



Speech By  
**Hon. Cameron Dick**

**MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE**

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Record of Proceedings, 31 August 2021


**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL**

**APPROPRIATION BILL**

**Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)**

**Appropriation Bill**

**Economics and Governance Committee, Report**

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Investment) (12.14 pm): I am pleased to contribute to the debate on this report. If I want to compare economic recovery plans I will compare our economic recovery plan with the Bruce Highway hoax and the fake Bradfield scheme. The people of Queensland made a decision on those two plans at the last election. If the member for Toowoomba South wants to talk about questions, my simple challenge to him is to ask me a question in the House in question time. He did not have the fortitude to ask me one today.

I thank the committee for its work through the estimates process, particularly the mighty member for Logan for the very important work he does chairing the committee, all committee members and the committee secretariat. I am pleased the committee has recommended that the proposed expenditure as detailed in the Appropriation Bill 2021 be agreed to without amendment. As the committee noted, our budget supports Queensland's economic recovery from COVID-19. It backs jobs, it boosts growth and it keeps vital funds flowing to our essential health and community services.

In the months since the budget was delivered, Queensland has continued to lead the nation's economic recovery from COVID-19—not on the alternative LNP planet that those members opposite live on, but in the real world inhabited by five million Queenslanders. Relative to March 2020, not only has Queensland added more jobs than any other state or territory, Queensland has added more jobs than every other state and territory combined. There are now 95,000 more Queenslanders in work than there were before COVID-19. Queensland's unemployment rate is near its lowest level for 12 years. Accounting for employees who worked zero hours last month—and there is a fair few of those in New South Wales, almost 117,000—Queensland's adjusted unemployment rate is lower than that of New South Wales, Victoria and the Australian average.

We know that the lockdowns imposed across the country will affect economic growth, whether directly as in New South Wales and Victoria or indirectly as in Queensland, but our government has responded to these lockdowns with vigour, announcing a \$600 million jointly funded business support package. I talked about that earlier this morning. I would like to turn briefly to the non-government statement of reservation. The statement is also a brief affair, just past the half page mark this year. It almost got to 300 words. Not only was it lazy, where it was not incoherent it was flat-out incorrect. LNP members wrongly accused the government of supporting just one in nine Queensland businesses. To spell it out in words that even the LNP will understand, our government's initial package had capacity

and was designed to support up to 52,000 employing businesses, which represents one in three employing businesses in Queensland. Because our government stood up to the Morrison LNP government, something their colleagues in Queensland consistently refuse to do, the funding for this program has more than doubled and it has been extended to non-employing businesses.

Opposition committee members wrongly claimed that tourism funding was cut in our budget, even though the CEO of Tourism and Events Queensland patiently explained to the member for Broadwater that TEQ still received \$16 million more than its base budget this year. It did not stop the LNP from misrepresenting this increase as a cut. Even before the budget, Treasury had also offered \$174 million in funding to tourism related businesses through our Industry Support Package. Opposition members also lazily declared that no detail was provided of our government's savings achievements. That is despite the fact that there was a full account of savings in Budget Paper No. 2.

For the benefit of the lazy members of the LNP I even quoted specific examples of the savings that each agency is making. I re-emphasise for members of the LNP that the way each agency is making savings is ultimately up to each agency. Unbelievably, these are the same people, the same cigar chompers who align themselves with Joe Hockey and Mathias Cormann, who said during the course of the debate on the Debt Reduction and Savings Bill that saving \$3 million in public money in that bill meant nothing to them. That is typical of the arrogance of the LNP.

**Mr Crandon** interjected.

**Mr DICK:** What our government is not doing, much to the disappointment and distress of those opposite, is that we are not making these savings by cutting, sacking or selling.

**Mr Crandon** interjected.

**Mr DICK:** Our government is also not balancing the budget by introducing new taxes or increasing the rate of taxes.

**Mr Crandon:** \$3,000,000,000 versus \$3 million!

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Hart): Pause the clock. Member for Coomera, your interjections will cease or you will be warned.

**Mr DICK:** I will take the interjection. This is the same member, the member for Coomera, who promised no increased taxes when they came to government in 2012 and promptly jacked it up by \$3 million, including stamp duty on the family home. This is typical of the LNP.

**Mr Crandon** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Hart): Pause the clock. Member for Coomera, I said I would warn you. You are warned under the standing orders.

**Mr DICK:** They are the laziest yet best funded opposition in history. They have no vision. They have no idea. They have nothing for the future of Queensland. We will continue to deliver our economic recovery plan for our state, creating jobs and opportunities for Queenslanders, even in the midst of a pandemic.

*(Time expired)*