




Speech By
Janelle Poole

MEMBER FOR MUNDINGBURRA

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

 **Mrs POOLE** (Mundingburra—LNP) (8.34 pm): I rise this evening to speak on the appropriation bill on behalf of the electorate of Mundingburra. I rise with commitment, hard work and vision because that is what our government is all about.

The former Labor government are record breakers. I never thought those words would come out of our mouths. I will say it again: they are record breakers. Labor governments are infamous for not being able to manage money, but the former government have taken that challenge and they have gone above and beyond.

Mrs Frecklington: Overachievers.

Mrs POOLE: Overachievers. They are now the former government with the highest unforeseen expenditure on record. That is your money; that is my money. It is a formal legislative requirement for this amount to receive formal appropriation by parliament and it is our government that must now clean up this mess. The bill relates to decisions made by the previous government including unforeseen expenditure of \$1.128 million, the final component of their record \$9 billion overspend last financial year.

Conventionally, unforeseen expenditure within the financial year is approved by parliament in a single supplementary appropriation bill introduced and assented to in the following financial year. This record \$9 billion expenditure came as no surprise as the former Labor government had lost control of the budget and their spending. I have to say that this reminds me of an ad that I know we have all seen, 'Budget? What budget?'

Regarding the 2023-24 financial year, unforeseen expenditure has already been approved on two occasions. This is now the third attempt by Labor to work out how they manage a budget. Everybody knew that they had lost complete control and it was made quite evident in their election campaign. There was a three-week period during the campaign when the former Labor government committed to borrowing an additional \$33 billion for their uncoded, outlandish promises. Let me remind honourable members of just a few of those: state owned medical practices, uncoded; state owned servos, uncoded; state delivered school lunches, uncoded; another state owned energy retailer, uncoded. In the week leading up to the election the former Labor member for Mundingburra made millions of dollars in commitments to so many community groups and organisations—

A government member: Flashing the cash.

Mrs POOLE:—he was—lighting up graves, cricket pitches, building expansions—you name it, he committed to it. He made all of these promises to our community, to my community, and this bill shows it is highly likely that those commitments were made on false pretences. The former treasurer broke his 'no new or increased taxes' promise, a promise that he gave the people of Queensland—

Mr Stevens: Twenty-six.

Mrs POOLE: I take that interjection, thank you—26 times. He collected \$70 billion more in revenue than was forecast in his first budget less than four years before.

Mr Field: Up against a wall.

Mrs POOLE: I take that interjection. What do Queenslanders have to show for it? Queenslanders were left with record debt, record deficits and a record interest bill at the same time as there were record numbers of sick people waiting on ramps, homeless people sleeping in cars and victims of Queensland's crime crisis. The buck does not stop with this bill. This bill is the full stop on Labor's nightmare 10 years of fiscal incompetence. The Crisafulli government will do better. We will be better. The Crisafulli government is already taking steps to improve the budget position. We have cancelled the \$36.8 billion Pioneer-Burdekin hydro hoax, we have paused BPIC—that will save the budget \$17 billion—and we have opted not to provide significantly more than \$1 billion in equity and grants for a speculative hydrogen project. We are showing respect for taxpayers' money.

Under the former Labor government, unforeseen expenditure totalled nearly \$1.2 billion when people are crying out for more housing and our housing industry is being frustrated by regulations stopping it from just getting on with the job. We are committed to delivering an improved productivity performance and have just this week passed the legislation to establish the Queensland Productivity Commission, and its first item of business will be a review of the Queensland building industry. The Crisafulli government has the right plan to restore respect for your money, our communities' money. We are putting the focus back on driving down the costs of living and getting the maximum benefit from every single taxpayer dollar spent. We are putting to bed Labor's expensive failures and budget blowouts and we are getting on with the job. We are delivering the fresh start that Queenslanders voted for. I commend these bills to the House.