




Speech By
Jarrold Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

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**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL; REVENUE
LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): The Palaszczuk government has delivered its ninth budget. It is a budget of slogans, not solutions. The only surprise I have had all week is that Treasurer Cameron Dick did not post a cringe-worthy photo on his Twitter account like he has done for the last couple of budgets. Last year he was walking around the rose garden out the front of Parliament House. The year before, copying JFK, he was looking outside his window. The only surprise I have had this week is that the creepy, weird photo the Treasurer usually posts has not been posted.

Normally when the budget reply is delivered by the honourable Leader of the Opposition the Premier and Treasurer would sit quietly and listen, but I could see the anger in the Premier today. She was so angry, and she should be because that is a reflection on her government—her government. When the Leader of the Opposition was holding her government to account you could see how angry she was because the home truths were coming home. When the Leader of the Opposition talked about the Premier being more interested in the red carpet and the glitz and glamour, didn't the Premier rile up about that. She took offence because the truth absolutely hurts.

The Premier should be angry because she should be ashamed of her government. She should be ashamed of the health crisis, the cost-of-living crisis, the housing crisis and the youth justice crisis. The Labor ministers, the Deputy Premier and the education minister say that Queenslanders do not remember the last nine years. Forget about the last nine years—it is what we're 'gunna do'. The Premier always says that we are 'gunna do' this and we are 'gunna do' that. Queenslanders are fed up with 'gunna do'. The Palaszczuk government has had nine years to deliver, and all we have seen are slogans and no real solutions.

We have a part-time Premier. Some call her 'Hollywood Anna'. We have a part-time Premier in the state of Queensland who has given up about caring for Queenslanders, given up about caring for the issues that matter and wants Queenslanders to forget the past nine years like it has never happened. They basically say, 'Don't worry about what we haven't done or what we have done which has caused the issues that Queenslanders are suffering today. Worry about what we're going to do in the future. We're going to fix it.' Queenslanders are not buying it. They do not trust the Palaszczuk government, and they will not trust them in October next year for another four years. Can you imagine another four years of the homelessness issues, the housing crisis, the rental crisis, the shuffling of ministers and the youth crime crisis? Can you imagine another four years?

Ms Scanlon interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: The honourable minister interjects but, as I have said, it is the same old reheat and reshuffle. It is the same old clowns in the same old circus. The minister who is interjecting could not even recycle a popper. When she was the environment minister she did not even know where poppers were being sent overseas. When Queensland kids handed in a popper for 10 cents she could not

guarantee where the popper went. Again, it is all about the announcement. They would much rather say, 'No, don't worry. We announced a recycling program', but the minister never followed through as to whether it had been recycled or not. Now the same minister who could not recycle poppers is in charge of housing. My God! Does the Premier actually think the housing minister, who is the failed environment minister, is up to the job of delivering the housing supply issues we need in Queensland? I doubt it, but the Premier obviously thinks she is. The talent pool in the Labor Party is quite bare, so I can understand why they did not use any of the backbenchers. I can see them nodding and laughing. Yes, you—that is who I am talking about.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): Member, please direct your comments through the chair.

Mr BLEIJIE: The member for Thuringowa—

Mr Harper: Keep it up, mate.

Mr BLEIJIE: I will.

Mr HARPER: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at the member for Kawana's outrageous comments.

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw. The member for Thuringowa says one thing in North Queensland and another thing in Brisbane. It is like he hides in a cellar and does not even deliver for the people of North Queensland. He says one thing up there and a different thing in Brisbane.

Mr HARPER: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I can do this all day as well and I will get my right of reply. I again take personal offence at the member for Kawana and I ask him to withdraw.

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw. When the Leader of the Opposition talked about empowering the Public Service and reducing the amount spent on the big four consultants, guess what the reaction was from the government. The education minister, who is a senior member of the Labor government, laughed. Do you know what she said?

Mr Harper: I don't know. Tell us.

Mr BLEIJIE: I am about to, because it is absolutely disgraceful. She said, 'Good luck with that.' When we talk about empowering public servants the education minister says, 'Good luck with that.' That shows the disregard the Palaszczuk Labor government has for public servants who are aspirational, who want to do their job and come up with great ideas to solve issues. The education minister, who has served in this House a long time, says 'Good luck with that.' That is the disgraceful attack the Labor Party continues on taxpayers.

We on this side believe that the Public Service can fulfil the functions the Labor Party is outsourcing to the major four at the moment. We have confidence that public servants can do what they do. They are telling us they want to, but the Palaszczuk Labor government does not trust them. I would say to the education minister that we do not need luck because we are going to trust the Public Service to do what they do. When the Leader of the Opposition said that we will have the best Public Service in Australia the Labor Party laughed—laughed!

An opposition member: It was impossible, they thought.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from the honourable member. They think it is impossible. Well, we think it is possible. We know it is possible that Queensland public servants can be the best in Australia, delivering the very best for every Queenslanders no matter which corner of this great state you live in. The Labor Party does not trust them and that is why they outsource so much responsibility. They do not trust the Public Service, but on this side the LNP absolutely does.

The Treasurer has just tweeted 'breaking news'. I do not know how a minister keeps breaking his own news, which he keeps drafting in his office as some sort of breaking news, but anyway he has tweeted 'breaking news'. I say to the Treasurer and Labor Party members sitting on that side of the House that the only party that has ever voted against a tiered system of mineral resource taxation in Queensland was the Labor Party in 2012. They voted against a tiered system of mining royalties in 2012.

We backed the budget last year. We voted for the budget last year. As the honourable Leader of the Opposition said, we will vote for the budget and the revenue measures this year, but it just shows how desperate they are getting because they have got nothing. They cannot be trusted on their own record. You would think a government that has been in power for nearly nine years would be able to come in here and talk about that record. The Deputy Premier had 15 minutes to talk about the Palaszczuk Labor government budget. He spent 13 minutes obsessed with the Leader of the Opposition. In his own contribution, in his own speech, he barely mentioned his own government and his own budget because they do not have a good history to be proud of.

Let us look at blowouts. There is an \$11 billion blowout. We put a list out, noting the \$11 billion overruns of government projects. They said, weirdly—and they have tweeted it again today—‘That’s a cut list.’ Half the projects have already been completed and opened. What we are simply pointing out is that the government cannot manage projects on time and on budget. There is \$11 billion in overruns. The Minister for Housing is looking at me perplexed at what I am talking about. What I am talking about is taxpayer money, Minister—which you have no regard for.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, please direct your comments through the chair.

Ms Scanlon interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from the minister, who does these hand gestures and cuttings and things like that. They overrun and spend on every project. It is the norm for the Labor Party. They do not know anything else anymore. Unless you hold ministers accountable for delivering projects on time and on budget, nothing will change in Queensland. Nothing will change under the Labor Party. That is why the new housing minister thinks that having the Housing Investment Fund buying stock out of the private rental market will somehow help people get a roof over their heads—when the private rental market is below one per cent at the moment and people who can afford rent cannot get a house anyway.

It is not just a social housing issue. It is a housing affordability issue. It is a rental issue. People who can afford it cannot get a house. The minister pleaded with people a few weeks ago. She said, ‘I understand. I’m a renter.’ Do you remember when the new housing minister said this? She said, ‘I’m a Queensland renter. I understand how hard it is for Queenslanders renting at the moment.’ Really, Minister? On \$400,000 a year, you understand the pressures of the rental market, do you?

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, direct your comments through the chair.

Mr BLEIJIE: The minister really understands the pressures of the cost of living on \$400,000 a year—

Mr Perrett: And a driver and a car.

Mr BLEIJIE: And a driver, a limo and a car. Minister for Housing, we understand how hard it must be for you—how hard it is for the minister as a renter earning \$400,000 a year who leaves work every day with a chauffeured limo. Oh! How hard!

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, direct your comments through the chair.

Mr BLEIJIE: Thank you. Our heart breaks for the minister. What it shows is that the minister and every Palaszczuk Labor government minister is out of touch. They are out of ideas, they have no plans, they are not listening to people and they do not care. The longer they have been in power, the more arrogant they have become, and it will not get any better. I say this to Queenslanders: do not be fooled at the next election when they promise the world. The Labor Party will promise the world, but judge them on their history. Judge them for the past nine years—nine years of failures, nine years of not caring, nine years of announcements and not deliverables.

Can I talk about the Sunshine Coast in that vein for the last two minutes? The Sunshine Coast heavy passenger rail was put as one of the important projects for the 2032 Olympics. What is this government doing? A \$14 million business case—a business case! This project was first announced nearly 24 years ago. In fact the Beattie government talked about the Sunshine Coast heavy passenger rail—and Sunshine Coast locals will know it as the CAMCOS corridor—in 2007. The Beattie government announced CAMCOS would be delivered to Caloundra by 2015 and Maroochydore by 2020. Now under Minister Mark Bailey they are spending \$14 million on a business case. The member for Caloundra, Jason Hunt, was on Channel 7 local news two nights ago like a little kid. He was so excited. He said, ‘I’m so excited. We’ve got \$14 million to plan where the route is going to go for the rail.’ I would say to Jason Hunt, the member for Caloundra, that the route has been in place for 24 years. It has not changed. It is time to get on board and fund the Sunshine Coast heavy passenger rail to connect Caloundra to—

Mr Langbroek: Choo choo!

Mr BLEIJIE: Sorry, to connect Beerwah to Caloundra to Kawana to Maroochydore. I was taking the interjection of ‘Choo choo!’ from the honourable member behind me. Good luck with that, Hansard!

It is time to get on board. I would say to Queenslanders and Sunshine Coast residents that if you want the rail, you are not going to get it by voting for the Labor member for Nicklin and the Labor member for Caloundra. You are only going to get it by voting for an LNP government at the next election. I encourage residents on the Sunshine Coast to go to www.getonboardrail.com.au and sign the petition calling on the Palaszczuk government to stop planning where the rail is going to go because we know where the rail is going to go. It is the CAMCOS corridor; it has been planned for 24 years. All it needs

is a government willing to invest in it, get on board and deliver it. That is exactly what the opposition leader has promised to do. That will not happen under the Labor Party; it will happen under the LNP. This is a government so bereft of ideas. Queenslanders want a change.

(Time expired)