




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR OODGEROO

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APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL; REVENUE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL; STATE FINANCIAL INSTRUCTIONS AND METWAY MERGER AMENDMENT BILL

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (3.08 pm): This is my 16th budget. As it is my final budget, I would love to be able to say that it is a good budget that delivers a fair share for the people of the Cleveland area and makes up for the 12 other Labor budgets—but, sadly, it is not. This budget is eerily similar to the final pre-election budget of the Beattie-Bligh government, with high taxing, high spending, big deficits and more debt. It was a last-ditch desperate attempt by an on-the-nose, stale government to cling to power. The government coffers were awash with rivers of gold extracted from the resource industry and awash with high taxes and the cash flooding in from Labor's \$15 billion asset sales program—the asset sale of the century. Labor was so on the nose that even the Labor unions did not want the tired, old Labor government back.

The more things change, the more things remain the same. When it comes to Labor budgets on election eve, they are easily identifiable. What do we see in 2024? We see a typical Labor budget: one that taxes like medieval English King John—one that he would be proud of; one that spends like a drunken sailor; one that docks up disastrous deficits; one that racks up debt on the state credit card; and one that continues with the wrong priorities. Just like the dying days of the Beattie-Bligh government, we see with this Palaszczuk-Miles government the revenue rivers of gold—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): I will interrupt you there, member. The Speaker has made a ruling around referring to governments by their correct titles.

Dr ROBINSON:—being extracted and then even more spent, leaving record debt and deficits behind for our grandchildren and their grandchildren to try to pay off. This is not the first budget of a new government; rather, it is the 10th budget of a tired old government. In those 10 budgets Labor has added \$100 billion of debt, going from \$72 billion to \$172 billion by the end of the forwards. This pre-election budget, with its litany of handouts, has been described by economists and political media as a brazen, irresponsible, reckless spendathon; one that is full of one-off sugar hits that will increase inflationary pressures and puts upward pressure on interest rates. This reckless budget places the state in a weaker economic position and undermines the Queensland economy. All that was missing from this Labor con job on Queenslanders was the free set of steak knives with every vote and a slick advertising campaign that Demtel would have been proud to run.

It is abundantly clear to all that this 10th Labor government budget is a short-term, pre-election cash splash to fool Queenslanders into giving Labor a fourth term. The government is happy to plunge Queensland into a \$2.6 billion deficit in the next 12 months to fund these huge and temporary measures to try to cling to power. Make no mistake: the purpose of this budget is electoral survival. If there is any doubt that this budget is about holding on to power, just look at the expiry date in the handout to voters. The sugar hits all kick in just before the October 2026 election and fade away in the months after. It is all about clinging to power rather than fixing the crises this government has brought on Queenslanders.

This tired old Labor government has few solutions to address the health crisis, the crime crisis, the housing crisis and the cost-of-living crisis. Labor's failures have left record numbers of Queenslanders sleeping in tents, record numbers of crime victims, record ambulance ramping and record numbers of Queenslanders struggling to make ends meet. Only the LNP has the right priorities for Queensland's future. Queenslanders are struggling under the weight of the high cost of living and Labor has failed to deliver effective structural cost-of-living relief in the budget. Labor has delivered a budget for the next four months, not a plan for the next four years and beyond.

In terms of the health crisis, year on year Labor claims record health spends, yet the hospital and health crisis gets worse. Things are not getting better at Redland Hospital any time soon. Ambulance ramping remains high after reaching a record bad 73 per cent, the worst ever in our history under this Labor government. The intensive care unit, promised by Labor to be built and operating by 2022, is still not built. In Cleveland, the Redland Hospital upgrade was put on the backburner to build a medical centre at Redland Bay. New health measures were reannounced in this budget for the Redland Hospital, but locals will be excused for not trusting they will happen on time and on budget should Labor get a fourth term. I will keep on fighting for the fast-tracking of all Redland Hospital commitments until my last day. I welcome the muscle of state LNP candidates Amanda Stoker for Oodgeroo, Rebecca Young for Redlands and Susanna Damianopolous for Springwood, along with federal member Henry Pike, to see these health commitments materialise.

Ten years of Labor has also created a crisis in housing. They have not provided the housing that Queenslanders need. Instead of more of the same under Labor—false hope and broken promises for Queenslanders who are struggling to find, secure and keep a roof over their head—an LNP government will action our Securing our Housing Foundation plan. This plan will provide a big boost into home ownership; abolish stamp duty for all new homes for first home buyers; raise the stamp duty concession threshold in full for existing homes up to \$700,000 and partially up to \$800,000 for first home buyers; boost to buy with a new shared equity home ownership program designed to close the deposit gap for buyers without access to the bank of mum and dad; unlock homes for Queensland's future with a plan for one million extra homes by 2044, new regional plans for every corner of Queensland and fast-tracked approvals; open the door to housing by removing restrictions preventing first home buyer grant recipients from renting out rooms and opening up rental supply; homes with purpose, with 10,000 new social and community homes on church and charity owned land, unleashing the community housing sector and clear targets to ramp up social housing; and breaking down barriers to building.

Labor's budget fails to effectively address the youth crime crisis and soaring victim numbers, showing that Labor cannot be trusted on crime and has no plan to deliver the police that Queensland needs. When Labor MPs believe the youth crime crisis is just a media beat-up, they can never be part of the solution. Only an LNP government will remove detention as a last resort from the Youth Justice Act, not reword it. We will make sure there are consequences for actions and more police on the beat through retention and attraction, among other measures.

In terms of local matters, on the Redlands coast the chaos and wrong priorities of the current government are there for all to see with the failure to progress and prioritise both Toondah Harbour and Dunwich Harbour after many years. Labor cannot plan and build major projects on time and on budget. In terms of Dunwich Harbour, the Brisbane 2032 SEQ City Deal allocated \$40 million to the Dunwich ferry terminal upgrade on North Stradbroke Island. We have just had another federal Labor budget and now a state Labor budget handed down, but still no new funding is apparent in either budget. Federal member Henry Pike, LNP candidate Amanda Stoker, Councillor Peter Mitchell and I will keep fighting for this project to be delivered, despite Labor governments dragging their feet.

Much more needs to be done on North Stradbroke Island. Investment in infrastructure and connectivity are key issues and are needed: digital communication, transport connectivity for bus and ferry travel, more late evening ferry services, Translink services—and I sure hope Straddie is going to get 50-cent fares and will not be left out again—and much more. Straddie has been forgotten by this Labor government.

If Dunwich Harbour is a story of failure, Toondah Harbour is doubly so. Each year a million passengers and 200,000 vehicles rely on Toondah Harbour for transportation to and from Straddie. It serves as the lifeblood of the island's economy and is critical for residents, visitors, tourism operators and other small businesses. Sadly, the Toondah Harbour upgrade is dead in the water in its current form directly because of Labor infighting, division and incompetence. The LNP government put forward a modest, achievable priority development area plan, and Walker Group won the tender to build a moderate-sized and balanced harbour redevelopment that would provide upgraded transport infrastructure and amenities. The vast majority of Redlanders and island residents supported this, though there were some who still had concerns and opposed it.

In 2015 in Queensland Labor came back into government and Jackie Trad took over the project. She massively scaled it up and extended the development further into Ramsar wetlands, something Jackie Trade was warned about but ignored. It caused a civil war between the Labor left and right and state and federal Labor. For example, when federal Labor minister Plibersek announced she was likely to reject the proposal, the member for Miller welcomed that likely rejection and the member for Capalaba condemned it. It is such division that, in my view, undermined the project when Labor returned to government in Queensland in 2015.

With federal Labor's gun to their head, the Walker Group really had no alternative but to withdraw their proposal, leaving nothing. Trad's and Labor's planning failure, incompetence and mishandling now means we get nothing. The baby of transport upgrade has been thrown out with the bathwater of Labor incompetence. Ultimately, Labor's division scuttled Toondah Harbour, with the state and federal governments and Walker Group having wasted millions of dollars. Trad's promise of 1,100 construction jobs to replace the 300 Straddie resource sector jobs Labor cut never happened. Many of the 800 units of housing would also have been built by now, providing relief to the housing crisis. I will continue to work until my last day with the united state LNP team to resurrect something out of the ashes of Labor's incompetence that the community will support.

In terms of other local matters, Clevelanders and Redlanders should have received so much more out of this budget. While there is some funding for the Cleveland high school and other schools, there is little funding for roads in the Oodgeroo electorate. No new dollars are discernible in the budget for the Cleveland line duplication or the Eastern Busway, Transitway, Metro—whatever you want to call it today.

Our growing number of seniors need more support. Seniors groups like U3A need further funding for the new facility they are building, and I would ask the government to look favourably on investing more money into that. The residents of the Oodgeroo electorate are definitely not receiving their fair share of this budget. We are certainly miles behind where we should be. However, for all that we do receive we are grateful to the Queensland taxpayers who provide it.

Queenslanders deserve a government focused on the right priorities for our state's future, not one that is single-mindedly focused on re-election. Queenslanders are paying a high price for 10 years of Labor's failures in health, housing, youth crime and cost of living. It is no wonder the Treasurer asked Queenslanders to ignore their past. It is because their record over 10 years is one of chaos and crises. He wants to hide their history and failures in the same way former premier Bligh hid the asset sales. Labor has tried to bury its disgraceful history on asset sales.

The Premier, too, wants to distance himself from his record as part of the long-term Labor government. He wants to run miles away from their record. Instead of running on their record, they are running away from their record. October 26 is definitely a referendum on the last 10 years of this chaotic, failing, long-term Labor government that is on its last legs. Redlanders should ask themselves if things are better or worse after 10 years of Labor and vote accordingly. The only way for Clevelanders and all Redlanders to get the change they are after is to send Labor a message on 26 October—show Labor the door in 2024.