




Speech By
Dale Last

MEMBER FOR BURDEKIN

Record of Proceedings, 10 September 2020

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (11.29 am), continuing: Before coronavirus Queensland had the highest unemployment rate, the largest government debt, the lowest business confidence and highest bankruptcies in the nation because this Labor government had no economic plan. They still have no economic plan. No budget means no plan going forward. Instead of a 1,000-page budget all we have seen delivered this week is a 41-page glossy brochure. That comes under the umbrella of a record 234,000 Queenslanders who are out of work because this government has not managed the Queensland economy. Labor's \$18 billion single-year debt blowout will lead to another 72,000 Queenslanders losing their jobs this year. That should be ringing alarm bells the length and breadth of Queensland.

The financial statements provided by the Treasurer on Monday were not just a continuation of Labor's business as usual approach that had given Queensland the nation's highest unemployment, most bankruptcies and lowest business confidence prior to the coronavirus, it was an attempt to deceive Queenslanders ahead of the state election. This Appropriation Bill is seeking another \$1.114 billion to cover budget blowouts from across a number of government departments. Undoubtedly, this Palaszczuk Labor government will try to claim that this latest budget blowout was due to the health crisis, but the fact is that the Treasurer appropriated \$3.181 billion in additional funds in April this year through the Appropriation (COVID-19) Bill 2020. Notably, the Department of Health is not one of the 13 department budget blowouts, nor is the Department of Transport and Main Roads. Over the life of this Palaszczuk government more than \$5 billion has had to be appropriated to cover unforeseen expenditure due to Labor's consistent fiscal management failures.

The LNP is going into the upcoming election on the back of a solid plan for this state, a plan to boost business confidence to attract more investment, to create more jobs, to improve government efficiency and to end Labor's wasteful spending. This is a lazy government. This is a government that reduces a once-proud state's budgetary process to a document the size of a supermarket catalogue. What is worse is that due to their own laziness Queensland's key industries are being let down and Queensland's workers are being let down.

There is a clear choice at the upcoming election between this incompetent Labor government and an LNP government that has a clear vision, a commitment to generate the jobs and the economic stimulus this state needs. I cannot wait until 31 October this year when we can start that job of getting this state back on its feet.