



Speech By  
**Michael Hart**


**MEMBER FOR BURLEIGH**

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Record of Proceedings, 3 December 2020

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

**APPROPRIATION (2020-2021) BILL**

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (4.38 pm): That was 15 minutes of my life that I will never get back! The Labor Party put the people of Queensland before their mates! Seriously? Do we need to rattle off a list of Labor mates who have been helped out by the Queensland Labor Party? Jim Soorley, for instance, is in a lot of trouble at the moment. He is the chairman of CS Energy. That is helping out Labor mates, I would say.

There is a long list of Labor mates who have been helped out by this government. That is the problem with Labor governments: if they do not like history they reinvent it or change it. We just heard a train wreck of a speech from the member for Maryborough. Who seriously thinks that the Labor Party can build trains? Let's wait and see what happens. Those of us who have been here more than five minutes remember what happened with the trains. The Bligh government could not find anybody in Australia who wanted to build the trains so they basically left the incoming government with one company. The LNP signed the contract that was left behind by the Bligh government, but that does not—

**Mrs Frecklington:** The now Premier was the transport minister at the time.

**Mr HART:** I will take that interjection from the member for Nanango. The now Premier was the transport minister at the time. The Labor Party does not like that story. They do not like the fact that it was actually their fault that we ended up with trains coming from India that did not quite work so they try and reinvent history. That is exactly what they have done with this budget. This budget is all smoke and mirrors. In fact, there is a lot of smoke because I think there is a fair bit of fire there as well.

The health minister was caught out a little bit in question time this morning. She had to admit that a satellite hospital was in the wrong location in the budget papers. That would indicate pretty clearly to me that the budget papers were actually written back in March or April sometime, and since then for the purpose of the election the Labor government has been trying to hide the fact from the people of Queensland that this state is going down the gurgler. We heard from the former treasurer of this state, the member for South Brisbane, that she was going to hold a budget in April. Then all of a sudden it was shifted back further and further.

**A government member:** I think we were having a COVID lockdown then.

**Mr HART:** COVID came up and that was an ideal excuse for the Labor Party to shift—

**Government members:** Ha ha!

**Mr HART:** No, it is an ideal excuse. Members opposite can stand here and tell us that they won this election fair and square on their policies, but it was purely about COVID. Madam Deputy Speaker, I can tell you that in Burleigh during the election the only thing the Labor Party put forward was, 'We saved you from COVID.' That was the only comment they had to make. Unfortunately, the people of Queensland fell for that.

How could this government be surprised that revenue dropped during a pandemic? How could they be surprised that GST took a hit when businesses were closed? There was no turnover. Gold Coast businesses have been smashed. In fact, businesses on the Gold Coast are telling me that one in three businesses will not survive next year. You would think that if you are going to put out a budget—this is what the LNP would have done—you would put out a stimulus package to keep businesses going. Where is the stimulus package this government has come up with? I cannot see it. Businesses on the Gold Coast cannot see it because it does not exist.

They have again tried to hoodwink the people of Queensland by telling us that we are going only to be \$102 billion or \$106 billion in debt. It now appears that we will be \$130 billion in debt. It should not be a surprise to the people of Queensland that the Labor Party does not tell them the truth, it hides the facts from them, and it purely was about the election on 31 October. That is what it was all about. If we are going to end up with \$130 billion worth of debt and we are going to spend over \$28 billion of that on something, wouldn't we be increasing the net worth of Queensland? After all, if this was your house and you went out and you borrowed a lot of money then you would put in a kitchen, garage or swimming pool to increase the value of your property. This government is not doing that. They are purely borrowing this money to pay for their increased Public Service and to put pens and paper on desks and fuel in cars. That is all they are going to do.

Let's talk about the Public Service for a second. The Public Service is now at 238,000, which is up 33,133 public servants, or 16.6 per cent, since 2015. The cost of the Public Service will increase from \$26.47 billion in 2022 to \$28.96 billion in 2023—\$2.5 billion a year. Over four years there is \$10 billion of your \$28 billion lost. It is not like your front-of-house service has picked up, is it? When people try and ring the government the phone rings out. You do not get an answer. If you go to the transport department and line up to get your licence renewed or your car registration, you are lined up out the door standing there for two or three hours wasting your time because there is no frontline service available.

There is no massive stimulus package like the LNP was putting forward with our new Bradfield scheme, which was a great plan. There are no bold plans. There are no dams being built. The only dam that is being built in Queensland is the Rookwood Weir, and they have lowered the size of that. This is now going to be a puddle inside of a swimming pool. The people of Rockhampton do not deserve that. They have pulled down the Paradise Dam. They are reducing the number of dams.

Earlier today the member for Chatsworth asked about Cross River Rail. If my memory serves me correctly, in the budget a few years ago there was \$700 million for Cross River Rail. The rest of the \$5.4 billion that is supposedly fully funded is actually coming from the private sector. This is going to be another train wreck. Cross River Rail will blow out completely. We will just have to wait and see.

The government put out a number of fiscal principles before the election and they said they would stick with them. They have gone straight out the window. Let's just have a quick look at their fiscal principles. Principle 1 states that they will 'target ongoing reductions in Queensland's relative debt burden'. We have pretty well failed that one, haven't we? Twenty-eight billion dollars have gone out the door with nothing in return. Principle 2 states—

Target a net operating surplus that ensures any new capital investment—  
in the general government sector—

is funded primarily through recurrent revenues rather than borrowing.

That one has failed. Out the door. Principle 3 states—

The General Government capital program will be managed to ensure a consistent flow of works ...

Well, is that happening? Who knows? Principle 4 states they will 'maintain competitive taxation'. The Treasurer has promised there will be no increased taxes. I do not believe him for a second. Let's wait and see. Principle 5 states—

Target full funding of long-term liabilities such as superannuation and WorkCover ...

The Treasurer tells us that is going to stay in place. Again, I do not trust him. He does not have a very good history when it comes to raiding the superannuation funds of the Public Service. Principle 6 states—

Maintain a sustainable public service by ensuring overall growth in full-time equivalent employees, on average over the forward estimates, does not exceed population growth.

Well, that is a complete failure, isn't it? We have six principles here. They are completely out the door. They told the people of Queensland before the election that they would stick with these things, but they absolutely have not.

I will speak about my local electorate of Burleigh for a minute. I would like to thank the people of Burleigh for re-electing me for my fourth term. It was a close thing; it was a lot closer than I am comfortable with but we got there in the end. We are getting some money for Palm Beach State School. That is a pretty old school and it needs some new classrooms so I am grateful for that. Palm Beach-Currumbin State High School is getting a multimodal sports facility. Strangely enough, my competitor in Burleigh, Rabbit Bartholomew, put out a Facebook post the night before the election stating that there was half a million dollars for Burleigh state school, but that is not in the budget. I will be following up on that to make sure that is there for Burleigh state school. Apparently, he rang the principal and told him there was half a million dollars coming for the Burleigh state school. I table a copy of that for the information of members.

*Tabled paper:* Extract, dated 31 October, from the Facebook page of the Labor candidate for Burleigh, Mr Wayne 'Rabbit' Bartholomew, in relation to funding for Burleigh State School [352](#).

We have stage 3 and stage 4 of the light rail which is coming to Burleigh and beyond. Stage 3 is happening, and my job in the future will be to minimise the impact that will have on businesses in my electorate. I am really concerned about stage 4. The government have done a multimodal transport study on the Gold Coast to see what the best options are. They put out a glossy brochure which tells us that the best option is to go straight down the coast through the middle of Palm Beach. I am completely opposed to that and I have been calling on the government for quite a while to release that full report of the multimodal study. I would again ask the transport minister to make that available so we can see whether what the minister is telling us is in fact true. If this does go down the coast through Palm Beach where a number of people have just built new buildings and new houses, those buildings and houses will possibly be resumed. Transport and Main Roads do not know anything about light rail going down there, and they have not told anybody that their businesses and houses could possibly be impacted in the future.

I have been fighting for a long time for a bus service through Old Burleigh Town. There are 800 people there and they do not have a bus service. I noticed during the election that the member for Gaven, who is a very close friend of the transport minister, was able to announce that she was having a bus service that would go directly to people's houses, pick them up and take them where they wanted to go. The member for Gaven apparently can get a private bus service—

**Mr Stevens** interjected.

**Mr HART:** I will not take that interjection from the member for Mermaid Beach because that is not something I want to do, I can tell you. Pork-barrelling is one of the big things that this government does. I want to go to a couple of things that were mentioned in ministerial statements earlier today.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Bush): Pause the clock. Will the member for Mount Ommaney please resume her seat. We are not able to loiter in the aisles.

**Ms Pugh:** I am sorry. I would have to step in front of the member to do that, but I am happy to do that. It also breaks another standing order.

**Mr HART:** The housing minister told us this morning that they were increasing public housing by 5,000 extra buildings by 2027. There are 25,000 people on the long wait list for public housing at the moment. That is 25,000 families who cannot get public housing so 5,000 extra buildings is just not going to cut it. The government has to do more than that.

The Minister for Innovation told us that Advance Queensland have been doing a fantastic job and that there have been lots of grants for that. I gave a speech on 18 June this year outlining a number of programs that were axed by this government because they failed to deliver what they were supposed to deliver. I table a copy of that speech.

*Tabled paper:* Private member's statement, dated 18 June 2020, by the member for Burleigh, Mr Michael Hart MP, titled 'Ignite Ideas Fund' [353](#).

Most of those grants were for companies that were based overseas. They came to the country, took our money, did not provide what they were going to provide and then disappeared out of the country. Advance Queensland has been a massive failure and it needs to be rectified.

The Minister for Energy told us today that they were going to have 72 electric vehicles by the end of the year. In a fleet that has 10,000 vehicles, that is not good enough either. As a member who has an electric vehicle, I would say to the government that the first thing they need to do is put an electric charger in Parliament House so I can charge my car. That would be very nice. This budget is a complete failure.