



Speech By  
**Deb Frecklington**

**MEMBER FOR NANANGO**


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Record of Proceedings, 10 November 2022

**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL (NO. 3)**

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**BETTING TAX AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (12.50 pm): Mr Deputy Speaker, I very much appreciate your previous guidance; I had failed to recall that. I rise to also contribute to the Appropriation Bill (No. 3) 2022. When this bill was put on our tables about a month ago I sat here and looked at the green. I actually said to the member sitting beside me, 'Have you seen this? Have you seen this? It is \$2.8 billion!' Someone said, 'No, no, Deb. It's million.' I said, 'No, No. billion—B, billion.' It is a \$2.85 billion overspend. What can you say? That shows the complete incompetence of the Queensland Treasurer. His job is actually to control the finances of the state government, and whose finances are they? Whose money is this? We always hear the Palaszczuk government saying, 'I've done this,' or, 'I've done that,' or, 'We've given you this,' and, 'We've given you that.' The money is actually the Queensland people's money, so the Treasurer of Queensland has a responsibility to use it wisely and carefully. Instead, we come in here and we are debating this overspend. We know that he is Australia's most incompetent Treasurer; we have heard that.

We have also seen the debacle about the renters tax, and I will get to that in a minute. It is very important to note that demonstrates what is actually happening behind the scenes in the Palaszczuk government: one minister does not talk to the other minister. We have the health minister for whom no-one would stand up and show confidence in last night. I take that back, there were a couple who did, but the Premier certainly did not. The Treasurer spoke on that no-confidence motion last night. That was interesting because the Treasurer had no confidence in the Premier when he continued to say he was going to introduce the renters tax. Where are we at with that renters tax?

The shadow Treasurer has been talking about the devastating impacts of the Palaszczuk government's renters tax since December last year. We have been going on and on about it because we know the devastating impacts it would have on the property industry. That is why the stakeholders—the Property Council and all the people who want to ensure that Queenslanders have a roof over their head—were saying that this is another broken promise from the Palaszczuk government, and the Palaszczuk government was elected on a platform of no new taxes. Every single election campaign the Premier and whoever is the Treasurer at the time—this time it was this Treasurer—say, 'We will have no new taxes.' They stand up every election and say, 'No new taxes.' I say to Queenslanders we have had 15 new taxes under this Palaszczuk government; 15 times they have broken the tax commitment they gave Queenslanders and that has resulted in about \$10 billion.

The latest one was when the Treasurer said he was going to introduce a renters tax in Queensland. He was going to tax the mums and dads. That is exactly what this Treasurer thought. He dug in from December last year. He continued in press conference after press conference saying, 'I stand by my new tax. I stand by ripping off mums and dads of Queensland.' That is what the Treasurer was effectively saying. This tax was so bad that the Victorian Labor Premier, Dan Andrews—

**Mr Janetzki:** He didn't want it.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** He did not even want it. I take that interjection from the shadow Treasurer. He said, 'Are you kidding me? Why would we do your dirty work?' That is what every other premier said. Premier Palaszczuk was in Canberra with all the other Labor ministers and she was saying, 'Look at me. I'm better than all the other premiers because we're going to use all of you to tax our own citizens.' Come on! Even the Labor premiers—and I cannot believe I am saying anything about Dan Andrews because oh my goodness me, we did not think that a premier could get worse, but seriously! Even Labor's Dan Andrews said, 'You've got to be kidding me, Premier Palaszczuk!'

**Mr Perrett:** You're dreaming.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** 'You're dreaming. Your Treasurer needs to be reined in. This is ridiculous.' Then one of the premiers—and we do not know which one—said, 'Come over here, Premier Palaszczuk. Let's get a piece of paper and let's write it down for you to explain how ridiculous this tax is. You are now relying on every other state for it.' She has introduced 15 other taxes on Queenslanders whom she told would not be taxed. She and her Treasurer have sat around the cabinet table and every single minister agreed to tax mums and dads again and then she tried to rely on other state premiers to back her in. When she saw that bit of paper—without, I might add, telling the Treasurer, who had just held a press conference saying he still backed in his statements about the renters tax and, 'Yes, we are going to continue to have this tax'—she was asked a question in front of all the other premiers and she ruled it out. She did not even pick up the phone or send a text message to the Treasurer, and so there was the final humiliation.

It turns out that was not the final humiliation of the Treasurer of Queensland; it is actually today. Yesterday we came back from lunch and the shadow Treasurer said, 'What's this bit of paper on my desk?' It was almost the final humiliation of the Queensland Treasurer. It was the amendment to get rid of, we thought, the renters tax. But guess what? I know the Labor members only read the speaking notes and do not ever look into anything.

**Mrs Mullen** interjected.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I am holding the green, and I take that interjection from the shadow finance minister—the shadow finance minister who supports the renters tax, the shadow finance minister who did not have enough grunt to say, 'Treasurer, this is really bad. This is really bad.' It shows that even the shadow minister—

**Government members** interjected.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Sorry, the assistant finance minister. It shows that the shadow minister is the only one listening. It shows that the assistant finance minister has no clue.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Hart): Pause the clock. Member for Nanango, resume your seat. Members, there is three minutes to go. Let's hang out for three more minutes and then we can all go to lunch and calm down.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I am so excited that the Assistant Minister for Treasury—

**Mrs Mullen** interjected.

**A government member:** Correct titles.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** They never used to use my correct title, but she would like to be called the 'assistant Treasurer'. Let's say the assistant Treasurer—

**An opposition member:** Assistant to the Treasurer.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** The assistant to the Treasurer cannot even do the job she is paid to do, and that is to stand up for mums and dads who do not want to be taxed. It is this assistant minister who actually supports 15 new taxes—\$10 billion. Who is paying it? That is right, the mums and dads of Queensland.

I will tell the assistant to the Treasurer that it would be good if she got out those economics books and actually did a bit of research. When the Treasurer of Queensland invents another new tax she can then stand up to him. She can say, 'Oh Mr Treasurer, this is going to be too humiliating because you're going to have to come in and then you're going to have to deceive the people of Queensland.' They think they are going to amend—and this is what the green says—'the government's decision not to proceed'—and here is the *Yes Minister* statement—'at this time'.

What does that mean for the next budget? What does it mean for the 2024 election? It means that the Palaszczuk government are going to go to the next election in support of the Treasurer and the assistant to the Treasurer, who support a renters tax on each and every Queenslanders. This is at a time

when Queenslanders cannot afford a roof over their head. The Palaszczuk government thinks the solution to the housing crisis in Queensland is to give us another tax. I can say we have had it up to here with taxes. We have had it up to here with the fact that 13 ministers cannot manage their budgets. They have the biggest budget overrun in living memory and it is ridiculous that these ministers think they can come in here and announce this and announce that to the benefit of their own electorates. However, it is the people of Queensland's money that they are using.

This government is not listening to Queensland. It is obvious that the Treasurer is not listening to the assistant and it is obvious that the Premier is not listening to the Treasurer.