




Speech By
Michael Crandon

MEMBER FOR COOMERA

Record of Proceedings, 4 December 2020

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) (2020-2021) BILL

APPROPRIATION (2020-2021) BILL

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (5.27 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the appropriation bills 2020-21. As the Leader of the Opposition said, this budget is paying for today, not building for tomorrow—and more on that in a moment. I know all honourable members see me as a fine, good-looking, middle-aged Aussie bloke passionately representing his community in this place, but I beg to differ. I was actually born in England. Like the member for Broadwater's grandad, my parents emigrated, too, in 1960 with me as a six-year-old, my older brother, my older sister and my younger sister. Mum and dad have since passed, but we feel so fortunate that they made the decision to emigrate to Australia. We live in the best country on the planet with opportunities abounding.

It is appropriate to draw an analogy between what they reached for and what the people of the northern Gold Coast hope for. Sadly, what we see being delivered on the northern Gold Coast is nothing like what we need for the fastest-growing region in Queensland with 45,938 voters, more than 26 per cent over quota and an average age of 30. In terms of the constituents of Coomera, 27½ per cent are under 15 years of age and, indeed, there is something like 42 per cent who are under 25 years of age, so it is a very young electorate. It reminded me of my mum and my dad bringing us kids out here and what we aspired to, what my parents aspired to and what they are hoping for as well.

With this budget, they are not building now for tomorrow. On the northern Gold Coast in particular, the government is just spending to pay the bills—almost \$28 billion, as we have discussed. What about road projects? An article in yesterday's paper states—

Treasurer Cameron Dick says there are no plans to fast-track major road transport projects across the Gold Coast to deal with the city's rapidly growing population ... Mr Dick said the existing construction schedules were more than adequate to deal with the city's growth.

Remember, he said that existing construction schedules were more than adequate. Let's look at some of what is not being delivered anytime soon by this government for the northern Gold Coast or indeed the Gold Coast. Let us start with the Coomera Connector, the second M1 as it is popularly known, that when constructed will take 60,000 vehicles off the current M1. In 2021 we will spend a further \$12,887,000 on a \$1.53 billion project. Some \$755 million of that was committed by both the federal government and the state government for stage 1. Some \$735 million of the \$1.53 billion goes beyond the forward estimates. We are looking at taking 60,000 vehicles off the M1 sometime after 2024—and probably after 2028 at the rate that those opposite are taking us forward.

We have had a couple of wins. First of all, a police station was fast-tracked and it is being delivered in 2021. That came after a big push from the people of the Coomera electorate calling for an additional police station. The never-to-be-built police station is now being built but, sadly, although we committed 80 police for Coomera and Pimpama at the election, there is no commitment from the government other than 150 police for the whole region, incorporating 23 police stations, over five years. That is 30 police officers a year on average over a five-year period for 23 police stations in that area.

I now refer to the exits. Upgrading and duplication of exit 41 will occur sometime in 2022 if we are lucky. I have been trying to get that fast-tracked.

Mrs McMahon: We've started. The barricades are there.

Mr CRANDON: 'The barricades are there.' I take that interjection. That is what they called it. The day before the election period started, they put up some barricades and fences and said, 'We have started. We have turned the first sod.' In the 2020-21 period exit 41 is in QTRIP. In 2021 we are spending \$10 million of an \$83 million spend. If we are fortunate enough and do not have wet weather et cetera, we will get it sometime in 2022.

What about the upgrade of exit 49? If we are lucky, it will be delivered in 2024. Let us put this in perspective. The funding has been available since the budget in 2019. All of the money for exits 41 and 49 was made available in 2019. Exit 49 is being delivered five years later. Exit 54 took 18 months to build from start to finish, and we are taking five years from when the funding was available to deliver exit 49. The fastest growing region in Queensland, Pimpama, relies on exit 49 every day. It is a deadly exit off the M1 and the government is pushing the project out five years.

What about the upgrade at exit 38? The business case was completed in 2018. How much is the funding? Zero—not a dollar, not a cracker, not a penny in this budget for exit 38. The economic benefits of exit 38 upgrades are massive. It is a major arterial road going into the Yatala enterprise area. An enormous number of trucks traverse that road, but there is not one dollar of the \$87 million in this budget.

Additional exit 45 south was a commitment that we made, \$25 million. What have those opposite put in? \$10 million. They have somehow convinced the federal government to give them another \$10 million to build a slip lane. When will it be built? Well, the planning is planned for 2020-21 but there is no indication beyond that of when we might expect to see completion of exit 45.

The hospital and health precinct was the absolute ripper. Some eight weeks out from the election we committed \$4 million to master-plan a state-of-the-art hospital and health precinct in the northern Gold Coast. On 19 October, the day polling opened, there was a big headline in the paper: '\$160m: First look at Gold Coast's new hospital'. The \$160 million had nothing to do with the Coomera hospital; \$3 million of it did, to plan it. The other \$157 million was \$111 million for the Gold Coast University Hospital, \$5.7 million for Robina and \$40 million for a satellite hospital further down the coast. But they sold it to their booth workers as though, 'We're going to build a hospital at Coomera.' No, they are not. They are spending \$3 million to plan it. I have been told on good authority from within the Gold Coast University Hospital and health precinct hierarchy that we will not see anything happening there for a minimum of six years.

What about the new railway station at Pimpama? I remember clearly a big headline announcing the Pimpama railway station. When was that announced? It was not for this election. That was announced by those opposite before the 2017 election. They went down there, had a look around and said, 'Hey, look at us, we're going to build a new station.' That was in 2017. Is it in the forward estimates in the 2020 budget? No, there is nothing in there. If we are lucky we might get it in 2024, but that is only if we are so very lucky. We look forward to the minister's response to the petition on that.

What about a police citizens youth club at Pimpama? There is not a cracker from those opposite. I have written to the minister; in fact, we ran petitions. The minister wrote back and said, 'No, we're not building a police citizens youth club.' Do members remember the figures I provided a little earlier?

A government member: No.

Mr CRANDON: Those aged under 15 years represent 27.5 per cent of our population. Members opposite see this as funny. We have the fastest growing region in Queensland, we have the youngest population in Queensland and we have police issues all throughout the electorate but those opposite see it as funny. It is not funny, folks. Every day people have to put up with the congestion on exit 49, with crime et cetera. The \$6½ million police citizens youth club—

Mrs D'ATH: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member is not putting his comments through the chair and is arguing across the chamber. I ask that he be reminded to put his comments through the chair.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): Member, please direct all comments through the chair.

Mr CRANDON: I will put my comments through the chair, absolutely. So for \$6.5 million they say, 'No, we're not going to build that. We're not going to do anything for the people of the northern Gold Coast.' There is not a cracker to help with youth crime on the northern Gold Coast. Some \$6½ million is all we have asked for and the answer was simply, 'No, not happening.' I will not give up on that.

Government members interjected.

Mr CRANDON: Here they go again. They think it is funny. Ours is the fastest growing region and it has the highest number of youth of any electorate in Queensland. Some 18½ thousand children go to school in the Coomera electorate every day. Those opposite think it is funny that we do not have a police citizens youth club.

Government members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please cease all interjections across the chamber.

Mr CRANDON: As for buses, it is interesting to note that the new public transport ticketing system is a great idea and a great concept. It would be great if you could use it! We do not have the public transport on the northern Gold Coast sufficient to use this ticketing system. Getting people to the train stations—

Mr WATTS: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. There are interjections behind me that keep saying 'you'.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): Members, I ask that you cease all interjections across the chamber. I am having trouble hearing the member.

Mr CRANDON: As far as bus services are concerned, we just do not have anything like the number of bus services that we need for the area. We get nowhere. We are running petitions and I look forward to the responses to those petitions. Once again, we need bus services out to Jacobs Well and bus services from Beenleigh to Ormeau and Ormeau to Coomera. We desperately need them, but there is nothing forthcoming in the budget that I can find to do anything in that regard.

There has been no consideration for developing a long-term strategy for the canelands, an area that is desperately in need of a long-term strategy. There has been no consideration from those opposite in relation to the canelands and where it will eventually go when the cane industry ceases, and it will cease some time probably in the next decade. There is no planning from those opposite in that regard.

The electorate finally got our special school. I had been talking to the minister since before the 2017 election about a special school. That has finally been confirmed and is being delivered in 2022. I thank the minister. Education Queensland is the one that is at the forefront. Education Queensland does a wonderful job in relation to delivering for the fastest growing region in Queensland. When I was first elected there were nine schools. There are now 21 schools. No. 22 is being delivered next year and No. 23 the following year. That is the kind of growth that I am talking about. There is nothing like that anywhere else in Queensland, yet we are left stuck in the slow lane with regard to our development, with regard to developing our exits, with regard to the second M1 and so forth.

The extended TAFE campus for the marine precinct has finally been announced. When I ran the petition last year in 2019 the minister said, 'No, we're not giving you an expanded marine-centric TAFE campus for the marine precinct.' Just before the election was announced the minister snuck into the electorate to announce a marine-centric TAFE campus for the northern Gold Coast. The government saw what we needed. Thank you, Minister. The feds had to get on board. I got a few quotes in the story as well. They tried to do it in secret as an exclusive to the *Gold Coast Bulletin*. I ended up having a few quotes in that story as well.

There is one thing that the member for Logan and I might be able to agree on, and that is weather proofing Albert Hall at the Cedar Creek State School. Around about half the students are from Logan and half of them from my electorate. That will cost \$150,000. Hopefully I will get the member for Logan on board to assist me in that regard.

(Time expired)