



Speech By
Dr Christian Rowan


MEMBER FOR MOGGILL

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APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL (NO. 3)

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BETTING TAX AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (4.54 pm): I rise to address the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 3) 2022 and the Appropriation Bill (No. 3) 2022. These pieces of legislation were introduced into the Queensland parliament on 12 October and subsequently referred to the Economics and Governance Committee for due consideration and scrutiny, with the Economics and Governance Committee reporting on the bills on 4 November 2022. I take this opportunity to acknowledge all members of the committee for their work in scrutinising these bills, as well as the committee secretariat for their work. As is outlined in the relevant sections of this draft legislation, the objectives of the bills relate to formal authorisation being sought by the state government for specified amounts in each bill that the Treasurer has paid from the Consolidated Fund for unseen expenditure that has occurred in the 2021-22 financial year in excess of the amount provided by the relevant budget appropriation bills.

The total authorised expenditure being sought from the two bills equates to \$2.825 billion. The vast majority of this relates to Appropriation Bill (No. 3), whereby additional funds are being sought from the Consolidated Fund for 14 departments as stated in the respective financial year starting 1 July 2021. The amount being sought is \$2.823 billion for these 14 departments. As a comparison, in the previous relevant year it was only \$447.456 million for six departments. Whilst the Treasurer will offer a range of reasons for this expenditure—and I do acknowledge and respect certain additional expenditure is required for public benefit—there are certainly many areas where wasteful spending has taken place under the Palaszczuk state Labor government. We have seen this before, particularly during the Beattie and Bligh years. It is the Treasurer's lack of credibility and respect amongst his colleagues which has resulted in these huge budget blowouts in these bills. This has exposed the sheer ongoing incompetence of the Palaszczuk state Labor government to plan and budget appropriately.

I will give some examples of wasteful expenditure under the state Labor government. The first is the Cross River Rail blowout of over \$2.6 billion.

Mr Minnikin: And rising.

Dr ROWAN: The member for Chatsworth brings this to the attention of the House all of the time. I take that interjection; it is rising. In relation to that project, the blowout continues to increase under Minister Bailey in relation to not only Cross River Rail but also other projects, including: the \$220 million spend on the Wellcamp quarantine facility; the Coomera Connector blowout of \$600 million; the Brisbane South and Fortitude Valley state secondary colleges blowout of \$18 million; the North Queensland Stadium blowout of \$48.4 million; and the Capricornia Correctional Centre blowout of \$10.9 billion. That is just to name a few when it comes to this Labor government and the blowouts and the waste that occurs under the Labor government.

All this government has is a taxing agenda, a blowout agenda when it comes to wastage in this state and a lack of proper planning and due diligence. Despite all of this, there is still no comprehensive integrated road and public transport plan to address traffic congestion or improve public transport and deliver safety to cyclists and pedestrians across the western suburbs of Brisbane, particularly within the electorate of Moggill. It has been over 550 days since community consultation closed on the Kenmore roundabout project and there is still limited information on what the state Labor government intends to do. A fraction of this government's wasteful spending could have been allocated to address the Our Lady of the Rosary intersection, which is the section of Moggill Road which intersects with both Kenmore Road and Almay Street. There are serious concerns about student safety at that intersection. Again, with the wasteful spending that is occurring under this government, there could have been funds allocated to fix that.

Government members interjected.

Dr ROWAN: I know Labor government members do not care about school student safety and that is why they are interjecting—because they do not care about it. They have done nothing in relation to that. They are not standing up for the safety of local students. They will not do that. They will not step up to the mark and allocate funds, and that is why they continue to interject—because they do not care about school student safety. It is very important that they actually show some due diligence and step up to the mark and engage proactively with school communities, local residents and other concerned local people within the electorate and deliver these solutions. Rather than waste money, which they continue to do, they should show due diligence when it comes to taxpayers dollars and allocate proper budgets and proper planning processes. They should ensure that local people in my electorate of Moggill and right across Queensland get the infrastructure they deserve.

As the member for Chatsworth also knows in relation to the Centenary Bridge duplication project, this was supposed to be delivered last year, or commenced last year, but it will not actually commence until next year. This is the thing about this Labor government: they always make these promises, they always talk about spin and rhetoric, they always have smoke and mirrors when it comes to their economic strategies here in Queensland, but we have heard it all before, particularly when it comes to their dubious economic strategies—loading debt onto government owned corporations, raiding the defined benefit schemes of public servants—

Mr Power interjected.

Dr ROWAN: They continue to interject because they know the truth. The people of Queensland know the truth. They interject because they are embarrassed by it. Those Labor members opposite are embarrassed by their poor performance here in Queensland, but they have form when it comes to this in Queensland. They have form because we have seen it, as I said before, under the Beattie and Bligh Labor years. This is the biggest overrun that we have seen since those dying years of the Bligh Labor government.

That is why health is falling apart. Look at what is happening in relation to ambulance ramping. People cannot get the services they require. We have clinical governance failures which are occurring in Mackay, Caboolture and right across Queensland. People are very concerned about this. Frontline health professionals are talking about it all the time. They are talking about it in the media and they are coming to the opposition. Patients are talking about it as well. The government is not allocating these funds to get the proper services that are needed here in Queensland.

I would say to the Labor government that it is time to step up, to show due diligence when it comes to managing the dollars of taxpayers—those very important dollars—and ensure they are spent appropriately and there is due oversight when it comes to doing that. I know that our shadow Treasurer has alluded to many of these issues in the Queensland parliament as well.

When it comes to the overspending here in Queensland, it is not unexpected really when we see the track record of the Palaszczuk state Labor government in its third term—

Mr Minnikin: 'Labor-nomics'.

Dr ROWAN: I take the interjection from the member for Chatsworth. It is 'Labor-nomics'. Here in Queensland they always have more debt, they never have due diligence when it comes to spending, and they have no respect for hard-earned taxpayer dollars. I say to those opposite that what they need to do into the future is ensure there is proper planning, proper budgetary processes and a proper allocation of funds when it comes to delivering the vital infrastructure and services that we require in Queensland.