



Speech By
Mark Robinson


MEMBER FOR OODGEROO

Record of Proceedings, 23 June 2022

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

REVENUE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (12.41 am): I rise to address the 2022-23 Queensland budget. This is the 14th budget that I have replied to on behalf of the northern Redlands Coast area and North Stradbroke Island, Minjerrabah, in the seat of Oodgeroo, formerly Cleveland. While there are good measures in this budget, it is characterised by broken promises, wrong priorities and missed opportunities from a government that cannot be trusted and will not deliver any time soon. As such, it is a budget of disappointment, delay and deceit, of let-downs and lags. Labor promised a budget of no new or higher taxes, then imposed no less than three of them. It promised to upgrade the Redland Hospital, then dragged out critical construction. It announced a rail revolution and delivered more nothing on the Cleveland misery line. Labor promised some 26 times that there would be no new or increased taxes, then slugged Queenslanders with new and higher taxes in a move that will increase cost-of-living pressures on all Queenslanders, including Redlanders. This deception undermines the integrity of the entire budget. How can Queenslanders trust any commitment in terms of funding and timing when the government will do and say anything to win and hold onto power and given the budget is founded on a mistruth.

The context of this budget is crisis management. It is a budget in a time of several crises—crises that exist right now: a health crisis, a housing crisis, a youth crime crisis, an infrastructure blowout crisis and Labor's integrity crisis. This budget does not deal with these crises right now, it does not fix them any time soon, but defers them. For example, none of the new hospital beds that are needed yesterday, according to the AMAQ president, will be available in the financial year of this budget. Labor's health crisis is being experienced now. Labor's homeless crisis is now. Labor's youth crime crisis is now. Its infrastructure blowout crisis is now. The integrity crisis is definitely now. Instead of substantially dealing with these crises now through this budget the government prefers to blame everyone else for its ineptitude—Campbell, COVID, Canberra, the sick and seniors—but as the shadow Treasurer said, there is no-one and nothing left for the Palaszczuk government to blame. It is a tired, third-term government plagued by broken promises, wasteful spending, the wrong priorities and integrity failures.

In terms of clear local commitments in the budget for the 2022 financial year for the Cleveland district and broader Redlands Coast, while there are some good measures in this budget, and I acknowledge that, we did not receive anywhere near our fair share on infrastructure and most of the measures will not help in this financial year. Many opportunities are being missed due to wrong priorities. In terms of health, the Leader of the Opposition, David Crisafulli, is on the money when he says budgets are not just about record spends; budgets are about delivering for Queenslanders. For seven years the state government has spoken about a record health budget and every year health services have got worse. Queenslanders deserve better. The Leader of the Opposition went on to say

that it is your record on health, not your record spending, that counts. Truer words could not have been spoken about the government's dismal record at Redland Hospital over the last seven years. No intensive care unit at all in seven years, not a single new bed, not even a blow-up li-lo. Despite community campaigns, petitions and surveys, this government has ignored doctors, nurses, allied health professionals, Metro South HHS recommendations, hospital administration and external ED experts and, worst of all, ignored the cries of Redlanders themselves for better services at Redland Hospital.

Redlanders have suffered some of the worst ambulance ramping in Queensland and Australia. At one stage Redland Hospital under this government's management had Queensland's worst ambulance ramping at 64 per cent, when Queensland was about the worst in Australia. That is a record that this government does not want to talk about and the local MPs do not want to be accountable for. Redland Hospital has one of the worst car parking situations and still no new car park seven years later. You can drive around for five minutes to find a space and have to park hundreds of metres away—a long way away and too long for chronic patients, the disabled and seniors. It is unacceptable. It is unacceptable that it took seven to eight years of community campaigning and a pandemic for them to do anything about it. Still all we have to date is a partly built car park and a misleading billboard with government false advertising.

The government has had wrong priorities at Redland Hospital, a focus on an overpriced car park and a glorified public medical centre in Redland Bay first earmarked for Cleveland. Wrong priorities means instead of real new buildings to house a real ICU and real new beds we got zero expansion except for a makeshift COVID tent in the car park. Labor rolled out a tent rather than a building. They built a car park and then put a temporary tent there, and now they are working on a medical centre with no overnight real beds and they are doing it ahead of an ICU and 32 more beds, which is what is really needed. If the government's priorities were not twisted we would have invested more dollars in the LNP's palliative care services that we opened at Redland Hospital to a full palliative care unit like the expansions of palliative care that are being rolled out in New South Wales.

In terms of education there is some welcome news but nothing spectacular. I certainly welcome in Wellington Point State High School the upgrade of the hall that we have been calling for for some time. In terms of chaplaincy, our chappies in our state schools do a great job. They are like the first responders to children at risk at school and families at risk.

Mr Brown interjected.

Dr ROBINSON: I acknowledge all of the chappies—even if the member for Capalaba does not want to as he interjects while I am talking about chappies—in the schools in my electorate and throughout the Redlands. I want to thank them for their faithful, professional, caring service of children and the school community. Chaplains are at the heart of the National Chaplaincy Program. This program is at risk of being watered down to being provided by any form of wellness worker instead of the specific pastoral care program it was set out to be.

I say to every hardworking and faithful chappie that I will not idly stand by in the Redlands while Labor puts your jobs at risk and while Labor attempts to replace you. Anthony Albanese is a disgrace to claim before the election that he is different to other Labor leaders such as Julia Gillard, that he is not an enemy of people of faith and that he is, in fact, a friend of people in faith communities, whether Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist or others, but then after the election to change the chaplaincy program in a sneaky sleight of hand so that current chaplains can be replaced. It is clear that he cares more about his own job than protecting the jobs of our hardworking, faithful and dependable chappies. He seeks to replace chappies with someone else. We know the Labor left's phobic attitude to people of faith means that chappies have been replaced in the past and Labor will sack more if no-one stands up to those schoolyard bullies.

I say to every school chappie in the Redlands coast: your jobs are not at risk from the LNP and we have no plans to replace you. I call on the state education minister to stand up to the federal minister and stand with Queensland chappies, who do a great job helping at-risk children. Will the minister do the right thing by Queensland chappies and help save their jobs by making representations to the federal Labor education minister? Will she call on him to guarantee the jobs of current chappies?

In terms of roads and transport, in the Cleveland district and Redlands coast Labor's approach to transport and the upgrade of state roads has been woeful and there is no sign of improvement any time soon. The situation with the state government's investment in rail, road and bus projects over the next 12 months could be described as nothing but miserable. In the Redlands we have a massive underinvestment in rail, road and bus. The Redland rail line, known as the 'misery line' under the Palaszczuk government, has been forgotten by Labor for many years and there is little tangible in this budget to change that soon.

Labor's so-called rail revolution is more like a rail rip-off for Redland commuters who use the Cleveland line. Labor says there are dollars for a study. Really? Another study! If I had a dollar for every study on the Cleveland line that goes nowhere—well. How can you spend so much money just looking at a rail line for over a decade? They are looking at the line again. This government does not seem to be serious about progressing the Cleveland line duplication. It is so slow. We have had rail fail and now we have rail snail.

Redlanders have been stranded at the station when it comes to public transport in this budget. The budget fails to address the worsening traffic congestion on the Redlands coast, with little progress on the Cleveland line duplication, the Eastern Transitway in recent years and Redlands roads, which are choking with congestion as road improvements and duplications are stuck in the slow lane. Apart from certain sections of the Cleveland Redland Bay Road in Labor electorates, there is little being spent on Redlands coast roads.

I want to acknowledge former LNP federal member Andrew Laming, the new federal member for Bowman, Henry Pike, and the Redland City Council Mayor, Karen Williams, for their good work in terms of road improvements, duplication and investment in the Redlands coast area, particularly the Panorama Drive and Wellington Road areas of Thornlands. The waste from transport infrastructure blowouts, like the \$2-billion-and-growing blowout on Cross River Rail, means Redlands rail, road and bus projects are being held back.

Over the past seven to eight years of the Palaszczuk Labor government, the number of homeless people on the social housing waiting list has ballooned to 50,000. Homelessness is on the rise and there is little in this year's budget to bring that figure down. One solution is more, and more effective, engagement with the non-government community housing sector, especially agencies with a track record of success. That is why it is difficult to understand why this government discontinued funding Homeless United, a social housing initiative of the Redlands Community Centre based in Capalaba. Sadly, Labor members of parliament have colluded with the housing minister to white-ant that local service, which reduced homelessness so effectively in the Redlands that it was defunded. They have stripped and cut funding for homelessness in the Redlands.

If results, outcomes and achievements meant anything to this Labor government they would have increased the service's funding, but they did the opposite. Why did Labor reduce the direct funding into that Redlands organisation? No-one has suggested any valid reason other than the politics of the local member, the member for Capalaba. It is thought that because that nonpartisan and independent agency would not kowtow to the member for Capalaba he worked to have them defunded. The sins of Homeless United appear to be remaining apolitical, having strong independent women in its leadership and actually getting great results to reduce homelessness with little state funding. Those women will not be dictated to by the member for Capalaba. How sad it is that the Minister for Housing has rewarded such politicking and misogyny by cutting funding to an effective on-the-ground community homelessness group.

Mr BROWN: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take offence at the member's comments and ask him to withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): Member for Oodgeroo, the member for Capalaba has taken personal offence. Do you withdraw?

Dr ROBINSON: I withdraw. I say to the minister that it is not too late to restore that funding and reverse her funding cuts to the homeless in the Redlands.

Over the years I have said much on the public record about North Stradbroke Island/Minjerribah, especially on the failed ETS known as the 'Trad-broke Island Plan'. What I have said about the need for funding for homelessness and social housing on the mainland also applies to Straddie. One of the broken promises of this government to the Quandamooka people and other residents of Straddie is in relation to the housing they promised the Quandamooka leaders more than 10 years ago, especially around the One Mile area. People such as Uncle Norm Enoch, Dale Ruska, aunties Margaret Islin, Lyn Shipway and others called out for this funding. Uncle Norm and others continue to lead on this issue. In terms of North Stradbroke Island, much more could be said about what is needed, especially at One Mile.

There needs to be a royal commission into government spending. The Quandamooka leaders are calling for \$37 million to be accounted for. The Auditor-General is looking into that but it needs to be elevated. The Quandamooka leaders have asked for it to be elevated to a royal commission to get to the bottom of the matter. This budget has some positives but it is based on—

(Time expired)