



Speech By
David Janetzki

MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA SOUTH

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APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) (2020-2021) BILL

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Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation (2020-2021) Bill

Economics and Governance Committee, Report

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (12.01 pm): What a bizarre contribution from the Treasurer to focus on the personal, on the self-congratulations. It is exactly the reason why there must be something done about this Palaszczuk Labor government. It is important before we even consider the estimates process to reflect on the fact that it had been 539 days between budgets—539 days while this state languished with no clear path. The Treasurer comes in, makes a contribution and reflects on the estimates process in that way. It is no wonder Queensland is in such a difficult financial situation.

In fact, it is timely that the Treasurer pulled out the economic recovery plan because we have not seen it for a while. It disappeared during the estimates process. The glossy brochure that set out the alleged path cost the taxpayers in part \$11.8 million. In figures that came out at the start of this year, \$11.8 million was spent on COVID related advertising in the lead up to the election. How much money was actually spent on the campaign cloaked in public health information that fed into the economic narrative for the Labor Party prior to the election? We saw \$11.8 million paid to MediaCom.

Mr Watts: Fitzgerald wouldn't have allowed it.

Mr JANETZKI: Fitzgerald would not have allowed it. I take the interjection from the member for Toowoomba North. The Fitzgerald inquiry would never have allowed something like this—the misuse of taxpayers' money on this glossy brochure. It was great to see the Treasurer pull out the economic recovery plan again. During the election it seemed that everybody had it plastered to their chest. It disappeared after the budget and through the estimates process. We saw every minister pulling it out, attaching it and pretending to read it. It looked like somebody had opened it for the agriculture minister and told him to 'read there'. I am going to table those, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Tabled paper: Bundle of photographs of the Premier and various ministers holding a document titled 'Queensland's Economic Recovery Plan' [166](#).

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): The member for Maryborough and member for Gregory will stop interjecting across the chamber. Take your conversations outside please.

Mr JANETZKI: We saw this brochure used right throughout the election campaign and then we saw it disappear. What did we see in the budget? We saw a \$28 billion increase in the debt levels that had not been foreshadowed before the election. We had waited 539 days for a budget. Then during the budget process it became clear how little was actually going to be spent on infrastructure.

The Australian Infrastructure Budget Monitor said that of the Victorian and New South Wales budgets they would spend 20 per cent on infrastructure. In Queensland only 12 per cent would be spent on infrastructure. On that additional \$28 billion of debt, two-thirds of that would go on operating expenses—simply keeping the lights on rather than investing in key infrastructure projects right throughout the state. We have spent the last couple of months detailing those projects that would be best invested in. It is not a matter of keeping the lights on and just paying operational expenses. It is time for us to get serious. The Treasurer's contribution displayed again the Labor government's lack of seriousness.

The Treasurer, when he should be looking for great ideas across all sectors of the economy, is rolling the Productivity Commission into the bureaucracy. The Productivity Commission that had given really powerful reports on manufacturing and electricity prices is being rolled in because it was delivering solutions that the Labor government did not want to hear. What did the Treasurer do? He said, 'No. We don't want to hear it. We are going to roll it into the bureaucracy,' where it will lose its independent voice.

A glossy brochure will not fix Queensland's economic problems. It simply will not fix it. This estimates process and the Treasurer's contribution highlighted their complete lack of resolve in staring down the key problems facing the Queensland economy. Look at CommSec's analysis recently. Although it could be taken that there were some high level improvements in some of the numbers, at the end of the day we were stone motherless last when it came to economic growth. We are not investing in the infrastructure we need. The Treasurer's performance during estimates was evasive. It was not a clear economic narrative for Queensland. There was a complete failure to consider any solutions that might unleash the private sector, that might improve productivity and that might get behind true infrastructure growth. Shame on this Labor government after six years in power.

(Time expired)