




Speech By
Michael Crandon

MEMBER FOR COOMERA

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

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (8.34 pm): I rise to make a contribution to this debate on the 2019-20 budget, which was presented on Tuesday. I represent the Coomera electorate, which is a huge growth area. Pimpama is growth central in Queensland. It is the fastest growing region in the state and, indeed, the second fastest growing region in Australia. There are so many issues, including infrastructure issues, that I need to talk about but there is precious little time.

I am calling for a police hub for the northern Gold Coast. There is absolutely nothing in the budget for it. My electorate needs an additional 35 police to man that police hub. There is nothing in the budget for those extra police either. Currently, 1,562 people have signed an electronic version of a petition on this matter. I can tell members that when I present the paper petition it will have many thousands of signatures. The *Gold Coast Bulletin* has yet again another story about crime and the lack of police on the northern Gold Coast. The people of that area are absolutely fed up.

Let me make it very clear that the police on the northern Gold Coast are doing an outstanding job, but the issue is the lack of resources. That area is meant to have 68 police officers. The reality is that so many of those officers are off on secondments in other areas. About 10 are on leave at any one time. That means that there are fewer than 50 police on the northern Gold Coast. Additional police are needed desperately.

I turn now to the upgrades of exits 41 and 49. There is nothing in the budget about exits 41 and 49. I am told from an answer to a question without notice from the member for Macalister in which the minister took up three-quarters, if not more than three-quarters, of his answer talking about the northern Gold Coast, specifically the Coomera electorate, that there is a \$96 million commitment. There was no mention of the fact that these numbers were not in the budget. In fact, the answer states that the money is in the budget. It is not there. Yes, it is in QTRIP, but on page 41 of QTRIP under the heading of 'Other work'. That is how important this issue is for this minister. This is a \$96 million investment in the northern Gold Coast.

The minister was dragged kicking and screaming by the people of the northern Gold Coast to finally say, 'Yes, we are going to tip the money in,' but that funding comes in under the heading of 'Other work'. That is how important this funding is to this minister. The funding is under that heading because \$50 million was committed by the federal government. By the way, the Labor candidate in the last election matched that \$50 million commitment. Yet this minister is calling for the federal government—the 'ScoMo' government—to tip in a further \$46 million to match his contribution. It is interesting to note that it would have been okay for a federal Labor government to tip in \$50 million but, because it is a ScoMo Liberal National government, that is not good enough. I say to the minister to go after that funding. I hope he gets it from the federal government, because all I want is exits 41 and 49 fixed.

For under \$20 million we could resolve the problems relating to exit 45. Is there any funding from the minister? Absolutely not. For years now I have been told that there is planning going on for exit 45. That is what I have been told for exits 41, 45, 38 and 49. The planning is there. This minister continues to plan to plan, but he does not plan to build. I wish he would get his act together and do something about fixing these exits. For less than \$20 million we could have a solution.

Upgrades to exit 38 and to Stapylton Jacobs Well Road are desperately needed. There is no mention of building a second M1. It is desperately needed. The first M1 is already at capacity. The second M1 gets \$10 million for planning. Yet again, this government is planning to plan.

I ask the minister to get on board with building the new railway station at Pimpama. In a recent letter he told me that it is fully funded. I ask him to bring it forward because we are the fastest growing region in Queensland. We need that railway station now, not in 2024. There are hundreds of signatures on the electronic petition and Les Hargreaves, the principal petitioner, has close to 1,000 signatures on the paper petition that he has been running. Les is doing a wonderful job and I thank him for the work he is doing.

In relation to commissioning and opening the existing railway bridge at Pimpama, the electronic petition has 907 signatures on it already. I believe there are well over 1,000 signatures on the paper petition. It is a no-brainer. There is a developer prepared to do the work on both the new railway bridge and the Pimpama Railway Station and get the money back from the government in 2022 or 2023—whenever it has the money to pay for it. I do not get it. The minister says it is fully funded but he tells me that it cannot be delivered until 2024. With the amount of pressure that is being put on the minister from the residents on the northern Gold Coast to open that railway bridge in Pimpama I am tipping that he will soon announce it is being opened. By the way, when is the minister going to duplicate the railway bridge on Yawalpah Road? That bridge is the only two-lane part of the whole road that in a couple of months time will be four lanes.

The minister told me several months ago we were going to get 70 car parks at Ormeau Railway Station which was to replace 110-plus car parks that we were using informally. I told him 70 is not good enough, there is room to do a lot more than that. A few weeks ago the minister snuck into the electorate without letting anybody know he was coming. He got the media down there and announced the other 40 car parks.

Mr Power: He did not!

Mr CRANDON: Yes, he did, he snuck in and did it. Next time the minister comes down I invite him to call into the office. I will make him a cup of coffee. I will take him for a drive around the electorate. A couple of years ago I invited the minister for a drive around the electorate and he said no thanks. It has taken \$15 million from the federal government to do the work that has to be done at the Coomera Railway Station. A multistorey car park is being built. Another 400 to 500 cars will be parked at Coomera Railway Station, which is a fantastic result. I thank Bert van Manen, Stuart Robert and the ScoMo federal government for delivering that \$15 million. The Labor candidate kept matching every election announcement because he knew full well there was no more money.

The Ormeau Railway Station and the Coomera Railway Station have two bus services running between them, the 722 and the 721. One of them runs a little bit longer because I put forward an argument for that to happen and finally the minister and the department listened to me. We are the fastest growing region in Queensland and we have two bus services running between the two railway stations that service it. It is absolutely ludicrous. Building a railway station in the north will probably mean not having to deliver those as quickly.

There are already 161 electronic signatures for a desperately needed PCYC in Pimpama. There was nothing in the police budget for a PCYC in Pimpama. There was nothing in the police budget for the police hub or additional police. Coomera is the fastest growing area in Queensland but there was nothing from Gold Coast Health in relation to a hospital. The Gold Coast University Hospital is already under massive pressure and the northern Gold Coast has no hospital. There is nothing on the horizon from this health minister about a new hospital in that area.

I thank the minister for the fire and emergency services station in Pimpama. It is absolutely fantastic. It is acknowledged that we need a fire and emergency services station. It is acknowledged—bring it on now—that we need more schools. In the time I have been in my electorate 10 new schools have been built in 10 years. It will be 11 new schools in 11 years and 12 new schools in 12 years—that is for the fastest growing region in Queensland. We have the fire and emergency services base. We have the new ambulance station that was upgraded from the training station. How many police do we have? We need all of these other services but we do not need the police? It does not make sense.

Jacobs Well is a fast growing region. We have never had a full-time bus service to Jacobs Well to bring people in to the Ormeau Railway Station. Once again, there is nothing in this budget. I ask the minister where is the special school for the northern Gold Coast that was promised prior to the last election? I have spoken to my principals and they tell me we need it. I thank the minister for continuing the Schools Planning Commission that was put in place by us when the member for Surfers Paradise was the minister. I will never forget the member for Surfers Paradise performing the sod turning for the Pimpama State Primary College. He looked around and said, 'Here we are in the middle of nowhere.' There was nothing around us. There were no houses around us while we were there turning the first sod, but the planning commission knew we needed it. Members should see it now. The growth in the area is absolutely mind-blowing. As I said, it is the fastest growing region in Queensland; I have more than 40,000 electors. It is hundreds if not thousands ahead of anyone and certainly thousands and thousands ahead of the average. Some members have something like 31,000 or 32,000 constituents.

I have referred to schools, emergency services and ambulances but where are the police, where are the roads and bridges, where is the hospital? Why is the northern Gold Coast not getting the recognition it needs to the extent that this minister did not even bother putting one word in the budget papers about the desperately needed \$96 million investment in exits 41 and 49?. It only appeared in QTRIP. I would suggest that the minister was dragged kicking and screaming to deliver that because he knew that if he did not do it now it would be too late for him in June 2020. There is nothing for the second M1. It is absolutely diabolical that is happening. As I said, I tip that we will see that railway bridge opened in the not-too-distant future. In conclusion, this budget delivers higher taxes and more debt, fewer jobs and absolutely less infrastructure in the northern Gold Coast seat of Coomera, the fastest growing region in Queensland, the only one that this minister keeps in the slow lane on.