



Speech By
Michael Hart


MEMBER FOR BURLEIGH

Record of Proceedings, 23 June 2022

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

REVENUE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (8.39 pm): It gives me no pleasure at all to rise tonight to deliver my 11th budget speech in this place. I have been listening intently to members on the other side rant and rave about this budget and what it means to them. I heard the member for Maryborough say that everybody was getting a share and that the Labor government had spread the money around. I can tell him that they missed Burleigh in that spread because we are not getting anything in my patch—that is for sure. The member for Maryborough and a couple of other members have mentioned that this is a real Labor budget, and I can actually agree with that one. It is a real Labor budget full of incompetence and fiscal mismanagement. If these guys could add one and one together and come up with two, I would be very surprised.

I want to talk briefly about the Treasurer's comments about the new and increased taxes. He apparently told us 26 times that there were going to be no increased taxes, and now he is trying to convince people that because he did not say the word 'business' in there he can effectively attack businesses with an extra tax. Nobody really believes that. The media definitely do not believe that, and we have seen on the front pages of the papers how the media feels about it.

Just to prove how incompetent this Treasurer is, this morning he mentioned that the new tiers of tax on coal had apparently had no effect on the share price of the ASX listed coalmines in Queensland. He only mentioned a couple of them, because he said they were the only ones with mines in Queensland, but he missed a few. I thought I would do a little exercise for myself and have a look because I thought it was a bit strange that this has not affected their share price at all. He mentioned Stanmore Resources. I had a quick look at their chart and there is a big cliff where the share price fell on the 21st of this month. What day was that? Was that budget day? I will table that. Then we have Bowen Coking Coal Ltd, which he also mentioned this morning. It fell off a cliff; there it goes again. I will table that for the interest of members. That also happened on budget day, if not the day before. Then we have New Hope Corporation. Again, it fell off a cliff and has slightly recovered now. The minister said that particular company did not have any mines in Queensland. Well, it actually does; it is just not allowed to operate at the moment. If the government got its act together and allowed New Hope to reopen the Acland coalmine, it would be operating in Queensland. Then we have Whitehaven Coal. It fell off a cliff, and I table that chart for the interest of members.

Tabled paper: Bundle of graphs depicting share price movement in the resources industry [921](#).

It is quite clear that the coal companies on the ASX took quite a hit after the government said this about their coal prices and they have not recovered as much as they went down. They fell off a cliff. The Treasurer also said quite deceptively that it was a 40 per cent tax on anything over \$300 and if it was \$302 then you only pay 40 per cent on those \$2. What he forgot to mention was that you pay 30 per cent on the first \$300. That is a real heavy increase to our coal companies.

One of the members asked before whether we supported the revenue measure. My answer is no. I do not support the revenue measure. The member for Maryborough said something along the lines of \$1 billion will make no difference to a coalmine. I think our coalmines would be shocked by that comment because \$1 billion will make a lot of difference to a lot of coalmines. If those members opposite were not so financially illiterate, they would understand that coalmines make up a big part of their superannuation fund, my superannuation fund and everybody else's superannuation funds. If you hit them by \$1 billion, that will have quite an effect.

Ms Grace: Please say something intelligent.

Mr HART: Madam Deputy Speaker, I take offence at that remark and I ask that it be withdrawn.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Member for McConnel, the member has taken offence. I ask that you withdraw.

Ms GRACE: I withdraw.

Mr Krause interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Scenic Rim, if you are going to interject you need to return to your seat.

Mr HART: I would also like to talk about things I did not get in my electorate. I did not get a koala bridge over the Gold Coast Highway. I have been asking the Minister for Transport to give me a koala bridge. The government spruiks heavily about protecting koalas but the minister has come back to me several times and said that is all part of light rail stage 4. I do not think light rail stage 4 is going to happen at the end of the day because of the fiscal incompetence of this government. What they have done with light rail stage 3 will probably mean it will be beyond the realm of ever funding it. Speaking of light rail stage 3—which comes from the Mermaid Beach electorate to my electorate in Burleigh—it is now over two years late and \$500 million over budget because of best practice industrial conditions. We have not seen a shovel wandering around our area yet.

Government members interjected.

Mr HART: Something the government crows about regularly is public housing, and I will touch briefly on this. If members opposite were interested at all, they might listen. We have a real shortage of public housing. There are 50,000 people on the waiting list, yet this government are so incompetent that they have left a complete public housing building vacant for the last two years while they waited to sign the contract for light rail stage 4. That building is in the member for Mermaid Beach's area just across the road from my electorate, but we are good friends and we share quite regularly.

I did not get any new police and I have been asking for that. I have been talking for the last couple of elections about making a fix to the Burleigh walking track. It continually has issues whenever we have heavy rain, cold snaps or a fire with rocks falling down and damaging the pathway. I appreciate that the Minister for the Environment keeps spending a lot of money to fix it, but why don't we fix it once and get it right and stop this from ever happening again? I am happy to work with the minister to try to come up with a solution for that.

I have a little bit of school funding. One of my schools has got the second half of a hall funded this year, and I appreciate that from the minister. They really do need a new school hall at Palm Beach Currumbin State High School. We have a little bit of maintenance for schools. The only other thing I got in the budget was a couple of rest rooms at Tallebudgera park, but I wanted a lot more than that.

What is going on through my electorate at the moment is the M1 upgrade. When it is finished, it will make quite a difference. I am going to praise some of the ministers here just briefly—do not get used to it; it will not happen very much. I made a phone call to the Minister for Tourism and to the Minister for Transport. Everybody knows that I do not get along with the Minister for Transport overly, but he took my call on a weekend—and I really appreciate that—to try to assist one of my clubs that is being affected by the road down there. I do appreciate the responses I got from both of those ministers. I said I would not play politics with that issue, so I do not intend to. I just want to get on with it.

I also wanted to talk about the integrity issues that we are seeing inside this government. We have an integrity inferno happening at the moment, especially in Minister de Brenni's area around the QBCC. I have been involved in a little bit of information around that. One of the gentlemen who has been trying to get a meeting with the minister now for a number of years, and in fact a meeting with the Premier, about issues with his particular building, has asked me to table a set of emails that he has sent to both Minister de Brenni and to the Premier about issues. I will do that now.

Tabled paper: Bundle of emails from redacted, to the member for Burleigh, Mr Michael Hart MP, the Premier and Minister for the Olympics, Hon. Annastacia Palaszczuk, and the Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement, Hon. Mick de Brenni, regarding a building work case and the Queensland Building and Construction Commission [922A](#).

The Treasurer is dealing with the HomeBuilder scheme. I was approached in the last week by a Bethany Pinchin who is a member of my surf club who has bought a property in Burleigh and is relying on the HomeBuilder scheme. We know that because of some of the activities—

Mrs Mullen: Is this in the budget?

Mr HART: It is a federal government fund which is administered by the state and it is administered under state rules. The state rules require that these buildings be completed by April next year in order to get that HomeBuilder funding. As I said, this is a young lady who relies completely on getting that \$25,000 funding. We are now having issues with building on the Gold Coast being delayed, if not shelved, and while people in good faith have committed to make payments to buy units and houses, they are finding, through no fault of their own, that these things are being delayed. I ask the Treasurer to have a look at the administrative arrangements around the HomeBuilder scheme and give these people the time to get this done. I will table Bethany's letter, and I also table a letter that I asked the shadow Treasurer to write to the Treasurer about this particular issue because it is a wider issue than just one person. I thought the shadow Treasurer might be best placed to do that.

Tabled paper: Letter, undated, from the member for Toowoomba South, Mr David Janetzki MP to the Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment, Hon. Cameron Dick, regarding impacts of pressures on the construction industry on applicants to the HomeBuilder program [922B](#).

I also want to touch on, in the last couple of minutes I have left, energy issues and renewables. The plans that the government have for renewables just will not work without some sort of firming capacity. I had a look at the electrical generation map on the EPW website today. We have 10 coal plants producing 8,300 megawatts. We have 22 gas plants producing 4,400 megawatts. We have 95 other generators—solar, wind et cetera—that are producing 4,293 megawatts. We are told that we have \$10 billion worth of investments that are private investments in the renewable area, yet when you watch the generation statistics of a night, 80 to 90 per cent of the generating is coming from coal plants. If we are to shut down the coal plants, as those opposite keep telling us they want to do—they do not like fossil fuel—then we are going to start to see the lights go out.

This government has a history of coming up with grand plans that just do not work, and I suspect their hydrogen plants are going to be the next one of these things that do not work. It is pie-in-the-sky stuff. They are building a big test solar plant beside the Kogan Creek coal-fired power station. They tried this before. They tried a solar boost scheme out there that cost \$40 million or \$50 million and is rusting away in the paddock beside Kogan Creek. Anybody who has been to Kogan Creek Power Station can see what is left of that—shattered glass and remnants out in the paddock. They also had the Stanwell Corporation trial ZeroGen. They pumped \$200 million into that. It was another bright idea by the Bligh government and the Beattie government. That failed. They lost out there.

At the end of the day the Labor Party fall back to fiscal incompetence. This is a Labor budget. It is slanted towards all the Labor members. Those of us on this side of the House do not get a reasonable outcome from this. The government, as a plan, they like to blame everybody else. They instigate a few rigged inquiries and then when they find that does not work, they shoot the messenger and at the end of the day they find a scapegoat. There is no bigger scapegoat in this state than the Treasurer.