




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA SOUTH

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MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Budget

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (2.27 pm): There will be no French from me today. I promise.

Dr Rowan interjected.

Mr JANETZKI: I think French was the official language of England until the 14th century, but I will not take that. Today I want to turn the spotlight back onto the state government's financial management. Right now it is all about the federal government and the opposition and what they believe the economy should look like. As I watch 'Albo' plundering around the country forgetting his policies, I am reminded of what we have here in Queensland and the importance of the dates that are ahead for us in this year's budget. Time and time again we have seen that this government is characterised by three things when it comes to economic management: new taxes, wasteful spending and the wrong priorities. We will see that all over again during the budget in six weeks time.

Let us just go back. Over the course of the Palaszczuk government we have seen more than 10 new taxes across the term. Just last December the Treasurer broke a promise. In 2020 he broke a debt promise, and in 2021 he broke an election promise not to introduce new taxes. In December in MYFR we saw the Treasurer introduce a new tax, and we will see the flow-through impacts of that in the budget in June.

We see every day the wasteful spending of this Labor government—with \$200 million on a quarantine facility in Wellcamp for a thousand beds and not one of them goes to new social housing beds or homelessness beds.

Mr Watts: Or hospital beds.

Mr JANETZKI: Or hospital beds—I take the interjection from the member for Toowoomba North. That is a thousand beds, and they could have been used for the social housing crisis. There are 50,000 households waiting for social housing right now, with 80 per cent of them classed as very high need. Instead, the government blows \$200 million on a quarantine facility that is a white elephant. We know that there is over \$3 billion in cost overruns in key infrastructure projects. Cross River Rail has blown out, and the Coomera Connector has blown out from \$1.5 billion to \$2.1 billion. There are over \$3 billion in cost blowouts plaguing infrastructure projects across Queensland.

Then we have the wrong priorities on display every day with this government. We now have a series of Auditor-General reports that have blown the whistle on the transparency and timeliness weaknesses of this government. We have seen the Auditor-General reports time and time again. Accounting trickery has been a hallmark of this government's budgets. It started with loading up debt on government owned corporations, then it went into raiding public servant superannuation, and last year we saw the dodgy valuation of the titles registry office. Already in this bill before the House we

have seen a billion dollars of bond money for renters being popped into the back pocket of the Treasurer. We have seen the accounting trickery, so we will be looking for it again in this budget because they are running out of hollow logs and raids that they can enact.

The elephant in the room, however, is cost of living. Inflation across the nation is 5.1 per cent, but in Queensland it is actually six per cent. At a time when the government have been seeking out red carpets, announcements and ribbon cuttings, they have been silent on the cost-of-living pressures facing Queenslanders. There will be an opportunity for the Treasurer to speak on the cost-of-living pressures facing Queensland people. As we have seen time and time again, this government will seek out the short cut, they will seek out the red carpet and they will seek out trickery when it comes time to present the books.

We know that new taxes will not grow the Queensland economy. We also know that wasteful spending is disrespectful of hardworking Queensland taxpayers. On this side of the House, we will always hold the government to account on infrastructure cost blowouts and on the \$100 million that was promised one year ago today that has not improved the health system or ambulance ramping in this state. We will always focus on the wrong priorities of this government because those wrong priorities reveal every single day that this government is concerned more about the way things look than how things actually are.