




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR ALBERT

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**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL; REVENUE
LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Albert—LNP) (11.32 pm): I rise here today to make a contribution to the Appropriation Bill 2014. Queensland is a great state with great opportunities but we can never forget the burden of the crippling deficit that the previous Labor government left us. This legacy is one that strangles the future infrastructure which our state desperately needs. It is a burden that is around the neck of each and every Queenslander. This equates to \$16,209 for every man, woman and child in Queensland, and that is not to mention the interest bill which is \$4 billion each year.

Governments must live within their means. Expenditure cannot continue to outgrow revenue. The days of runaway spending have left us with very little to show for our money. I must say that as I go around the electorate people always ask me what actually happened and what did we get for the \$80 billion. The only thing I can say to them is that we got dams without pipes, pipes without dams and trains without seats. On a local level, I can also remind them of the appalling state our schools were left in. I will always remember the boys toilet block at the Gaven State School where the ceiling was actually caving in and the children could not use the toilet block. Due to the foresight of this government in previous budgets where we allocated \$300 million to fix the maintenance backlog, I can simply say that our schools are looking brand spanking new again. They are sparkling and this brings me a massive sense of pride. This government gave a firm commitment to ensure that expenses do not exceed revenue growth and that we do not pass Labor's debt onto our next generation, our children.

I can certainly say that the proudest moments for members of parliament come from visiting our schools and seeing the next generations on assembly. We see all of these young minds and all we want is the very best for these individuals. It is our moral obligation to protect their future and not leave them with a massive debt legacy. The third LNP budget continues our commitment to responsible fiscal management and lays the foundation for sustainable economic growth. Building the economy of tomorrow certainly takes action now through better educational outcomes. The Great Results Guarantee empowers our schools to make a real difference at the grassroots level. It gives our principals and our school communities the ability to spend money on initiatives that they feel are unique to their situation for best outcomes for them.

The schools of Albert welcome the \$2.1 million in funding—from Mount Warren Park State School, Windaroo and Windaroo Valley State High School in the north, to Norfolk Village, Cedar Creek and Pimpama State School in the centre, and to Coomera Springs, Upper Coomera State College, Highland Reserve, Oxenford and Gaven State School in the south. Albert schools are putting these funds to good use to help the next generation to learn the fundamentals of reading, writing and arithmetic. It certainly brings me great pride when I hear from the parents who are seeing these real educational outcomes and how they are affecting their students. These students are now grasping education and they are actually finding it interesting. They love taking a book home to read to their parents to show off their newfound skills. I can certainly say that the P&Cs are very, very grateful. Most importantly, though, it is giving these young students the hope that they can achieve.

The budget also focuses on delivering an extra 267 front-line police officers. Combined with tougher legislation dealing with criminal gangs, this has made dramatic inroads into crime on the Gold Coast. I want to quote some figures from the *Gold Coast Bulletin* from 12 December 2013. They said—

From September to November 6, assaults dropped 38 per cent a week ... The number of robberies slumped from a weekly rate of 14 to just five—a reduction of 64 per cent. Break and enters fell from 87 to 66, a 24 per cent cut ...

This is proof that our tough stance on crime is making our electorates safer.

This government has developed a strong plan to change the culture of alcohol fuelled violence through the Safe Night Out Strategy. This strategy includes a range of initiatives, including additional liquor licensing inspectors, support services, awareness campaigns and the establishment of 15 safe night out precincts. This is about allowing Queenslanders to get out there and enjoy their nights out in our busy nightclub precincts. Let us not forget that these precincts provide employment to bar staff and people who work in transportation services, cleaning services and property management, just to highlight a few jobs.

Residents of Albert have been vocal when it comes to those who commit a crime. Many residents believe in the motto that if you do the crime you do the time. This LNP government is listening and is serious about tackling crime and keeping serious criminals off the streets. This is confirmed in the commitment of \$61 million to recommission, refurbish and expand existing correctional facilities to deliver 650 new beds.

This government is also committed to health services. This is seen with the Gold Coast hospital and health services receiving over a billion dollars to deliver increased health care to the Gold Coast region, which certainly includes those residents in Albert. This will allow local residents to be treated locally for radiation oncology. This will bring a lot of comfort to my local residents because their families will be close by.

I would like to follow the Treasurer in informing Albert residents of the fantastic inroads the LNP government has made in Health: the number of category 1 patients waiting more than 30 days for surgery has been cut by 83 per cent, the number of category 2 patients waiting more than 90 days for surgery has been cut by 69 per cent, the average time between ambulance dispatch and being available for the next job has been reduced by 18.75 per cent, and the number of long wait dental patients has been reduced by 98.5 per cent in the last 14 months. These achievements have come through prudent management procedures and our hardworking medical staff. This creates peace of mind for residents because they know that they are going to get the appropriate care for themselves and their loved ones.

Returning to the budget highlights, this budget delivers \$13.6 billion for Health, up six per cent; \$11.8 billion for Education, up seven per cent; and \$406 million for Child and Family Services. With strong choices, there is certainly a lot more to be done. In the Albert electorate and the Coomera electorate we will be fighting for our share of infrastructure—essential infrastructure—such as exit—

Mr Hart: Exit 54.

Mr BOOTHMAN: Exit 54 at Upper Coomera. This is a crucial exit for our area. The budget is about building a brighter future for Queensland and taking control of Labor's debt legacy.