




Speech By
Mark Boothman

MEMBER FOR ALBERT

Record of Proceedings, 15 June 2017

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

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Albert—LNP) (11.36 pm): I have never heard so many fake finishes to a speech and the word 'fantastic' used so many times.

Mr Pegg: Were you looking in the mirror?

Mr BOOTHMAN: The member for Stretton had better pay attention.

Mr Cramp: Get your crayons out and your butcher's paper.

Mr BOOTHMAN: Get your butcher's paper and crayons out. I rise tonight to make a contribution to the debate on the Palaszczuk government's third budget. This year we are seeing huge changes to the electoral boundaries on the northern Gold Coast and the renaming of the Albert electorate to Theodore. Regardless of the name, I am certainly committed to fighting for our fair share of infrastructure and services for my region. Unfortunately this budget has left most of my community wanting.

I am a Queenslander, born and bred. The new electorate of Theodore and current electorate of Albert is a place where my wife, my three children and I are proud to call home. We have deep connections with our local community. Whether it is in our street, our suburb or our region we want to see this area continue to be the best place in which to live and raise a family.

This budget certainly deeply saddens me. With no rectification of the 30,000 jobs disappearing from Queensland last year—the worst year on record—unemployment at 6.4 per cent in April, the second worst unemployment rate in the country, is there any wonder the greatest risk facing Queenslanders is the lack of job security and this Labor government? This so-called job focused government is only focused on one thing—their own jobs. Their own figures suggest unemployment across Queensland will remain high. Youth unemployment is ballooning in parts of Queensland. There has been little or no action by this stagnant Palaszczuk government to correct this situation.

Business investment has been falling and is forecast to remain stalled this year, sending clear signals that business confidence in this state has plummeted. The state's forecast economic growth has been slashed. This has translated to 85,000 fewer jobs. This is a direct result of this Labor government's failure to handle the economy. Debt will continue to rise over the next four years by \$9 billion, up to \$81 billion. With an interest bill of \$3.6 billion, think of how many schools, how many bridges, how many motorways, how many hospitals and how many rail lines we could build with all of that money—the direct result of 20 years of Labor mismanagement.

The Palaszczuk government slashed infrastructure spending in their first budget by almost \$2 billion. Since that first budget, infrastructure spending has never recovered. The northern Gold Coast has continued to suffer from extensive traffic congestion, especially around the M1 motorway interchanges. Many times in this chamber the member for Coomera and I have spoken about the

dangerous situations created by vehicles queuing back onto the M1 motorway whilst trying to exit at off-ramps. Exit 49, exit 45 north, exit 41 and exit 38 all suffer queuing back onto the motorway. This places stationary vehicles within centimetres of vehicles continuing to travel down the M1 motorway at 110 kilometres per hour. One can only conclude that this budget is nothing more than pork-barrelling for Labor seats as it ignores Gold Coast motorists, placing them in certain danger. The question therefore needs to be asked: what has happened to the design works to upgrade these interchanges or will this be a review that will never see the light of day?

A recent news article pointed out that the M1 motorway is quickly reaching its capacity. The *Gold Coast Bulletin* understands that the tipping point is 170,000 vehicles daily. The current usage is 144,437 vehicles daily. Every time we have an accident the traffic in my region goes into meltdown, further highlighting that Labor continues to ignore the needs of the northern Gold Coast.

The M1 motorway exit 57 is reaching its capacity and desperately needs a solution. Residents are subjected to long queues during peak hour traffic. This is further exacerbated by the closure of the John Muntz Bridge due to a recent flood event. This is creating long delays for residents wishing to drop their children off at the local schools, for residents heading to work and for businesses desperately trying to get goods and services to and from the area. I have continued to push this government into action to have the connection road of the John Muntz Bridge repaired quickly. A recent article in the *Gold Coast Bulletin* on 13 May 2017 stated—

* Consultants believe the bridge and also large sections of the riverbank near homes are in danger of ruin.

...

In a letter to Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk, Albert MP Mark Boothman said consultants who inspected the stretch from the old quarry site to the pony club and bridge found extensive erosion.

"In particular, the Coomera River is trying to create a new river channel through the pony club fields," Mr Boothman wrote.

In reply, the Minister for Main Roads said, 'Mark Boothman needs to let the experts get on with the job instead of continually trying to use the bridge for political point scoring.' In a letter from the Premier dated 26 May 2017, the Premier agreed with me. She wrote—

Thank you for your letter of 27 April 2017 regarding the bank erosion in the Coomera River, near the Oxford Pony Club.

I acknowledge your concerns around the potential for further erosion, and associated risks to the structural integrity of nearby infrastructure. I agree that sensible options for riverine protection and road network safety should be properly considered.

The letter goes on to say—

Again, thank you for bringing this important issue to my attention.

Even the Premier thinks I am doing a great job as the local member, not that I rely on her judgement, but I will take the compliment anyway. I table the letter.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 26 May 2017, from the Premier and Minister for the Arts, Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk, to the member for Albert, Mr Mark Boothman MP, regarding bank erosion in the Coomera River [\[999\]](#).

All I ask is that the minister does his job and I will represent the views of my local residents of Albert and Theodore. I will continue to hold ministers to account for the best outcomes for my local area.

Residents of Highland Reserve are still waiting for a crossing guard for Highland Way. The only response this government has given residents is that it is on a priority list. Therefore, I ask the Minister for Main Roads: how long is his priority list? To put this in context, Highland Way is a main thoroughfare for the Highland Reserve area and is used as a shortcut for many motorists in the local area. This places children trying to cross this road unassisted by parents in a precarious situation. Stop playing politics and fund a crossing guard before a child is injured.

Gaven State School, similar to many other schools throughout my region, is bursting at the seams with the increase in population. It is converting storage rooms into learning classrooms and extending the administration building so it can double as a storage facility. In addition, Helensvale State High School is continuing to be subjected to enormous growth. To cater for this growth, we desperately need additional facilities at this school and to upgrade some of the older facilities. Park Lake State School needs a dedicated science room to enhance STEM learning, but all of these issues have been ignored in this budget.

Labor's softly, softly approach to law and order is causing much concern to residents of the northern Gold Coast. Residents are still crying out for more police. We are home to some of the fastest growing regions in Australia, with some areas growing at 20 per cent per year. With such growth comes the need for more police. Numerous times in this chamber the member for Gaven, Sid Cramp; the member for Coomera, Michael Crandon; and I have continued to plead to the minister for our fair share of police resources.

The Coomera Valley Rural Fire Brigade have outgrown their current facilities at Gawler Place and do not have the capacity to store the equipment they desperately need. The department of communities currently owns land within the local vicinity which would make an ideal location for a new home for them and to expand the rural fire brigade. Furthermore, there is sufficient land to house a future State Emergency Service unit to allow cross training of both services. From time to time, individual services may not have enough volunteers to conduct an operation but, with joint training and cross-service development, this will go a long way to resolving this issue. However, there is nothing in this budget to rectify this after numerous communications to the minister's office.

In summary, this budget does little to help the residents of Albert and especially the new electorate of Theodore, but I will continue to fight for the necessary infrastructure for our region and for the services we need. Only the LNP will create jobs across Queensland and better manage our finances. Only the LNP will build stronger families. Only the LNP will provide safe and livable communities. Only the LNP will build the roads, bridges and dams we need. Only the LNP will deliver better government, not more government.