




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

Record of Proceedings, 23 February 2022

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL (NO. 2)

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 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (12.20 pm): I rise to support the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2021 and the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) 2021. It is always a pleasure to follow the member for Coomera, although I note that his rewriting of history is often very creative. It is no wonder his margin has fallen from 23 per cent down to one per cent because absolutely nothing was done about the M1 when he was in power. When he was a member of the Newman government, they had a massive majority—he could have done anything—not a single new dollar got onto the M1.

Mr Crandon: You have been there since 2015. Where is the money?

Mr BAILEY: There he goes. The whinging has started already. It is only 40 seconds in and the whinging has started already.

Mr Crandon: Minister, you were not—

Mr BAILEY: He can dish it out, but he cannot take it.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): Order! The member for Coomera will cease interjecting.

Mr BAILEY: I heard his speech in silence, for most of the time. The M1 was ignored when he was a member of the Newman government.

Mr CRANDON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I do believe the minister has misled the House in saying that he sat in silence. It is clear that he was not sitting in silence. I ask him to correct the record.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Miller, resume your seat.

Mr CRANDON: I ask him to correct the record.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Coomera, if you feel the House has been misled, there are appropriate courses for you to take. I ask you to write to the Speaker about that.

Mr BAILEY: I did say 'most of the time'. The M1 was ignored by the Newman government for three years. Not a single new dollar got onto it. That is a fact. He can cry crocodile tears all he likes. The member for Coomera is—

Mr Crandon interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Coomera.

Mr BAILEY: It is interesting. His submission here in his speech today was all about the M1 and Pimpama station. The Cross River Rail project was cut by the LNP government under Campbell Newman. Nothing would have happened under the LNP because they only cut. They only cut.

Mr Crandon: Promises that—

Mr BAILEY: Listen to him.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Coomera, this is your last warning.

Mr BAILEY: One of the most ineffective MPs in this House is the member for Coomera, and his electors are onto him. One per cent is his margin after having 23 per cent.

Mr Crandon interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Coomera!

Mr BAILEY: He has lost support—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hold on, Minister. Pause the clock. Member for Coomera, you are warned under the standing orders. Member for Miller, I draw you back to the bill, please.

Mr BAILEY: Let's look at the economic data here. It is what Paul Keating would have called a 'beautiful set of numbers'. Economic growth is at 6.1 per cent—a six in front of it—compared to the national economy growth of 3.9 per cent. Household consumption is up, 1½ times the national average. We are seeing the economy itself grow, 6.4 per cent larger than it was before the COVID pandemic. Australia is 0.1 per cent and we are at 6.4 per cent under the Palaszczuk Labor government.

There have been 376,800 jobs created since we were elected, more than 1,000 jobs per week. That is a beautiful set of numbers. We stand for jobs. We do not stand for cutting; we stand for jobs. Dwelling commencements are 40 per cent higher than they were before the pandemic, higher than the national increase. Household lending in Queensland has seen a 91 per cent growth over the last 12 months—91 per cent—much faster than the national average. Retail sales are up 17 per cent on pre-COVID times.

No wonder we are seeing massive levels of interstate migrants coming to Queensland because they know we are the place to be. We managed the pandemic, the best jurisdiction in the world. Securing of the games means infrastructure flow for the next 10 years. There is a lot of confidence in this state and this government because of the leadership of this Premier. The value of our exports is up 26 per cent to \$79.2 billion. Our tax settings still remain very competitive compared to others: the average Queenslanders pays \$628 less than the average Australian and \$1,100 less than in New South Wales. That is where we are.

Those opposite somehow find some criticisms of those beautiful set of numbers, but what we see is strong economic performance by the Treasurer, by the Premier and by this government, not just this year but consistently over time.

We understood that managing the pandemic was an economic strategy as well as a health strategy from day one. We did not undermine it like the Leader of the Opposition calling our health response tantamount to putting a doona over your head and sucking your thumb—that sort of juvenile analysis by the Leader of the Opposition. We were not just saving lives; we were saving jobs in this state because we are effective economic managers, and the numbers do not lie. Those are clear numbers.

What would have happened with an LNP government with the pandemic? I dread to think, to be quite frank. I dread to think. We made the right decisions, we made the hard decisions, and Queenslanders are benefiting from it.

We have announced a range of stimulus packages to support the creation of jobs. The jobless rate in Queensland is 4.4 per cent—an extraordinary number. It spiked to 7.1 per cent when the LNP were in power because they cut, cut and cut. That is all they believed in. Ideology drove their government. They did not respond to the times. We saw unemployment surge in this state. It is down to 4.4 per cent under Labor.

We have seen 17,400 jobs created in January alone. Our state is doing the heavy lifting. Without our job creation, this country would be going backwards in terms of job creation. The confidence in this state is absolutely key to the national economy. Why? Because we have record investments in things like road and rail. There has been a \$27½ billion commitment over four years in the road and rail space, and a lot of that into regional Queensland: Bruce Highway upgrades, Flinders Highway upgrades, Townsville Ring Road, Cairns Southern Access, the North Coast railway line—

Mr Harper: Riverway Drive.

Mr BAILEY: Riverway Drive and Townsville Ring Road stage 5, of course. They are big commitments there. We are getting the Coomera Connector going after it was blocked by those opposite when they were in power. Gold Coast Light Rail—you will only get it under a state Labor government. You will never get it under the LNP. They did not do anything when they were in power. The Commonwealth Games would have been a disaster without the light rail doing a lot of the work,

and it has been warmly embraced by those on the Gold Coast. Cross River Rail was cut by the Newman government and promised to be cut again. It was an essential part of our bid for our Olympics. The economic credibility of those opposite is wafer-thin.

We are seeing things like the Townsville Northern Access project with the Northern Access intersections upgrade. South of Cairns, we are seeing active transport. We are seeing \$1.7 billion go into safety initiatives. The regional economy is going along very well. We are seeing good migration heading to regional areas, not just South-East Queensland, which is very pleasing as the nature of work has started to change significantly in the last two years. Regional economies are benefiting from migration. That is a really positive and a really good thing.

Some 35,000 people moved to Queensland in 2020 and 85,000 more are expected by 2024. With the Olympics and the Paralympic Games on the horizon, the infrastructure task is significant and that is drawing people into this state. Right now we have more than 2,500 people working across 15 work sites on the Cross River Rail project which will transform how people move. We have our investments into building trains in Maryborough. I note that the assistant minister is here, the member for Maryborough. He has been such a strong advocate for Maryborough. The member for Coomera might want to have a look at the numbers for the member for Maryborough who was elected on 26 per cent of the vote but now gets 53 per cent of the primary vote. That is a member who is doing the work, who is getting the job done, who has the confidence of his people, not losing a 23 per cent margin down to one per cent. That is what being a good, hardworking MP is all about.

We do not sack workers like the previous government did. Some 14,000 workers—public servants—lost their jobs. We saw \$1.6 billion cut from the roads budget. We saw power prices surge to 43 per cent. Do honourable members remember that 43 per cent increase under the LNP government? In comparison, this year there has been a small one-off increase due to a number of issues, particularly the explosion at one of the generators, and we got our \$50 rebate which the Minister for Energy has brought in to support people. For years and years before that we saw decreases in power prices because we invested in renewable energy and new technology. We understand that new economy. Under those opposite we saw prices increase by 43 per cent.

The record of this government is very strong in terms of the economy and social reform. The Leader of the Opposition's record of undermining the health response was economically reckless and irresponsible. He is someone on the record as calling Campbell Newman 'someone special'. People should listen to that with a chill down their spine. He voted against voluntary assisted dying; he voted against women having the right to choose. He is one of the most conservative leaders of the LNP since Bjelke-Petersen. People need to understand what that means. It means that he is not responsible when it comes to the economy.

If people look at our government, they will see we have an economic plan for recovery from the COVID pandemic. We are protecting Queenslanders and protecting their jobs. They know that; they know they have a Premier they can trust. She has stood up for this state against intimidation by the current incompetent and deceitful Prime Minister, Mr Morrison. People are onto him; I can tell honourable members that much. They know that the Premier will always stand up for Queensland and the Treasurer will always stand up for our economy. I commend the bills to the House.