



Speech By
Adrian Tantari

MEMBER FOR HERVEY BAY

Record of Proceedings, 31 August 2021


APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation Bill

Economics and Governance Committee, Report

 **Mr TANTARI** (Hervey Bay—ALP) (12.56 pm): The budget estimates hearings into the Appropriation Bill 2021 highlighted the continuation of the great work done by the Palaszczuk government in bringing Queensland through one of the most difficult periods in our collective memories. The Economics and Governance Committee report highlights the ongoing commitment of the Palaszczuk Labor government in working to ensure that the state of Queensland continues with its COVID-19 economic recovery plan coming off its continuing health response. That sees our state regularly recording no new community transmission, which is in direct comparison to the disaster that continues to unfold in the LNP-governed state of New South Wales.

It gives me no pleasure to say that. It is not gleefully said, but it emphasises the strong leadership shown in our state. This came through in the estimates hearings and in the details in the estimates report we are now considering. Estimates showed how the Premier's leadership is steering our state away from the economic ruin being inflicted in New South Wales by a government that acted too late. By us applying a considered, methodical approach in Queensland, hopefully, with time, we will contain for good the insidious virus.

What has been achieved by Queensland this time has not happened by chance. The Premier, with solid advice from the Chief Health Officer, backed up by her Treasurer and ministers, has delivered a budget to lead us through this pandemic. It is a budget which is turbo charging Queensland and, in particular, regional Queensland including the electorate of Hervey Bay through expenditure on things that matter—jobs, infrastructure and health service programs that are needed at this time. It is the right response at the right time—measured, thoughtful and on the mark.

Obviously with any budget process there is disappointment, and it is no different this year as the opposition statement of reservation contained in this report is what we normally expect from the other side of the House. Yes, they agree to pass the excellent 2021 budget without amendment but, as always, they make no real contribution to the budget process in their statement other than to make a statement laced with fiction, obviously written by the party spin doctors, full of mistruths, with no factual basis, highlighting the policy void and laziness on the other side and their inability to grasp the current situation striking out across our country and the world—tin eared to the community and not listening to

what the community is asking. My community were clear at the last election and they are clear now. They want a strong government that has a strong economic recovery based on a continuing strong health response to the pandemic around us. They have that in spades with this government.

The last time the LNP were in power they did what with their budget? What did they decide to do? Apparently it was a bit of 'tough love', they called it. They cut vital services, sold everything they could get their hands on and sacked thousands of frontline nurses, doctors and public servants. They marched decent men and women out the door. They threw their lives in a box and showed them the door—no ifs, no buts, no maybes. They ruined lives for doing nothing more than the best for all of us. That is what you get under an LNP budget. That is the way that side of the House does budgets in this state—they cut, sell and sack. It will never be any different under them.

When it comes to the other side's line of questioning at estimates, we waited for the deep probe, the forensic scrutiny expected of the opposition—but what can I say? It was appalling, to say the least. They did not care about the content of the budget. They only wanted to muckrake. They gave nothing to the debate. They abused the estimates committee process. Then they stepped up and said the process was broken. They were absolutely shameless. They had a further chance in their statement of reservation to give a constructive contribution, but what did they do? They just continued to roll out the same old tired emotive language, trying to strike fear into hardworking men and women across the length and breadth of Queensland.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): Member for Hervey Bay—

Mr TANTARI: I think it is appalling and shameful—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Hervey Bay—


Mr TANTARI: It really reflects their inability—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Hervey Bay—

Mr TANTARI:—to understand the budget estimates process.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Hervey Bay! As much as I am enjoying your speech, I ask you to adjourn the debate.

Debate, on motion of Mr Tantari, adjourned.

 **Mr TANTARI** (Hervey Bay—ALP) (3.16 pm), continuing: It really reflects the LNP's inability to understand whatsoever the budget estimates process. In stark contrast, at estimates the Premier, the Treasurer and the minister outlined the government's record spend on jobs, health services, infrastructure and tourism support. They outlined a clearly defined economic recovery plan that will take us through the forward estimates period and well into the future. That is billions of dollars in jobs and services and building back better.

I am proud to be part of the Palaszczuk government, which has responded to the pandemic by putting in place a great budget, as outlined throughout the estimates process, that will deliver the jobs, health services, education, infrastructure and housing to keep Queensland safe, to keep the electorate of Hervey Bay safe and to continue to make our future strong. Keeping Queenslanders safe and delivering the COVID-19 economic recovery plan is what this Palaszczuk Labor government is about. We will continue to look after the people of Queensland, despite the bitterness of those opposite. I support the recommendation before the House.