



Speech By
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MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

Record of Proceedings, 9 November 2022

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL (NO. 3)

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BETTING TAX AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.43 pm): I will start my contribution to the Betting Tax and Other Legislation Amendment Bill with three words: 'at this time'. If somebody says to you 'at this time', what does that mean? That is not a definitive, 'This is over.' That is not, 'I have been rolled.' That is not, 'You will never see it again.' That is not a 'rule it out'. That is 'at this time'. Aaron Finch is the opener of the Australian Twenty20 team 'at this time' but perhaps for not much longer. Make no mistake: they are the words of a Treasurer who has been humiliated, embarrassed, humbled and put in his box and does not have the ticker to admit he is wrong. That is the language of a government for which, if it were given one more opportunity for a fourth term, this would be back on the agenda.

I say to every person who is struggling to make ends meet, every person who is looking at this state and every person who is considering the future of a government that respects good strategy and implementation of tax policy: this is a government that will sneak this tax back on you at a moment's notice if given another opportunity. This was not a definitive putting to bed. This was not a Treasurer who should know better; this is a bloke who has been humiliated by his leader after getting an endorsement on several occasions. He will not rest until he gets an opportunity to finish what he believes is good policy. It is not good policy. It would not be good policy at any time. It is certainly not good policy in the middle of a full-blown housing crisis. This is a Treasurer with a glass jaw who will do anything to try to square the record after being humiliated mercilessly by his leader. He does want to be the Premier. He does not have the ticker or the intellect to do so.

I want to talk about the bill that cleans up the mess of the payroll tax from June, the 14 clauses in the mop-up. Very briefly, this morning the Australian Medical Association bravely stood up and explained what has happened to some of its members who for the first time have received payroll tax bills. Do members know what they wanted? They wanted the opportunity to talk to the Treasurer. They wanted an opportunity just maybe to put across their point, but he would not meet them. If ever you need to show what a third-term government that has lost its way looks like, when a Treasurer will not meet a respected lobby group such as the AMAQ you know everything that is wrong. Perhaps they needed a lobbyist. Perhaps they needed someone to be able to bring them to the table to discuss, say, for example, a point-of-consumption tax—on 40 occasions. This is a government that no longer respects taxpayers' money. It no longer respects transparency. It no longer respects the people who have put it there. The conduct of the Treasurer—his sloppiness and his constant belligerence—proves that this is a government that has lost the trust of the people who put it there.

I want to talk about the \$2.8 billion figure. It was dropped a couple of weeks ago. The Treasurer attempted to say the number quickly in a bid to make it not sound as big as it is. When a government misses the mark by an historic amount like that, you know that its attention to detail is not there. We will continue to talk about waste, because the Wellcamp saga proves it. Every time we talk about wasteful spending, the government will do all sorts of things and try to run the same old scare campaigns. Treating taxpayers' money with respect is how you deal with waste. You deal with waste by not constantly looking for a get-square with political opponents. You deal with waste by being respectful and diligent. This government has given up on that.

I want to talk about what that \$2.8 billion could have delivered—projects in my electorate of Broadwater such as the duplication of Jabiru Island Bridge. I know that my good friend the member for Bonney is interested in that, because many of his residents would also use it. That is a project that has been constantly put on the backburner without any planning. I will have a little more to say about that tonight. I mention schools in my electorate—schools that have demountable buildings that were brought there on the back of a truck decades ago. Young kids who deserve the right to equality of education at places like Coombabah primary and Biggera Waters State School—

Mr O'Connor: Coombabah High.

Mr CRISAFULLI: That is just in the neighbouring electorate of Bonney. I take the interjection. They are great state schools, led by great principals and great staff and they have facilities that are not fitting of a modern Queensland. It should not be the case in 2020 and beyond that children have to learn in facilities like demountable buildings. We have the opportunity for schools to provide an environment where children can get the best out of each other and out of the staff at the school, and right now that is not occurring.

I look at the shortcomings in housing. There is a dearth of social housing on the Gold Coast and indeed there is a dearth in my electorate. The social housing that is there at the moment in many cases is not well administered. I have spoken about the need, particularly at Errol Avenue at the moment, for those properties to be properly managed. What this money could do to provide more quality social housing in the electorate is important.

I speak about policing. The number of officers at Runaway Bay Police Station has remained static for a long time. I will continue to push for more police for the growing northern Gold Coast and I will continue to push for Hope Island to come under the jurisdiction of Runaway Bay. That makes a lot of sense. I will continue to advocate on my residents' behalf for that to occur. That is an important change. With a small geographical change, the two officers who are attached to Hope Island could be transferred from the Coomera Police Station to the Runaway Bay Police Station. There are some great synergies there. All of the police on the ground want that to occur. I have had some good meetings with the QPS hierarchy, but I am again calling on the minister and the commissioner to facilitate this. It is important to the northern Gold Coast. It is important to the local area.

Quality health services are important to the local area and \$2.8 billion could have given us a hospital and then some. It could have delivered that hospital in that growth corridor well ahead of when it is slated for. There will be more on that shortly. We will continue to fight for a government that treats people's money with respect.

I am going to come back to where I finished. If the Treasurer is serious about giving a message to investors and young people looking to rent or get into the market, he will come in here today—

Ms Bates interjected.

Mr Walker interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): Order! Members!

Honourable members interjected.

Mr CRISAFULLI: If the Treasurer were serious about sending a strong signal to young people looking to rent or get into the market, if the Treasurer were serious about sending—

Mr WALKER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Broadwater, resume your seat.

Mr WALKER: Member for Currumbin, I take deep offence at that comment.

Mrs GERBER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I did not speak at all. There was no comment from me. He has it wrong.

Mr WALKER: I take offence at being calling 'Mr Punchy' and I want that withdrawn.

Mrs GERBER: I withdraw.

Mr WALKER: I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. When I raised my first point of order there was a denial and now there is an admission. I would hate to think that this parliament was misled.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Mundingburra, resume your seat. That is not a point of order. The comment has been withdrawn.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I only have a minute to get to the punchline so here goes! If the Treasurer were serious about sending the right message, he would come in today and say that this is ruled out forever—not at this time, not for a time of our choosing, not for ‘if we get a fourth term we will stitch you up’, not for ‘once the Premier goes I will be able to get my way’. If the Treasurer were serious about sending the right signals to investors, renters and Queensland, he would rule this out forever. Anything short of fully ruling it out shows a Treasurer who is so hell-bent on defending the indefensible, a government at war with itself and a third-term government that no longer governs in Queenslanders’ interests.