



Speech By
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MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA SOUTH

Record of Proceedings, 16 August 2022


APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation Bill

Economics and Governance Committee, Report

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (11.56 am): There is the Treasurer of Queensland—four minutes obsessing about the Leader of the Opposition. The report that we are debating is the committee report into the Appropriation Bill of this parliament. It is the committee report, and yet that is what we got from the Treasurer of Queensland. I am reminded of the words of Sir Leo Hielscher, Queensland's most respected public servant, who said that the Treasurer is up against 17 others in the cabinet; it is the Treasurer's responsibility to stand up to the other 17 members of the cabinet to determine whether there would be spending. What we have seen from the estimates process this year is that this Treasurer has failed that most basic test. The Treasurer has failed that most basic test of standing up and caring about every single dollar that is spent in this parliament.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): Pause the clock. Members, I cannot hear the member. I am very close to him, but I am not hearing what he is saying over the interjections. Members at the back, please cease your interjections. I cannot quite see who it is because of the masks.

Mr JANETZKI: The Treasurer promised 26 times in this place and outside that there would be no new or increased taxes. The failures of the Treasurer's colleagues have forced him to shred his own credibility and break that promise. It is the wasteful spending—an avalanche of wasting spending—that has been unveiled in this estimates process from ministers lining up, end to end, on that side of the House that has shredded the Treasurer's credibility and shown him to be incapable of reining in wasteful spending and caring about every single dollar that is spent.

Honourable members have only to look at the Minister for Transport and Main Roads to see that. Cross River Rail has gone from \$5.4 billion to near \$8 billion. There have been blowouts in the Coomera Connector to \$600 million. We have the 'minister for roller-coasters'. An amount of \$2.7 million was to go to koala spending; instead it was put to a roller-coaster.

In terms of the housing minister, a billion dollars will be delivered over 25 years out of a fake fund through the corporatisation of the titles registry, which is now cutting services in rural and regional Queensland. We have a small business minister who could only find two tradies for \$2 million. In the department of small business, \$4 million outlaid in COVID grants is currently being clawed back. Of course, we have the flagship of their wasteful spending—the Wellcamp quarantine facility. We have just

heard the Leader of the Opposition reflect on what that means for Queensland. What it meant for the people of Toowoomba was a level of disrespect that has never been shown to a region—ever. We recall that the Deputy Premier and the Premier would pass through Toowoomba and not talk to a single soul there on their way out to Wellcamp. They have now been shown to have blown over \$200 million—\$237 million at last count—in wasteful spending, and they have nothing to show for it.

Not only have the Treasurer's ministerial colleagues been engaging in wasteful spending; the Treasurer has also been up to a fair bit of wasteful spending of his own in the last couple of months and years. We had the COVID report that was delivered by the Auditor-General. Isn't the Auditor-General doing a great job of revealing the wasteful spending and the wrong priorities of this government! Just before the budget process we heard that the government had spent four times as much on self-promotion than on health promotion. Imagine spending \$10 million spruiking your own economic policy and only \$2½ million going towards health promotion.

Of course, we have the ultimate: \$1 million in spending to preserve the Treasurer's glass jaw. It has cracked. His credibility is shot with his broken promises. To pay for the credibility covering of his broken promise, during estimates it was revealed that over a million dollars has been spent advertising the coal royalty hike. Who would imagine that a treasurer would spend a million dollars advertising a tax increase? It was because he had broken his promise and his credibility was shot, not just in this place but also with industry—four new taxes.

The Treasurer should be thinking carefully about how many nurses could have been put on, how many ambulance vehicles could have been put on, how many more teachers could have been added, how many more social houses could have been added to the stock in Queensland. The Treasurer's credibility is shot. This is a government of more debt and taxes, wasteful spending and the wrong priorities.