



Speech By
Mark Boothman


MEMBER FOR THEODORE

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APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL (NO. 3)

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BETTING TAX AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (12.33 pm), continuing: When I spoke last night, I was highlighting the submitters on the Betting Tax and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. One of the concerns that was alluded to was the lack of consultation on this legislation with the broader community. The main aspect of the bill is to introduce a five per cent racing levy in addition to the current 15 per cent betting tax. It is designed to call out the bonus bets and how this is calculated into the tax. As the member for Hinchinbrook mentioned, and as the report states—

Neither the Bill, the Racing Act, nor the Racing Regulation provides a definition of 'country thoroughbred race meetings'. The explanatory notes imply that Racing Queensland will have the power to determine which events fall within this category—

That needs to be clarified and cleared up so people can have some certainty about where these events will happen in their area.

I will jump to the Appropriation Bill (No. 3) and speak about a few issues in my area, especially the \$2.8 billion unforeseen expense for Queensland Treasury. I would like to highlight some issues to do with the Queensland Police Service because there are some unforeseen expenses there. One thing that would be very handy for our police officers is having automatic numberplate recognition equipment in every police vehicle. This would be a great way of dealing with crime in the local areas and the people who are stealing vehicles or printing numberplates with 3D printers. This would be a great way of dealing with the issue.

In relation to unforeseen expenses in Main Roads, we are looking at a \$600 million blowout with the Coomera Connector. We need to concentrate on roads further west of the northern Darlington Range. There are residential estates out in those areas, like Yarrabilba in the member for Logan's electorate, Jimboomba and Flagstone. A lot of motorists from there who work on the Gold Coast drive from those areas down Beaudesert-Nerang Road and over Mount Tamborine through Tamborine Oxenford Road, which causes an enormous amount of congestion at my highway interchanges as they continue to the Gold Coast. Roads like the Tamborine Oxenford Road, Beaudesert-Nerang Road and Maudsland Road are literally becoming mini M1s. We need to start addressing this issue and find an alternative route for these people to come to the Gold Coast. Tamborine Oxenford Road is a mountain road. It is simply not designed to handle this additional traffic. Also, Beaudesert-Nerang Road goes through Canungra, and a lot of residents in Canungra are very upset with the massive increase in traffic through their quiet town. It is not so quiet anymore.

These issues need to be addressed. We would also love for a bit of money to be spent on finding a proper solution at exit 57. The current \$25 million solution they implemented a few years ago has done next to nothing to alleviate the congestion, especially for people coming from Hope Island Road. We need to spend some proper money here to build some flyovers to alleviate the congestion.

I notice that the education department did not have an overspend, so the Minister for Education lives within her budget, which is wonderful. I would like to add though that maintenance in our schools needs to be addressed. I got a reply from a question on notice which said that the Department of Education is proposing a review into the allocation model in 2022-23 to ensure the distribution of funding meets Queensland's needs. This is to do with school maintenance funding. I thank the minister for looking into this matter because it is a bugbear in my area. I have a lot of older schools which desperately need maintenance. Also, when it comes to schools, at Gaven State School—

Mr FURNER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. This debate is on the appropriation bills. The member has made it quite clear that there is no overspend in education but he proceeds to question maintenance in schools.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): There is no point of order. The bill is very wideranging. It covers most of the departments of government. I have been listening carefully to what the member for Theodore has said.

Mr BOOTHMAN: As I say, we do need to address the issue when it comes to maintenance shortfalls in these schools. Also, I would like to shout out to my schools to thank them for the hard work they do in working with the young minds of today and best preparing them for a future in the workforce. I know that the minister has been to Oxenford State School. There is one thing I would love her to do for Oxenford State School. We need a new administration building with a lot bigger staff area for professional development. It is something that they would really like and it will make a huge difference for the education outcomes for teachers in that school. Thank you.