



Speech By  
**Mark Robinson**

**MEMBER FOR CLEVELAND**

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Record of Proceedings, 6 June 2014

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

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Cleveland—LNP) (2.53 pm): I rise to speak to the government's budget handed down by the Treasurer on Tuesday, 3 June. Until recent times, the people of Queensland have endured more than 20 years of economic mismanagement under Labor governments. In that time they have endured Labor's binge budgets—budgets in which Labor spent far beyond what is healthy for the economy. These Labor binge budgets were followed by the first two budgets of the LNP government. Those fiscal repair budgets of the Newman government could be described as hangover budgets. Those two budgets of this government had to deal with the headache or legacy of Labor's binge in the form of debt, deficits and a culture of entitlement amongst some. The hangover has not been pleasant to deal with.

Now, in 2014-15 the Queensland government has delivered its third budget, not a binge budget like the Labor years, but a Berocca budget: the b-b-bounce of Queensland is coming back. This budget begins to restore our bounce to give us back our mojo. This budget brings the state's economy back to life again. It brings new life, new opportunity and new hope to the families and businesses of Queensland. The 2014-15 budget continues to deliver on the LNP government's strong plan for a brighter future. Strong choices have to be made so that a brighter future can be ours. We need to reduce Labor's \$80 billion debt and \$4 billion interest bill. This budget outlines our plan to make the strongest and smartest choices to reduce debt so we can sustainably invest in the schools, hospitals and infrastructure for the future. We have made significant progress in restoring our finances, growing a four-pillar economy, revitalising front-line services and funding infrastructure projects. We have also created jobs, with more than 60,000 jobs created in Queensland in the last year.

I want to congratulate my colleagues the Treasurer, Tim Nicholls, and the Premier, Campbell Newman, on delivering a fiscally responsible and measured budget in the face of difficult economic circumstances that we as a government inherited from the Bligh government as a legacy for all Queenslanders. We are putting to the people of Queensland our plan to sell or lease some assets. With the \$33 billion earned from these funds, we will be making a \$25 billion down payment on Labor's \$80 billion debt and investing \$8.6 billion in infrastructure throughout the state. I encourage everyone in Cleveland, Wellington Point, Ormiston, Thornlands, Birkdale and North Stradbroke Island to jump online or write in to have their say as to where we should invest that \$8 billion on our assets should we be returned to government.

We are taking our plan to the next election to get a mandate from the people. It is important that all of Queensland have their say before we undertake such moves to sell or lease assets. I note the clear distinction between our government and the former Labor government, which promised they would not sell assets before the election and then proceeded to do so afterwards in a fire sale. They betrayed the trust of Queenslanders. But we have been upfront with our plans and will let the people decide.

The LNP government was elected with an unprecedented majority and mandate to fix Labor's mess. The LNP government has started the process of reining in Labor's debt and has a strong plan to get Queensland back in the black. In this budget the LNP government has invested in front-line services of health, education, housing services, child protection, disability services and law and order among other important areas. This government has not only maintained existing funding levels in these core areas but has increased the funding.

The residents of Cleveland will share in these increases in funding such as \$13.6 billion in Health funding, a six per cent increase over the last budget; \$11.8 billion in Education funding, representing a seven per cent increase in funding; \$5.4 billion into Transport and Main Roads; \$406 million in Child Protection; and \$44.5 million in our Safe Night Out Strategy. I am proud to be a member of a government that understands the importance of investing in these essential government services while at the same time beginning to tackle the debt crisis that the former government left behind.

We are also not leaving our pensioners behind. I am pleased to say that we have a leader and a Treasurer who listen. They listened to the concerns of our pensioners. The announcement that the Newman LNP government would pay for the entire concession is great news for the many seniors and pensioners of Cleveland. We have gone the extra mile to extend the state budget to fully cover the concession gap left by the federal budget. The government has demonstrated that we respond to the outcry of Queensland's most needy people.

In terms of Education, the budget contains \$11.8 billion in funding, representing a seven per cent increase. These funds are vital to the continued provision of a first-class education to the children of Cleveland. The Great Results Guarantee initiative sees a further \$1.25 million invested in the schools of Cleveland: Bay View State School, Cleveland District State High School, Cleveland State School, Dunwich State School, Ormiston State School, Redland District Special School, Thornlands State School, Wellington Point State High School and Wellington Point State School. The funding comes on the back of the \$300 million for school maintenance and \$535 million Great Teachers = Great Results initiative, as previously announced. Further, there is the millions of dollars spent recently on construction of the Bay View State School indoor multipurpose school auditorium, Cleveland District State High School year 7 buildings and a contribution to the Ormiston College administration building. This has meant that Cleveland residents continue to get their fair share of funding for education infrastructure.

In terms of health, this budget includes \$13.6 billion in funding, which is a six per cent increase over the last budget. Redlands Hospital and Allied Health Services will get their fair share of this funding increase. Redlands Hospital emergency department waiting times have come down, and so too have the elective surgery and dental waiting lists.

The government will continue to operate the recently established palliative care services and paediatric emergency department services that are based at the hospital. The continued palliative care service provides for the needs of people in Cleveland and the greater Redlands area. The recently constructed paediatric ED section of the new emergency department area will also continue to be a blessing to children in need of emergency treatment in this state-of-the-art centre. I commend the Metro South board and health minister for the efficiencies that they have achieved that make the continuation of these services possible, and I thank the government for its continued support of palliative and paediatric care in my electorate. The rebuild of the Cleveland Ambulance Station is almost completed. Soon ambulance officers will be able to move from their temporary facilities back to an even better permanent new home.

In terms of North Stradbroke Island, this year's state budget has delivered good news for North Stradbroke Island's Indigenous and non-Indigenous residents. The Newman government has committed \$1.4 million for various projects designed to improve access for visitors to the island. The investment will assist in growing the pillar of tourism on the island as we move towards a non-sandmining future by 2035. This funding comes on top of the \$200,000 already allocated to promote Straddie as a tourism destination. The government is also committed to the future preservation of Straddie, with additional funding to maintain facilities, to manage the national park areas and to go towards the implementation of the Quandamooka Indigenous Land Use Agreement, or ILUA. The Quandamooka people will receive a further \$580,000 to assist in capacity building to provide a brighter future for the Indigenous people of the island. I am honoured to continue to be the member of parliament who represents the Quandamooka people, as the majority of the Indigenous people who constitute the Quandamooka people live on North Stradbroke Island within the Cleveland electorate. I was honoured to be their member through the establishment of their native title claim which this government, then in opposition, supported. Since forming government we have implemented the ILUA, and we have continued to invest in capacity building in this budget.

I remain grateful to the Quandamooka residents and families on the island for their strong support, which has continued to this day. They voted at the Dunwich booth on North Stradbroke Island to support the government's direction with respect to the future of North Stradbroke Island and our amendments to the North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability Bill. It was the Quandamooka people who helped install this government and provide the mandate for this government to bring the changes that they wanted. So it is a little disappointing today that some individuals are taking this court action because the island community, including the Quandamooka residents, strongly supported the LNP government's direction with respect to their future and sandmining. The overwhelming majority of Quandamooka residents support our transitional plan for their future as it provides great jobs, meaningful livelihoods and opportunities for their families, youth and children.

It is disappointing that the Labor Party's actions in this House today show that they want to hold the Quandamooka back and promote their dependency on the government rather than support the opportunity for them to stand proudly on their own two feet—but this is the socialist Labor way. I urge the few individual Labor Party members on and off the island who are behind this court action in concert with the Labor opposition to consider that taxpayers' funds could be better utilised building capacity and creating jobs and opportunities, housing and other things that the people badly need rather than spending it on legal fees. This government in this budget continues to support the Quandamooka people of North Stradbroke Island, as we said we would.

In terms of law and order in the Cleveland electorate, again, this has been well provided for in this budget and I will not go over all the statistics in terms of the increase in the number of front-line police officers because it has already been well documented. Cleveland has been getting its fair share of police officers, both at the Dunwich and Cleveland stations. We will also benefit in the fight against crime from the second police helicopter.

In terms of recreational fishermen and boaties in the Cleveland electorate, they have been winners from successive budgets. The recreational fishing community continues to get their fair share of the budget, with a new \$370,000 allocation for resurfacing work at the Wellington Point Reserve boat ramp. This comes on top of the recent \$750,000 commitment to construct a new boat ramp that is underway at Raby Bay and the two floating walkways that will happen in this budget period. There has also been a commitment to artificial reefs in terms of reef balls at Peel and Coochie artificial reefs, and I am hopeful in the future of being able to see more artificial reef ball extensions and artificial reefs in Moreton Bay and the southern part of the bay, which are of great benefit to the sustainability of our fishing.

There are too many good things happening in transport and main roads to speak of in the time that I do not have left, so let me just say in closing that a brighter future is ours for the taking, but only under an LNP government with a strong plan. We have moved from the binge budgets of the Labor years, past the hangover budgets and on to this budget—a Berocca budget giving back to Queenslanders their b-b-bounce.