



Speech By
Jarrold Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

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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 BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (12.12 pm): The opposition leader described the estimates process as a sham. It goes further than that: it was a complete joke and a waste of time. The government said they were going to hand down a budget after the election. They managed to say to Queenslanders, 'We're going to hand down a budget within one month of the election.' It begs the question: if they could do it a month after the election, why couldn't they do it before the election? Because there were issues in the budget—like a huge debt bomb—they did not want Queenslanders to know. Queenslanders went to the polls at the end of October not knowing the debt level until this slick Treasurer handed down his budget and revealed the huge debt bomb that is there, but there was no mention of it before. When they talked about debt they lowered the expectations of Queenslanders to say, 'It's not as bad as it is.'

You could clearly see the arrogance of this Treasurer during his previous contribution. This is a man who cannot admit that he spoke on the wrong committee report half an hour ago. He then has to own it and try to make us all believe that he meant to do that. He cannot even say to parliamentarians, 'Mr Deputy Speaker, I'm sorry. I'll get up again in five minutes.' No, he had to own it like he meant it; this is the arrogance of the man.

The Parliamentary Annexe, which is the people's house—they own that as well—is falling down. Yesterday there was an issue with concrete falling off the walls, which is hugely dangerous. When I raised the issue he said, 'The LNP wants to build another monument.' No, I never said we want a new Annexe. I said, 'Let's fix it so no-one dies!' If a piece of concrete falls off the wall and someone is walking under it it is now on him, because I said it and he said, 'We're not going to do it because you want to build a new monument.'

If I had it, I would bet you a lot of money that he would have been the first to move into 1 William Street. He would have been the first to say to the DPC, 'Where's the keys?' Better still, after learning from experience I reckon the DPC said, 'Treasurer, this is your special office because we put a keypad on it and not a normal lock and key.' If you recall, when he was health minister he did not trust his department. He had to get a digital lock because he did not want his director-general walking into his office. That is how arrogant this Treasurer is. Rather than just say, 'We'll work with the opposition to fix the Annexe,' he all of a sudden rules it out and plays the card that the LNP wants this money.

If the LNP government did not have a vision for the Queen's Wharf precinct and 1 William Street nothing over there would have happened. I see that the Premier loves to go down there to cut red ribbons on the Queen's Wharf development, which they opposed every step of the way. If it were not

for 1 William Street it would not have happened. In response to the Treasurer's comment about upgrading the Annexe because it is a fire, water and safety issue and now there is concrete falling off the walls, the other point I would make is that the Treasurer thinks his priorities are jobs. I do not suspect the Treasurer will be on the tools fixing the Annexe. I suspect that Queenslanders will get the job. The Treasurer may say that he has used a pen to fill out a BAS, but I guarantee he has never picked up a hammer in his life. It is about jobs, but it is also safety—not for members of parliament but for the people who have worked in this place for years.

We know that the election was all about coronavirus and now the vaccine has been rolled out, but what always happens with Labor governments is that in a year or two people will start to see the same old tired Labor issues. They have no economic narrative. They have no economic plan. They are just lemmings who come here to work—if you can call it work. They will have huge debt, which we have already seen. In four years time they will not be able to convince Queenslanders they have an economic narrative or vision because they simply do not.

The best the Treasurer can come up with is, 'We're going to save money on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.' If that is the case the Treasurer would have completely blown that out, because the amount of government expenditure on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter during the election should be worthy of investigation. If you recall, they changed the rules to allow them to continue advertising during the election. Where is the accountability and transparency? The reality is that this Labor government only knows one thing: spending money they do not have, spending other people's money and debt. The Queensland public will pay the price for that and we will hold the government to account—

(Time expired)