



Speech By
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MEMBER FOR KAWANA

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APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

REVENUE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (10.46 am): In speaking to the appropriation bills, I firstly acknowledge the new member for Callide, the wonderful Mr Bryson Head. I loved going up to his electorate in regional Queensland and campaigning—unlike the Premier, who made not one visit during the by-election to endorse or support her Labor Party candidate. Is it any wonder they kept the Premier away? The Labor Party suffered a 19 per cent primary vote swing. Their vote absolutely tanked in regional Queensland. There was a six per cent swing to Mr Bryson Head, two-party preferred.

I congratulate the new member for Callide because, guess what? He turns up to work! He turns up to work on his first day on the job, unlike the four Labor MPs who did not show up to their job yesterday in a PCCC meeting. Where were they? We heard bizarre excuses this morning: 'I am the whip.' As if he does anything anyway. It is all run from the back room. We know that it is not even run from the Premier's office. The ghost of Jackie Trad still haunts this place. I thought when Jackie got booted from parliament it was the last we would see of her. Alas, the ghost of Jackie still roams around here. She is the puppetmaster for the Palaszczuk Labor government. She pulls the strings. She has her bodyguard, the member for Pumicestone, stand up here and defend her integrity. No way, I say. The other bodyguard is the Attorney-General. Let us not forget this is the Attorney-General who went skiing with Jackie Trad in Whistler and forgot to update her pecuniary interest register. Are we going to take integrity advice from the Attorney-General who, incidentally, signed off on the legal indemnity paying—

Ms Fentiman interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): Pause the clock. I will wait for silence. Member for Kawana, you have been making an enthusiastic contribution. You have not mentioned the budget yet. I am hoping that you bring it back to the long title of the bill.

Mr BLEIJIE: Of course this budget is covering the cost of Jackie Trad's legal expenses to hide a CCC report from the people of Queensland.

Ms Fentiman interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I will take that interjection. I have no issues at all with legal indemnities, but when a former minister goes off to the Supreme Court to try to hide a CCC report then it is a different story. A former minister should not have their legal expenses covered when trying to cover up a report. It is a cover-up. It is corrupt.

Ms Fentiman interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. We will wait for silence again. I ask all members to refrain from gesticulating.

Mr BLEIJIE: Get me some rope. I will tie my hands behind my back. It will help the House and the Attorney-General, I might add. Indemnities are offered to former ministers. We have no problem with that. But we do have a problem when a former minister goes off to the Supreme Court, uses taxpayer money and is granted an indemnity by her Labor mates and then tries to hide a CCC report. Imagine if a court finds in Jackie Trad's favour: the public will never know what happened with the appointment of Frankie Carroll, the former under treasurer, and the public will never find out about the involvement of Jackie Trad. As I have said in this House, what has Jackie Trad got to hide if she is running off to the Supreme Court?

The PCCC members who were completely derelict in their duties yesterday by not showing up to the meeting should consider whether they even want to be a part of the committee system in the first place. They have an obligation to show up. I echo the words of former Labor Speaker John Mickel who, only a short time ago on 4BC, said he was bemused that the Labor members of parliament would not show up for their duties. They are paid to show up to their job. The protection racket for Jackie Trad continues by the Labor government.

Ms Fentiman interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Waterford.

Ms Bates: Could we stop the screeching?

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection. This is protecting a former minister who clearly still controls—

Ms FENTIMAN: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. If I understand it correctly, the member for Mudgeeraba described me as 'shrieking', in another use of gendered language. If that is the case, I take offence and ask her to withdraw.

Mr POWELL: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order in relation to that point of order. If the member for Waterford is suggesting that what was said by the member for Mudgeeraba was directed personally at her and named her, then that is false. *Hansard* would show that.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is not a point of order. Member for Mudgeeraba, personal offence has been taken. Do you withdraw?

Ms BATES: I withdraw.

Mr BLEIJIE: As the Treasurer has said, this budget is a typical Labor budget and I completely agree. There are higher taxes. He misrepresented what he was going to do in the budget. There is bigger debt. It is more Labor nonsense. Of course, the biggest promise they made: 'Trust us, trust us, trust us. We're going to build hospitals in two elections time.' That is what the budget does. There is no actual commitment to fix the health crisis today. There is no actual commitment to fix the ambulance ramping today. You could be on a stretcher in a ramped ambulance tonight, but there is no incentive in the budget to fix the crisis we have now. There is no fix to the housing crisis we have now and there is simply no fix to the integrity crisis.

Where is the money for all the royal commissions we have in Queensland at the moment? This would be the most royal commissions into a government that I have seen going at any given time. We have a royal commission into the CCC itself. We have a royal commission into how the police handle DV victims in the state of Queensland. We have a royal commission into the forensic lab, which they denied was needed but then they did it, although it is not funded in the budget. Where is the money? We have investigations of the QBCC, which should be a royal commission. We have investigations into all the other integrity matters. There is the Coaldrake review that is doing investigations. We have the laptop affair currently before the CCC. The only one we do not have is a royal commission into the Palaszczuk government.

If you look at what the CCC has recently released in terms of influencing practices in government, it talks very much about lobbyists. It also underlines the focus of another influencing practice in Queensland, which is the unions—the absolute influence of the unions. I will be making a submission to that CCC inquiry because for years I have been trying to get the CCC to take seriously the relationship and the coexistence between the union movement and the Labor Party, the donations they receive and the benefits that they get from those donations, which is legislative reform and changes. That is what they get. I look forward to making a submission to that CCC inquiry in relation to influencing practices.

As I said in the House yesterday, when talking about those union influencing practices you only have to take this example: if you are a nurse in Queensland and you join the nurses union, at the moment you will pay \$717.50 a year.

Mr Kelly: Money well spent.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take that interjection. Labor cannot do maths. That is 'Labornomics'. That is not the case. I would ask for a refund. I would join the NPAQ because you get a better service. You might as well give your 300 bucks to the Labor Party anyway, which is where it goes. It is \$717.50 for the nurses union, but you can join the Nurses Professional Association of Queensland for \$442. That is a \$275 difference.

Mr BROWN: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. It is my understanding that there is a bill before parliament that he is pre-empting the debate of.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Capalaba, there is no point of order.

Mr BLEIJIE: I am talking about the union fees and membership fees of different organisations in Queensland. If you look at those two groups, you see there is a \$275 difference. If one union group can provide services to their members, such as hardworking teachers and nurses, for about \$300 less, it begs the question: where does the money go? I can tell the House where it goes: campaigning for the Labor Party! At the federal election the Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union put up big anti-coalition billboards across all the federal electorates. That is where the \$300 goes.

If people want bang for their dollar and actual choice about which organisations to use, why is the Labor Party so opposed to teachers and nurses making that choice? It is not about other unions; it is about choice for nurses and teachers. This is not about other unions or competition between unions; it is about teachers and nurses. It is their choice. The QTU and the QNMU exist to support the Labor Party. If you ask how much of that additional money goes into the Labor Party then the answer is, about \$300. I say to teachers and nurses across Queensland that the LNP will not tell you what to do with your money. We will not tell you what is the right or wrong choice or which organisation to choose, because you deserve a choice.

The member who rose on a point of order does not want me to anticipate debate and I will not talk about the corrupt piece of legislation that was introduced yesterday into the parliament. It is absolute corruption and it goes to the heart of choices for nurses and teachers in the state of Queensland. We will debate the bill that they introduced yesterday at another time. However, I suspect that when the CCC looks at the influencing practices of the union movement they will only need to look at the bill that was introduced yesterday in the parliament to see exactly that. They will see exactly the corrupt government we have in Queensland and what they want to do is outlaw—and I take the nodding from the Attorney-General; yes, they do.

Ms Fentiman: They want to outlaw organisations that purport to be a union but that are not.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection: the Attorney said they want to outlaw the competitive unions to the Labor Party friendly unions in this state.

Ms Fentiman: That is not what I said.

Mr BLEIJIE: That is essentially what she is saying. What the Attorney-General is saying to teachers and nurses is that if you are a teacher or a nurse you can join a union; just make sure that it is the one that supports the Labor Party. That is what they are saying.

That is a corruption risk in Queensland. I hope the CCC looks at that influencing practice. Their pre-selections, jobs in this place and ministerial responsibilities rely on it. I look forward to when we debate the influencing practices of the nurses' union and others. It is a disgrace that, in the middle of a budget week, the government would sneak in legislation to outlaw competitive unions, because it does not want teachers and nurses having a choice—to better representation and better service. Yes, Deputy Speaker, I am anticipating debate and I will stop right now. Thank you. I saw the warning.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): Could the member for Kawana bring his speech back to talking about the budget.

Mr BLEIJIE: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, I will. Talking about the budget, it is a sneaky budget. I heard the Treasurer in Kuranda when he was asked about the increase in taxation and business taxes. He said, 'No, no, no. There will be no tax increase. There will be no increased or new taxes.' When trying to explain his misrepresentation, he got himself in a twist on live crosses and said, 'Well, no, I didn't really mention business.' Therefore, he always knew that he was going to attack the business community in Queensland and decided purposely not to tell people before the election about the great big new taxes. That is what they did.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: 'Tricky Dicky', I take the interjection. Absolutely it was 'Tricky Dicky'—or 'Slippery Dick'. That is what he is: 'Treasurer Slippery Dick'; that is what it is.

Mr HINCHLIFFE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Referring to members not by their proper titles and then doubling down by making it unparliamentary is very unorthodox and unparliamentary.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I agree, member for Sandgate. Member for Kawana, I find some of the language you used was unparliamentary and ask that you withdraw.

Mr BLEIJIE: My apologies, Deputy Speaker. I withdraw. The Treasurer had his Julia Gillard moment when she said, 'There will be no carbon tax under the government I lead' in terms of no new or increased taxes. The Treasurer turned around and increased all these taxes.

I refer to the neglect of the Sunshine Coast, again, by the Palaszczuk Labor government—no commitment to our rail infrastructure; no commitment to the Beerwah to Caloundra to Kawana to Maroochydore rail infrastructure; and no commitment to say that we will match the 50 per cent funding of the former Morrison government. There was none of that. Absolutely, there was not a dime to build the important rail infrastructure on the Sunshine Coast.

I do thank the government for not funding the terrible light rail on the Sunshine Coast. We do not want light rail on the Sunshine Coast. The Gold Coast has it. They can leave it there and expand it. I do not care. We do not want it on the Sunshine Coast. We do want heavy passenger rail, which I know all my Sunshine Coast colleagues have been fighting so hard for, and we will keep encouraging the government in this respect. I am very pleased that in his budget reply the opposition leader committed a Crisafulli government, in 2½ years time, to 50 per cent funding to build the CAMCOS rail corridor from Beerwah to Caloundra to Kawana to Maroochydore. It will better connect South-East Queensland to the Sunshine Coast. It will connect the coast to Brisbane and other areas. It is so important. It was a project promised by Paul Lucas that was to be delivered by 2009. Finally we will see it, but only under an LNP government and not under a Labor government.

I also refer to the MRI, the Mooloolah River Interchange. The government cut its funding for the \$320 million MRI project. It is only giving \$40 million. It is a project about which I and my coast colleagues have been so passionate. We want to see it. It absolutely has to get built to bust congestion on the Sunshine Coast.

I congratulate the opposition leader on his budget reply yesterday. This is the type of future that can happen under a united team in an LNP government. What do we have in Queensland? We have a Premier under many integrity clouds. She is the only Premier in history found in contempt of this House. The fish rots from the head. At the moment, it is rotting from the Premier's office, from the Premier herself. She has given up on leading and governing in Queensland or, as more accurately put by members of the Labor Party, she has checked out and checked onto the red carpet. She has checked into every premiere across Queensland. There is more to being Premier in this state than red carpets. It is about rolling your sleeves up and getting on with the job.

(Time expired)