself, as part of the Palaszczuk Government, have delivered over \$20M in funding to upgrade the emergency ward and the birthing suites at Redlands Hospital.

No such \$20 million upgrade or project has been invested in the emergency department or the birthing suite; it is less than \$2 million. I call on the member for Capalaba to correct the record and to publicly retract his false claim. In contrast, the LNP federal government and member for Bowman, Andrew Laming, have committed to provide a very real \$30 million to upgrade Redland Hospital. The Redland Hospital tells the story of two governments—the LNP government that delivers and does while the ALP dithers and dallies. Sadly, Labor's dithering and dallying puts Redlanders at risk.

In terms of transport, if Redlands Coast got its fair share much could be done in transport and roads. In terms of rail, sadly the Cleveland line continues to be called the 'misery' line. Labor's rail fail resulted in the slashing of over 40 services, and to date only one service is confirmed as being restored. Once again, the member for Capalaba claimed something different to the facts. The member for Capalaba said that 32 services were returned on the Cleveland line whereas a ministerial statement published by the government says that that figure applies across all lines. So again I call on the member to correct the record and publicly to retract his false claim. I table that document.

*Tabled paper:* Monthly Bulletin by the member for Capalaba, Mr Don Brown MP, dated April and May, titled 'Delivering for Capalaba' [1012](#).

The rail duplication from Cleveland to Manly continues to be needed to create greater capacity. Park-and-ride car spaces for Cleveland and Birkdale stations are also needed. A form of eastern busway-metro to Redlands Coast continues to be important to the LNP at all levels after Labor withdrew funding for the project in its 2011 budget.

In term of roads, funds continue to be needed for major arterial roads such as the duplication of Mt Cotton Road, Duncan Road to Mackenzie, duplication of the northern section of Cleveland-Redland Bay Road—Cleveland and Thornlands—and even the much smaller project of upgrading the Shaw and Wellington streets intersection. I am glad to report one small win—the Gateway Motorway Old Cleveland Road on-ramp upgrade. While outside my electorate, many Cleveland commuters use this on-ramp and will benefit from our campaign. I was glad to join with the member for Chatsworth to lobby the main roads minister successfully for this project. I also acknowledge the help of federal members for Bowman, Andrew Laming, and Bonner, Ross Vasta. I should refer to the last-minute support of the member for Capalaba, even though it was very late in the piece and after the project looked like proceeding. I guess better late than never, even if it is an afterthought and seemingly initiated by the minister.

This is a disappointing budget for the people of North Stradbroke Island, with no new substantial funding commitment, other than previously announced, to get the stalling ETS back on track. Labor's paltry package was too little and too late to plug the economic crater its laws have created that prematurely end the resource jobs on Straddie this year. The way the Treasurer and government have treated the resource industry and community of Straddie is instructional with respect to this Labor government's attitude to the resources sector and jobs across the whole state. In fact, one of the local soon-to-be-unemployed sandminers wrote a poem titled *Trad-broke Island*. It reads—

She graced our little island, with her entourage in tow.

With beer in hand she took the stand, 'There's something you must know.

'We've come to a decision, my union friends and I.

'This mine of yours will be no more, and let me tell you why.

'You see my job is on the line, the Greens demand a prize.  
 'I told them I have just the place, close to home and perfect size.  
 'It's big enough to save my seat and small enough to fly.  
 'Fly right under the radar, they'll barely hear you cry.  
 'I'll keep my role as deputy,' she said amongst the boo's.  
 'I'll keep those greenies happy and it will hardly make the news.  
 'So, spare your worthless questions, as I quite dislike your tone.  
 'I am not here to negotiate, my decision's set in stone.'  
 You could hear the venom in her voice, 'How dare you question me!  
 'Your jobs are not of my concern, look at this politically  
 'We'll say it's for the Indigenous, Labor's gesture of goodwill,  
 'Talk national parks and land rights, surely that'll pass the bill.  
 'A safe seat for me in back Brisbane, but alas my motley crew  
 'There has to be some casualties, and unfortunately that is you.  
 'Call this your consultation, there's my obligation done!  
 'Your mining days are numbered, the countdown has begun.  
 'So forget that environmental award my government gave to you,  
 'As a self serving politician, it's just something I must do.  
 'This bill will pass, you mark my word, Labor thanks you as do I,  
 'For being just the scalp I need to keep my green vote high.  
 'Don't leave today and think too hard, about the reasons why.'  
 So, she left our little island, with her entourage in tow.  
 A web of non-facts left in her wake, a real-life circus show.  
 (Soon to be unemployed Sand miner)

I table the poem.

*Tabled paper.* Poem titled 'Trad-Broke Island' [1013](#).

As a contrast, on North Stradbroke Island recently it was good to attend a chamber breakfast with David Crisafulli as the speaker. The small business men and women were stoic. We listened to all they had to say. They tried to be upbeat about their prospects, but we know that many are doing it tough. They were grateful that someone was still interested in their plight now that Labor does not care.

The recent master planning of Dunwich provided an opportunity for the government to do more to invest further in legacy infrastructure, but once again it squibbed it. While the work done by the department team on the ground is appreciated, the inertia of the government towards North Stradbroke Island is such that they are not ready to go with anything substantive from the master plan. I agree with the Minister for State Development when he says of Dunwich—

As sand mining on the island is phased out by 2019, we need to explore options for the future viability of the town ...

I agree, but the time for exploring is well past. New commitments were needed out of this budget, like a redevelopment of Dunwich harbour, to stimulate the Dunwich economy and hopefully save the shops and small businesses that are doing it tough. In my adjournment speech yesterday I spoke of not only the economic impact but also the social impact of Labor's laws and about the social disharmony and division they are causing in the community. I tabled some relevant documents.

In terms of education, the investment in the learning centre at Cleveland District State High School is welcomed. Further decisions will need to be taken about the long-term future there. Maybe a second campus will be needed. We need an upgrade and refurbishment of the old and tired hall at Wellington Point State High School. In terms of STEM classrooms at Ormiston State School, I again ask the minister to rule out removing the classrooms that are dedicated to STEM for girls and boys. I appeal to the minister to be consistent and not temporarily put them back but rule out their removal altogether.

In terms of water, we saw the Leslie Harrison Dam work finished but without the gates put back on as per the original plan. That has reduced the capacity and the potential recreational use of the dam. There are concerns about drought readiness should there be another drought and the potential to be

overly reliant on the Straddie aquifer for future water needs. Fishers and boaties continue to want to see the artificial reef program rolled out through Moreton Bay. Wellington Point could use an artificial reef. There is also a need for some protection and upgrade of the Wellington Point ramps.

In conclusion, there are many things I could talk about in terms of needs, but this is a bad budget that does not balance across the state and does not deliver a fair share for the people of the Cleveland district and Redlands coast.