




Speech By
Bruce Saunders

MEMBER FOR MARYBOROUGH

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APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL (NO. 2); APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 2)

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (4.37 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Appropriation Bill. I have been sitting here for the last couple of hours listening to those opposite give us a lecture on the economy. The member for Stretton was 100 per cent right when he said that we have not heard one thing about the Newman government. We have not heard them talk about the Newman government. Let us reflect on that.

We had the member for Chatsworth saying we had to have tough love. Tell that to the people in my electorate who lost their pathology services and lost Yaralla nursing home. Let us talk about tough love. I cannot wait to invite the member for Chatsworth up to Maryborough to stand in the Maryborough town hall and say, 'It was tough love.' People nearly died, but let us have tough love. Apparently tough love is really good for you.

The member for Mermaid Beach and the member for Bonney are wonderful when it comes to trains. They do not want jobs in Maryborough. They are complaining about the trains. Let us talk about trains. I know a lot about trains. We have the experts on that side of the House. That side of the House left us with the mess that the member for Miller and this government are cleaning up. They left us with trains that were not ready to run on the tracks. Why is that? They took the secateurs to the budget. They cut spending on trains. They gave us second-rate trains. That is what they think of Queenslanders.

They talk about how fiscally responsibly they are. Let us look at what happened in the great electorate of Maryborough. We had a hospital where we could only get a bandaid, if that were even possible. It is only thanks to the former health minister and the current health minister that this month we opened the brand-new, \$14 million accident and emergency unit at Maryborough Hospital. Let us tick that off—tick.

The roadworks happening in the Maryborough electorate are unbelievable. I have people coming up to me to say that they have never seen so much roadwork—tick for the minister, the member for Miller.

Let us have a look at funding for schools, from the former education minister to the current education minister. When it comes to Maryborough High and all of my primary schools—tick, tick, tick. We could stand here all day and all night and tick things off. Let us have a look at the Newman era. Let me get the crosses ready. When it comes to the nursing home—brrrt, cross, gone! When it comes to the A&E—brrrt, gone! When it comes to jobs—brrrt, gone! When it comes to businesses in the CBD—brrrrrr! That was a big one.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): Member for Maryborough, I do not know now Hansard is going to report that. Can you keep them in mind when you are making those noises?

Mr SAUNDERS: I will take that advice, Mr Deputy Speaker. If this were *Wheel of Fortune*, we know who would win. It would be our side. Which side would you want to be on? Would you want to be on the Newman side? What did we see yesterday and today? The former premier came out and said,

'It's not quite right. We're going to have some cuts.' I have public servants and other people in my electorate who are now panicking because they know what happened to them last time. They know how devastating the Newman era was. It was unbelievable.

Mr Minnikin: Tough love.

Mr SAUNDERS: Tough love! Member for Chatsworth, I am going to put that on a billboard next week. It will say, 'The member for Chatsworth says, "Queenslanders need tough love".' The member for Chatsworth should tell that to the people who come and see me. How good are the services in Maryborough city now? How good is Skilling Queenslanders for Work, the A&E at the hospital and the roads? I am going to give a special invitation to the member for Chatsworth tonight. He can come and speak to all of the hardworking AMWU workers at Downer—252 of them—and say, 'Fellas and ladies, you had to have a bit of tough love. This plant was going to close, but that is tough love. It is all right. You can handle it. You're big enough.' He can come with me and talk to the workers there. The Downer plant was on its knees and would have closed if not for the Palaszczuk Labor government. It is the economic heartbeat of Maryborough city. It would not have been kept open if Newman had got another three years, if that mob over there had got back in—those great economic managers.

The member for Gregory was talking about the budget blowout and that we have to cut. I was just reading what he wanted to spend money on. We would have to sell Parliament House to cover what he wanted. This place would have been gone. We would have been renting it back from someone. They are saying on the one hand, 'We are cutting. You have to do this and you have to do that,' but the list of the services that they want is long. How do we fund them? That is the question. They are talking about all of the services that they want. There is only one way they can fund them—cut, sack and sell. The only way that this mob—the rabble that they call the opposition—can fund their promises and fund the services that they want in Queensland is to cut, sack and sell. It is very interesting.

Mr Harper: Tough love!

Mr SAUNDERS: I take that interjection from the member for Thuringowa. I am going to love this. I am going to dine out on it all the time—tough love for Queenslanders. When it comes to people dying, road accidents and everything else that happens—tough love!

They do not care about Queenslanders. All they are worried about is numbers. They get the old abacus out. I can see them now. The funny thing is that when they were in power it went the other way on the abacus—the bill went up, yet they cut services. They caused mayhem in the community. They caused economic grief. What happened? The deficit went up but everything else went down. They are talking about being economic managers. I cannot work it out. They are throwing all the balls in the air and hoping they can catch one. They are working at a circus somewhere.

The services that have been restored in regional Queensland by this government are phenomenal—absolutely phenomenal. The local LNP members go on about the state government dragging the chain on section D of the Cooroy to Curra upgrade. They want section D. In the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) there is money for section D, yet they do not want it. What do we do? We give them the money to get section D started, along with the federal government. Now they are saying they do not want it, but then they will be out there saying, 'That Labor government is terrible. Only the LNP will get things going.' I commend these bills to the House.