




Speech By
David Lee

MEMBER FOR HERVEY BAY

Record of Proceedings, 26 March 2026

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) (SUPPLEMENTARY 2024-2025) BILL; APPROPRIATION (SUPPLEMENTARY 2024-2025) BILL

 **Mr LEE** (Hervey Bay—LNP) (12.32 pm): I rise to speak to the Appropriation (Supplementary 2024-2025) Bill 2025 and the Appropriation (Parliament) (Supplementary 2024-2025) Bill 2025. The practical effect of the Appropriation (Supplementary 2024-2025) Bill is to supplement the annual 2024-25 appropriations.

The Crisafulli government is committed to a transparent, proactive and well-considered budget and appropriations process. The Crisafulli government's proactivity was recently exemplified by Queensland being the first state to call out fuel security issues, calling for national leadership and a national plan. This bill abolishes a decade of Labor's misleading and deceptive fiscal practices.

There is a memorable line in that Australian classic *The Castle*: 'Come on, Dale. Tell 'em. Come on, tell 'em. Dale dug a hole.' Mr Deputy Speaker, I'll tell 'em: the member for Woodridge dug a hole. It is a cavernous black budgetary hole dug out of a litany of unfunded promises. Member for Woodridge, there are two well-established principles when it comes to holes. The first rule of holes is: if you find yourself in a hole, stop digging. The second rule of holes is: when you stop digging, you are still in a hole. It should come as no surprise to anyone on this side of the House that the *Australian Financial Review* described Labor's June 2024 budget as 'politically shameless and fiscally irresponsible' and a 'populist clown show'. I will come back to Labor's black holes in a few minutes.

I turn to the cognate bill before the House. Firstly, there is an appropriation supplementary bill authorising the Treasurer to pay amounts from the Consolidated Fund for particular departments in the financial year starting 1 July 2024. Secondly, there is an appropriation parliament supplementary bill authorising the Treasurer to pay amounts from the Consolidated Fund for the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service for the financial year commencing 1 July 2024. Schedule 1 to each of those bills sets out the amounts of unforeseen expenditure for each of the departmental services and, where relevant, amounts for an equity adjustment. A 2025 supplementary appropriation for an unforeseen expenditure amount of \$5.7 billion is appropriated for departmental services. Further details about each of the 15 departments' and two government entities' expenses are set out in schedule 1 to the Appropriation (Supplementary 2024-2025) Bill 2025 and the 2025 Consolidated Fund Financial Report. A 2025 supplementary appropriation for an unforeseen expenditure of \$5.41 million is appropriated for the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service.

Unforeseen expenditure refers to expenditure authorised by the Governor in Council under section 35 of the Financial Accountability Act 2009 to be made in advance of appropriation. The 2025 \$5.7 billion in unforeseen department supplementary expenditure represents a 6.34 per cent increase on the original appropriation. This is a substantial decrease on the \$9 billion aggregated unforeseen expenditure incurred in the 2023-24 financial year. A single and streamlined set of appropriation bills, where appropriate, is welcomed and will reduce the administrative burden and avoid confusion. Labor's \$9 billion—or 11.6 per cent—increase on the original appropriation in the year prior was so large it had to be broken into three appropriation bills.

The Crisafulli government will continue to take a calm, accountable and methodical approach to the management of the state budget. We respect Queenslanders' money and we roundly reject Labor's decade of debt, deception and deficit. A well-considered fiscal policy and budget process is integral to the success of our economy. Notwithstanding sound budgetary processes, from time to time unforeseen expenditures arise that impact upon the budget. This proposition stands in stark contrast to the law of holes.

Now let's tell 'em about Labor's budgetary holes. It is a matter of public record that Queensland Treasury had to provide \$800 million to the health department to address cash flow challenges across the health system because of Labor's unfunded commitments made through 2023-24. Programs like the Women and Girls' Health Strategy and the Winter Beds Strategy were all made without appropriate allocations. Ultimately, over \$2 billion extra was required for Queensland Health due to the mismanagement of the now shadow treasurer, the member for Waterford. Labor's financial ineptitude resulted in a 2024-25 operating deficit of around \$960 million. The Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership, Hon. David Janetzki, said in his 2025 introductory speech—

Shortly after coming to government last year, we revealed that Labor had left a black hole of \$461 million in Child Safety in 2024-25 alone. There was over \$200 million in net unforeseen expenditure across the housing portfolio in 2024-25. This includes nearly \$120 million for previously unfunded housing and homelessness services and \$62½ million for unfunded essential social housing maintenance. An amount of \$118 million in previously unbudgeted funding was required for financial assistance to victims of crime to help them recover from the physical and psychological effects of violent crime.

Meanwhile, in Hervey Bay Labor's fiscal ineptitude was writ large with the previous Labor member building castles in the sky. The former Labor member's misleading and deceptive claims about a delivered Hervey Bay Fire and Rescue Station are no substitute for a Queensland Fire Department funded line item in the capital budget. There were other spurious and unfunded claims by the former Labor member, such as the \$60 million Hervey Bay Hospital multistorey car park and a River Heads pontoon.

The 2024-25 Mid-Year Fiscal and Economic Review exposes Labor's \$218 billion debt deception and the unfunded thought bubbles, like free school lunches and state-run servos and medical clinics. That is \$45.8 billion higher than the original estimate. The MYFER also reveals a capital cost blowout from \$22.6 billion to \$129.9 billion. We saw local evidence of this fiscal irresponsibility in the Hervey Bay Hospital expansion, which revealed a \$54 million blowout after years of delay. The deficits projected in MYFER from 2024-25 to 2027-28 total \$30.2 billion. MYFER concluded—

An unprecedented acceleration in borrowing would be required to fund these operating deficits as well as the identified cost overruns across the capital program.

Thankfully, we now have a Crisafulli government that is calmly and methodically fixing Labor's fiscal mess. The Crisafulli government's first budget has laid the foundation for a fresh start for Queensland after a decade of decline. The Crisafulli government is committed to a transparent budget and appropriations process. Queenslanders rightfully eschew Labor's shameful unfunded budget promises.

In closing, the Crisafulli government is calmly and methodically cleaning up Labor's mess after a decade of financial irresponsibility and recklessness and a decade of deceit, including hiding cost blowouts, underfunding essential services and making unfunded representations to my community in Hervey Bay. The Crisafulli government is closing a deceitful decade of populous clown shows and restoring respect for Queenslanders' money across government.

Deputy Speaker, I will tell 'em: the member for Woodridge dug a hole. He dug a hole on the vibe of the thing and I am here to tell him he's dreamin'. I commend the cognate bill to the House.