




Speech By
David Crisafulli

MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

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APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (5.35 pm): I will keep my contribution as short and sharp as possible because there is a line-up of people waiting to speak on an Appropriation Bill that has not had the due process and scrutiny it deserves and will be guillotined very shortly. I find that an offence to democracy. This should have been subject to a lengthy process. It could have been done this week. We could have at least had a look at it and trawled through some of the numbers. The member for Clayfield raised some of the numbers yesterday—borrowings as a percentage of revenue, over 100 per cent; borrowings as a percentage of state product, over 150 per cent. We should have had the opportunity to scrutinise the expenditure yet we have not.

There are now five billion reasons why Queensland should get rid of this government, because it is now five billion times they have come through an appropriation process seeking more money. That was long before we had ever heard of coronavirus. We will see COVID blamed time and time again but, before COVID, unemployment was the worst in the nation, government debt was the highest in the nation, business confidence was the lowest in the nation and bankruptcy numbers were the highest in the nation. With no budget, a quarter of a million Queenslanders who are unemployed at the moment have every reason to ask, 'Where is the plan?'

Before I conclude, I want to make a couple of points. The first is about the shameful advertising campaign we have seen. I asked the Premier today how much has been spent to date and how much will be spent, but we have not received an answer. I asked whether this will continue once we go into caretaker mode in October, and there was a very small answer of, 'Well, I will comply with provisions.' It should not be happening at the moment. The CCIQ, the CFMMEU and everybody knows this is not a plan; it is a cobbled together document that is the laughing stock of a quarter of a million Queenslanders who want some hope and the thousands of business owners who can see everything they have worked for going down the drain but who want some hope. That hope is coming in the form of an LNP government on 31 October.

Let me make three predictions if, heaven help us, the Labor Party is re-elected: first, Cross River Rail will not be delivered for \$5½ billion and the overrun will be many times that; second, the debt level will not stop at \$102 billion but will go manifestly higher than that; and, third, there will be new taxes. They are the three predictions I will be held accountable for if, heaven forbid, those opposite win the election.

Let me conclude by saying that I want to pass a quick best wishes to my opposite number today who announced her retirement. Kate Jones and I have locked horns many times, particularly on things like ecotourism and market share, but no-one will doubt her work ethic, no-one will doubt her value as a retail politician and no-one will begrudge her some family time after her service to the community for many, many years.