




Speech By
Hon. David Janetzki

MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA SOUTH

Record of Proceedings, 10 December 2024

APPROPRIATION (SUPPLEMENTARY 2023-2024) BILL

Message from Governor

 **Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (12.13 pm): I present a message from Her Excellency the Governor.

Mr SPEAKER: The message from Her Excellency the Governor recommends the Appropriation (Supplementary 2023-2024) Bill. The contents of the message will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the message for the information of members.

MESSAGE

APPROPRIATION (SUPPLEMENTARY 2023-2024) BILL 2024

Constitution of Queensland 2001, section 68

I, DR JEANNETTE ROSITA YOUNG AC PSM, Governor, recommend to the Legislative Assembly a Bill intitled—


A Bill for an Act authorising the Treasurer to pay amounts from the consolidated fund for particular departments for the financial year starting 1 July 2023

GOVERNOR

Date: 10 December 2024

Tabled paper: Message, dated 10 December 2024, from Her Excellency the Governor, recommending the Appropriation (Supplementary 2023-2024) Bill 2024 [250](#).

Introduction

 **Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (12.13 pm): I present a bill for an act authorising the Treasurer to pay amounts from the Consolidated Fund for particular departments for the financial year starting 1 July 2023. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee to now consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Appropriation (Supplementary 2023-2024) Bill 2024 [251](#).

Tabled paper: Appropriation (Supplementary 2023-2024) Bill 2024, explanatory notes [252](#).

Tabled paper: Appropriation (Supplementary 2023-2024) Bill 2024, statement of compatibility with human rights [253](#).

Today, I present a bill to approve Labor's unforeseen expenditure from 2023-24. This is an annual process under the Financial Accountability Act 2009 to finalise the departmental appropriations at the end of each financial year. This bill relates to decisions made by the previous government including unforeseen expenditure of \$1.128 billion, the final component of their record \$9 billion overspend last financial year.

The Appropriation (Supplementary 2023-2024) Bill 2024 sets out a sum of \$1.128 billion in addition to the earlier unforeseen expenditure of \$2.267 billion contained in the Cheaper Power

(Supplementary Appropriation) Act 2024 and the unforeseen expenditure of \$6.154 billion contained in the Appropriation Act 2024.

Departments incur unforeseen expenditure for many reasons. For example, a department may need additional appropriation to respond to emerging issues or to implement government policies or due to a change in timing of a project's delivery. In aggregate, the unforeseen expenditure for 2023-24 was \$9.078 billion. The main contributors to the total unforeseen expenditure were: \$2.2 billion from the now Department of Women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Multiculturalism for temporary electricity rebates not in the forward estimates for future years; \$1.85 billion from the former Department of Energy and Climate to cover Labor's blowouts across a string of energy projects including CopperString, the Swanbank Battery and Borumba; \$1.32 billion from Transport and Main Roads for blowouts to the Train Manufacturing Program and a series of road projects; and a little over \$1 billion from Queensland Health for everything except bolstering hospitals and empowering our front line.

This overspend of more than \$9 billion represents 11.6 per cent of original appropriation, the highest total unforeseen expenditure and percentage since 2010-11. However, back in 2010-11 it was primarily impacted by the repayment of whole-of-government borrowings administered by Treasury in relation to the sales of QR National and Port of Brisbane and for natural disaster reparations. Once that is taken into account, the level of unforeseen expenditure in 2023-24 is the highest on record.

This bill fulfils a legislative requirement that all payments from the Consolidated Fund be authorised by parliament in a timely manner. They satisfy a technical requirement necessitated by the excessive spending of the former government. Effectively, Queenslanders have been forced to write out a cheque for \$9 billion to pay off Labor's tab.

This bill is a stark demonstration of the poor fiscal discipline of the former Labor government and their complete failure to plan over so many years. I stood in this House as shadow treasurer time and time again, pleading with the government to end their culture of project overruns and cost blowouts across the budget. I never thought I would be standing here talking about an overspend north of \$9 billion. Cost overruns and the inability to manage the state's finances are the legacy of the former treasurer, the member for Woodridge, the worst treasurer in Queensland's history, and this bill officially makes a mockery of Labor's economic legacy. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. DC JANETZKI (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (12.18 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

Question put—That the bill be now read a first time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Referral to Governance, Energy and Finance Committee

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McDonald): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee.