




Speech By
Linus Power

MEMBER FOR LOGAN

Record of Proceedings, 18 February 2020

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

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (12.46 pm): ‘Rubbish’ certainly is a word to use about that speech by the shadow Treasurer and it was the last word he used. It was a speech that was filled with insults and fact-free assertions. It had little to do with an insight into the economy and certainly very little to reveal about what the opposition would do with the economy. I would ask the shadow Treasurer to take the time to read the reports he is supposed to be commenting on. This is not a long report but he could have got as far as page 5 because that actually shows what this Appropriation Bill (No. 2) has investments in. I notice that the transport minister is on the speaking list and I know he will talk a lot about the Pacific Highway and Bruce Highway investments. They are ones that the shadow Treasurer could have spoken to because this is what we should be talking about with the Appropriation Bill (No. 2).

I want to remind the House that the committee dealt with this bill and heard from the department about this process. It is a standard process that we go through every year where we bring forward investments that often have been planned for a long time. They are cases where the federal government have made obligations to bring them into a certain financial year and do not. These are standard things. They are so standard that they are all revealed on page 5 of this document, but obviously page 5 was a little too long for some opposition members to get through.

The shadow Treasurer has not read it so I will summarise it. If he had read it, he would have seen that almost 90 per cent of the supplementary appropriations are for three departments. The Department of Transport and Main Roads had the Gateway Upgrade North project—which is obviously something the opposition is saying it would cut—and the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing. They are obviously things that are not important to the opposition. There is also the Bruce Highway upgrade. I think the transport minister will be speaking in a lot more detail about some of these things that the opposition obviously do not value and would want to cut.

The Department of Education’s funding was about additional funding for new schools and the acceleration of school infrastructure funding. These are things that are valued by everybody on this side of the House—and I think by some over there as well—but they are things that the shadow Treasurer says are terrible and should not be accelerated or given any additional funding. The last amount was funding for additional grants for councils, and this is something that obviously the shadow Treasurer does not value. The grants were due in 2019-20 but were paid before the federal election—and presumably this is what they were sitting on; they have been sat on by Treasury—and they were passed on.

Of course, page 5 of the bill is too difficult for the opposition to speak to in terms of the details of what 90 per cent of the additional revenues are about. Since these things are too complex for the opposition, I will make them simpler for the entire House. I really hope that the member for McConnell and the transport minister go into a lot more detail about the valuable spending that has gone on.

In general, there is investment in some of the core things that the state does. This is about additional investment, accelerated investment and investment in Queenslanders. That is in stark contrast with the opposition, and we know what they are about. They are about cuts, sackings and

sell-offs. When the opposition Treasury spokesperson was asked what were their plans for cuts, sackings and sell-offs, he said, 'You'd be crazy to put forward a plan.' This is what they want to hide from the people of Queensland. We have already seen that they do not value the additional spending on the Bruce Highway, the Pacific Highway or the gateway upgrades that were brought forward. That is additional and accelerated investment. We have already seen that they do not value the education funding for new schools like the Yarrabilba State High School. They do not value those things. They do not value bringing forward accelerated, additional investment in air conditioning our schools; they want to delay that until 2028. That is their plan: delays in those things. They are all about cuts, sackings and sell-offs.

The member for Thuringowa interjected—and it was on the record. He said, 'How many are you going to sack?' The opposition Treasury spokesperson said, 'I'll tell you that later.' Apparently we have to be told later—

Mr MANDER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stevens): Member for Logan, there is a point of order from the member for Everton.

Mr MANDER: That is totally taken out of context. I take personal offence to those comments and I ask that they be withdrawn.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Logan, withdraw please.

Mr POWER: I withdraw in accordance with the standing orders. It was not taken out of context. We know that they are all about cuts, sackings and sell-offs and that they refuse to put forward a plan. They are against additional, accelerated investment.

Mr Hart: What did we sell? Name one thing.

Mr POWER: You are against additional, accelerated investment in our schools.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Logan, you will address your comments through the chair and not use 'you're' across the chamber.

Mr POWER: I want to relate this point to my local area. When it comes to investment in roads in the Logan area the biggest one is the Mount Lindesay Highway, although Waterford Tamborine Road is also important. When it came to the Mount Lindesay Highway we knew there was forward spending in the 2011 budget; there was \$160 million in the out years. There was zero investment by the LNP north of Jimboomba and \$140 million in cuts for the Mount Lindesay Highway. This is a government that sacks, cuts and wants to do sell-offs but will not invest in the Mount Lindesay Highway.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr POWER: This was a government—the Newman government—that cut, sacked and sold. That is right, the Newman government sold off \$10 billion worth of—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members on my left.

Mr POWER: During their term of government, they had \$10 billion in sell-offs. We should never forget that. They also had Strong Choices under which they were going to sell more.

Mr Saunders interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Maryborough, you are on a warning. The next time you will be out.

Mr POWER: We saw massive cuts for the Mount Lindesay Highway. We know the Logan electorate—

Mr HART: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member has just deliberately misled the House, and I will be writing to you on the subject.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is not a point of order.

Mr POWER: Good luck with that! We know that they actually cut funding to the Mount Lindesay Highway. Logan is a growing area with many young families moving into it. We know they need investment in schools. My question to them would be: in their budgets how many new classrooms did they build in the Logan area? The answer is none. We have built over 32, including two new schools including the fantastic state-of-the-art Yarrabilba State High School.

Honourable members can see that the investment of this additional funding was all about additional, accelerated investment. It is about investment in our schools and our roads. These are the very things that the LNP would cut. I want to tell this House and also the people of Logan that these cuts would hurt growing areas the most. That is why I am proud to back a Treasurer who is prepared to make these types of investments in roads and in education, because that is what the growing area of Logan needs. That is why I back these additional appropriations, and I actually understand them.