



Speech By
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MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA SOUTH

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APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation Bill

Economics and Governance Committee, Report

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (12.09 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the report. It is worth repeating that our categorisation of this budget is that it is a budget of accounting without principles and funds without funding. Sadly, nothing during the estimates process proved that to be an incorrect characterisation of the budget. There is clearly no plan from this government to adjust to a post-COVID economic environment. The glossy brochure that those opposite carried around attached to their chests during the election campaign and into this year has now disappeared. Budgets highlight priorities and vision and throughout the budget process in June, all the way through estimates, no matter the portfolio, it was clear that this government has no plan for the future of the economic position of our state.

The federal government is leading the way in respect of the new financial environment that we will be addressing. There is a plan. It is up to this state Labor government to address our economic future. If we look back at the economic conditions that Queensland was faced with prior to COVID and into COVID, notwithstanding the advocacy from the Treasurer, the truth is very different. There was always ballooning debt. The debt had blown out from \$72 billion to \$102 billion long before COVID. Queensland remains the bankruptcy capital of Australia. Four and a half thousand people lived through bankruptcy in 2020. My fear is that that will continue to be a problem right throughout our economy as we see small and family businesses struggling under the weight of COVID and the failure of this government to properly support them through that process.

In this year's budget we saw infrastructure cuts to the tune of \$4 billion. The member for Miller talks about infrastructure. The truth is very different across the forwards of this budget to what this government tries to portray. When it comes to CommSec we continue to come at the bottom of the table. We are last for economic growth in the country. Expenses continue to outstrip revenue across the longer term of the budget. This was all occurring pre COVID and is occurring through COVID and feeds into the challenge of this government that does not have a plan for the future. In the budget we saw imaginary funding for a series of funds. There is not a single dollar in the forwards for all the new funding that has been announced.

We see a continuing decline in the confidence in our mining sector. Just 10 years ago one in every four mineral exploration dollars spent in Australia was spent in Queensland. That has now drifted out to one in every eight as revealed by the ABS recently. One in every eight mineral exploration dollars

spent in this country is now spent here in Queensland. What we see is a growing concern that there is no plan post COVID for the new normal in this country. This budget has again proven that the Treasurer is simply not up to the task of delivering that future plan. We see that writ large. The Treasurer came to Toowoomba on one of his budget roadshows that he has been taking throughout Queensland. The Treasurer parks the personal abuse that we cop in this House and turns on the charm for the people out in the regions.

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): Order! Pause the clock. Members on my right will cease interjecting or I will start warning people.

Mr JANETZKI: What the Treasurer cannot walk away from after presenting to the Toowoomba business community is that he did not take a single question from the business community of Toowoomba. They are a very civilised group. My guess is that the Treasurer did not want to answer a single question about the lack of resources and infrastructure in Toowoomba. He did not want to answer a question about the failure to build a new Toowoomba Hospital. In Cairns it gets even worse. We heard the Treasurer this morning talking about what his solution was in Cairns. It was not to put out a small business package to stand with the small businesses of Cairns, it was simply to hold the federal government to ransom. That was his solution. This is a government bereft of ideas and a Treasurer out of his depth.