



Speech By
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MEMBER FOR NINDERRY

Record of Proceedings, 9 November 2022

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL (NO. 3)

APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 3)

BETTING TAX AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (6.29 pm): I rise to make a contribution on the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 3) 2022, the Appropriation Bill (No. 3) 2022 and the Betting Tax and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. The objective of the appropriation bills is to seek formal authorisation for the specified amounts in each bill that the Treasurer paid from the Consolidated Fund for unforeseen expenditure that occurred in the 2021-22 financial year. Unforeseen expenditure refers to expenditure from the Consolidated Fund in excess of the amount provided by the budget appropriation bills and is authorised by the Governor in Council to be made in advance of authorisation by the parliament.

Appropriation Bill (No. 3) 2022 provides for supplementary appropriations for various departments for unforeseen expenditure that occurred in the 2021-22 financial year. The Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 3) 2022 provides for supplementary appropriations for the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service for unforeseen expenditure that occurred in the 2021-22 financial year. Under the bill, the Treasurer is authorised to pay \$2.823 billion from the Consolidated Fund to 14 departments in the financial year starting 1 July 2021. This is in comparison to last year's bill which sought \$447.456 million for six departments. The total authorised expenditure equals \$2.825 billion.

While the LNP will not be opposing these bills, there is so much that needs to be said about the economic record of this current government. As a member of the Economics and Governance Committee that considered the appropriation bills, I cannot overstate the waste and disregard for taxpayers' money that is represented by these overspends. The overspend in this year's bills is the highest since this government came to power nearly eight years ago. In fact, it even surpasses the blowouts in the dying years of the Bligh government, and is symptomatic of this lazy third-term Labor government.

Fourteen departments and agencies have reported an overspend. For the record, they include: the Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs, over \$175 million; the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training, over \$138 million; the Department of Energy and Public Works, over \$57 million; the Department of Environment and Science, over \$623 million; the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning, over \$573 million; the Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport, over \$85 million; the Department of Transport and Main Roads, over \$330 million; Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, over \$224 million; the Queensland Police Service, over \$56 million; and Queensland Treasury, over \$551 million.

The irony of these budget blowouts is not lost on Queensland taxpayers. Despite these massive overspends, service delivery standards have declined across the board. Every day in this chamber, members on this side of the House share the often heartbreaking stories of their constituents who have

been let down by this government—Queenslanders, who are the victims of failing standards and a failing government. We speak of Queenslanders like those once proud families now forced to live in their cars and line up for food vouchers, pensioners forced to swelter in the heat because they cannot afford to turn on a fan, patients left waiting for hours on ambulance stretchers in hospital corridors or mothers forced to give birth on the side of the road, innocent young children who have been failed by those meant to protect them and people forced to live like prisoners in their own homes for fear of becoming the next victim of crime.

With cost-of-living pressures and failures in health, youth justice and housing—to name a few—it is no wonder Queenslanders have lost faith in this government. This is a government with enough skeletons in the cupboard to celebrate Halloween every day. Make no mistake, there is no candy left for the masses. Despite the sugar hits from our rich resources sector, this government has gobbled it all up and has already begun sniffing around for its next victim in the guise of another new tax—perhaps a tax on patients.

That leads me directly to the other bill in this cognate debate—the Betting Tax and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. Although announced at budget time, together with the other three new taxes—the multiple land tax jurisdiction amendment, the coal royalties hike and the payroll tax increase—the change to the point of consumption tax was not legislated. According to the Treasurer, the main objective of the bill is to provide for a more sustainable funding model for Queensland’s racing industry, primarily by amending the Betting Tax Act 2018 from 1 December 2022. The bill makes a number of amendments to give effect to the government’s announcement on 6 June 2022 of changes to betting tax arrangements to provide for a more sustainable funding model for Queensland’s racing industry.

The bill introduces the final of four new or increased taxes and fixes the bungled introduction of another. While there are a number of issues with this bill, they can ultimately be best summarised in the words of the Treasurer himself. He stated—

I am proud to serve in a government that keeps its promises. We promised the people of Queensland we would not raise their taxes, and we have kept that promise.

They are infamous words from an illustrious Treasurer, who made this promise of no new taxes no less than 26 times. Yes, the Treasurer has great form when it comes to breaking promises to Queenslanders. It is no wonder taxpayers shudder every time he speaks.

This bill is reflective of where we find ourselves midway in the third term of a government that has checked out—a government that lurches from crisis to crisis at greater velocity than the Premier’s red carpet appearances; a government that has swept its moral compass under the same red carpet; a government that has given up on governing and is more concerned with the way things look rather than how they actually are. What we have heard in this chamber already about the abysmal ability and track record of this third-term, lazy government leaves no doubt in the mind of Queenslanders that they have been hoodwinked. They have been sold a lemon by the Treasurer who oversees a veritable river of gold, but instead has allowed the state’s coffers to run dry. This is a government that no longer listens, is plagued by integrity issues and no longer governs for Queenslanders. Cost blowouts, broken promises and a lack of transparency and accountability will become the hallmarks of this government. That is a legacy that hardworking Queenslanders do not deserve.