




Speech By
John Barounis

MEMBER FOR MARYBOROUGH

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

 **Mr BAROUNIS** (Maryborough—LNP) (4.49 pm): I rise today to speak in support of the supplementary appropriation bills for 2023-24. On 10 December 2024, the Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership introduced the Appropriation (Parliament) (Supplementary 2023-2024) Bill and the Appropriation (Supplementary 2023-2024) Bill into the Legislative Assembly. The bills were referred to the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee for joint consideration. The committee reported on 7 December 2024. The committee recommended that the Appropriation (Parliament) (Supplementary 2023-2024) Bill and the Appropriation (Supplementary 2023-2024) Bill be passed.

The objective of the bills is to seek formal authorisation for the specified amounts in each bill that the former treasurer, the member for Woodridge, paid from the Consolidated Fund for unforeseen expenditure that occurred in the 2023-24 financial year. These bills contain unforeseen expenditure of \$1,132,595,000. This includes unforeseen expenditure from the Consolidated Fund for 13 departments and \$4,207,000 for the Legislative Assembly and the Parliamentary Service. Unforeseen expenditure refers to expenditure from the Consolidated Fund in excess of the amount provided by the budget appropriation bills and is authorised by the Governor in Council to be made in advance of authorisation by the parliament. Under these bills, the Treasurer is authorised to pay \$1,132,595,000 in unforeseen expenditure.

The bills 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. The bills relate to decisions made by the previous government, including unforeseen expenditure—the final component of their record \$9 billion overspend last financial year.

Since the election, the Crisafulli government has calmly and methodically identified Labor's capital project blowouts and overruns across all areas of government, including: Cross River Rail, up \$494 million—the promised \$5.4 billion is now expected to exceed \$17 billion; Gold Coast Light Rail, up \$330 million; the hospital capacity expansion program blowouts push \$9.7 billion to \$16 billion; CopperString, up from \$6.2 billion to \$9 billion; Pioneer-Burdekin, up from \$12 billion to \$36 billion; and Borumba pumped hydro, up from \$14 billion to \$18 billion.

There are also unfunded operating expense commitments from the former Labor government. The former Labor government left a \$461 million funding black hole in Child Safety, leaving it facing a funding cliff for the 2024-25 budget. Some \$12 billion in Queensland Health programs and services were left unfunded or underfunded by the former Labor government.

The former treasurer broke his 'no new or increased taxes' promise, given 26 times, and collected \$70 billion more revenue than he forecast in his first budget less than four years before. I think \$70 billion is a lot of money. The former Labor government managed to leave Queensland with record debt, record deficits and a record interest bill at the same time as there were record numbers of the sick

waiting on ramps, the homeless sleeping in cars and victims of Queensland's crime crisis. Labor bears sole responsibility for the economic outlook downgrade and the additional costs to Queenslanders that flow from it. Labor can never be trusted to manage taxpayers' money—even though some members opposite mentioned that they are the best at it—and we on this side of the House know that.

The Crisafulli government is already taking steps to improve the budget position. We have cancelled the \$36 billion Pioneer-Burdekin hydro hoax, paused BPIC—this will save the budget \$17 billion to 2035—and opted not to provide significantly more than \$1 billion in equity and grants for speculative hydro projects. We are showing respect for taxpayers' money. We will give all Queenslanders and businesses the stability and certainty they are looking for. I will do the same for my Maryborough electorate—an electorate that I am very proud to be the member for, an electorate that gave me their trust and an electorate that gave the Crisafulli LNP government their trust. Prior to the election, the LNP committed to continue the Queensland Train Manufacturing Program in my electorate. This project is going to be delivered on time and on budget, regardless of whether some people think otherwise. I commend the bills to the House.