



Speech By
David Janetzki

MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA SOUTH

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APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

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Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation Bill

Cost of Living and Economics Committee, Report

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (11.33 am): As the Leader of the Opposition says, the battlelines for the October state election are drawn. The question is: do Queenslanders feel better or worse off on the four big challenges facing Queensland—youth crime, health, cost of living and housing? A secondary question is: has this government, after 10 years of chaos, crisis and mismanagement, finally completely abandoned the priorities of the Queensland people? What budget estimates has proven, once again, is that this government has now completely abandoned the priorities in terms of what Queenslanders expect of them.

We know all about the billions of dollars of promises. The Treasurer has spoken about promises. Estimates revealed again that Pioneer-Burdekin will be at least \$24 billion. Not a single dollar of that is funded beyond the \$1 billion in the forwards. There is no funding for the project that has to be delivered as the foundational cornerstone—the battery of the north—by 2035. That has to be funded in the next nine or 10 years. Not a single dollar of that \$24 billion is funded—and that is in today's dollars, let alone what is yet to come. Then we had the Gabba, a billion dollars plucked from thin air; and QSAC, \$1.6 billion, again plucked from thin air and which is liable to grow in the future.

There are, of course, billions of dollars of promises, but I want to focus on the smaller amounts. I have often said that this Treasurer has failed in his fundamental obligation to the Queensland people to appropriately manage the spending of his ministers. He has failed. It is in the little amounts where the failure is the greatest. I think of the \$170,000 spent on jets by the Premier for his own personal accommodation. I think of the \$153,000 spent on the supermarket inquiry—the Premier's own vanity project that has not led to anything of any substance to improve the cost of living for Queenslanders. I think of the arts minister: \$126,000 on flights, chauffeurs, museums and galleries. I think of the \$70,000 that the Premier spent heading to Boston when those deals were already signed—unnecessary trips. I think of those smaller amounts that betray the mindset of a 10-year government that has lost touch with the Queensland people.

The Treasurer himself referenced it during the estimates process: PsiQuantum, a deal that was revealed during the estimates process; \$495,000 to Deloitte, the government's favourite consultants; and \$1.4 million to Allens Linklaters. That is nearly \$2 million in costs when we know that deal is dripping with secrecy. It excluded Australian technology and Australian startups. It is dripping with Labor lobbyists. It is dripping with a lack of accountability for half a billion dollars to the Queensland taxpayer—half a billion dollars. Add all of that together and it shows the betrayal of the Queensland people—the smallest amounts that feed into the largest amounts. The cost blowouts across this government are legendary across the board.

We say that it is time to return to a responsible and appropriate discussion of the Queensland budget that this government simply has not delivered. I waited 17 seconds for the Under Treasurer of Queensland to find his own CV in the Treasury pack so he could read his CV to me. He was obviously petrified of what the Treasurer—for whom he previously acted as chief of staff—must be thinking. In that 17 seconds while I waited for the Under Treasurer to read his CV, I thought of how far we had fallen since Sir Leo Hielscher was the under treasurer in Queensland—when there was accountability and before the number of political staffers had blown out, from 175 in 2015 to 264 over the last four years. The number of political staffers in this government tells you everything about their priorities. It is time to return discipline to the Queensland budget.