



Speech By  
**Jarrod Bleijie**


**MEMBER FOR KAWANA**

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Record of Proceedings, 3 December 2020

**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) (2020-2021) BILL**

**APPROPRIATION (2020-2021) BILL**

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (2.30 pm): It is a pleasure for me to follow the honourable member for McConnel in any debate. At this juncture in this day, it is time for that minister and the Labor government to hear some home truths in terms of 'Labornomics' in the state of Queensland and also to look at the history of broken promises by successive Labor governments. The deliberate debt broken promise in this budget is the biggest breach of faith since 2009, when the Bligh Labor government promised not to sell assets before the poll but then hocked them in a fire sale immediately after. The Bligh Labor government permanently increased the cost of fuel in Queensland by 9.1 cents per litre. They sent Queensland broke in a boom. They lost the AAA credit rating. We know that the heart of the Bligh government beats in the Palaszczuk Labor government.

**Mr BAILEY:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. This is the 2020 budget, not the 2010 budget. I bring the member to—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Order, members! I will hear the point of order in silence.

**Mr BAILEY:** He is drawing a long bow to go back more than 10 years.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I will take some advice. There is no point of order. It is a very wideranging debate—

**Mr Millar** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Gregory, you are warned. I am trying to rule on a point of order and you are interjecting across the chamber. It is a wideranging debate. Members are very free to compare budgets from one budget cycle to another.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** We all know that the heart of the Bligh government continues to beat inside the Palaszczuk Labor government, because so many Bligh figures are in the cabinet of the Palaszczuk government. The Premier, the Treasurer, Minister Hinchliffe, Minister Grace and Minister Ryan were all in the Bligh cabinet. Of course, many served the Bligh government behind the scenes as trusted advisers and departmental leaders. The Deputy Premier was then treasurer Andrew Fraser's key adviser, Minister Linard served in the then premier's office and Minister Farmer was a departmental director. We see so many of the same faces with the same old economic mismanagement and deception when the chips are down.

If you want to see an example of hubris and arrogance, you only need look at the Treasurer of Queensland. That is epitomised in him—in his character and that weird, fake smile he has on TV every day that he gets up. He is obviously auditioning for the leadership of the Labor Party and trying to come across as not the man we all know he is, so he has this weird, fake smile whenever he appears on TV.

Let us not forget that the Treasurer who delivered this budget was subject to an Ethics Committee investigation. It should be concerning to members of this House that the Treasurer, who was once responsible for SPER, is again responsible for SPER, because there was an Ethics Committee investigation into the Treasurer. That investigation concluded—

On the information before the committee, the committee finds that the minister's answer to question on notice 2254 without additional explanation was misleading.

That is because—

**Mr BAILEY:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I am aware that this is a wideranging debate, but Ethics Committee deliberations hardly seem relevant to the current state budget that is before the House, and I ask the member to come back and be relevant to the topic.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** There is no point of order.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I recall this because I was the one who referred the Treasurer, the then attorney-general, to the Ethics Committee. He put in a counterclaim and the Ethics Committee concluded that there was only one who was possibly misleading and that was the then attorney-general, Minister Dick, and not me. I remember it well.

This is the man who in his time as Treasurer has been overwhelmed by fumbles and bumbles. Who could forget the train wreck interview on *Today* with Karl Stefanovic in which he did not know the debt numbers? He essentially said to Karl Stefanovic, 'Well, I don't know. Debt is a tool. I don't know what the answer is.' Well, we know that he did.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): The members for Miller and Mudgeeraba will stop arguing across the chamber.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** At the time I said that it was just incompetence that he did not know the debt level, but it turns out that he would have known the debt level. He had the intention of bringing down this budget with \$28 billion more in debt than he was telling the people of Queensland—and he knew it at the time, and that is why he did not tell Karl Stefanovic the truth when he was on the television.

Then the Treasurer went on ABC Radio and denied that the government was going to hand down a budget under Jackie Trad in April of this year. He said that that was never the case. When corrected by the ABC, he then had to apologise again. He has form with respect to apologising and misleading. He said—

I made a mistake on radio. I made a mistake, and I am big enough to acknowledge when I make a mistake.

Then he said—

I have spent my whole life acknowledging when I make errors and apologising to people.

He has spent a lot of time doing that, I have to say—a lot of time apologising, not knowing the debt level. It is concerning that he has delivered his first budget and debt is out of control. We have a debt bomb in Queensland.

From time to time he has been caught short on the facts. He is steering Queensland through the biggest economic crisis in almost a century, without a budget or an economic plan. He wandered around Queensland during the election with a pretend budget pinned to his chest for a few weeks, grinning like a Cheshire cat until someone in Peel Street obviously intervened. You would describe the Treasurer as full of self-confidence, lacking in detail and absolutely underwhelming in delivery.

Those opposite gave a mistruth to the people of Queensland at the election. The Labor government went to the people of Queensland at the last election and said, 'We are going to borrow \$4 billion.' They made out that the \$4 billion was on top of the \$102 billion debt. That would get them to \$106 billion. They never mentioned \$28 billion in additional debt. This debt is not going on job-creating infrastructure.

**Mr Bailey** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** The minister wants to compare New South Wales. The Treasurer cherrypicks what to compare with New South Wales. The other afternoon when he was interviewed on 4BC, on Scott Emerson's program, he was cherrypicking again in relation to New South Wales. When he was questioned on the expenditure of the New South Wales government in terms of infrastructure, he did not know the figure. He seems to forget. He seems to cherrypick figures because he does not want Queenslanders to know the truth.

The truth is that New South Wales are spending \$107 billion on job-creating infrastructure. They are not going into more debt to keep the lights on. They are not going into more debt to put pencils and pens on the desks of public servants. They are going into more debt in New South Wales to create jobs.

At the end of it their unemployment rate will be lower than Queensland's. The New South Wales government also say that at the end of their forward estimates they are actually looking at a plan to reduce their debt and reduce their borrowings.

The other day the Queensland Treasurer said that we just have to wait to see what happens with the economy. It is scary that the Treasurer of the state is just waiting to see what happens with the economy. There is no plan, no forward planning, just a wait-and-see approach. We know what is going to happen because it is in their budget figures. Unemployment will still be one of the highest in the country. Debt will be one of the highest in the country. There will be no plan to pay down the debt. There will be no plan to create jobs.

On the Scott Emerson show the other day the Treasurer was talking about—

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I can only quote the Treasurer's own words because he was on the program. He talked about migration. He said, 'All these people are going to be migrating to Queensland.' He then blamed those people for the high unemployment rate in Queensland. Would we not want to be a state where we encourage people to move here and say that there is a job here when they get here and not blame the migrating New South Welshmen or Victorians for the high unemployment rate?

The only government that can be blamed for the high unemployment rate is that of the Labor Party. The Labor Party is responsible for the economic mismanagement. They are responsible for the biggest con job in not advising the Queensland public about the debt level going into the election, and they know it. Since April this year the LNP was questioning why the Labor government was not handing down a budget. We now know why they did not want to hand down a budget before the election.

They did not want people to know the truth and they are ashamed of it. They are ashamed of the infrastructure cuts in the portfolio of the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. They are ashamed of the cuts in the Health portfolio. They are ashamed and that is why they hid the budget. They cannot tell me that they can hand down a budget within 30 days of an election but they could not hand down one before the election. That is absolute rubbish. That is what happens when we have a Treasurer who is arrogant, out of touch and incompetent. He tries to fool people with his fake smile that we see on the TV every night. Queenslanders absolutely see through it.

We saw a classic black-and-white photo of JFK and his brother RFK in the Oval Office and one of the Treasurer sitting in the Bernays Room upstairs. He retweeted a classic black-and-white photo pretending he is like JFK in the Oval Office. As rightly pointed out during the week, people would see JFK and RFK—he was the Attorney-General—looking out the window in the Oval Office and then Treasurer Dick looking out the window and say, 'Cameron who? Who is this?' Why on earth would he use a photograph of such significance when he is the Treasurer of Queensland? It is unbelievable. The arrogance of this man to be able to do that!

My electorate of Kawana completely misses out again other than in terms of the stadium which I campaigned for and promised. Premier Palaszczuk had her national cabinet meeting cancelled so the campaign office said, 'Goodness, we have a morning free, what do we do?' They rushed up to the Sunshine Coast and they announced \$20 million for the stadium which the LNP had announced a month earlier. I am very glad to see the member for Kawana delivering on his commitments in delivering the stadium upgrade.

We have the delivery of additional classrooms that I have been campaigning for for Buddina State School. It is great to see that I have succeeded in achieving those objectives. I have been working with the P&C of Meridan State College to get their security fence. It is great to see that in the budget. The Sunshine Coast Public University Hospital is meant to open in 2021 with over 700 beds and it is still sitting at 450-bed capacity. There was nothing in the budget for increasing bed capacity at the Sunshine Coast University Hospital from 400 to over 700 beds. Where is that?

The Minister for Transport talked about the fact that he is giving money to the Sunshine Coast Council for light rail. There is huge concern on the Sunshine Coast with the mass transit plan that Mayor Jamieson and the councillors have. To get a tram from Mooloolaba to Caloundra will take 25 to 30 minutes when people can do it in a car in 15 to 20 minutes at the moment. There are huge concerns about the money that will be spent on light rail going from the heart of—

**Mr BAILEY:** I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. I claim to be misrepresented by the honourable member. He has quoted me as saying a certain set of words about there being light rail on the Sunshine Coast. There is a mass transit study to look at modes of public transport on the Sunshine Coast. He has misrepresented my comments and I ask him to withdraw them.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Minister, you need to take personal offence for them to be withdrawn.

**Mr BAILEY:** I take personal offence at those comments and I ask that they be withdrawn.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I withdraw. Here it is. Contained in the budget is \$7 million for the business case for mass transit and the mass transit is light rail. That is what it is.

**Mr Bailey:** That is not true.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Really? Look at Mayor Jamieson's press conferences where he is talking about mass transit and light rail. I know why the minister is interjecting. He knows there is huge concern on the Sunshine Coast about the mass transit plan and the destruction of people's livelihoods and small businesses along Nicklin Way. I will do what I can to ensure the community knows about it, is aware of it and is properly consulted. Mayor Jamieson voted against community consultation on the mass transit plan. We will make sure the community are fully involved in that process.

The Minister for Transport was supposed to hand down the business case for the Mooloolah River interchange. Where is the business case for the Mooloolah River interchange? My understanding is that the money is now for next year. The business case for the Mooloolah River interchange was meant to be finished this year. There is no fix for that.

Where is the Caloundra Road-Nicklin Way roundabout upgrades? The longest car park on the Sunshine Coast is Caloundra Road. There is no fix. The minister put some traffic lights in. In his answer to my question on notice the minister even admitted that with the traffic lights he put in some of the time frames have blown out. Putting the lights there was meant to bust congestion. It has done the opposite.

This budget is a complete breach of faith for the people of Queensland. They misled Queenslanders. We now have a huge \$130 million debt bomb in the state. We have the highest unemployment rate. We have the most incompetent Treasurer. The only way to turn it around is to have an LNP government in four years time.

*(Time expired)*