



Speech By  
**Daniel Purdie**

**MEMBER FOR NINDERRY**

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## **APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL**

### **APPROPRIATION BILL**

#### **Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)**

#### **Appropriation Bill**

#### **Economics and Governance Committee, Report**

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (3.17 pm): As a member of the Economics and Governance Committee, I rise to speak on the committee's examination of the Appropriation Bill 2021. Unfortunately, it did not take the estimates process to learn about the perilous state of the Queensland economy. It was tracking in the wrong direction long before we saw the game of charades that the Palaszczuk Labor government played at estimates earlier this month. What the estimates process did achieve, however, was once again to highlight to Queensland taxpayers—hardworking mums and dads, small business owners and everyone in between—that this government has no idea: no idea how to plan, no idea how to budget, no idea how to rebuild our economy, no idea how to curb ambulance ramping and reduce waiting times, no idea how to deal with the juvenile crime crisis and no idea how to protect our most vulnerable.

Queenslanders deserve so much more than what they are receiving from this third-term Labor government. They are more concerned about spending taxpayer dollars on polling. Surely the statistics paint a clear enough picture. Currently in Queensland, there are more than 200,000 people out of work. Our unemployment rate is 13 per cent higher than Victoria and nearly 25 per cent higher than New South Wales. Ambulance ramping sits at more than 50 per cent across the state and 55,000 Queenslanders sit on elective surgery waiting lists, and a further 220,000 are on the waiting list to get on the waiting list. Our state health budget only increased by the exact amount that Canberra gave them in this year's federal budget—\$400 million. Labor's record health budget does nothing to improve a public health system that they are losing control of.

Never has there been a more critical time to be investing in rebuilding the economy as we map a path to recovery. What does this state Labor government do? It slashes infrastructure spending which has been cut by \$4 billion over the forward estimates. While motorists across the state are stuck in traffic jams or are dealing with dangerous and unsafe roads, the state Labor government is more concerned with playing the blame game. COVID, Canberra, commercial in confidence—it is like watching a game of *Wheel of Fortune*. However, unfortunately, for residents in my electorate, like the 92 other electorates in this state, it does not matter where it lands because there is no winner. The prize bank in Queensland is empty unless, of course, one is a movie star or a football player.

There is no doubt these are unprecedented times. The health pandemic has challenged each and every one of us and our communities in ways we could never have expected. As a result, Queenslanders are desperate for courage and leadership from this government—a sense of hope that things will get better and that we will emerge from this health crisis stronger and more resilient. That is not what they are seeing from this state Labor government.

Small and family business is the backbone of our state's economy, but many small businesses in my electorate are struggling to keep the doors open and to pay their staff. Labor's catchcry of keeping Queenslanders safe has a very bitter aftertaste. The LNP, along with the state's business community, have been calling out for a tailored lockdown business support package since early 2021—more than 100 times in fact. Despite this, we learnt at estimates that Treasury was not even asked to perform any modelling on any assistance package or set aside any money.

Queenslanders care about the things that affect them directly—like receiving medical treatment when they need it, having access to housing and living in a safe community, providing their children with a quality education and the prospect of a job in the future, and getting home safely in time for dinner and not spending hours stuck in traffic. These are the things that affect Queenslanders directly and they are the very same things the Palaszczuk Labor government is failing to deliver yet again.