



Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

Record of Proceedings, 23 February 2021


APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) (2020-2021) BILL

APPROPRIATION (2020-2021) BILL

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation (2020-2021) Bill

Economics and Governance Committee, Report

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Investment) (11.56 am): I am very pleased to contribute to the debate on the committee report on the appropriation bill as I did in the debate on the committee report on the appropriation (parliament) bill. I will hold the LNP to account. I will not just talk about our vision for Queensland. I will hold the dishonest LNP to account every single opportunity I have in this parliament.

Of course we had the pathetic straw man argument by the Leader of the Opposition—willing, hoping and desiring the collapse of Queensland; the negativity, the whinging, the whining and the complaining. He is already talking about the only thing that matters to him—October 2024. We read it in the paper: 'I'm going to win big.' This is the same arrogance and hubris that was the hallmark of his mentor, Campbell Newman. That is where the Leader of the Opposition cut his teeth—a political hack his entire career; never done anything outside of politics.

Mr Nicholls interjected.

Mr DICK: I will take the interjection from the member for Clayfield. I know how to fill out a BAS because I did it every quarter. That is something the Leader of the Opposition has never done.

Mr Nicholls interjected.

Mr DICK: I take the interjection from the member for Clayfield. Again, emblematic of the arrogance and hubris of the Newman government. He is so quick to denigrate and deride the people of Tuvalu. I say to the member for Clayfield that I am proud to have been an international development volunteer working for three years overseas to help some of the most disadvantaged people in the world. It is something that the member for Clayfield will never do.

Mr Nicholls interjected.

Mr DICK: I will take the interjection. Member for Clayfield, it is 'Tu-vah-lu' not 'Too-va-lu'. At least you could get the name right! They hold themselves up above everyone. Whether you are a fisherman in Tuvalu or whether you are a railway worker in Rockhampton or a police officer working the beat anywhere in Queensland, they put themselves above everyone else.

They are wanting to build another monument to themselves in this parliament. They built one monument to themselves across the road. That is the single infrastructure legacy of the member for Clayfield. It is a monument to himself—1 William Street. Now they want to build another one on the

other side of the road—a new Parliamentary Annexe. We will not be spending public money on politicians. We will be spending public money, as I have said consistently, on the people of Queensland, getting them back into work, supporting small business.

They talk about vision. I will tell you what our vision is: it is implementing our economic recovery plan. The objectives in the economic recovery plan are the objectives of the government: safeguarding the health of Queenslanders; backing small business; making it for Queensland—manufacturing trains in Queensland. While the member for Clayfield and the member for Broadwater were happy to outsource Queensland jobs overseas, we brought them back home because that is what Labor governments do. Those opposite are quiet now, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Another objective is building Queensland—\$56 billion in infrastructure. In the 10 years to 2024 our government will spend \$100 billion on infrastructure in Queensland. What will the federal coalition spend? They will spend \$100 billion across the nation. It is about time we got our fair share. There has been a railway line to the airport in Melbourne and a fast train from Melbourne to Geelong but nothing for Queensland. Supporting our regions, investing in skills, backing in the most precious environment in the world—that is what the Labor government will do.

I thank the members of the committee, led by the chair of the committee, for their work. As I said on the parliamentary appropriation bill, I am not going to denigrate members of parliamentary committees. Whether they are members of the government or the opposition, they play a vital role in the parliamentary system in Queensland. I respect the role of committees in this House. I do not agree with everything they do. I do not agree with every recommendation. I do not agree with every report. What I do is I respect their work. It is a vital part of our democracy and our parliamentary system. I thank the member for Logan and all members of the committee on both sides of the House for their contribution.

(Time expired)