




Speech By  
**Bryson Head**

**MEMBER FOR CALLIDE**

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Record of Proceedings, 14 March 2025

**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) (SUPPLEMENTARY 2023-2024) BILL:  
APPROPRIATION (SUPPLEMENTARY 2023-2024) BILL**

 **Mr HEAD** (Callide—LNP) (3.19 pm): With the indulgence of the House, I wish to clarify some comments I made during the debate on the Queensland Productivity Commission Bill. I referred to a quote from the current member for Murrumba as being the member for Murrumba in 2015. As many in the House would know, he was actually not the member for Murrumba at that point in time. I meant for those comments to be reflective of the current member for Murrumba.

We are here talking about the supplementary appropriation bill that is filling in a lot of the blanks as far as unforeseen expenditure is concerned. This is, I believe, the third time this has been done for the previous Labor government. This is Labor's last budget legacy that they have left Queensland from the Palaszczuk-Miles government era. Frankly, it is appalling to see the excessive blowouts. As someone who respects Queensland taxpayers' money, it is incredibly sad to see so many more blowouts on top of the previous blowouts and on top of the blowouts before those. There has been a long list of blowouts over the years, especially under former treasurer Dick.

The unforeseen expenditure in this supplementary appropriation bill is for in excess of budget amounts from \$1.1 billion to \$8 billion. The final component of Labor's record is a \$9 billion overspend for the last financial year. That is \$9 billion in overspend. I can tell members that there is a long list of projects that I could deliver for the community of Callide if I had \$9 billion.

**Mrs Kirkland** interjected.

**Mr HEAD:** I take that interjection from the member for Rockhampton.

**Ms Dooley** interjected.

**Mr HEAD:** I take that interjection from the member for Redcliffe, who is doing a fantastic job. I dare say she is the best member for Redcliffe this House has ever seen. The member for Rockhampton, who is right here beside me, is the best member for Rockhampton this House has ever seen. It is fantastic that we have an LNP member for Rockhampton who is part of team CQ.

**A government member** interjected.

**Mr HEAD:** The member for Maryborough, how could I forget you? I will do a roll call in a second. The member for Mundingburra is a fantastic member for Mundingburra.

We could deliver a list of projects in Callide with that \$9 billion. Some of those were actually meant to be funded in the budget, but they never happened. While this is not in the Callide electorate, it certainly relates to the Callide electorate. I speak of the Gladstone port access road. Since April 2019 there has been \$100 million in the budget from the federal government to upgrade the Gladstone port access road. Unfortunately, we cannot overspend on a project that has never started, even though it was supposed to start a long time ago.

The Biloela Hospital should have been included in that financial year, but the former minister for health never started to deliver on her promise in that space. Now that the LNP is in government we have started work on the Biloela Hospital upgrade. It is a fantastic project. I was there seeing the terrific team the other day. The former government made all these promises. Frankly, I do not know how they managed to blowout the budget so much so many times when all we saw in Callide was plenty of empty and hollow promises. I was talking in the House not too long ago about an upgrade to the Chinchilla Hospital and the failed promises from Labor.

Those opposite have been talking a lot about energy rebates for Queenslanders. I got my electricity bill from Ergon the other day. The previous government announced those energy rebates last financial year. Those opposite have been talking about those rebates in this debate. Their allegation is that we have apparently cut them. We cannot cut something that does not exist.

I was very shocked to see how expensive my electricity bill was. I know the cost of living is an incredibly big issue for Queensland and something that we talk about a lot and we hear many concerns about. Why was my electricity bill so big when both sides of the House supported the electricity rebate of the former government? The former treasurer had that payment up-front at the start of the financial year. It meant that in the lead-up to the election people were not paying a cent but in the back end of the year—which is now—people are getting their bills and a lot of the rebate is exhausted. The former Labor government's energy rebate policy means that Queenslanders are now seeing the highest electricity bills they have ever seen. That is due to the failures of the former Labor government in terms of our electricity system. We know about the excess blowouts in this bill with regard to electricity management and the many hoaxes that they were promising for Queenslanders.

**A government member** interjected.

**Mr HEAD:** I take that interjection. We have seen the hydro hoax with Pioneer-Burdekin and the blowouts in relation to Borumba. I know the Treasurer and Minister for Energy is working incredibly hard to get those costs under control. We need to get those costs under control to get our power prices down.

Constituents are starting to contact me and asking about their electricity bills. The high bills that they are now seeing are as a direct consequence of the actions of the former Labor government and the way they set up those rebates. If those rebates were genuine cost-of-living relief for the future, they would have funded them through the forward estimates—so they would have been funded beyond 30 June—and they would have been done in a way so that the rebate was spread over multiple bills. It was done to buy votes in the lead-up to election. We have inherited Labor's failures and now we are seeing ridiculously high electricity bills and, frankly, it is disgraceful.

What we also saw in that financial year from the transport department was the demolition of the little shed at the Gin Gin Driver Reviver, which is an incredibly important facility for that community. It was community funded and yet the former government demolished it. It was a community-funded project that the community loved and the community ran. There were many volunteers. I have been talking to them recently and they are still incredibly passionate about getting that facility reinstated. The former government bulldozed it. That is how they treated communities in Queensland. We know how important road safety is and yet the former government took community assets off people and bulldozed them. In Callide there is not exactly a long list that they did overspend on in that financial year because really the only things we saw them doing around the place was pushing things over that the community actually wanted and supported. That is realistically their legacy.

In his time as treasurer, former treasurer Dick received \$70 billion that in their early forecasts their government was not meant to receive. If someone is a good treasurer—as we have now—and they all of a sudden receive unexpected revenue or an unexpected windfall they would put it towards something useful and there would not be excessive blowouts. The reality is that the former treasurer spent more and received more in taxes than any treasurer in history and yet we have the worst debt in history to show for it. That is the legacy of the former treasurer.

Some \$70 billion in unforeseen revenue could have been used to deliver state-of-the-art new projects, above and beyond what the government was already doing. I would love to walk around Queensland and the electorate of Callide and see the evidence of that, especially when a lot of that money came straight out of Callide through coal and other royalties from our mines. We have many primary producers in Callide who pay a lot of taxes and produce a lot of great food and fibre. There is not much that is grown in Queensland that is actually not grown in the electorate of Callide. It is a credit to all primary producers across the electorate.

We have significant gas as well. There are significant gas royalties that come out of Callide. Under the former Labor government we got next to none of it back. I was earlier talking about the Chinchilla Hospital upgrade. Labor failed to properly fund that project. They took billions of dollars of revenue and royalties out of Callide but did not give it back. That is the legacy of the former Labor government.

**Mr Bennett:** Paradise Dam.

**Mr HEAD:** I take that interjection. If we want to talk about blowouts, Paradise Dam is \$4.4 billion—

**A government member** interjected.

**Mr HEAD:** I take that interjection from the minister. They knocked down sheds at Gin Gin and just up the road they could not even build Paradise Dam properly and now Queenslanders are paying for it.