



Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

Record of Proceedings, 16 August 2022


APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

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Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation Bill

Economics and Governance Committee, Report

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (11.51 am): I am pleased to contribute to the debate on this report, and what an irrelevant contribution by an irrelevant Leader of the Opposition that was. Of course, yet again in this House he had nothing to say about the 2022-23 budget, which followed on from his shameful effort in estimates when he did not ask about the budget but instead continued to smear and attack public servants.

The Leader of the Opposition made the false claim that the acting Integrity Commissioner was a Labor staffer, a claim specifically refuted at the hearing. However, at the hearing and today there has not been one word of apology and there has been no withdrawal from the Leader of the Opposition. His attack has started. It started with one public servant, but we know the Leader of the Opposition will not stop there—cuts, in the words of the Leader of the Opposition, just not savage ones. Already the old habits are back; they are lining up for another attack on public servants, just like the Leader of the Opposition's mentor and idol, Campbell Newman.

Just a few days ago, on 12 August, the Leader of the Opposition said, 'We will reform but it will be done at a pace that people will expect and deserve. There will be changes made but people will be treated with respect and decency and we're going to put this state under new management.' Where have we all heard that before? It was Campbell Newman in 2014. He stated—

At the end of the day, in every single case we tried to deal with people decently, carefully and responsibly to try to assist them out of the Public Service.

They were the words of Campbell Newman repeated by the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr STEVENS: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The matters that the Treasurer is raising are totally irrelevant to the report that is before him. Could you bring him back to the report that we are debating now?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): There is no point of order.

Mr DICK: Once again, the playbook of the LNP is to cut, sack and sell, but the cutting and sacking comes first.

Moving on to the report, let me thank the members of the Economics and Governance Committee for their report and I thank their staff. I want to particularly acknowledge the member for Logan. It is a difficult thing to be a chair of an estimates committee and the member for Logan distinguishes himself by the way he conducts himself as the chair of that committee in this parliament.

I am pleased the committee has recommended that the proposed expenditure be approved. Unlike the Leader of the Opposition, I am happy to talk about the budget because this year's budget is one that delivers the good, the better and the great—good jobs and better services, and it protects the great lifestyle of Queensland. There is a record and transformative health budget, \$26.6 billion, the largest in Queensland history; a \$9.8 billion commitment to deliver new hospitals and expand existing hospitals; a record infrastructure spend, \$59.1 billion statewide over four years; and it positions Queensland for a golden decade of opportunity in the lead-up to the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Of all the numbers in the budget, the one that is most important to me and the government relates to jobs: 472,400 Queenslanders have found work under our government since 2015—more than a thousand per week. A total of 219,400 jobs have been created in Queensland since the start of the pandemic. That is more jobs than any other state or territory and almost as many jobs as New South Wales and Victoria combined.

While there was good news in the budget, there was not good news from the LNP. The centrepiece was their smearing of the Integrity Commissioner, which was not the first time. Last year the member for Mermaid Beach smeared the integrity of the State Actuary and he has never apologised for that. Their statement of reservation shows that 10 years on from 2012 they have not learnt their lesson: still wanting to cut expenditure, still wanting to inflict austerity upon the people of Queensland, still wanting to smear and attack public servants and processes by whatever false means possible. In the latest episode they are trying to define a phone call as a meeting. I want to apologise to the LNP. I failed to disclose a meeting last week with a Thai takeaway. Topics included pad Thai, green curry and, if I recall correctly, steamed dim sims. In the spirit of full disclosure—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Treasurer, let's come back to the motion.

Mr DICK: I call on the Leader of the Opposition to disclose the meeting he had with his removalists when he moved from Townsville to Broadwater and then abandoned his own electorate to come and live in Brisbane, more than an hour's drive from his electorate. That is standing up for your community! Better yet, what about the meeting that the member for Broadwater had with the previous member for Broadwater to tell her he was coming to take her seat and sack her? Perhaps he did not give her the courtesy of a phone call.

In this craven effort from the LNP they think they have the right to do whatever they want to whomever they want, like Scott Morrison swearing himself into all those portfolios which is now coming out: Treasury and a whole heap of other portfolios that he swore himself into. He has never said publicly what he did. He did not say it at the time and he has barely apologised or explained it today. This is a scandal of monumental national proportions that the LNP are responsible for.

I can only conclude by saying that next year will be better than this effort by the LNP because this year they absolutely hit rock bottom.

(Time expired)