




Speech By
Dr Christian Rowan

MEMBER FOR MOGGILL

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APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL

Economics and Governance Committee, Report

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (6.57 pm): I rise to address the recent budget estimates hearing and the Appropriation Bill 2018, specifically that area of responsibility in consideration of the Palaszczuk Labor government's proposed expenditure by the Economics and Governance Committee. I will also make some specific comments on the committee's consideration as it relates to my shadow ministerial portfolio of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partnerships.

The first thing I would like to address relates to the chair, the member for Logan, who ran a protection racket. Those are not just my words or the words of members on this side of the House who confirm that: those were the words of John Mickel, the former Labor Speaker. With the constant interruptions and excessive use of standing orders, what they ran on the day could only be described as a protection racket. I know that the Labor member for Pine Rivers does not really want to discuss Labor's secrecy, cover-ups and failures in government, but those are certainly important issues that needed to be discussed by this committee and in many other committees throughout the estimates process.

Under Labor economic growth is weaker, employment growth is falling and unemployment remains high. Labor's budget for this year is one of taxes, debt and unemployment, and the estimates process confirmed this to be the case. Despite all the new taxes that Queenslanders will be slugged with and a massive boom in resources royalties, incredibly Labor is still managing to rack up a massive debt bill of \$83 billion in the next few years for our children and grandchildren to pay back.

The Treasurer tries to avoid mentioning the word 'debt', but the interest bill on this debt will be \$3.7 billion each and every year. This equates to \$71 million a week, \$10 million a day, \$420,000 an hour or \$7,000 a minute. As only Labor can do, they are spending more than they can afford and leaving debt to future generations.

The scathing 2017 Working for Queensland survey with respect to the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and problematic bullying and at-risk associated management practices are certainly cause for great concern. Whilst the Deputy Premier might like to constantly shift blame on to various other governments, whether former state governments or the Commonwealth government, the reality is that the Palaszczuk Labor government is responsible for workplace culture and management practices in 2017.

What was also clear from the estimates process was that the Labor government had not in a timely manner progressed recommendations and strategies with respect to a youth sexual—

Debate, on motion of Dr Rowan, adjourned.