



Speech By
Michael Crandon

MEMBER FOR COOMERA

Record of Proceedings, 13 March 2025

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



Mr CRANDON (Coomera—LNP) (4.07 pm): I rise to make a short contribution—

Mr Stevens: As the chair of the committee.

Mr CRANDON:—as the chair of the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee. I want to thank all members of the committee and of course our secretariat, who do absolutely wonderful work in pulling the reports together on our behalf.

This is report No. 2 of the new committee on the Appropriation (Parliament) (Supplementary 2023-24) Bill and the Appropriation (Supplementary 2023-24) Bill. We talked about debt when we first received the briefings from Treasury. There was not a lot of conversation from those opposite as part of the discussions that we were having around the total amount of debt that was involved. They did not ask any questions in the public hearings of Treasury about what happened and how we ended up with the billions of dollars of overspend, the 11.6 per cent overspend, in 2023-24. I want to run through those numbers for honourable members.

The Cheaper Power (Supplementary Appropriation) Act 2024, also known as the 'let's see if we can buy our way back into government bill', contained \$2.267 billion in supplementary appropriation and was dreamt up on the back of an envelope, I would suggest, to try to kid the people of Queensland into believing that Labor were their mates. There is nothing further from the truth because that \$2.267 billion is nothing compared to the overspend and the inappropriate manner in which Labor managed the last budget.

That \$2.267 billion was accompanied by \$6.154 billion that was brought in at the same time and then, finally, the one we are debating today, with the further \$1.128 billion, so those opposite could not even get the numbers right back then. They thought they had it all captured in the budget in June last year, but then there was another \$1.128 billion. The total number for the people of Queensland—and I will read it out in long form for them—is \$9,549,747,000. That is 11.6 per cent over. One might think that probably happens on a fairly regular basis. No, it does not. Perhaps there has been occasion for the \$1.1 billion or perhaps even \$2 billion over the last decade. The next worst in fact was in 2016-17, when there was a 4.76 per cent overspend. I cannot remember what happened in 2017. Wait a minute: was there another election? There may have been another election looming, so it was a 4.76 per cent overspend then and an 11.6 per cent overspend this time around.

We know from all of the material that the Treasurer has brought to the House and spoken about in the media that we are seeing something in the order of a \$17 billion blowout in our expenditure. That is going to make it tough for us. We are up to the task, but at the end of the day we are now going to go from something like \$72 billion in total debt to \$172 billion in total debt over the forward estimates. That is just an incredible amount of money. It is beyond most people's comprehension to understand that because, first of all, in their minds it is not coming out of their back pockets, but the reality is that it is coming out of their back pockets because the money has to come from somewhere. The money has

to come from taxes. On that note, we are the first government in many years to abolish taxes for the people of Queensland, whereas those opposite brought in so many taxes over the last decade that people do not seem to understand or comprehend.

At the end of the day, we have a \$9.5 billion blowout—an 11.6 per cent blowout—in order to try to keep the lights on from 2023-24. Thank goodness we now have a responsible Treasurer who is capable of looking after the budget for Queensland and we have responsible ministers who are determined to deliver projects on time and on budget. They are also determined to make sure that all of those unfunded promises by those opposite will be delivered in amongst all of that. I commend the bills to the House.