




Speech By
Hon. Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

Record of Proceedings, 14 March 2025

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

 **Hon. TL MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (3.08 pm): I rise to speak on the Appropriation (Parliament) (Supplementary 2023-2024) Bill and the Appropriation (Supplementary 2023-2024) Bill. Basically, what happens at the beginning of every year is that the Treasurer makes an estimation of how much money the state will require for the following year. That is commonly called a budget. You have to be pretty good if, at the end of the year, you got it right. You have to be pretty good to have got it smack on.

We have these bills before the House and, to explain it to the newer people without being patronising—I am being patronising to that side because I know I have to speak slowly for them—they are about correcting any overexpenditure, which is inevitable. That is why we are here today to pass these bills. The amount of money that we are having to approve is not a small sum. It is actually \$1.132 billion, not \$1.132 million. Am I right, Treasurer?

Mr Janetzki: That's right. That's this one.

Mr MANDER: That is this one. That is the point. Thank you for that segue. We need to have a look at previous years to see how often the treasurer of the day has miscalculated, if you like, or misestimated. I want to go back to when we were last in government. When we were last in government, we did the budget for three years. In 2013-14, the underestimation was \$447 million.

Mrs Kirkland: The underestimate?

Mr MANDER: We underestimated the expenditure so we had to appropriate another \$447 million. That is a fairly significant sum as well. The year before—our first budget—the adjustment was \$63 million. Do not forget that the figure we are talking about now is \$1.13 billion. Let's go to our last budget. This figure is extraordinary. For our last budget, the supplementary appropriation was \$12 million. The treasurer at the time was the member for Clayfield. He did such a great job that we only had to appropriate another \$12 million in a budget of about \$60 billion.

Let's look at the former treasurer's record. This year it is \$1.13 billion. Last year it was \$1.34 billion. The year before that it was \$2.823 billion. He has had a good year with the \$450 million. If we go back another two years, it was \$1.1 billion and \$1.3 billion. The previous former treasurers obviously had no idea how to budget. This is supposed to be a slight adjustment, not billion dollar adjustments. Is it any wonder that the ratings agencies have come in—

Government members: Standard & Poor's.

Mr MANDER: Somebody has just mentioned Standard & Poor's. When talking about last year's budget, it said that the record \$9 billion of unforeseen expenditure comes as no surprise as the former Labor government had lost control of the budget and their spending. Everybody knew it. During the last few months of the Labor government, Standard & Poor's spoke of their waning and loose fiscal discipline which was eroding the buffer in Queensland's rating. This is the better description: the *Financial Review* called Labor's last budget a 'clown show'.

The now Treasurer warned everybody that this reckless spending by the previous government would put our credit rating at risk. Lo and behold, Standard & Poor's recently revised its outlook to negative, which is very worrying because it costs the state money which in turn costs taxpayers money. That is why this is so serious.

We had a treasurer who promised no new or increased taxes—that promise was made 26 times—and he collected \$70 billion more in revenue than he forecast in his first budget less than four years before. This figure is astonishing. That treasurer was so focused on self-promotion. I will tell another story to some of our newer members. After all the devastation of the Binna Burra area and the Binna Burra resort due to fires, the then treasurer was more focused on self-promotion than on making sure our books were balanced that he posted a photo of himself coming out of the parched and burnt forest—prim and proper, not one stain on him—holding the Binna Burra bell, and the caption read, 'We found the bell.' He did not say it was the volunteer firefighters or the paid firefighters but 'we found the bell'. He was grandstanding, like he always does. He was a treasurer focused on self-promotion and not on balancing the books.

If some of the newer members want some entertainment, they should look at the former treasurer's Facebook posts. He had a fixation with black-and-white photos of former American presidents. We all remember the very famous JFK—

Ms MULLEN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I refer to standing order 236 in relation to relevance. I do not believe this has anything to do with the appropriation bills before us and I ask that the member be returned to the long titles of the bills.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): I do agree with that point of order. Member for Everton, would you henceforth confine yourself to the matter contained in the bill.

Mr MANDER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I will take your advice. For context, these photos were taken at budget time every year. After the budget there was a photo of him imitating JFK. This was a pose of JFK through the Berlin missile crisis and we have—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Everton, I have given you my guidance. I would ask you, please, to confine yourself to the long titles of the two cognate bills.

Mr MANDER: I will actually take that advice, but I have to correct what I said. It was obviously the Cuban missile crisis. I am getting that mixed up with the Berlin Blockade. There is no doubt that the former treasurer who is responsible for this overspend will go down in the history of Queensland parliament as the most irresponsible, incompetent treasurer.

Mr McDonald: We have a calm and confident treasurer now.

Mr MANDER: I will take that interjection from the member for Lockyer. In contrast, our current Treasurer is actually educated in finance and has addressed the issues and the challenges before him in a calm, cool and calculated manner—very measured. I know that this current Treasurer gives the financial markets and those in commercial operations around the state a great deal of confidence that we can control the budget.

We have respect for taxpayers' money. That is what we will show. We will not have the waste that we have had in the past. There is no greater example of that waste than the Wellcamp debacle up in Toowoomba. Was that in the Treasurer's electorate?

Mr Janetzki: Just outside.

Mr MANDER: It was in the electorate of the member for Condamine, the Speaker. That is the type of waste that the previous government was renowned for and it is simply not good enough. The result of that waste is that we now have to go through parliament and appropriate more money 12 months down the track. Thank goodness the adults have finally taken over. We have competent people—the Treasurer, the finance minister, the Premier and the Deputy Premier. We have a magnificent ministry backed up by unbelievable local members and assistant ministers, all the way up to the electorate of Cook. We have fantastic members.

This is necessary, unfortunately. We have to do this. I am very confident in the future because we now have a treasurer who is competent, who is in control and who will make sure that we respect taxpayers' money.