




Speech By
Jarrold Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

Record of Proceedings, 17 June 2021

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (12.47 pm): On Monday I launched the ‘Labor’s blame game spinning wheel’, because we knew and anticipated that this week Labor would blame everyone but itself. It would blame someone else for the debt. It would blame it on education or health. It is everyone else’s fault! We had Canberra and we had COVID. That was on the wheel a couple of times, but I had to adjust the wheel in the last couple of weeks. Never would I have thought that I would have to add the word ‘canine’, because the reason the Premier did not get a COVID jab was not because of COVID hesitancy but because she got attacked by Winton, her fluffy little pooch! I added ‘canine’ to the wheel because that was the excuse for the Premier delaying her COVID jab despite the fact that she told everyone else to get their COVID jab.

So we did that and, just as I anticipated, the Treasurer stood up this week and blamed everyone for all of the debt, the blowouts and the reason the budget is full of holes—and it is full of holes which I will get into and as was set out by the opposition leader and the shadow Treasurer. Yesterday we also launched the cupboard. The cupboard is bare, because that is what the budget is. On Tuesday when the budget was delivered the Treasurer released all of these glossy brochures, but after our shadow ministers went through the budget papers and after the media went through the budget papers we realised that a lot of these funds actually had no funding. There were lots of names and lots of titles like the ‘building hospital fund’ worth \$2 billion but there is not a cent going to the building hospital fund, not an additional dollar. It is basically just packaging up a lot of things in the budget and putting a new headline under it saying that it is a new item in the budget.

On Tuesday they announced they were investing \$2 billion into the Hospital Building Fund. There is a not a dollar—zero dollars—in the Hospital Building Fund. It will not build new hospitals. It will not build new infrastructure to existing hospitals. It will not fix the Sunshine Coast University Hospital ramping that we are experiencing at the moment.

What we have got to know with this Treasurer—not just when he has been Treasurer, but in all his portfolios: Attorney-General, Education and Health—is that he is all glitz and glamour and no substance. We see that with the glossy brochures he holds up as far as he can, such as his economic recovery plan. What is missing from this budget is the amount the Treasurer has spent on personal PR. I urge the Treasurer to stop taking advice from whoever he is paying to get this advice from.

The Treasurer is doing this weird, creepy, fake smile, trying to be loved by everyone in Queensland. In his live crosses on TV the other night, the Treasurer did this creepy smile that he has been told by the PR company to do, it will make him look human. It does not. Every time I see it on TV it has the opposite effect. It is a mix between the clowns you see at the Ekka that keep going around with their mouth open and Chucky doll. It is this creepy, weird, Chucky doll, Ekka clown smile. I say to the Treasurer, mate, whatever you are spending on PR to make yourself look human, stop it. Be natural.

Get rid of it. The other night on the Treasurer's live cross on Channel 7 he had even practised the big turn with the big creepy smile and the camera had already lost him by that stage and he did not get his weird, creepy smile on TV. Cut it out, Treasurer, it is not good and it does not look good on TV.

The budget handed down by the Treasurer is full of holes. Those opposite stood up here with this capital budget expenditure, but as shadow ministers will indicate during this budget reply there are line items missing, there is funding missing. We have got to know that about this Treasurer. I note that in the Treasurer's response and in responses from those ministers who have responded, including the Deputy Premier, there has been no mention of JobKeeper propping up the economy. The federal government threw \$90 billion into JobKeeper. That is on top of the over \$60 billion for JobSeeker. It did not rate a mention.

Those opposite claim the unemployment rate has come down because of their policies. What? Because of a little tourism voucher? A voucher that the Deputy Premier could not even take advantage of because they were not offering it in Byron Bay? This is the reality: JobKeeper and JobSeeker propped up the economy in the state. When one looks at the statistics around what the federal government did per person in Queensland compared to what the state government did it highlights a shameful exercise in government expenditure. The state government did nothing in comparison to what the federal government did. They will claim credit now for the Australian economy rebounding, but it was because of the federal leadership of the Scott Morrison government that we now see the federal economy rebounding, including the economy of Queensland, not to mention the effort that Queenslanders put in to assist as well.

Turning to the issues in Kawana and on the Sunshine Coast, I see funding for the stadium is in the budget in the amount of \$20 million. That was my funding commitment in the election. It is good those opposite have copied it. Now I see they have put a sneaky little 'subject to federal government matching it' line in. If the federal government is not going to fund the \$20 million yet, give it to the council and they will add it to the private sector investment and what the council has and we will have a better stadium than what is there now. I call on the government to scrap the condition. I know this is so the state government can get out of that commitment. We now see the Mooloolah River interchange. They have finally found funding for the Mooloolah River interchange—

A government member interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE:—despite the fact the federal government—I take the interjection from the Minister for Transport.

A government member interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the second interjection. If I can take a point of order on myself, I have taken the interjections from the minister who is on a warning. He is disrupting my speech and I ask that he be kicked out of the parliament because he is on a warning.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mrs Gerber): Member for Kawana, take your seat. Thank you for your guidance. The member for Miller is on a warning. Your interjection has been taken. You can leave the chamber for the rest of the session. You get an early mark for lunch.

Mr BAILEY: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I did not interject.

Mr BLEIJIE: You did. I took your interjection.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Sit down, member for Kawana. Member for Miller, I have made a ruling. Are you reflecting on the chair or are you raising a point of order?

Mr BAILEY: I am just raising a point of order. I do not believe that I interjected on the member.

Mr BLEIJIE: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. When a member of this House has been asked to leave the chamber—

Mr BAILEY: I am happy to take your ruling.

Mr BLEIJIE:—him taking a point of order is a reflection on the chair.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have made a ruling, member for Miller. You will leave the chamber for the remainder of the morning session.

Whereupon the honourable member for Miller withdrew from the chamber at 12.55 pm.

Mr BLEIJIE: That is exciting in a budget reply, is it not? It is the best thing I could have achieved in a budget reply speech. To continue to talk about Kawana and the lack of investment, the government finally found money for the Mooloolah River interchange. The federal government will be putting in \$160 million and now the state government has come to the party, without any fanfare I might add. They are so embarrassed by it there is no fanfare. There is \$4 million in the budget for it.

An opposition member: They should be embarrassed.

Mr BLEIJIE: They should be embarrassed. I take the interjection. Just get on with the program! Those opposite have been embarrassed into coming to the table. The federal government is delivering a state road when the state should have done it. There is more money allocated for the Sunshine Coast University Hospital. This is about built bed capacity. There are no additional beds into the Sunshine Coast University Hospital. The hospital was meant to have 738 beds by January 2021 and where are we? We still have not had any additional beds since the hospital opened. Again the government is saying they will throw a bit of money into the hospital, but that is to build a building without beds. There is no extra funding for extra beds at the Sunshine Coast University Hospital so our 40 per cent ambulance ramping crisis which is happening at the moment will continue and the people on the Sunshine Coast will suffer because of that.

In relation to the issue of the mass transit personal program that Mayor Jamieson is trying to inflict on everyone on the Sunshine Coast, I say to the state government and the Sunshine Coast council abandon the glorified light rail tram down Nicklin Way; protect our beachside communities; protect the environment on the Sunshine Coast. We do not want the mass transit tram down Nicklin Way. We want to protect the lifestyles of the Sunshine Coast community. When Mayor Jamieson says to me what is the alternative, there is an alternative and here it is: one, build the Mooloolah River interchange to ease congestion. Tick, we will do that. Second, build the passenger heavy rail on the CAMCOS corridor. The corridor is there. It is set.

The state government can invest and get heavy passenger rail to connect the Sunshine Coast community to Brisbane and to Gympie. It is ready so invest in the CAMCOS corridor. Bring the heavy rail from Beerwah to Caloundra to Kawana to Maroochydore. Thirdly—here is an idea: how about we provide buses that go to where people want them to go, like to Kawana Forest. The people of Kawana Forest do not have any bus service. They want it, they demand it and we need to have it. Let us make buses more available. Let us provide more buses so we do not have to wait. If someone wants to go from Kawana to Buderim it takes an hour and a half. They can get in their car and do it in 10 minutes. Why on Earth would they catch a bus at the moment on the Sunshine Coast when they can do it in their car in a lot less time? That is the issue.

I say to Mayor Jamieson, who is still pushing this light rail fantasy on the Sunshine Coast community, there are alternatives and they are far better than a glorified tram wrecking our beachside communities. We need to protect the environment. We need to protect the lifestyle and livelihoods of the Sunshine Coast community. We do not want density down Nicklin Way or the beachside communities. We will have density on the Sunshine Coast, but there are places to put more density and more people. Let us have new railway communities on the Sunshine Coast. Let us build them from scratch. People love the Sunshine Coast. We want people to move to the Sunshine Coast.

In terms of the industrial relations portfolio that I am shadow minister for, yesterday I met with another business in Queensland that is being attacked daily by the thugs in the CFMEU. Three times a day the CFMEU are turning up at this business because they are a non-unionised worksite and the CFMEU is trying to bully them and force them to do an EBA. This business, to their credit, has said, 'No, get stuffed!' That is what they have said to the CFMEU.

Government members interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw.

Government members interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I see the CFMEU sympathiser waving his hands. They say to the CFMEU, 'Get lost'. They are not going to sign the EBA. This is the reality.

Ms RICHARDS: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. That was unparliamentary language and I ask you to—

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdrew.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Sit down. He withdrew.

Mr BLEIJIE: The CFMEU are trying to strongarm and bully businesses to sign EBAs. I am going to refer this matter, as I have with others, to the Crime and Corruption Commission. It is about time the Crime and Corruption Commission had a commission of inquiry into the CFMEU and their bullying tactics.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.



Mr BLEIJIE: As I was saying, there is no money in the state budget for the CAMCOS heavy rail corridor on the Sunshine Coast. There is no money for the Meridan Way connector road to reduce congestion around Parklands Boulevard and Meridan State College. There is no money for additional police at the Kawana Waters Police Station or the Caloundra Police Station, despite the fact that we have huge crime issues in Kawana and Caloundra. The police minister did not talk about that this morning. Despite the population growth in Kawana and Caloundra over the past five years, police resources have not kept pace.

Minister Grace talked about the live music industry. How dare she talk about the live music industry and the piddly \$7 million that the government committed in this budget considering that three days ago they closed down NightQuarter. NightQuarter is a small business community in my electorate. Police and Queensland Health staff stormed the gates of NightQuarter and closed them down.

A government member interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection. Guess what? Queensland Health has just reneged on the revocation order so now they can open up again! Businesses have suffered a financial loss over the past few days so you cannot tell me that this government is supporting the live music industry. The band San Cisco was due to play that night but could not play because of the shutdown by Queensland Health. I have seen reports that they are asking for \$60,000 in compensation from the state government. Do members know what? I agree! The state government should compensate them.

The state government should also compensate the charity Youturn, which was due to hold an event this weekend at NightQuarter. That cannot happen because of the closure. The state government should provide refunds and help that charity and the Aitken family who were going to put on a music festival to help young people dealing with mental health, youth suicide and youth homelessness issues. Because of Queensland Health's heavy-handed approach to this restriction issue, closing down NightQuarter has meant that that charity festival cannot be held this weekend.

There is no support for the live music industry and there is a double standard when you can hold a State of Origin game at an over-capacity stadium in Townsville with 40,000 people singing and dancing in front of their chairs, but on the Sunshine Coast NightQuarter cannot run in an open-air environment. The breeze comes in, the sun comes in and occasionally a bit of water comes in with the rain, but the health minister says that it is an indoor venue. It is not. If they want to show real leadership they should put real money into the live music industry.

I turn to the housing crisis. The government says that it is committing \$2 billion to housing, but again the money is not in the budget. On the Sunshine Coast there are people sleeping in their cars. There are people who can afford rent but cannot find accommodation or rental facilities. Over 50 applications per house are being made on the Sunshine Coast. We need to think outside the box. Recently I met a young couple who have built portable emergency accommodation that we could put on blocks of vacant land across the Sunshine Coast to house people immediately and get them out their cars. We need to think outside the box because the homelessness issue on the Sunshine Coast is terrible.

I conclude by thanking the government on behalf of the Currimundi State School for \$283,000 to refurbish classrooms, Kawana Waters State College for \$6½ million and Talara Primary College for \$150,000 for a tuckshop extension. The Currimundi State School needs a tuckshop extension and I call on the state government to immediately provide funding to the Currimundi State School for their tuckshop upgrade.