




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR NANANGO

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APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL (NO. 2)

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 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (4.33 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate of appropriation bills (No. 2). As so many of the speakers on this side of the House have already alluded, clearly this bill is before the House because we have a Treasurer addicted to overspending and underplanning. Let us talk about his planning with the titles office. I am sure everyone in this House can remember the bogus, inflated—

Mr Janetzki: Miraculous.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I take that interjection of the shadow Treasurer—the miraculous figure that was put to the titles office.

An opposition member: A miracle.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I take that interjection. It was a miracle. I am quite sure that is what many commentators called it, because it was just plucked out of the air—\$4.2 billion to \$7.8 billion.

Mr Janetzki interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I will continue to take those interjections by the shadow Treasurer. When it comes to budgets and appropriation bills, it is extremely important to get your facts right. Many members opposite have read Treasury's speaking points and used their little notes. They have not done their own research, but they have deliberately and continually stood up in this chamber and talked about how we are here today because the government is doing such a wonderful job. That is why Queensland has the second worst unemployment rate in mainland Australia. Those opposite can carry on about it being so great, but it is Queensland—

Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): Order!

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. We have also heard those opposite talking straight off the speaking points and saying that these appropriation bills need to come to this House because of unforeseen expenses around the election. Let us revisit that election. In the middle of the election the Treasurer said, 'We're only going to—

Mr Power interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Yes, I am more than happy to talk about it. He said that this is only going to increase—

Mr Power: But this is not true.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Logan will cease his interjections.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I am happy to take the member for Logan's interjections, whilst he continues carrying on, because it really does help my case. It was the Treasurer of Queensland who stood before Queenslanders with the now Premier and said, 'We are only going to increase debt in this state by \$4 billion.' They went to the election and not one month later—about four weeks—that \$4 billion miraculously increased seven times and ended up at \$28 billion!

Why should the people of Queensland trust the Palaszczuk government when it comes to anything to do with figures, budgets, appropriations or anything? Give us a break! That is why the people of my electorate and people across Queensland—even in those incompetent Labor members' seats—are saying, 'If it is \$28 billion extra, why is more money not being spent in our patch?' Where does that extra debt go? Borrowings are being spent on operational expenses. For those opposite, 'operational expenses' basically means money spent to keep the lights on and not on infrastructure investment to grow the state. Two-thirds of Queensland's new debt is being used to cover day-to-day operational expenses—not capital investment. It is certainly not capital investment such as flood gauges on Benara Creek in my patch. If they had been installed, maybe that 14-year-old girl would still be alive.

Government members: Shame!

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Really? There is a 14-year-old girl still missing in my electorate. If those opposite want to be inconsiderate, rude and ignorant, please keep going. I take offence at that interjection. That is exactly what we get from a third-term Labor government that is arrogant. The hubris from those opposite! There is no greater insult to the families who risked their own lives and their children's lives, trying to save people in those flooded creeks. I will give the member for Maryborough a little bit of credit for keeping his head down right now, because he knows how distressed my community still is. I will say it again: if the government wants to increase its borrowings seven times, why can my community not expect some infrastructure projects like flood gauges on Benara Creek?

Why has the funding for the GS Bond Bridge in the previous year miraculously disappeared? That is funding of \$12.387 million for a bridge that is much needed in my patch so B-doubles can go across that bridge and mums and dads in their caravans and the school bus that go across that bridge can do it safely. Where is that \$12.387 million? It has disappeared. It has completely gone. I hear members opposite like the member for Cairns talk about how wonderful the government is for creating incredible economic growth. Why are they not managing their budget properly given all the extra revenue coming as a result of that unprecedented economic growth?

Mr Harper: 4.4 per cent unemployment.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: The second worst in the nation. The rest of the nation, except for one state, is doing better. I am quite sure that interjection is from the same member. I could not have planned that. He just walked straight into that.

This is typical of a Labor government that fails to plan. We have six departments that are over budget. I note that that includes the Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water which is over by about \$28 million. I will go back and have a look, but I am quite sure that in estimates we heard that it was roughly that amount of money that was going to be spent in the member for Gladstone's electorate. One would think that if he is going to go over budget by that much and spend that much in his own electorate to try to make sure that the local mayor gets elected as the federal member that he would get his figures right. I do not know why I would expect that. That is why we will continue to back Col Boyce as the federal member for Flynn. He will be fantastic in a returned Morrison-Joyce government. We know that the budget of the Minister for Water, the member for Gladstone, blew out. I would like to look into whether that extra funding flowed into the Gladstone electorate.

I also note that there has been increased expenditure by the Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs. Whilst I welcome extra funds going into that much needed department, it is disappointing to say the least that it does not flow through to the people on the front line who need it most. The people on the front line have the high case loads. I know that the child protection workers in the South Burnett area work so hard. They are overrun with work. If there is increased departmental expenditure let us hope it goes to those on the front line and not just to administrative waste. That will be subject to the estimate process.

It is disappointing that with all these cost overruns we have not seen more expenditure in areas such as health, and mental health in particular.