




Speech By
David Janetzki

MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA SOUTH

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APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 2)

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (11.31 am): Supplementary appropriations are required where expenditure from the Consolidated Fund for a department moves beyond the amount approved for that department as annual appropriation at budget time. This bill, which will be supported by the opposition, may be just a few pages but it is important. It is important to good government that the opposition scrutinise the allocation of the public's money expended by the government of the day. Every dollar must be spent towards the delivery of services, goods or infrastructure that offer the best economic dividend, thereby honouring the Queenslanders or business from whom it is appropriated.

Although debated late this year, in March, the very reason these unforeseen expenditure bills are being considered ahead of June's appropriation bills is as a result of financial accountability measures introduced by the last Liberal National government. It was the Labor government under former treasurer Andrew Fraser that would only introduce the supplementary appropriation bills with the next year's appropriation bills. For example, the Appropriation Bill for the 2011-12 budget year included unforeseen expenditure from the 2009-10 budget year. That is at least a year's delay from the end of the financial year and parliamentary scrutiny of unforeseen expenditure for that particular year.

It is typical of a Labor Party that avoids scrutiny and breaks promises. It was then treasurer Andrew Fraser who stared down the barrel of a camera before the 2009 election promising no asset sales, as it is now when the member for Woodridge stares down the camera and promises that there will be no new taxes.

Mr Dick: A promise I kept.

Mr JANETZKI: I am going to take the interjection. Let's wheel in the Treasurer. That is the most remarkable doubling down of a broken promise I have ever seen. Of all the numbers that the Treasurer fudges, that one is particularly galling to the people of Queensland. The Treasurer stared down the barrel of the camera 26 times, and the promise was broken. The trust was broken with the people of Queensland in that very moment and the Treasurer has never been able to regain it—ever. There was the renters tax. Who could forget the Premier abandoning the Treasurer in Canberra and leaving him high and grounded with his renters tax? Then there was the patients tax, where the Treasurer again had the balloon popped with his little tax thought bubble.

We saw that trust issue again today. Whether it is the Treasurer breaking promises on taxes or the Premier unable to tell the truth in relation to messages and RTI processes, misleading the House and offering apologies, it does not matter. This is a Labor Party that cannot be trusted under any circumstances. It was forever thus. I wanted to use the broad remit of this appropriation bill to push back on a regular attack from the Treasurer on those on this side. I am going to use this opportunity in the appropriation bill to speak a little more about that. Pre poll has opened in Inala and Ipswich West, and don't we have some great candidates out there.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Member, are you going to table that document you are holding?

Mr JANETZKI: I am going to make sure it is relevant. I can read your mind, Madam Deputy Speaker.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: And are you going to table the document?

Mr JANETZKI: I am onto it. On the how-to-vote card, it says that the opposition 'tried to privatise our power stations and prisons'. That is what the Labor Party is continuing to peddle, even in the by-elections in Ipswich West and Inala. It is time that the record is corrected because I am sick of hearing it and I am not going to leave it unchallenged anymore. What is the truth when it comes to this? The monotonously repetitive attacks on asset sales are particularly galling because there is only one party that has sold assets in Queensland, and it is the Labor Party. I want to run through the assets sold by the Labor Party and the enabling legislation that enabled them to be sold over the last 15 years.

The Energy Assets (Restructuring and Disposal) Bill 2006 facilitated the sale of Energex's electricity retail business, Ergon's electricity retail business, Energex's gas distribution business, Stanwell's and Tarong's wind farms and Enertrade's merchant gas and transportation business. In 2008 we had the Airport Assets (Restructuring and Disposal) Bill and those opposite sold the Cairns Airport, the Mackay Airport and the Port of Brisbane Corporation's interest in the Brisbane Airport. That is the truth. They are the facts. I will continue.

In 2009 there was the all-out sale of Queensland assets. The Labor Party introduced the Infrastructure Investment (Asset Restructuring and Disposal) Bill where they sold Forestry Plantations Queensland, and Queensland Motorways, and the Port of Brisbane, and Queensland Rail's above and below rail coal businesses, and Queensland Rail's commercial rail services, such as bulk freight and retail and regional freight, and the Ports Corporation of Queensland's Abbot Point Coal Terminal. That is the Labor Party, and I have had enough. I have had enough of those opposite badgering us about asset sales because there is only one party that has sold assets here in Queensland. Let us not forget that in 2010 when Forestry Plantations Queensland was finally disposed of—

Mr Perrett: Yes.

Mr JANETZKI: I hear the affirmation from the member for Gympie. That was actually disposed of for \$600 million. With 204,000 hectares of plantation, if I am right, member for Gympie—

Mr Perrett: Yes, that is correct.

Mr JANETZKI: That 204,000 hectares of plantation was sold for \$600 million, but what was the book value in the annual report?

Mr Perrett: \$1.3 billion.

Mr JANETZKI: I think it was \$1.2 billion, but I will take the interjection.

Mr O'Connor: He's rounded it up.

Mr JANETZKI: We are rounding it up. The value of Forestry Plantations Queensland was \$1.2 billion, but what did the Labor Party sell it for? It was \$600 million. They sell the assets, then they tell mistruths about it and then they pretend that we were the ones that sold the assets. We are not going to take it anymore. This how-to-vote card in Ipswich West is fundamentally misleading and it has to be called out. I have had enough of this government talking about asset sales because they are the only party in Queensland to sell assets. They sold \$15 billion of Queensland assets without a mandate.

Queenslanders used to own airports, forests, rail networks, ports and energy companies, and then Labor sold them. That is what the Labor Party did; they sold them. Who was there? We know the big names. Bligh, Palaszczuk and Fraser were the big names. Annastacia Palaszczuk was in fact the minister when Queensland Motorways and QR National were disposed of in May 2011 and November 2010.

Mr Stevens: 'Queensland Rail not for sale'.

Mr JANETZKI: 'Queensland Rail not for sale'; I will take the interjection from the member for Mermaid Beach. Who was sitting in the cabinet with her? Who was sitting in the cabinet with Annastacia Palaszczuk when she was the disposing minister in November 2010 and May 2011? It was the Treasurer and Deputy Premier. The leader of the attack on asset sales in this House, the misleading attack, the Treasurer was there for it all. I am guessing he had his hand up. I am guessing he had his hand up for all of it, because it was all sold while he was there.

The Liberal National Party sold nothing, not a single asset, so I am sick of hearing the fabrication that is being perpetrated by this Labor government—and their apparatchiks, too, because it is not just the MPs in the House. They have openly run campaigns on it for a very long time—Chisholm, Moorhead and even that noted independent Mike Kaiser. When he was with UMR they ran Labor Party market research on asset sales.

Mr Stevens: What is it with Woodridge?

Mr JANETZKI: There is a common theme with the members for Woodridge. Notably, from memory—I am sure the member for Mermaid Beach will correct me if I am wrong—there were only two Labor MPs who opposed the asset sales. One was the ‘tiger in the grass’, the member for Bundamba. I believe that Evan Moorhead also opposed them. It was just the two Labor MPs. Set against the asset sales of the Labor Party—the party that sell Queensland assets—at the same time they were wasting the rivers of revenue gold that had come through, and they lost the AAA credit rating. They lost it in the middle of a mining boom. They blew it all! They set increased debts and credit rating downgrades all the way. The Deputy Premier and Treasurer was there all the way through. That is asset sales.

I want to dig a little more deeply into the supplementary appropriations that are on display in this bill. There is \$1.2 billion in supplementary expenditure—unforeseen expenditure—and that is down from last year. It was \$2.4 billion last year.

Mr Stevens: \$2.44 billion.

Mr JANETZKI: \$2.44 billion, and we are down to \$1.2 billion this year. Do members know what is extraordinary? We are not allowed to debate the business program motion anymore; that has been curtailed. We have just voted against it, but one of the reasons we voted against it was that there is \$1.2 billion in unforeseen expenditure yet we were given only 90 minutes to debate the supplementary appropriation bill. If this debate proves anything it is that this government treats the taxpayer dollar of Queenslanders with such disdain that we will debate the appropriation bill for only 90 minutes in this House. I am planning on taking a fair bit of that time, too, because there is a lot to prosecute.

Mr Stevens interjected.

Mr JANETZKI: You will get your turn, member for Mermaid Beach. It says everything about the disdain the government feels for this House that we get 90 minutes to debate this most important bill. I want to turn to some of the key departments in which we have seen unforeseen expenditure. The largest departmental overspend was in Queensland Health, and it was \$700 million or thereabouts.

Mr Stevens: 697.

Mr JANETZKI: \$697 million—so \$700 million. It is \$700 million over budget. That is a big number. I can understand why the health minister has probably been distracted by numbers. The health minister has had good reason to be distracted by numbers. We just need to go back to last December to see why the health minister might be a bit distracted. We saw the shortest leadership challenge of all time, with the front-page headline ‘I can win this’. Interestingly, inside we had some talk. It is not surprising that the health minister would struggle. The article states—

“Fentiman is working on numbers but she doesn’t have the numbers,” the MP said.

Tellingly, the Treasurer, when he should have been getting ready—

Mrs MULLEN: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I believe that the member is straying from the long title of the bill and I would ask for some guidance to bring him back.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Member for Toowoomba South, I appreciate that there is a lot of latitude in this debate, but now I would bring you back to the bill. I am also going to get some advice. I will give you the call, but I will caution you to come back to the bill.

Mr JANETZKI: There is \$697 million in unforeseen spending. As I said, the health minister has taken her eye off the ball. We know why: she was too busy doing numbers in a leadership challenge that did not get off the ground. The Treasurer, at the time when he should have been preparing his half-year budget review, which is entirely about appropriations, was focused on the numbers, too. As we know, he did not bring the numbers either. It sounds like Kate Jones had a fair bit to do with bringing the numbers.

Mrs MULLEN: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Once again, I seek your guidance on returning the member to the long title of the bill, given your previous guidance to him.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Toowoomba South, I do agree with the point of order. Whilst there is latitude, I will bring you back to the substance of the bill that we are debating today. Noting that the time is counting down now, if you could come back to the bill that would be great.

Mr JANETZKI: Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. I want to turn to the appropriations, which this bill is all about—how the government is spending Queensland taxpayers’ money. What is it delivering? What services is this government delivering for the appropriations? I want to turn to another health spend. I live in the south of Toowoomba, and last weekend I received in my letterbox a brochure about satellite hospitals.

Government members interjected.

Mr JANETZKI: I hear some interjections from those opposite. What value for money is the Queensland taxpayer getting? The nearest satellite hospital to Toowoomba is 100 kilometres away. This is taxpayer money. This brochure is taxpayer money. I table it for the House.

Tabled paper: Brochure from the Queensland government titled 'Satellite Hospitals—Bringing healthcare closer' [288](#).

We talk about value for money. In terms of delivering health services and informing Queenslanders as to what health services they deserve, how much is being wasted by this government on advertising services hundreds of kilometres away from where they should be? What conceivable reason is there to see where that particular spending is?

The \$697 million overspend is still not solving the health crisis in front of us. Ambulance ramping, at 43 per cent, is the highest in the country. It was 15 per cent when the Liberal Nationals last took office and left office under Lawrence Springborg, the then health minister. It was 30 per cent when Anna Bligh said that Queensland Health was a basket case. Those opposite, the Labor Party, have shut 37 maternity services in regional Queensland over the last 25 years. With regard to the hospitals plan, they have committed only five per cent of spending in the first two years, and we have seen in the last week that there will be significant cost overruns on those hospital projects—

Ms Bates: That we know of.

Mr JANETZKI: That we know of; I take the interjection from the shadow health minister. Fifty-fifty funding has been abandoned. If we recall, that was pretty much the entire premise of their economic case under the Morrison government. As soon as Albo gets elected, they all go quiet.

Mr Stevens: Crickets!

Mr JANETZKI: Absolute crickets! This government have abandoned significant Queensland infrastructure projects. All of the dams—Emu Swamp, Urannah, Hughenden Irrigation Project—have been abandoned by this government because they have the wrong priorities.

I want to pose a question to the Treasurer. Part of the additional capital spend in relation to the \$697 million overspend is due to the funding reclassification between operating and capital and timing adjustments for the Satellite Hospitals Program. I would appreciate it if the Treasurer could clarify for the House, with respect to that Satellite Hospitals Program, why these funding reclassifications were necessary and whether the timing adjustments reflect the delayed opening of the facilities from what the government originally promised. I would appreciate that clarification.

I turn now to the next largest overspend, which comes from the Treasurer's own department. Queensland Treasury has an overspend of \$552 million. Additional administered items were attributed to additional funding for CleanCo, for Energy and Jobs Plan projects and the capping on the price of coal used for electricity generation in Queensland. Again, it would be appreciated if the Treasurer could advise the House how much of the Treasury overspend was attributable to the coal price caps and how much they cost the state in total for 2022-23.

I am also intrigued to identify what the Treasurer spends Treasury money on. One particular area where the Treasurer has spent a lot of money has been Visy. We have seen millions and millions of dollars go to Visy to support their activities in return for what seems to be full-page newspaper advertisements. It looks like the Treasurer hands out millions of dollars of hard-earned taxpayers' dime and in reply receives full-page advertisements across national newspapers—that is what it looks like. The perception is that hard-earned taxpayers' dime is given to billionaires and in return they get full-page advertisements in national newspapers—and not just one, member for Sandgate. It is not just one.

In the *Financial Review* we have former premier Anastacia with Visy—that is one ad in return for millions of dollars. This is one of my favourites. Jim Chalmers must not have had time to rewrite capitalism over Christmas this year. He kept a bit quiet this summer. This one is 'Swanny'—'the first of four surpluses I announced tonight'—with Jim, Paul Keating and Visy. There is another one where the Treasurer is very happy. There is a big smiley face from the Treasurer who is handing out hard-earned taxpayers' dime to billionaires in return for full-page advertisements in national newspapers. There is big smile from the Treasurer in that one. Then, of course, we have Chris Bowen as well. I will table all of those articles, Madam Deputy Speaker.

Tabled paper: Bundle of newspaper advertisements regarding Visy recycling factory [289](#).

The perception this raises is that the government gives out money in return for political advertising—that is the concern. I believe it has happened far too often. When the Treasurer is handing out millions of dollars in this way, as the Treasurer is distracted by petty attacks on asset sales and other issues, he is not focused on the numbers that matter to Queenslanders. The Treasurer is not focused on the right priorities for Queensland. We see that through the continuing deterioration in the cost-of-living numbers here in Queensland. I note the efforts of the shadow minister for cost of living,

the member for Nanango, in prosecuting these issues. It is clear that Queenslanders are suffering the most when it comes to the big bills on the kitchen table. Whether it is power prices up 19.9 per cent over the last 12 months, insurance costs up 18.8 per cent over the last 12 months, groceries costs up 4.3 per cent over the last 12 months, transport costs up 4.2 per cent or health costs up seven per cent, Queenslanders are suffering when it comes to the cost of living.

I want to refer briefly to insurance costs. We held shadow cabinet up in Cairns a couple of weeks ago—before cabinet; it is good to see the government is following our ideas again. It is very good to see them reacting. Boy, do we have some great candidates up in Cairns. I look at Bree in Barron River. Her connection to community is so good and so deep. They are talking about the issues that matter. We have Yolonde in Cairns—an outstanding candidate who is listening to the community on the ground.

Mr KELLY: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): I will agree with the member for Greenslopes and ask you to return to the bill. The line that you are running is clearly outside of the bill.

Mr JANETZKI: I am focused on the appropriate spending of taxpayers' money on cost-of-living relief for Queenslanders. If those members opposite do not want to have that debate, they should just give up—if they do not want to be in this House and debate cost-of-living relief for Queenslanders who are struggling in the Far North. We have seen insurance costs go up 18.8 per cent in the last 12 months. Our candidates on the ground in Cairns and in the tropical Far North are listening. They are listening and they are hearing the concerns.

While I was at a street booth with Yolonde outside the IGA in Edge Hill, I had a business owner come—

Government members interjected.

Mr JANETZKI: I am not allowed to talk about businesses now? Is that where we are at? Insurance costs in the Far North are at market failure level and those opposite do not want to debate that. I met Gary outside the IGA and he was talking to me about strata title insurance costs. The difference in insurance premiums in the Far North to elsewhere for his particular strata title block was over 30 grand. Some in the Far North cannot even find insurance. He had a comparator in regional New South Wales: the same building type and block was under \$4,000 for the same insurance, so from over 30 grand to under four grand. We are seeing significant insurance challenges in the Far North. We will keep talking about it because it matters.

You know the best way, member for Gladstone, to put downward pressure on the cost of living? You can properly maintain your power assets to put downward pressure on power prices. You do not let building and lot approvals fall by 30 per cent, pushing up housing prices. You do not introduce a renters tax in the middle of a housing crisis that drives down investment and pushes up rents—that is what you don't do. You do not let a crime crisis get so out of control that people are living in fear in their homes, on the streets and in their businesses. That is what you do to put downward pressure on cost of living. That is what we will do. That is what we will do if we are elected in October. That is the kind of pressure that we will put on the cost of living. We will put that pressure on the cost of living.

I want to move to the next department, which is the Department of Transport and Main Roads. Perhaps the only surprise about the \$173 million overspend by the Department of Transport and Main Roads is the fact that we know about it. I am sure the former minister would have tried to find a way to weave his way through so we would not know about the overspend. Anyway, we do know about the overspend.

Mr O'Connor interjected.

Mr JANETZKI: We do miss him; I will take the interjection from the member for Bonney. He was the gift who gave an awful lot and he will keep giving, member for Mudgeeraba, I know it.

There was talk about what this has been spent on. I would appreciate it if the Treasurer could clarify some of the timing adjustments in relation to the rolling stock expansion project and whether the Queensland Train Manufacturing Program—already blown out by \$2.4 billion—is still on time.

I want to raise two other key road issues in relation to my region. I am glad that the member for Lockyer is sitting beside me because he has been campaigning for a very long time for the intersection at Glenore Grove and Forest Hill Fernvale roads because again, over summer, it was cut. We need Transport and Main Roads to listen to the calls from the member for Lockyer and from businesses in the Lockyer and west to deliver a solution. There is not only an inconvenience for residents trying to travel to and from Brisbane; we need to stop the crashes and make it safer to ensure our produce, goods and commodities get to and from port.

I also want to raise a growing problem at the Bremer bridge—it is becoming serious now. My fear is that this government is not giving a full and honest answer in relation to the Bremer bridge closures because of the by-election in Ipswich West. I am concerned that this government is not being honest with the people of Ipswich West about the true impacts of the closure of that road. We know that for some time 42.5 tonne vehicles—that is the tonnage limit—travelling at 80 kilometres per hour have been diverted to the Cunningham Highway. We know that, and we know worse is to come. We know that the westbound lanes will be closed at the end of this month. Funny that—straight after the by-election. Is it any wonder that people are cynical in relation to this government?

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member, I will again remind you of relevance. I understand the point that you are making, but you have now strayed from the bill a number of times. I will ask you to return to the bill for the remainder of your speech.

Mr JANETZKI: I am calling for TMR spending of the precious taxpayer dollar to be allocated where it is most needed. That is why this government needs to be honest about the Bremer bridge closures. The impacts need to be made clear. We have a massive grain crop coming from the Darling Downs very shortly. The sorghum crop across the Central Downs and across the northern Darling Downs is extraordinary. We have significant road movements between the port and the Darling Downs coming right now. We cannot afford for this government to be hiding the truth immediately before the Ipswich West by-election. We need them to front up and tell people what will be the impact of these closures. We cannot have a temporary solution. We need a permanent solution, and right now this government is failing.

I want to quickly move on. I am down to two minutes remaining. That 30 minutes has just flown by. I want to finish—

An honourable member interjected.

Mr JANETZKI: I will take up the full 90 minutes from this pathetic government that will not let this side of the House talk about the appropriations that matter to their communities. They allow only 90 minutes for debate; it is a disgrace.

Mr O'Connor: Can I move that you be further heard?

Mr JANETZKI: I would love that. I will finish with a few remarks about the things that will not change until we change the government. The Treasurer was counting his numbers in December at the time of the budget update, not the numbers that matter to Queenslanders. The number 26 is a number that counts to Queenslanders. That is the number of times the Treasurer said that there would be no new taxes, and then we saw everything unfold.

CommSec has Queensland as the worst performing economy in the country. Queensland has the highest unemployment rate in the country. Queensland's growth per capita flatlined at zero per cent last year while every other state's improved. Queensland's economy shrank last quarter while every other state's grew. Labor's debt, taxes and interest costs have never been higher. The Treasurer has collected \$66 billion more than he forecast in his first budget less than four years ago. Despite these revenue rivers of gold, household budgets have never been under more pressure and services have never been worse.

Labor is oblivious to the lived experience of struggling Queenslanders, the communities living in terror and those living in tents. Even the Premier admitted today that he has not been to see the latest tent community in his electorate, eight kilometres from his electorate office. Nothing will change until Queenslanders change the government.

(Time expired)