




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR LOGAN

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APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL (NO. 2)

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 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (12.33 pm): I rise to speak on the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) and the Appropriation Bill (No. 2). We have new secretariat staff, but I wish to thank the outgoing secretariat staff who did a great job. I hope the temporary one will do a good job too. I also wish to thank the committee members.

Members of the House can probably see from the report that our deliberations are always done in a good spirit with full and frank discussion, and of course we respect standing order 211—that is, the confidentiality of proceedings before the House. I want to thank all members of the committee, but especially the deputy chair and the opposition members of the committee, because they deeply respect section 211—apart from a singular unforeseen breach. They deeply respect those provisions that are so important to the workings and the standing orders of this House. That goes to the integrity of this House. However, that is not shown in some of those on the opposition front bench who do not respect the integrity measures in the committee.

I return to the bill. I have talked through the substance of constructing this bill and the integrity displayed by many members. We have to deal with the unforeseen expenditure. We just heard the member for Toowoomba South—with his new look—try to mischaracterise the nature of unforeseen expenditure. He said that any government that had unforeseen expenditure obviously has problems with its budgeting. What he did not point out was that the federal government is responsible for around 50 per cent of Queensland's more than \$60 billion revenue base. Every year within the unforeseen expenditure of Appropriation Bill (No. 2) there are always payments from the Commonwealth that were anticipated to be paid in a previous year that are brought forward to this year or payments that are anticipated to be paid in a following year that are brought forward to the year that we are discussing. That means we have to present them in this bill.

Unfortunately, the member's misguided attack was an attack on the Commonwealth government, with their changes in payment schedules. What were we supposed to do? Is the member for Toowoomba South seriously suggesting that we were supposed to hold back these Commonwealth payments—many of which we support and have great value? The members for Townsville and Mundingburra are here. Was the Townsville channel upgrade project—which is being managed by TMR—supposed to be cut? Is that what the member for Toowoomba South was suggesting? Either he is suggesting that or he has no understanding that many of these unforeseen expenditure funds actually come through from the Commonwealth.

We had Community Health and Hospitals Program funding that came through. It was not originally budgeted for the Commonwealth to come through in this period but it has. We think that is a good project and we want to pass it on. We want to see Queenslanders getting this into action, and we know we act as a pass on. The member for Toowoomba South either does not understand this or is attempting to mislead the House in the way we understand this bill—both of which are disappointing.

What about the North Queensland Restocking, Replanting and On-Farm Infrastructure Grants? There are others in there as well. There are a variety of Commonwealth programs that were not anticipated by the Commonwealth and we had not been told would be budgeted in that year, but they are there. It is deeply disappointing that the member for Toowoomba South would attack the federal government in this way. There are plenty of things he should attack the federal government for, but passing on funding in this financial year and the Queensland government getting it out where it can do some good is not something he should be attacking the federal government for. I can give him a list later that he can work from.

We have seen that the steady and secure funding of our state and our services has led to a stable and strong economy. We know that there is really strong economic growth. We have heard that our Queensland economy grew by 6.1 per cent, in a time when Australia's economic growth was healthy but not nearly as healthy as Queensland at 3.9 per cent. I want to think about what that really means. The Treasurer spoke about Google mobility data, and that is really important. What is really important is that we can see that on the ground in Logan. At the North MacLean BP, we can see Trent and Matt who run a great business there. They see that industry and movement has picked up, but they know other BP owners and other truck stops in different parts of Australia where it is much more anaemic—where they are having to fight harder. That is why we back businesses like that.

We see that household consumption grew by 2.9 per cent in the latest quarter, and that is 1½ times the rest of Australia. We can see that that is on the ground. I want to talk about a great business, which the member for Jordan knows about. This great business is the Sorbello's cafe in the Pub Lane shops. It is a Gloria Jean's and it is a fantastic small business.

Ms Grace: We were there.

Mr POWER: I have to say this as an aside. The education minister opened a fantastic new school, which I am going to get to, and afterwards I entreated all of the journalists to come up and get a coffee at Sorbello's.

Dr Rowan: I heard that.

Mr POWER: You heard that at the press conference? The minister came up. Unfortunately, Vito was not there but he is a great bloke and it is a great business. I might ask the minister later whether she ended up getting a pot plant because they have fantastic pot plants.

Mr Watts: What line in the bill is this?

Mr POWER: This is about economic activity. This is what the LNP do not care about. They do not care about small businesses benefitting from the economic growth that is happening with great increases in household consumption.

We want to especially focus on jobs. I cannot see that the supplementary expenditure has been there to back up jobs in Queensland. We have added more jobs than any other state or territory since March 2020 with 124,300 more Queenslanders in jobs today. That is more than there were pre COVID. Our government has seen the addition in total, in the time we have been in government, of 376,000 since 2015. That is more than 1,000 jobs every week.

We have also dropped the unemployment rate to 4.4 per cent, the lowest rate since December 2018. I want you to think what that actually means. When we talk about the graduates of Park Ridge State High School or the fantastic Parklands Christian College that I talked about with the group before, their graduates are going into a more buoyant job market. They are getting the right start in life. They are getting into a job and they have a future. We see that increasing economic strength.

I want to also talk about something which is really important for Logan which is dwelling commencements. They are 40 per cent higher than they were under COVID. Think about that. There are 40 per cent more young families going out and getting into a new house. It has grown by 91 per cent in the last 12 months because of the strong backing of this government's budgeting and economics, and that is much faster than the national average.

A lot of the rest of the country is dragged down by the Morrison effect. We have tried to keep the Morrison effect at bay as much as possible, and we have seen the results: a more than 91 per cent increase and faster than the national average. That means young families are moving into Logan. Some of them are coming from Sydney, from Victoria and from South Australia, and there are probably a few from Perth as well. They are coming here because they see we are a government that backs young families and we are a state that is growing jobs because we have a strong and stable economy.

How many of the interstate migrants are coming into Queensland? It is more than any other jurisdiction. They see the strength of this supplementary appropriation bill and that is what attracts them. A total of 31,000 people moved into Queensland in 2020. I know that a lot of them are moving into Logan. They are moving in with their skills, their fantastic families, their ideas and their energy. They

want to be great Queenslanders and they want to make a great contribution to our state. We are ready for them. This is what I wanted to say to the minister: we are building the schools to back them up. We are making an investment firstly in the jobs which are constructing the schools. The Everleigh State School that the minister and the Premier attended is a fantastic new service.

The Minister would be thinking that surely—I do not know if you looked back—the LNP must have built some schools in Logan during their time. They built no new schools at all in this growing area—not one.

The member for Toowoomba South spoke about strategy in budgets. I know we have a strategy: it is to make a stronger Queensland, to have better jobs in Queensland, and to have greater growth in Queensland. There is one strategy, though, that is alternative and that is the strategy of the LNP. We know what it is. It is easy. It is only three words. Their strategy is to cut, to sack and to sell off. That is what they stood for and that is what they are about.