




Speech By
Nigel Hutton

MEMBER FOR KEPPEL

Record of Proceedings, 13 March 2025

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

 **Mr HUTTON** (Keppel—LNP) (5.21 pm): I rise to speak on these appropriation bills. I am proud to stand alongside a new Crisafulli government made up of Queenslanders who understand how hard every single member of our communities work each and every day and the value of their tax dollars. These dollars raised are not earned as government money; they are collected as taxpayer money. I am proud to be part of a Crisafulli government that has respect for taxpayers' money.

This bill provides closure on the final chapter of the Palaszczuk-Miles Labor government's budget, and the numbers speak for themselves. There is unforeseen expenditure in this bill alone of \$1.128 billion for the 2024 budget and a record \$9 billion overspend last financial year. Labor's last budget update and the Mid-Year Fiscal and Economic Review from January show that over the forwards, without action, Queensland debt would total \$218 billion—up from \$172 billion in the 2023-24 financial year. That debt per capita would be the highest of any state in the nation and would be \$40,000 for every Queensland man, woman and child. Queensland's interest bill was \$3.9 billion in 2014-15 and will be \$9.9 billion at the end of financial year 2028 without change.

Economic vandalism, economic incompetence, economic mismanagement: these are not words I say lightly. I truly believe that Queensland has great potential and is the greatest place to live. However, we were let down by a former government that were desperate and that did and said anything to try to cling to power. Alas, they had no respect for our money and no plan and Queenslanders are today being asked to pay to cover the bill. We are being asked to pay for their failure.

At the 2024 election, Queenslanders were demanding change. After 10 years of fiscal mismanagement, time was up for the Palaszczuk-Miles Labor government. At the election, the Crisafulli LNP opposition stood ready to deliver for Queenslanders to get the state heading in the right direction. We went to the people of Queensland with a plan to return respect for their money. Queenslanders recognised that and they voted for a fresh start. Today, Queenslanders are being asked to sign a cheque to ensure the budget after Labor's expensive failures across housing, crime, health and cost of living, which hit all of our hip pockets. It is vital that the work of our public servants, our services and our agencies can be funded and can continue for the financial year.

It is very much like a bad date. Queenslanders have been left with the bill because the party that ordered the lobster have been walked out by the maitre d' for their bad behaviour. Ask any Queensland and they will say that they manage their family budget with the utmost respect for how every dollar cements their financial foundation, provides opportunity for their financial future or covers the cost of living.

As Queenslanders know all too well, our families have copped some of the biggest increases in the nation over the last decade, including for child care, health care, sports participation and food. Queensland rents, electricity prices, transport and insurance costs have all skyrocketed. Queenslanders know that every dollar counts and we now have a government that respects the effort taken to earn every one of those dollars.

Our government is working every day to ensure that every taxpayer dollar is invested to deliver the maximum benefit for Queenslanders because we respect the hard work of Queenslanders and the efforts that are made by Queenslanders to generate the wealth of our state. Our state's wealth is not an accident; it is on the back of every Queenslanders' hard work and effort. I commend this bill to the House and the Crisafulli government for working every day to ensure that Queenslanders get the fresh start they voted for and finally have a government that has respect for their money.