




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

Record of Proceedings, 15 September 2021

APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 2)

Message from Governor

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Investment) (11.17 am): I present a message from His Excellency the Governor.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): The message from His Excellency the Governor recommends the Appropriation Bill (No. 2). The contents of the message will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the message for the information of members.

MESSAGE

APPROPRIATION BILL (No. 2) 2021

Constitution of Queensland 2001, section 68

I, PAUL de JERSEY AC CVO, Governor, recommend to the Legislative Assembly a Bill intituled-


A Bill for an Act authorising the Treasurer to pay amounts from the consolidated fund for particular departments for the financial year starting 1 July 2020

GOVERNOR

Date: 14 September 2021

Tabled paper: Message, dated 14 September 2021, from His Excellency the Governor, recommending the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2021 [1391](#).

Introduction

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Investment) (11.18 am): I present a bill for an act authorising the Treasurer to pay amounts from the consolidated fund for particular departments for the financial year starting 1 July 2020. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Economics and Governance Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2021 [1392](#).

Tabled paper: Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2021, explanatory notes [1393](#).

Tabled paper: Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2021, statement of compatibility with human rights [1394](#).

I am pleased to introduce the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2021. Queensland has led the nation's recovery out of COVID-19. Our strong economic recovery has been built on a strong health response. Last week's national accounts put Queensland's economic growth at two per cent for the June quarter, faster than the national average of 1.7 per cent. Queensland posted the fastest growth in private investment among all states at 5.7 per cent, almost three times the national growth rate. Household consumption is now further above its pre-COVID level in Queensland than in any other state or territory.

Since March 2020, Queensland has added not only more jobs than any other state, but more jobs than every state combined. There are now 95,000 more Queenslanders in work today than there were before COVID-19 first struck. Our government has now helped to put 347,500 Queenslanders in work since we were first elected in 2015.

Our first COVID-19 budget, handed down in December last year, delivered the key elements of our government's economic recovery plan. The then \$8.6 billion budget deficit reflected the enormous support our government was providing to Queensland households, businesses and communities. Our second COVID-19 budget, handed down in June this year, continues to deliver on our economic recovery plan. The budget year deficit has narrowed to \$3.5 billion as our timely and targeted support has helped to hoist Queensland's economy out of recession and keep our economy strong.

Other states are facing a profound fiscal reckoning from the incursion of the delta variant of COVID-19. The latest estimates from AMP Capital suggest the restrictions in New South Wales will cost that state's economy more than \$16 billion by the end of this month. In conjunction with restrictions in Victoria and other states, the total cost of lockdowns is expected to breach \$25 billion. The fact that other Australian states are extending their lockdowns while overseas economies are roaring back to life is a failure created and exacerbated by the Morrison government.

The Morrison government failed in its duty of care to Australians to build quarantine facilities and secure the supply of vaccines our nation needed. The Morrison government failed to reinstate the JobKeeper payment, much less appropriately target it to the businesses and workers who need it most. The Morrison government failed to reinstate the COVID-19 supplement to JobSeeker, which last year lifted more than one million Australians above the poverty line. On all of these fronts, the Morrison government has failed Queensland and failed Australia.

This year in Queensland we have so far avoided the prolonged lockdowns that other states are enduring. After each of our sharp lockdowns, consumer spending in Queensland has rebounded to a higher level than it was previously. Our decisive health response has meant that our economic response can be delivered with surgical precision.

This is what these supplementary appropriation bills address. The objective of the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2021 is to seek parliamentary approval for unforeseen expenditure of \$447.456 million in the 2020-21 financial year. Together with the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) 2021, total supplementary appropriations for the 2020-21 financial year is \$449.251 million. I am pleased to report to the House that this year's unforeseen expenditure is: less than half the amount of unforeseen expenditure incurred in the 2019-20 financial year; is just 0.74 per cent of total appropriations, which is less than half the average of the past decade; and is less than the peak of unforeseen expenditure under the LNP of 0.94 per cent of appropriations, reached in 2013-14. Unforeseen expenditure arose from just six departments and the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service last financial year, down from 14 departments in 2019. The Governor in Council has authorised the unforeseen expenditure for departments and for the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. CR DICK (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Investment) (11.22 am): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

Question put—That the bill be now read a first time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Referral to Economics and Governance Committee

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Economics and Governance Committee.