




Speech By  
**Kerri-Anne Dooley**

**MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE**

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

 **Ms DOOLEY** (Redcliffe—LNP) (7.41 pm): As the member for Redcliffe, I rise tonight to speak on and support the Appropriation (Supplementary 2023-2024) Bill. These bills provide formal authorisation for the former treasurer's spending of unforeseen expenditure from the Consolidated Fund during the 2023-24 financial year—a staggering \$1.132 billion from 13 departments and an additional \$4.2 million for the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service. While this process is a necessary part of financial accountability under the Financial Accountability Act 2009, we cannot ignore what these figures represent: a final stamp on a decade of reckless financial mismanagement by the former Labor government.

Unforeseen expenditure is intended for genuine emergencies, not for routine budgeting failure. Under the former Labor government it became the norm rather than the exception. Over the past decade, Labor's financial mismanagement saw Queensland's unforeseen expenditure hit record highs. In the 2023-24 financial year alone, this soared to an unprecedented \$9 billion, confirming what we all knew: Labor completely lost control of the budget.

This bill finalises the last chapter in Labor's decade of fiscal irresponsibility. Queenslanders will remember this period not only for the mismanagement of public funds but also for the neglect of essential services from health to infrastructure, crime prevention and cost-of-living relief. Under Labor, the budget process was reduced to a marketing exercise. The numbers in their budget papers became meaningless as spending blew out time and time again.

Consider the following: Cross River Rail was promised at \$5.4 billion but is now expected to be three times the cost, at \$17 billion; Gold Coast Light Rail, a \$330 million budget blowout; the hospital capacity expansion plan, originally \$9.7 billion, now estimated at \$16 billion; the CopperString project, costs ballooning from \$6.2 billion to \$9 billion; the Pioneer-Burdekin pumped hydro scheme, originally \$12 billion, now an eye-watering \$36.8 billion.

**A government member: Waste.**

**Ms DOOLEY:** Waste. Labor also left behind billions in underfunded essential services—a \$461 million black hole in child safety funding and a staggering \$12 billion in underfunded or unfunded health programs. These are not just numbers on a page. These represent real consequences for Queenslanders, for people like Mark, whom I met during the 2024 campaign and who, under a Labor government, was left for five hours on a footpath at Woody Point while waiting for an ambulance to arrive. Under Labor we saw the worst ambulance ramping in the nation. These numbers represent longer hospital wait times, failing infrastructure and a cost-of-living crisis that is hitting families across my electorate of Redcliffe and the state.

We are having to clean up Labor's mess. Labor's inability to manage finances did not just burden Queenslanders with record debt but also put our financial reputation at risk. The numbers tell the full story. In January, Labor's last budget under MYFER showed the debt climbing to \$218 billion—an

increase from \$172 billion in the 2023-24 budget. Queensland now has the highest debt per capita of any state, at \$40,000 per man, woman and child. Our state's annual interest bill will reach \$9.9 billion by 2028—wasted money that could be spent on hospitals, schools, roads and essential services.

Since coming to office, the Crisafulli government has taken immediate and decisive action to restore fiscal responsibility. We have cancelled Labor's \$36.8 billion waste of the Pioneer-Burdekin hydro fantasy; we have paused BPIC, saving taxpayers approximately \$17 billion by 2030; and we have, as of last night, restored the Queensland Productivity Commission to ensure sound economic decision-making moving forward.

The people of Redcliffe and Queensland demand and deserve a government that has respect for their money. The people of Redcliffe and Queensland want accountability and transparency in their elected representatives and governments. This bill seeks to provide that so future budgets reflect the expectations of my electorate of Redcliffe and Queenslanders so my four adult children and the millions of other Queenslanders like them can afford to buy a home.

That is why the Crisafulli LNP government has appointed the first Minister for Home Ownership—our Treasurer. This is because the LNP is committed to respecting taxpayers' money. It is because the LNP is committed to seeing more, not fewer, people owning their own homes. In my electorate of Redcliffe, housing is the No. 1 issue raised with me day after day—a legacy left by a decade of a Labor government that did not build one house under the \$2 billion Housing Investment Fund. I am proud to say that it is an LNP Crisafulli government that will deliver 82 one-bedroom brand new social and community units for over-55s through a partnership with the Brisbane housing corporation. This is due to be completed midyear and cannot be finished fast enough. This is because the LNP is committed to delivering the critical infrastructure and houses that Queensland needs. To do this we need to appropriate the funds to deliver essential infrastructure like the Redcliffe Hospital expansion plan, which will add an additional 204 beds. With exploded population growth in Redcliffe, Murrumba and Bancroft—residents who all use the Redcliffe Hospital—this project should have been delivered five years ago. Last year alone we saw 1,600 babies born at Redcliffe Hospital, 65,000 presentations at Redcliffe emergency and 58,000 outpatient appointments.

While talking about the Redcliffe Hospital, I put on the record my special thanks to the hardworking doctors, nurses, allied health and ancillary staff who not only worked tirelessly during Tropical Cyclone Alfred in the past week but also work tirelessly every single day to make sure the people of Redcliffe and surrounds get the care they need. I also pay tribute to the Redcliffe Hospital Auxiliary, which raises funds for projects that improve facilities for patients and staff around the hospital. I give a shout-out to Rhonda Neal and the many other hospital staff who fundraise through the Reddy Fun Run. They have raised over \$83,000 in the last three years which makes a real difference. In partnership with the Hospital Auxiliary they have used those funds to create many safe and beautiful spaces around the hospital.

While I am at it, I acknowledge the remarkable community of Redcliffe and businesses that have got behind the Raise it for Redcliffe Hospital fundraising campaigns. In the past four years we have hit the magic million under the capable leadership of Sharyn Tidswell and the incredible business impact partners, including: The Komo, the Bel, GKS Law, Crew Legal and the Redcliffe RSL. These funds have seen the rehabilitation and stroke unit and palliative care unit lounge refurbished. I worked there as a registered nurse 30 years ago and it had not been refurbished in that time. These funds also support life-saving research. Why am I highlighting these fundraising efforts? While our communities rise and cherish the challenge to fill gaps where government funding does not match needs, it should not be on already stretched communities to do so.

This appropriation bill will release the additional funds needed for the much needed Redcliffe Hospital expansion plan and other health related projects across Queensland, including a cancer centre for Redcliffe. Queenslanders want, and deserve, a better economy. A stronger economy means more schools, more hospitals, more roads, more jobs, successful businesses and appropriately funded public services such as child safety. I commend the Appropriation (Supplementary 2023-2024) Bill to the House.