



Speech By
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MEMBER FOR KAWANA

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APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL (NO. 3)

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BETTING TAX AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.23 pm): I have just listened intently to the member for Logan who, incidentally, is the chair of the Economics and Governance Committee. I wonder how he ever got that job. Looking across the Labor Party, who else would have got it? They are as bad as each other.

Mr Stevens interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from the member for Mermaid Beach. I also point out to the member for Mermaid Beach that the reason the member for Logan talks so often in his contribution about other states and not about Queensland's record is because the Labor Party do not have a track record to be proud of. We have seen motion after motion debated in this House where the Labor Party talk about international affairs and state and territory affairs but never much about Queensland because the longer they are in government the more arrogant they get. The more the hubris builds up in their government the less they want to talk about themselves.

Queenslanders have now woken up to the fact that after eight years under the Palaszczuk government all they have to show for it is \$2.8 billion in unforeseen expenditure. The member for Logan, the chair of the Economics and Governance Committee, would have us believe this is just run-of-the-mill stuff. Member for Logan, it is for the Labor Party. Budget overruns and unforeseen expenditure is very much the Labor Party's way. It is easy for the Labor Party to spend money when it is not their own. They do it in droves. They waste it. I will get into some of the details in a minute.

Mr Power interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, member for Logan!

Mr BLEIJIE: I cannot hear him under his mask. Take it off so I can hear you! The reality is that Treasurer Cameron Dick is the worst treasurer in Australia, just as he was the worst attorney of Tuvalu. His record precedes him in this place.

Mrs Frecklington: The worst attorney-general in Queensland too.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from the member for Nanango. He was the minister for health. He was also the minister for education. They keep moving him from portfolio to portfolio, as they do with other Labor ministers. Incidentally, rather than the Treasurer coming in here as proudly as the Premier did and getting rid of the renters tax, he slips it in before the lunchbreak hoping that no-one notices. He did not talk about it. He did not circulate his amendment during the second reading. He just

thought, 'I'll wait until the lunchbreak and maybe no-one will hear about it or know about it'. Absolutely we know about it because the amendment that the Treasurer is making to the Betting Tax and Other Legislation Amendment Bill gets rid of the renters tax. At least one would think it does, but alas it does not. Treasurer Dick says in the explanatory notes 'amend the Revenue Legislation Amendment Act to give effect to the government's decision not to proceed at this time with the changes to Queensland land tax'. 'At this time' is code for 'it is coming back'.

Treasurer Cameron Dick is so arrogant that the first day the Premier said they were not going to proceed with this renters tax due to the public scrutiny she was under, the Treasurer already had a statement ready to issue to the media from his office which said, 'The Treasurer stands by everything he said about the renters land tax.' That is because he did not want to get rid of it. He still does not and he is begrudgingly coming in here now and moving an amendment to get rid of it 'at this time' which is code for 're-elect the Labor Party in two years and the first budget they hand down in 2025 the renters tax will be back on the agenda'. For the next two years we must not let Queenslanders forget that this high taxing, big taxing Labor state government will continue to do it. The Treasurer has been caught out.

The Premier goes to Canberra and after negotiations with her state and territory chief ministers, where she was told they were not going to support and introduce a similar regime, she says we did not get the support. The Treasurer was on record saying he never needed the support of the states and territories, but he still wanted to do it. People who have served in this parliament with Treasurer Dick know he is arrogant. That is why this amendment says 'at this time'. The Treasurer knows the Premier is likely not to go to the next election and he is telling his colleagues he will bring it back because he is too arrogant to accept the fact that he came up with a bad idea. It should never have been introduced. Because of his arrogance and hubris and long term in government he had no other option but to maintain his view that the tax should be still there.

As I said, he is the worst treasurer in Australia and we have seen that time and time again, not only with the rent tax but also with other things that we have seen from this Treasurer. Members of the Labor Party would have us believe that it is unprecedented to have \$2.8 billion in unforeseen expenditure. Of course, some of that expenditure relates to 'waste camp' or Wellcamp. Over \$200 million has been wasted on a white elephant in the Toowoomba region. That is \$200 million that I say would have been better invested in health, in education or in trying to fight the youth crime crisis we have in the state. Can members imagine the reaction of the victims of crime who were in the gallery this week if, as a government, we said to them, 'You've got \$200 million for law and order and safety campaigns so what should we do with that \$200 million?' There are patients who cannot get into a hospital at the moment, particularly in regional Queensland where the government is not investing. In fact, they are closing services in regional Queensland. Imagine if we asked a cancer patient, 'What would \$200 million do for the public health system in this state?'

As I said, the reason the Labor Party does not care about the waste is because it is not their money. They do not care. When it is someone else's money they have no regard for it. This is someone's money. It is Queensland taxpayers' money. Queensland taxpayers are working harder than ever and their taxes are being wasted by this government.

The Department of Energy and Public Works is to get \$57 million. That is about as much as the plan they have announced for energy. Incidentally, three days after they announced their big Energy and Jobs Plan they were talking about plan B because they anticipate that plan A, which is the catalyst project in the Pioneer Valley, will be a failure. They are planning plan B on the assumption that plan A will fail. Twenty-five families will lose their homes without consultation. What does that remind you of? That's right: TMR's Minister Bailey and people in Griffin, in the electorate of Murrumba, losing their homes due to a lack of consultation because—guess what—this government has stopped listening and, under Premier Palaszczuk, this government has stopped caring! She has checked out. Because we have a Premier who has checked out Queenslanders are suffering.

In the youth justice space, I suspect that the \$175 million of additional unforeseen expenditure includes over \$1 million wasted on the Caloundra youth jail that they were going to proceed with. The member for Caloundra, who sits in here today, was handing out brochures saying how great it was going to be for the Caloundra electorate and how it was going to keep the community safe. He put out a myth buster saying that the member for Ninderry and I were misleading the community on that. He put out myth busters about the Caloundra jail, but when he realised that his community did not want it—which the LNP knew from the very start—the member for Caloundra tried to claim credit for the government getting rid of it. It was his government that wanted it! Guess what? A year later it has not been turned back into a watch house. The police do not have it back. They said it was always going to be upgraded but that was misleading. It was never going to be upgraded. We have a youth crime crisis in Caloundra and the best that the member for Caloundra could offer his constituents who were having

their cars stolen was a youth jail in the heart of the Caloundra tourist strip. What a failure! The member for Caloundra failed to listen to his community. The LNP will listen to the electorate of Caloundra when their member will not.

I finish on this point: the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Minister Bailey, said that the former Morrison government's commitment of over \$1 billion for the Sunshine Coast heavy passenger rail was in a fake budget because it was never passed. How it is then that a federal Labor government can rely on a fake budget to fund \$1.6 billion for the Sunshine Coast heavy passenger rail? It is because the money was in there from the LNP federal government! I call on the state government to now fund 50 per cent for the heavy passenger rail linking Beerwah, Caloundra, Kawana and Maroochydore. The Sunshine Coast community deserves heavy passenger rail.