



# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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## FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

### Thursday, 15 June 2023

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## THURSDAY, 15 JUNE 2023


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The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

### ABSENCE OF SPEAKER


The Clerk informed the House of the unavoidable absence of Mr Speaker until further advised.

Mr Acting Speaker (Mr Joe Kelly, Greenslopes) read prayers and took the chair.


 **Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I respectfully acknowledge that we are sitting today on the land of Aboriginal people and pay my respects to elders past and present. I thank them, as First Australians, for their careful custodianship of the land over countless generations. We are very fortunate in this country to have two of the world's oldest continuing living cultures in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples whose lands, winds and waters we all now share.

### ACTING SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

#### Panel of Temporary Speakers

 **Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I inform the House that, in the absence of the Speaker and in accordance with standing order 12(2), I nominate the member for Cook to act as Deputy Speaker. I also inform the House that I have appointed the member for Mundingburra to the Panel of Temporary Speakers. Both appointments are made for the duration of the Speaker's absence.

#### School Group Tours

 **Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** I wish to advise members that we will be visited in the gallery this morning by students and teachers from the following schools: Arundel State School in the electorate of Bonney; Coolum State School in the electorate of Ninderry; Acacia Ridge State School and St Bernardine's Catholic School in the electorate of Algester; and Our Lady of the Angels' Catholic Primary School in the electorate of Stafford.

### TABLED PAPER

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

REPORT BY THE CLERK

The following report was tabled by the Clerk—

[867](#) Report pursuant to Standing Order 169 (Acts to be numbered by the Clerk) and Standing Order 165 (Clerical errors or formal changes to any bill) detailing amendments to certain Bills, made by the Clerk, prior to assent by Her Excellency the Governor, viz—

#### **Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill 2022**

Amendments made to the Bill

##### **Short title and consequential references to the short title—**

*Omit—*


'Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill 2022'

*Insert—*

'Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill 2023'

### MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

#### Johnathan Thurston Academy


 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (9.33 am): This morning I joined Queenslander Johnathan Thurston to announce something big, something that will make a difference in the lives of young people in this state. Together, our

government and the JT Academy will expand and enhance the JYouGotThis program—an initiative targeted at improving the lives of young people and diverting them from further offending. To support this, our government will provide \$4.73 million in funding. As I said this morning, sometimes it is these small amounts of money in the budget that can have the biggest transformational impact on people's lives.

The enhanced program will include more young people and go for a longer 10-week period. It will deliver goal setting, mentoring and cultural engagement courses that will help to boost the self-confidence of young people. Beginning in Cairns, the program will then be expanded to Townsville and Mount Isa over a two-year period. We know this program is already a success, but our partnership will make it bigger and better.

An independent review by the University of the Sunshine Coast demonstrated a significant reduction in offending by participants. Most re-engaged with school, which is a good thing. They obtained their driver's licence and some even returned later on as mentors to other young people entering the program. We want to support and build on that success. It is just one of the many initiatives our government is backing to support community safety as part of our record \$446 million investment. It will complement the tough new laws introduced earlier this year, which were backed by those opposite. We are committed to keeping the community safe, while giving kids the helping hand they need to turn their lives around.

### Budget, Infrastructure Projects

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (9.34 am): As I said yesterday, Queensland is a big state—a big, decentralised state with endless opportunities—so it is only right that we deliver a Big Build. Our strong economy and enviable lifestyle are the envy of the nation and the world. We are the fastest growing state in the nation and that means we need a Big Build for Queenslanders. As part of this year's budget, \$89 billion will be invested in important, critical infrastructure over the next four years—the largest infrastructure building program in the history of our great state.

As part of that, more than \$20 billion will be invested in the next year alone, supporting around 58,000 jobs. As we are the most decentralised mainland state, connecting our regions is essential to ensure our communities and businesses remain healthy and prosperous. That is why over 65 per cent of our investment in infrastructure will be spent outside the Greater Brisbane region, supporting around 38,500 jobs. That is a record investment in regional Queensland.

Our infrastructure investment remains focused on giving Queenslanders the best facilities and services possible. The Big Build will deliver: nearly \$10 billion for better hospital and health facilities to deliver more than 3,300 more beds; over \$2 billion to ensure facilities in our schools are world-class; \$32 billion for transformative transport projects; \$5 billion for more social and affordable housing, to put roofs over the heads of those Queenslanders most in need—yesterday I inadvertently said \$6 billion, so I want to correct the record; and a landmark capital investment of \$19 billion over the forward estimates to deliver on the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan.

The investments we are making in renewable energy and water infrastructure will set up our regions for decades to come. The Rookwood Weir is the largest built since the Second World War. The Borumba and Pioneer pumped hydros are the largest projects ever in our state. CopperString is the biggest—

**An opposition member** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Well, do you support them or not? That is the question. Do you support our Energy and Jobs Plan, our renewable Energy and Jobs Plan?

**Mr Dick:** That is why you talked about it. You want to cut it.


**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That is right. It will be the first thing they cut. I take that interjection. CopperString is the biggest economic development project in northern Australia.

**Mr Crisafulli:** In what year?

**Mr Dick:** Now. Early works have started.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That is right. We will have some news on that next week, won't we, Minister? Stand by. The Big Build invests to set up our great state and economy for the future. We are able to deliver the Big Build because we have ensured a fair return for our coal resources—back to Queenslanders. I am proud of what we have managed to achieve already but there is still so much more to do. Together, we will make Queensland an even greater place to live, work, invest or visit.


### Housing

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (9.37 am): Like the rest of Australia and countless other countries around the world, Queensland is experiencing extraordinary, unprecedented housing market pressures. Continually increasing interest rates, shortages in construction materials as a result of the war in Ukraine and the fact that more than 100,000 people moved to Queensland from other states following the COVID pandemic have combined to create housing shortages not experienced in our lifetime. Of course our government recognises the impact of these pressures and we are working to support Queenslanders with action that delivers real housing solutions in the short, medium and long term. That is why our budget commits \$1.1 billion in new investments to tackle Queensland's social housing challenges head-on. In fact, this budget sees a 67 per cent increase in funding to build social housing over the next year, bringing it to a total of \$751 million.

As I said yesterday, we are investing: \$322 million for 500 additional social homes to be delivered under the QuickStarts program; an extra \$150 million for housing and homelessness supports to take immediate support to over \$250 million; \$249 million to retain and upgrade social housing stock; \$64 million to purchase and lease emergency accommodation; \$51 million to support development of our second Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Action Plan; and \$30 million to expand the Helping seniors secure their homes initiative to Cairns and Toowoomba.

We know there is not a one-size-fits-all approach which is why we will continue to incentivise build-to-rent developments and find innovative ways to maximise housing stock. These are challenging times, but our priority is clear: we want to provide safe and secure homes for Queenslanders in need.


### Rotary, 100th Anniversary

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (9.39 am): There are certain traits we like to think are typical of Queenslanders: volunteerism, helping a neighbour and helping a stranger. These are also the qualities of Rotarians who last night celebrated their 100th year in Queensland. It was my pleasure to host Rotary here at Parliament House last night to mark the special occasion. I want to thank the Rotarians who travelled from across the state to be part of it. I met District Governor Tim Keeler and his wife, Gail, who join us in the public gallery today. I also met William who, at 24, is already President of the Rockhampton-Fitzroy Club in the member for Rockhampton's electorate, and he is in the public gallery as well. I want to thank District Governor John Hall and past district governor Jeff Egan who spoke last night of Rotary's many achievements.

Rotary's good works can range from painting a local Scout hut to founding the famous Mount Isa Rodeo. Rotary builds playgrounds for children, establishes retirement villages, helps the homeless and also helps the survivors of domestic and family violence. Emerald Rotary raised \$156,000 to help build a hangar for the Royal Flying Doctor Service. Rotary alone raised more than \$5 million in our Flood Appeal. It has also been instrumental in the global eradication of polio.

Rotary was formed in Queensland in 1923 with just 16 people. Today more than 100,000 count themselves as Rotarians. As we have found so many times in this state, when bad things happen, good people come running. Often those good people are Rotarians. As the motto goes: service above self. However, as we heard last night, Rotarians believe they are the real beneficiaries of the work they do because of the fellowship, growth and guidance they receive from being so active in their communities. On behalf of all members of parliament, we thank them for the enormous contribution they make to our state and will continue to make to our state. Happy 100 years!

### Barcardine Renewable Energy Zone

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure) (9.41 am): The Palaszczuk Labor government is transforming

Queensland through the biggest infrastructure program in Queensland's history—our \$89 billion Big Build investment. Queensland's Big Build includes schools, hospitals, roads, the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, and the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan. Our visionary Energy and Jobs Plan is giving business the confidence to expand their operations, or to come here and create more new jobs here.


We have always said that every part of Queensland will benefit from the clean, green revolution, and I am proud to share with the House today that the Palaszczuk government has allocated \$7 million to build the Barcaldine Renewable Energy Zone. The energy zone is an industrial precinct in Barcaldine which will be linked to a large-scale renewable energy precinct and provide manufacturing tenants with competitive, low-carbon electricity to create manufacturing jobs in Barcaldine. That includes enabling companies to establish new manufacturing facilities, making things like ammonia, hydrogen and urea, and processing minerals and making battery components. The funding is part of the Big Build and will go towards the cost of the common user infrastructure, including road access, water and sewerage infrastructure to support the establishment of factories in the precinct.

Earlier this year, I released the Queensland new-industry development strategy which aims to drive industrial and regional transformation in priority industries, including renewables. This investment is evidence that the Palaszczuk government is serious about growing new industries and making sure every part of Queensland benefits.

The Barcaldine renewable energy precinct will be developed and delivered by Sunshot Industries which is headed by economist Professor Ross Garnaut. The Barcaldine Renewable Energy Zone will be a blueprint for outback towns around Queensland to take advantage of their natural resources and use renewables to create jobs. Professor Garnaut said they chose Barcaldine because it is ideally located with solar and wind resources and established transmission lines, but also because of the support of the Palaszczuk government. He said the support in this budget for an industrial precinct using renewable energy in Barcaldine will extend the new era of Queensland development west of the Great Divide.

The Barcaldine Renewable Energy Zone is an unprecedented opportunity to diversify and fortify the local economy as well as make local jobs more secure, and that is what the Big Build is all about.

### **Budget, Cost of Living**


 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (9.45 am): Tuesday's budget delivered on the greatest challenge facing all Queenslanders—the challenge of cost-of-living pressures. We were able to deliver the strongest cost-of-living package in the nation in a way that will not exacerbate inflationary pressures. We were able to do that because of the strength of our budget which is underpinned by the royalties paid to Queenslanders for the coal they all own.

The budget also contained more specific targeted cost-of-living measures. This morning I was able to tell the Queensland Council of Social Services that our government will provide combined indexation of 5.63 per cent to community sector organisations for next financial year. That is an increase from the indexation of 3.88 per cent I announced in the budget update in December last year. This new indexation rate recognises that circumstances have changed in that time, and specifically it recognises the recent award decision handed down by the Fair Work Commission. Our decision passes on in full that award decision to the wage component of indexation for community groups.

For many Queenslanders, that decision will not mean much, but for the most vulnerable in our society it may mean everything. It means vital community organisations across the length and breadth of Queensland have the financial capacity to support their current workforces. That means certainty of service delivery and it means peace of mind for the tens of thousands of Queenslanders who rely on them.

Again, this indexation is only possible because of the strength of our budget. That means that certainty of service delivery and that peace of mind rely on our progressive coal royalties. When our government talks about the importance of clearly and publicly committing to the retention of those progressive coal royalty tiers, it is not just for regional infrastructure, as important as that is. It is about being able to provide services across the state every day to treat Queenslanders with decency and provide them with dignity. That is what is at stake here. Any equivocation and uncertainty about those royalties would be an affront to all Queenslanders, the people who own coal.

### Budget, Education Infrastructure

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.47 am): As we embark on the biggest decade of infrastructure delivery in Queensland's history with our Big Build, I am thrilled that education is playing its part with a \$2.1 billion education infrastructure investment in this budget to deliver new schools, halls, classrooms and facilities right across the state. This is part of our record-breaking \$17.8 billion education budget. We are certainly delivering in spades for the students of Queensland and their families, as well as supporting 3,700 jobs in the process.

Our \$2.1 billion investment is in addition to the \$723 million already announced for new schools like the primary schools opening in 2024 at Redland Bay in Redlands and Bellbird Park where I turned the sod last week with the member for Borumba—sorry, the member for Bundamba—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms GRACE:** Bundamba. Works had already started, but it was great being there turning the sod.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms GRACE:** I love the way they get excited when I give a ministerial statement; it really thrills me. There is also \$357 million for new general and specialist learning spaces at schools like Broadbeach State School in Mermaid Beach, Jamboree Heights State High School in Mount Ommaney, Burpengary Meadows State School in Morayfield and Moggill State School in Moggill.

Our playgrounds and tuckshops upgrade program has been expanded by a further \$29 million in this budget following a large oversubscription of the first round. Sixty schools have shared in \$20 million for the first round of this program with money for playgrounds at Riverview State School in Bundamba; Coppabella State School in the Burdekin; Tagai State College, Yorke Island campus in Cook; and Woorabinda State School in Gregory. We will have upgraded tuckshop projects at Silkwood State School in Hill—


**Mr Millar** interjected.

**Ms GRACE:** I cannot keep a secret; the member for Gregory is a very good member. I was going to say something else but I will not. We will also have projects at Murgon State High School in Nanango, Allenstown State School in Rocky and Harlaxton State School in Toowoomba North. I am pleased the budget has a \$259 million investment for another 18 halls including at William Ross State High School in Mundingburra, Kenmore State High School in Moggill, Kedron State High School in Clayfield—and I know that will be really well received—and Toowoomba North State School in Toowoomba North.

I am really pleased that education is continuing to play its part in the housing space. The budget delivers \$48.3 million over three years to provide housing for teachers in rural and remote communities, including transportable modular housing where supply is limited. We also have \$430 million to maintain and modernise our existing schools and a \$1 billion rolling fund, thanks to the Treasurer, to allow the department access to funds it needs to purchase land to deliver school infrastructure at the right time in the right location in the fastest growing areas of Queensland. Queensland's Big Build, including our investment in education, will deliver world-class school facilities for kids wherever they are. They deserve nothing less.

I am sure everyone in the House will join me in wishing all our cleaners a very happy School Cleaners Day and all our support staff a happy School Support Staff Recognition Week, all of whom just received a pay rise and even better working conditions thanks to our new enterprise bargaining agreements that were certified recently. Happy School Cleaners Day and School Support Staff Recognition Week.

### Budget, Mental Health Services

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women) (9.51 am): I am so proud to be part of a government that recognises the importance of mental health and wellbeing. In the next financial year we will be investing over \$300 million to improve Queensland's mental health, alcohol and other drugs services. This is only possible because of our mental health levy on big business, providing sustainable long-term funding to this critical area of our health system. This mental health levy is delivering an unprecedented \$1.6 billion of additional funding over five years. This will deliver new and expanded services, more beds, more community treatment and support, delivering on our commitment to provide safe and quality services closer to home.


We know that early intervention can result in lifelong wellbeing, which is why we are expanding perinatal and infant mental health nurses right across our state. This builds upon the eight statewide mother-baby beds established at Catherine's House this year that are all up and running. We are investing \$47 million during the next financial year in services for adolescents and young people, including an existing acute response team. Importantly, \$11.4 million is being invested to deliver improved mental health services for our First Nations community. We are committed to supporting people experiencing mental health crisis before it turns to tragedy.

An amount of \$15.9 million will be delivering six new crisis support spaces and enhancing existing crisis support spaces for people in mental health crisis and at risk of suicide. A top priority of mine is to further expand the mental health co-responder model that pairs senior mental health clinicians with paramedic call-outs, and we will continue to work to explore opportunities to expand mental health and police co-responder models.

We are supporting people in regional areas through additional acute mental health beds at Hervey Bay Hospital and Cairns Hospital and delivering new digital technologies to support seamless care experiences. There is \$47.9 million that will deliver much needed alcohol and other drugs treatment services, uplifting our hardworking community services and alcohol and drug responses in emergency departments.

None of this is possible without the wonderful allied health professionals delivering these important initiatives. That is why we have a range of strategies to support the mental health workforce, including supporting more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mental health workers and more peer support workers. This investment is a game changer for mental health outcomes in Queensland. The government is working hard to ensure individuals and their families and carers can access holistic, comprehensive care when they need it most.

### **Budget, Seniors**


 **Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (Minister for Child Safety and Minister for Seniors and Disability Services) (9.54 am): Today we mark World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. The Palaszczuk government is committed to building an inclusive state where our more than 900,000 seniors are safe and supported in the community. The budget will invest \$15.3 million over the next four years to support Queensland seniors. This is over and above the \$725 million in concessions and rebates already on the table and the significant \$1.48 billion cost-of-living announcement on Tuesday by the Treasurer that will benefit all Queensland householders by reducing their power bills. Those investments will make a significant and ongoing commitment to an age-friendly Queensland for older people now and for future generations. We want all Queensland seniors to access the services they need to lead full and active lives and we want them to feel cared for and supported by Queensland's world-class services.

Seniors expos and seniors pop-up events are an important part of connecting seniors to services in their community and providing an opportunity for us to make sure they are accessing all of the government concessions and rebates they are entitled to. Expos are an opportunity for government to listen to older Queenslanders to assist framing the next age-friendly strategy to be launched in October so that it meets their needs and their expectations.

Ensuring Queensland seniors can live their lives free from physical, emotional and financial abuse and scams is also a priority for this government. That is why we are boosting funding for seniors social isolation services from 2024-25 and expanding the footprint of services to support those at risk of elder abuse so more older people can access them.

Importantly, this budget will enable the valuable work of the Queensland Carers Advisory Council in providing advice to government on how to support carers to continue. The budget investment celebrates the contribution seniors make to Queensland through their roles as carers, as workers, as volunteers and as community leaders. Through this budget we will deliver ongoing support to ensure Queensland seniors are able to live a rich and full life.

### **Budget, Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Services**

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (9.57 am): Since 2015 the Palaszczuk government has invested \$1.3 billion into domestic, family and sexual violence services. This year's budget continues our longstanding commitment to preventing and responding to domestic family and sexual violence in our communities.



We know that services continue to experience high demand and it is critical that we continue to support women when they come forward. That is why in the 2023-24 budget we are providing increased funding of \$58.3 million over four years and, beyond this, \$20.7 million per annum ongoing to meet the increasing demand being experienced by domestic, family and sexual violence services. This includes increased funding of \$29.8 million over four years from 2023-24 and \$11.2 million ongoing from 2027-28 to continue funding the vital work of our existing domestic, family and sexual violence services. An additional \$28.5 million will be invested over three years from 2024-25 and \$9.5 million ongoing to address gaps in service coverage, particularly in regional centres.


An amount of \$10 million over four years has been allocated for victim support services in response to the commission of inquiry into forensic DNA testing in Queensland. In conjunction with funding indexation for existing ongoing services, this increased funding will provide relief for rising costs resulting from a tighter labour market and inflation. The funding will be allocated to service providers to ensure areas most in need receive increased levels of support. Importantly, the funding is allocated on a permanent basis, which gives certainty for these not-for-profit organisations to continue helping some of our most vulnerable Queenslanders. As we know, when we talk about the impact of domestic, family and sexual violence, it is not just adults; it is also children.

I acknowledge one of the great organisations that support children across Queensland and who are in the gallery today—Wendy and Bec from Save the Children. I thank them for the great work that they do. Of the increased funding that is provided in this budget, Karyn Walsh, CEO of Micah projects, has said—

The additional funding in this year's budget is welcome. An ongoing allocation of funding allows organisations like Micah Projects to plan for the future and grow our services to meet demand. This allows women and children to have confidence that services are available into the future. It's also good to see more funding for services in regional areas because domestic violence doesn't discriminate by postcode.

Our government continues to implement the recommendations from the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce reports. This additional investment will be part of the five-year whole-of-government domestic, family and sexual violence service system strategic investment plan, which encompasses services and supports delivered and funded by the Palaszczuk government. This plan is currently being finalised. Once complete, it will shape future investment for domestic, family and sexual violence services across Queensland. The Palaszczuk government will continue to invest in programs and initiatives to deal with domestic, family and sexual violence when it is needed and where it is needed.

### **Budget, Energy and Jobs Plan**

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement) (10.00 am): The Palaszczuk government has released one of the most significant infrastructure plans in this nation's history. The Big Build will deliver the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan. It is a big plan for a big state and it sets some big targets because Queenslanders are counting on us. Whether they are in resources, agriculture or manufacturing, their employers are demanding clean energy. This is a strong budget with real action making our plan Queensland's reality.

Last weekend the Premier announced that we will legislate renewable energy targets and provide job security for Queensland's energy workers. That is serious action on climate change, on cost of living and job security. At 11.15 am today, we will hear whether the opposition will match this action. On this side of the House, we are not wasting a single day to deliver on the greatest economic opportunity of our time. I was west of Dalby last Thursday, and I can confirm for the House we have officially started construction on the 252 megawatt Wambo Wind Farm delivered through \$221 million of funding in this year's budget. It will deliver enough cheap, clean power for all the homes in Townsville, Cairns or Toowoomba.

We are pushing ahead with two of the nation's most important renewable energy projects, delivering \$6 billion for the Borumba pumped hydro and \$1 billion for Pioneer-Burdekin—the battery of the north. Real coal royalties are going back to regional Queensland. There is real work under way at Pioneer-Burdekin already. Some of the first contracts have been awarded, including geotechnical drilling to local company Twin Hills Engineering & Drilling and the front end engineering design—water to wire—being led out of the Mackay office of GHD, funded from current expenditure totalling \$129.4 million. That is real money for a real plan for Queensland.

We are not stopping there. CopperString 2032 will unlock the power of the north, with a further \$600 million to get early works underway. Whilst that will be 100 per cent publicly owned, our renewable energy targets and our bill make it clear to the entire world that Queensland is open for clean energy business. This is a government that puts good thinking into great planning, then doubles down with real action by delivering this budget for our Big Build. I am sure that come midday today we will have proven that only Labor can get it done.


### Budget, Female Participation in Sport

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics and Paralympics Sport and Engagement) (10.04 am): More Queensland girls and women are playing sport or are involved in active recreation than at any other time in the state's history. Today's launch of the Parliamentary Friends of Football on the Speaker's Green celebrates the 35-day countdown to the kick-off of the FIFA Women's World Cup, and the role our Matildas will play in inspiring young Queensland girls to follow their dreams of achieving at the game's highest level.

Female participation in Queensland sport is breaking records. That is why the Palaszczuk government is investing in an extra \$10 million in the budget for shovel-ready sport infrastructure projects. The Inclusive Facilities Fund's focus is on club and recreation projects that upgrade accessibility, safety and inclusiveness. These are smaller projects that make a big difference in supporting girls, women and Queenslanders living with a disability to stay active and healthy. State level sporting data shows that female participation in traditionally male-dominated codes is surging. Female participation in cricket is up 422 per cent since 2014; Rugby Union, 236 per cent; Rugby League, 155 per cent; football, 34 per cent; and Australian Rules in Queensland has more registered women and girls than Victoria, with participation up 378 per cent.

On Saturday, I visited the Wilston Grange Gorillas with the Treasurer and member for Stafford. Wilston Grange is a terrific example of the upgrades that we want to partner with clubs to build. The Gorillas have female teams from under nines to seniors, off the back of a Palaszczuk government investment of almost \$280,000 towards a changing room upgrade for female players and umpires. Applications for co-funded Inclusive Facilities Fund projects open in September for construction in 2024. The budget's \$10 million program is on top of the recently announced 91 not-for-profit club and council projects across Queensland. It is all part of the Palaszczuk government's longstanding commitment to backing community sport, to building inclusive facilities that Queenslanders need and the legacy for community sport that we want to achieve from the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

### Budget, Environment

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (10.06 am): The Palaszczuk Labor government has a proud track record of taking decisive action and investing significant resources to ensure future generations of Queensland can enjoy our unique natural environment. This budget is no different.

This year's budget continues to deliver on the Palaszczuk government's commitment to protect and enhance Queensland's environment. It includes a more than \$450 million uplift in new funding measures across the forward estimates. The three main priorities in the department's budget are: supporting the continued move to a zero waste society; protecting and enhancing Queensland's natural environment; and strengthening First Nations partnerships. The budget includes \$234 million over the coming years to continue the delivery of our government's 10-year \$2.1 billion waste package to transform the waste and resource recovery industry. This funding will support councils and industry to invest in infrastructure and to deliver programs to reduce waste, meet resource recovery targets, create jobs and, of course, ensure we maintain no direct impact on households.

Building on last year's record investment to expand the state's network of protected areas is an allocation of \$30.6 million to expand our protected area network through high-priority land acquisitions. The budget invests \$51.9 million over the coming four years to support improved visitor experiences and infrastructure in Queensland's national parks. It includes \$3.7 million for the Ngaro walking track in the Whitsunday Islands National Park in North Queensland, part of a multiyear capital works program to upgrade and promote nature-based and World Heritage tourism opportunities. There is \$1.6 million to design and begin construction of a \$7.9 million information hub at Girraween National Park and \$1 million to upgrade visitor infrastructure at Bunya Mountains National Park. The budget also includes

an additional investment of \$38.6 million over the coming years to continue the delivery of world-class management of protected areas and improve the management of Queensland's five World Heritage areas.

The Palaszczuk government is committed to working with First Nations people to protect and enhance our unique natural environment. First Nations people have a deep love, respect and knowledge of country and want to see it protected. This was, of course, evident last week when we travelled to K'gari for the event to formally reclaim the island's name, the name given to it by the Butchulla people. My meeting with Quandamooka land and sea rangers just days after being sworn in as environment minister, reinforced this deep connection.

This year's budget also includes \$49.9 million to ensure the continued employment of the expanded Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger program, which is employing an additional 100 rangers, bringing the total program to 200 rangers. There is also \$38.6 million to honour co-management commitments and negotiations with First Nations people across Queensland. This includes a 50 per cent funding uplift in respect of our ongoing work with the 19 traditional groups in the Cape York negotiations, and four rangers rising to 10 in the Lake Eyre Basin. Some \$31.9 million will be invested to implement the marine memorandum of understanding and Mulgumpin fire management programs, in partnership with the Quandamooka people. This includes six additional marine park rangers and seven ongoing.

The budget also includes \$6 million in the next four years and \$300,000 ongoing to support public safety through crocodile detection and deterrent technology and an enhanced CrocWise safety program. Funding also enables the extension of the local government flying fox roost management grant program to support management of urban flying fox roosts. Our government will continue this important work to protect Queensland's unique natural environment so it can continue to be enjoyed both now and by future generations.

### **Budget, Agriculture Industry**



**Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (10.10 am): Queensland would not be the fantastic state in which to live and work that it is today if it were not for our primary producers. That is why the Palaszczuk government is a friend of the farmers. It is why we are investing well over half a billion dollars in agriculture in our state budget. While conditions in Queensland—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr FURNER:** You have to love those cries of adulation from those opposite!

While conditions in Queensland are good for farmers right now, we know that it will not stay that way forever. We want to help primary producers and agribusinesses to be as resilient as possible for the next drought, so we are investing \$150 million into grants, loans and programs for drought preparedness.

We also recognise how vital it is to safeguard Queensland's biosecurity. The world-class food and fibre we produce must be protected. We are investing more than \$22 million over five years and almost \$3 million each year after that for action against plant pests and diseases. We are also investing \$22 million over five years and \$2.5 million every year after that to address animal biosecurity risks and tackle livestock diseases like lumpy skin disease and foot-and-mouth disease. We are putting \$61 million towards the national red imported Fire Ant Eradication Program and almost \$36 million over five years and \$7 million per year thereafter for the National Biosecurity Strategy. We are funding 15 new permanent jobs in Biosecurity Queensland, on the front line, protecting Queensland agriculture.


The Palaszczuk government's successful Rural Economic Development Grants will be funded once again also. We are already supporting the creation of 2½ thousand jobs through this scheme, with \$12 million in grants already awarded. We are putting another \$3.3 million towards those grants in the budget.

We have also committed almost \$12 million towards our Sustainable Fisheries Strategy, \$22 million to monitor commercial fishing operations and their interactions with endangered species, and more than \$9 million towards swimmer safety through our Shark Control Program. I could go on. The cost-of-living relief our government is providing will also greatly benefit rural and regional communities. The budget shows once again that the Palaszczuk government remains the farmers' friend.

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Question time today will conclude at 11.13 am.

### Hospitals, Beds

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (10.13 am): My question is to the Premier. On 19 May 2021 the Premier promised 800 new hospital beds in two to four years. Can the Premier tell Queenslanders how many of these 800 hospital beds the Palaszczuk government has added to the Queensland health system in the two years and three weeks since this promise?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I do not have the numbers off the top of my head, but we will get them for the member. I say very clearly to members opposite: we have put in place the largest health and hospitals plan ever seen in this country. Just last week we announced \$3 billion worth of tenders looking at expansions of our hospitals. We also have our satellite hospitals, which will be completed before the next election—seven satellite hospitals, making sure Queenslanders have health care closer to where they live.

I can remember going out and opening the new Kingaroy Hospital in the electorate of Nanango. We opened Jacaranda Place, looking after our adolescents who have experienced mental ill health. What did those opposite do? They closed hospitals. Since 2015 we have opened across the state 1,350 additional beds.

**Dr Miles:** Five hundred and five this year.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That is right. We also know that \$3 billion worth of tenders for expansion of our hospitals has been announced.

**Dr Miles:** Just because they do not like it does not make it not right.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That is right. We know that they do not like satellite hospitals. They do not like health workers. The best thing the Leader of the Opposition could do is move the shadow health minister out of that portfolio and bring in the member for Moggill—put some decency into health. How can you have a shadow health minister who calls regional health workers duds?

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Order, members!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Being shadow health minister does not mean it is dress-up week. It means to take the job seriously.

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Member for Nanango, I had just brought the House to order and you chose to interject. You are warned under the standing orders.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** We will deliver 2,509 additional hospital beds over the next six years. We are also building new hospitals—Bundaberg, Toowoomba, Coomera—

*(Time expired)*

### Hospitals, Beds

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** My question is to the Premier. The government's own data shows that, more than two years after the Premier's announcement, just 89 of the 800 beds have been added. Can the Premier guarantee that her government will deliver the remaining 711 beds in under two years, as promised?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** As I said very clearly—obviously the member was not listening—we have announced \$3 billion worth of tenders.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Premier, resume your seat, please. Members to my left, the Premier is being directly responsive to the question and is a mere nine seconds into her answer and you are already interjecting. I would ask that you hear the Premier's response.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** We were just down at Redlands the other day. We are doing an expansion of the hospital there. Those modular units are coming in. We have had modular units put in at Logan. We are undertaking the biggest build.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** You want to have a debate on health? I am happy to have a debate on health.

I was up in the member for Bundaberg's electorate. The roads are being put in place for the new hospital. The plans have been done. This is an opposition that when in government did not build one new hospital. In the south-east we have also delivered an extra 29 beds to the Queensland Children's Hospital and at the Sunshine Coast University Hospital 133 beds. Member for Kawana, you can thank me later for that.

**A government member** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That is right: we built the hospital as well. We also have that Redland Hospital expansion. We have \$3 billion in tenders expanding our hospitals.

**An honourable member** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Yes, and do you know what? They are budgeted for. It is budgeted for. We have the money to build—the biggest build.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Order, members!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** This will be the biggest hospital build ever seen in this state. We have seen the expansion of hospitals and a new Moranbah Hospital, but all of that is at risk—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I am glad there are people in the gallery to see how rude the opposition is.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Order, members! Thank you, Premier; I will manage the chamber.

**An honourable member:** Absolutely arrogant.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** There is only one arrogant person, and that is the member for Kawana. The member for Kawana can play mirror games; I do not have time for that. We are talking about serious business here—

*(Time expired)*

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Before I call the next speaker, I want to provide general guidance to the House. I know many members have copies of the budget papers. I would remind members not to utilise those as props while other members are speaking.

### Health Workforce

**Ms RICHARDS:** My question is of the Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Will the Premier update the House on how the Palaszczuk government has rebuilt Queensland's frontline workforce, and is the Premier aware of any alternative approaches?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for Redlands for the question. I was very happy to join the member for Redlands when we met Sharon, a local nurse of 42 years, at the Redland Hospital, and what great work our health workers are doing each and every day. We also know that over the years we have been growing our Public Service and restoring the savage cuts of those opposite—restoring those 14,000 public servants.

Since coming to government we have employed 17,000 more frontline health workers including 3,106 more doctors, 10,638 more nurses and midwives, 2,418 more allied health professionals and 1,103 more ambulance officers. That is a pretty good record as I see it, and we need more workers. So members can imagine my surprise today to wake up to see in the paper a headline that says, to quote the *Courier-Mail*, that in his budget reply speech today the opposition leader will outline his plan to completely overhaul Queensland's Public Service.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Order, members!

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** The member for Capalaba and the member for Lytton will cease your gestures.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** There is not a Public Service the opposition did not want to sack!

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Order! Members, there are a number of members making hand gestures. That is unparliamentary and I will warn members if that continues.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I have heard these words before—‘revitalise frontline services’. I went back and thought, ‘Where have I heard those words before?’ Here we are: in the ‘Contract with Queensland’ Campbell Newman wanted to ‘revitalise frontline services’. We know that the Leader of the Opposition sat around that cabinet table making those decisions.

I say to the 244,000 Public Service workers out there: our government values you and you will not be sacked under this government. The same cannot be said by those opposite. We know that the Leader of the Opposition clearly has to say today whether or not he supports our progressive coal royalties, because if he does not that means cuts, and that means cuts to the Public Service. The public knows very clearly, and it still remembers. Many public servants lived in fear not knowing from day to day if they were going to keep their jobs. Many public servants suffered mental health stress and distress about their families and whether or not they would be able to provide a roof over their heads. Let me say this very clearly to those opposite if they want to talk about the Public Service: every single public servant is in fear of what their government did in the past and what their government—

*(Time expired)*

### Hospitals, Beds

**Ms BATES:** My question is to the Minister for Health. The minister has previously acknowledged the existence of unfunded hospital beds. What is an unfunded hospital bed and can sick or injured Queenslanders or a mother preparing to give birth be admitted to one?

**Ms FENTIMAN:** I thank the member for the question. There is no such thing as an unfunded bed because, as the member knows, we fund by activity. We fund every patient who walks through the door of a hospital. We give that money to the health and hospital services, so all of the beds that we have funded since 2015 and about which the Premier spoke are funded.

Do members opposite know why they are funded? They are funded with hardworking nurses and midwives and doctors—the thousands of them—that we hired because those opposite sacked them. When we put in place beds—and there have been thousands of them and thousands more to come—we also make sure that there are hardworking staff to look after the Queenslanders who need those beds. We do not sack the nurses. We do not sack the doctors. We do not sack the paramedics. If those opposite are going to ask terrible questions about unfunded beds, I am going to answer them by telling them that every patient who walks through the door is funded, so there is no such thing as an unfunded bed because every patient who walks through the door—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** I know exactly which question the opposition is referring to.

**Ms Bates** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Resume your seat please, Minister. Member for Mudgeeraba, I have been attempting to gain your attention. You are constantly interjecting. You are warned under the standing orders.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** With regard to the question on notice that the opposition are referring to, if they are going to ask stupid questions about unfunded beds I am going to tell them that there is no such thing; it is included in the number of beds. I cannot explain again for the opposition how health funding works, but I will try. Every patient who walks through the door is funded.

**Mrs D’ATH:** Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Those on the opposite side are practically screaming out so that no-one on this side can hear the Minister for Health in trying to answer the question they asked.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Order! The House will come to order. I have indicated several times on previous days when I have been the Acting Speaker that I will take points of order in silence. Thank you, Leader of the House; I will manage the House.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** As I said, I will try to explain how health funding works again. I would think that the member for Mudgeeraba might know this, but health funding is per activity. Every Queenslanders who walks through that door who needs treatment from our amazing frontline health workers gets funded. That is how the system works.

**Mr Hart** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Burleigh, you are warned under the standing orders.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** If the opposition wants to ask silly questions about unfunded beds, then I am happy to answer them. It is the case that every patient who needs care gets care. Do members opposite know what we are focused on? Delivering care closer to home. That is what our satellite hospitals are about. That is what our \$700 million plan to tackle ramping—

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** The minister will not use that as a prop.

**Ms FENTIMAN:**—is all about—more beds, more frontline staff, more access to health care closer to home.

This government absolutely believes that everyone who walks through that hospital door who needs care in our system gets funding. That is how it works.

### Job Creation

**Ms PEASE:** My question is to the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure. Could the Deputy Premier please advise the House how the Palaszczuk government is supporting Queenslanders through the Queensland Jobs Fund and is the Deputy Premier aware of any other alternative approaches?

**Dr MILES:** I thank the member for Lytton for her question. I know that she is aware that Queensland's economic recovery plan is working. We have created record numbers of jobs for Queenslanders—so much so that people are flocking here to get those jobs. We have achieved historic low unemployment, finally erasing the legacy of high unemployment we were left by those opposite, but we are not stopping there. We will continue to build on that foundation to lock in that jobs growth for decades to come because after all that is the most important thing governments can do—at least that is what those of us on the Labor side believe. That is what our programs are all about. The Queensland Jobs Fund is all about creating jobs. The renewable Energy and Jobs Plan and the Big Build are all about creating jobs through delivering infrastructure, and there are our plans to support our recycling and waste recovery industries.

I was really pleased to join the Premier, the member for Bulimba and Anthony Pratt at Visy's Gibson Island facility recently. Their \$48 million upgrade, supported by a \$16 million contribution from the Palaszczuk government, is supporting more than 200 jobs, but also diverting more of our waste away from landfill and into recycling, including waste energy. It is the kind of jobs and investment in waste recovery that stopped when those opposite abolished the waste levy. They might not support recycling jobs, but we do know they support recycling policies.

Today's threat from the Leader of the Opposition to completely overhaul the Queensland Public Service will send shivers down the spines of each and every Queensland public servant because they know exactly what that means.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Aspley, I warn you under the standing orders. You are using hand gestures. I have given clear guidance in relation to that.

**Dr MILES:** The fact is that Queensland's Public Service know that the LNP are out to get them, that the LNP have always hated our hardworking Queensland public servants. They are so obsessed about it that instead of talking about cost of living, instead of talking about the Big Build, instead of talking about coal royalties, all they are talking about is going after the jobs of hardworking Queensland public servants. Then they talk about consultants. Last time they said they would freeze consultants was 2012 and then they went and spent \$100 million on the big four consultants making plans to sell off our assets. The Leader of the Opposition himself paid KPMG to deamalgamate councils, leaving those communities worse off. They have no credibility whatsoever. We will stand for our hardworking public servants.

## Hospitals, Beds

**Mr JANETZKI:** My question is to the Minister for Health. How many unfunded hospital beds are there across Queensland's public hospitals today and how many of the Premier's promised 800 beds are unfunded?

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** I will take some advice in relation to that—and I will take that without interjection. I will allow the question.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** I am going to run through a series of numbers, so listen up. The first number—zero! There are zero unfunded beds in the Queensland Health system. The next number is pretty cool—1,350. That is how many beds we have invested in since 2015. I am going to run through some other numbers so pay attention. Redlands Hospital emergency department expansion, since 2019, four beds; specialist treatment rehabilitation service, 182 beds; Queensland Children's Hospital, 29 beds; Sunshine Coast University Hospital, 133 beds; Roma, a new facility, 24 beds; in Blackall the redevelopment of 10 beds; Hervey Bay emergency department, 18 additional emergency department spaces and 12 additional beds; Maryborough emergency department, 10 beds; Kingaroy, 20 beds; Rockhampton alcohol and other drug rehab facility, 42 beds; Townsville Hospital, 13 additional renal dialysis chairs and two endoscopy suites. I have more to come!

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. The minister is being absolutely directly responsive to the question asked. I would ask to hear this response in silence.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** There is so much more to say. More beds! This year, in this year's budget, 505 new beds. Let me run through it: 70 additional beds at the Gold Coast University Hospital, the hospital that the constituents represented by members in the LNP rely on, and what did they promise at the last election for the Gold Coast University Hospital? We come back to that other number again—zero!

We have 28 additional beds at QEII Hospital. It was wonderful to visit QEII with the Deputy Premier and the member for Toohey the other week to see the brand new space for brand new buildings. There are 28 additional beds at Redlands Hospital, and it was great to have the cabinet down at Redlands to see all of the wonderful new construction happening; 45 additional beds in Cairns, and again it was lovely to be there with the member for Cairns to tour the new facilities.

This is a big one: the Caboolture Hospital redevelopment includes 110 new beds this year. Again, it was great to be at the Caboolture Hospital with local members to talk to dedicated staff and union members about the work that they are doing. This is the one I am most proud of: the Logan Hospital expansion—206 new beds this year. You could not have driven on Loganlea Road for the last five years without seeing the huge works being undertaken on the Logan Hospital. It will be one of the biggest and the best. We are delivering the beds and we are delivering the staff.

## Redlands, Infrastructure

**Mr BROWN:** My question is to the Treasurer and the Minister for Trade and Investment. Will the Treasurer update the House on how Queensland's strong revenue measures are delivering vital infrastructure, including in my community of Redlands, and is the Treasurer aware of any alternative approaches?

**Mr DICK:** I thank the member for Capalaba for his question. We were delighted as a cabinet to join the member for Redlands and the member for Capalaba at the Redlands satellite hospital a few weeks ago. That is going to be an amazing contribution to the delivery of health care in the Redlands. The finishing touches to that satellite hospital are being funded in this budget through our \$1.6 billion health infrastructure budget this year that will deliver across the next financial year.

The reason we can deliver that sort of infrastructure to the Redlands and all other parts of Queensland is the strength of our budget, which means the strength of our revenue, except the revenue cuts that will come from the LNP. No matter how many times the Leader of the Opposition gets up to complain, the fact remains that the LNP leader and his team cannot bring themselves to clearly set out a position on royalties. The shadow Treasurer had a chance on ABC Radio on Tuesday and he absolutely blew it. Three times Steve Austin asked the member for Toowoomba South whether a Crisafulli-Bleijie government would leave our progressive coal royalty tiers intact.

**Mr Janetzi** interjected.



**Mr DICK:** The questions about whether they would keep them were very straightforward. One of Steve Austin's questions was, 'So is that a yes?', and, of course, it was not a yes because the LNP absolutely refuse to commit to any sort of policy when it comes to revenue.

**Mr Janetzki** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** You are warned under the standing orders, member for Toowoomba South.

**Mr DICK:** One would have thought 'yes' was a simple answer. He would not say it—three times.

To see the future of health infrastructure in Queensland you have only to look back to a *South Burnett Times* article from 2012 when the current Leader of the Opposition was the minister for local government in the Newman government. He was asked whether that government would build a new hospital at Kingaroy. He said, yes, but only if they sold the Tarong Power Station. The Leader of the Opposition said, 'This is our opportunity and if we miss it we miss it forever.' That is the energy and jobs plan of the LNP: sell a power station and you might get a hospital. That is the policy of the Leader of the Opposition and that is what you would get from a Crisafulli-Bleijie government. Billions in revenue from indexed land tax and progressive royalties would be thrown away and the spectre of asset sales and cuts would be the only way to build anything.

It is now 499 days until the next election and 36 minutes until the current Leader of the Opposition finally tells Queenslanders the truth. How will he deal with the \$8 billion black hole in revenue that will come from removing progressive coal royalties and cutting land tax? Which frontline workers will be sacked? What assets will be sold? How will the current Leader of the Opposition deliver what Queensland needs when he is cutting an additional \$10 billion in infrastructure?

### Hospitals, Beds

**Mr BLEIJIE:** My question is to the Minister for Health. In an internal Queensland Health document the Palaszczuk government has admitted it counts items of furniture like trollies and chairs and, as we know, hotel beds as hospital beds. Will the minister confirm counting trollies or chairs in showers as beds is not an accurate reflection of Queensland Health's bed capacity to treat sick Queenslanders?

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Order, members.

**Ms Boyd** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Member for Pine Rivers, you are warned under the standing orders. I will hear the questions in silence.

**Mrs D'Ath** interjected.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** I take that interjection from the former health minister. Nothing has changed in relation to—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Order!

**Ms FENTIMAN:** That is right. When we talk about beds we are talking about treatment spaces, which is the same as it was under those opposite, under what the member for Kawana called—

**Dr Miles:** Like a dialysis chair, you idiot!

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Resume your seat, please, Minister. Deputy Premier, that language was extremely unparliamentary. I ask you to withdraw.

**Dr MILES:** I withdraw.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** You are warned under the standing orders.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** For example, a dialysis chair is a chair and it is a treatment space. For people undergoing dialysis it is a bed. They have to go three times a week. One of the lovely things about travelling the length and breadth of Queensland is listening to our hardworking frontline staff. They tell me that the demand for renal chairs and dialysis, for example, is through the roof. Do members know what we are delivering in our satellite hospitals? Renal chairs, because there is so much demand! We are absolutely committed to investing in the treatment spaces, the renal chairs and the beds that Queenslanders need, and not just the state-of-the-art buildings but also the incredible hardworking frontline staff who will support the Queenslanders in those beds.

On the day of the budget reply speech opposition members want to ask these nonsense questions. Their big idea and their vision for Queensland is not about health and helping Queenslanders; it is about reducing consultants. That is not a vision for Queensland. Our vision for Queensland is one where Queenslanders can get health care closer to home. Our vision is for a healthier Queensland where people can get the help they need from our wonderful frontline staff. I cannot believe that on budget reply day the opposition is trying to use these tricky questions, but really it is just to cover up the fact that they have no ideas. They have no policy.

Do members know what the Leader of the Opposition's policy is for Queensland Health? It is to put doctors and nurses back in charge! I have to ask the Leader of the Opposition: who do you think runs our emergency departments? Maybe the Leader of the Opposition has not been to a hospital lately, but the person who runs the emergency department is a doctor. They are in charge along with the nurses and the midwives who work with them. They run our health system. Their idea—their big vision for Queensland—is something that already happens every day. It is so embarrassing that they have no ideas, no policy and no vision for Queensland.

### Education Infrastructure

**Mr McCALLUM:** My question is of the Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing. Can the minister update the House on the Palaszczuk government's continuing commitment to education infrastructure across Queensland state schools and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

**Ms GRACE:** I thank the member for the question. It was an absolute pleasure to be at Bellbird Park where they have started works. We turned the first sod for an \$85 million new school that we will open next year in one of the fastest growing areas of the state. That is what we are doing right across the state. It was also a pleasure to be at Palmview State Secondary College recently, in the electorate of Buderim. That school is absolutely outstanding. At Palmview there is an education precinct where we have a brand new special school, a brand new primary school right next to it and right next to that—and I was joined by the member for Nicklin—is a brand new state high school with state-of-the-art facilities. We are delivering absolutely world-class designs.

I commend my department for our designs. I look at some of the old infrastructure we have in our schools—and all members would see this—and I compare it with what we are delivering in schools in electorates right across this state—

**Mr Mickelberg:** It wasn't finished.

**Ms GRACE:** The member for Buderim is interjecting. You're welcome! Thank you! No problems! It is amazing. To hear someone whinge about what has been delivered in their electorate is absolutely incredible.

Our \$2.1 billion budget for this year is over four times what they were spending when they were in government. We are delivering state-of-the-art facilities. It was an honour to be at Redlands recently when we opened the \$12 million STEM building. What an architecturally well-designed building that is with specialist classrooms, GLAs and a hospitality area for students. It is truly remarkable. We have specialist round tables that are designing our special schools, such as the one we are building in Logan and the one we opened in Coomera and are currently expanding. They are excellent facilities that are delivering for the kids. We are opening new schools and new buildings. We do not have a hit list like they did when they were in government. They had a hit list of 50 schools that they were going to close.

If we talk about alternative policies, they were going to air condition classrooms only. We have air conditioned every single school. Members ask, 'When were they going to do it?' They were going to do that by 2028 and we did it six years and two months earlier. In reality, we are the ones delivering for our schools. Our infrastructure budget is second to none. All they can do is close schools.

### Gladstone Hospital, Maternity Services

**Mr HEAD:** My question is to the Minister for Health. Doctors and Gladstone mothers are worried that the government's announced maternity fix is a stopgap. Can the minister confirm that the Deputy Premier's 19 January commitment that 10 obstetricians would be required to restore full maternity services to Gladstone has been met and how many are fly-in fly-out?

**Ms FENTIMAN:** I understand the commitment that was given by the Deputy Premier would have been across the whole hospital and health service, which, as we know, includes not just Gladstone Hospital but also Rockhampton Hospital and other smaller hospitals. I was incredibly proud to announce this week that Gladstone has been returned to full service.

That would not have happened without the advocacy of the member for Gladstone, but also so many local women. I particularly want to thank Jemma, Coco and Marlena for meeting with me and for talking to me about their experiences. My office has personally reached out to them again to let them know of this great news and to thank them for their advocacy.

I am advised that we are working very closely with the HHS to ensure that, for example, should there be any shortages in staff going forward there are locums in place and contingency plans to ensure full service continues at Gladstone. I also point out that we know that there are global shortages of staff, which is why we have announced our Workforce Attraction Incentive Scheme. We have now had over 900 inquiries from staff interstate and overseas who want to come and work in Queensland. That is a fantastic thing. I am also very pleased that tomorrow I will be hosting a statewide maternity services round table with federal assistant minister Ged Kearney with frontline—

**Mr POWELL:** Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance, standing order 118(b). The question was very specific—whether the commitment of 10 obstetricians has been met and how many are fly-in fly-out.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Order, members!

**Mr Butcher** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** I do not need assistance in taking points of order. Member for Gladstone, you are warned under the standing orders. The minister is being broadly responsive to the question asked. She has answered part of the question. She has the option of answering the full question with a minute and nine seconds to go. I will continue to monitor the response.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** As I was saying, we have recruited specialist obstetricians and gynaecologists as well as a team of locums. I am also advised that a further three specialists have been recruited from overseas to begin permanently and who are going through their credentialing processes with the college and the Commonwealth immigration authorities.

I was also very pleased, as part of the budget, to see \$42 million for rural and regional maternity services. As I was saying, I am very pleased to be hosting the maternity round table tonight where we will discuss with the federal government, frontline staff and women and health consumers, including Jemma who will be attending the round table, what we can do to ensure safe, sustainable maternity services closer to home for women. As the Minister for Health and Minister for Women, women's health is one of my top priorities. Maternity services is one of my top priorities. I am so pleased that we were able to return full birthing services to Gladstone.

### **Train and Retain Campaign**

**Mrs MULLEN:** My question is to the Minister for Employment and Small Business, Minister for Training and Skills Development and Minister for Youth Justice. Can the minister update the House on the train and retain campaign, and is the minister aware of any alternate approaches?

**Ms FARMER:** I thank the member for her question. I know how passionate she is about training. Last year I tasked the Queensland Training Ombudsman with investigating what the barriers are for apprentices in Queensland, particularly focusing on women in male-dominated occupations. Our train and retain strategy is a response to those recommendations. It includes the Treasurer's budget announcement of this week about our women in trade apprenticeships mentoring program which is part of our broader \$16 million women's economic security package. It is to support women to complete their training in what we know can be extremely challenging circumstances. No woman or girl should wake up any day and feel as though there is something she cannot do just because she is not a bloke.

When it comes to employment, supporting women has become not just an equity issue but with Queensland absolutely exploding with jobs, even if people do not care about the principle of equity, if they are an employer they simply cannot afford to ignore a candidate pool that comprises 50 per cent of the population—except, of course, if they are in the LNP; that party has six women. We have the

opposition leader who knocked off a woman to get his seat. He knocked off a woman to get the leadership. Last year he announced that he was going to put women in all their seats and, quick as a flash, we got the member for Callide. The Leader of the Opposition touts that he has women running in Thuringowa, Redlands and Cairns, but they are in the seats they do not hold, so none of the boys wanted those seats.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Members for Cairns, Callide and Caloundra, you will cease your quarrelling across the chamber.

**Ms FARMER:** What about the prized LNP seats? We know what happened in Bowman with the bloke winning out against four women. We know that we have Hermann Vorster lined up for the seat of Burleigh. What was the very next opportunity for the LNP? It was in Fadden. They had four blokes but they had a fantastic woman. She is the Fadden Liberal branch chair and a respected businesswoman, but what happened? You guessed it—it was a bloke who was selected. It was not just any bloke; it was a 'swinger'.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Minister, you will table that document or read from it.

**Ms FARMER:** I table that document.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Gold Coast Bulletin*, dated 25 February 2012, titled 'LNP candidate on pirate cruise for swingers: Photo sinks arrrr! rated pollie' [868].

This is a bloke they sacked 12 years ago because he did not meet the standards of the LNP. Every woman in the LNP must feel desperate knowing that no matter how hard they work, no matter what qualities they have, they are still going to do them over with a bloke.

**Mr Minnikin** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Chatsworth, you are warned under the standing orders.

**Ms FARMER:** If you are a woman in the LNP, they will do you over with a bloke and a 'swinger' bloke—it does not matter how good you are.

*(Time expired)*

## Youth Justice

**Mr LAST:** My question is to the Premier. Will the Premier confirm whether youth offenders being arrested and released multiple times in less than two months is a symptom of a broken youth justice system which is putting the rights of criminals before those of victims?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** The member knows that he voted for our strong laws and that the courts have to administer those laws. It is a very simple proposition. The member also heard me say in my ministerial statement this morning that we are rolling out programs across the state that have proven to work to encourage young people to break the cycle of crime. I do not think there can any better role model than Johnathan Thurston. I am honestly so proud that we have this program because what it says to young people is, 'You have an organisation and a mentor in Johnathan Thurston who wants you to stop committing crime, reform your life and get a job.' That is why we are committing over \$4.7 million to that. We have also been listening to the mayors of different communities. In Mount Isa I held a round table and met with the mayor. They said they would like a youth hub so more young people can be engaged. We have delivered that in the budget. Once again, it is not a large amount of money but it is transformative.

Secondly, I was in Toowoomba. I did the same thing. I sat down with people. The mayor said, 'We would like a youth hub.' We have committed the money for the youth hub. Thirdly, we said that we want PCYCs to go back and focus on engaging young people after hours and on weekends. We have seen the success in Cairns when we visited, getting young people involved in activities and off the streets. There is over \$50 million for PCYCs around the state. We have seen the success of the co-responder model which is being rolled out across the state. We have put in place the laws and we are backing them in with funding. There has never been more funding invested in youth justice in this state. As the programs get evaluated, the youth justice minister will roll them out.

Finally, I will say in relation to the Johnathan Thurston program that the police are a great partner in this because the police find the troubled youth and direct them to the Johnathan Thurston Academy. Hopefully, the courts will also be able to direct them to the Johnathan Thurston Academy. These small steps are going to have a big impact on people's lives. That is what the community wants, that is what they deserve and that is what our government is doing. We are listening and delivering.

### Cost-of-Living Relief

**Mr KING:** My question is of the Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement. Can the minister advise the House how the Palaszczuk government is delivering cost-of-living relief through cheaper power and is the minister aware of any other approaches?

**Mr de BRENNI:** I thank the member for Kurwongbah and acknowledge him for delivering massive cost-of-living relief to families in his electorate, to suburbs such as Burpengary, Narangba, Petrie and Bray Park—\$550 in cost-of-living relief for every household and, even better, \$1,072 in cost-of-living relief for seniors, pensioners and concession card holders. Effectively we will have the lowest power bills in the National Electricity Market, delivered by members on this side of the House thanks to public ownership and progressive coal royalties.

Today the Leader of the Opposition will need to say whether he backs those progressive coal royalties. For households in the electorate of Kurwongbah—all 21,000 of them—that equates to over \$11.5 million of cost-of-living relief. Mr Acting Speaker, in your electorate of Greenslopes, for the 23,000 households there that equates to around \$13 million of cost-of-living support for those families. Power bills will be cheaper under Labor.

How much power bill relief did the LNP deliver when they were in office, when the Leader of the Opposition sat around the cabinet table? He sat there with the member for Clayfield, the member for Surfers Paradise, the member for Kawana—

**Mr Mander:** I was there!

**Mr de BRENNI:** The member for Everton was there; that is right.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Order, member for Everton! If you want to stay here, you will come to order.

**Mr de BRENNI:** I take that interjection. The member for Everton was there. How much power bill relief did they deliver to families when power bills went up by 43 per cent, Mr Acting Speaker? I will give you a hint: the number starts with zero. In 2012-13, how much power bill relief did they deliver? Zero dollars. In 2013-14, how much power bill relief did they deliver? Zero dollars. In 2014-15, how much power bill relief did they deliver? Zero dollars. Prices went up 43 per cent and they did literally nothing to support Queensland families and Queensland households. We have learnt that they are the laziest opposition in this state's history. Now we also know that they were the laziest government in this state's history.

I have been thinking about the importance of making sure we have more women entering the workforce to deliver our Big Build. That is why I was so pleased to hear about the cost-of-living measures for kindy. I think the opposition could have benefited from some of the curriculum in kindy, particularly the ability to communicate ideas—maybe we might hear some policies at 11.15 am—or to identify, explore and solve problems.

**Mr Saunders** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Member for Maryborough, cease your interjections.

**Mr de BRENNI:** We know that if you are only identifying problems then that is a whinge. In kindy you also learn numeracy skills. Those opposite only know about subtraction and division.

### Social Housing

**Dr MacMAHON:** My question is to the Minister for Housing. At the government's current social housing commencement rate it will take more than four decades to house everyone on the social housing register. How do you explain this to the tens of thousands of people in housing stress right now?

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** I will take some advice in relation to that question. Member, you will need to reword that question removing the term 'you' from the question. Additionally, you are seeking an opinion. You will need to rephrase the question in a way that relates to the minister's ministerial responsibility.

**Dr MacMAHON:** At the government's current social housing commencement rate it will take more than four decades to house everyone on the social housing register. Can the minister tell us when they will build enough social housing to deal with the social housing crisis?

**Ms SCANLON:** I thank the member for the question. We just handed down a record investment in the social and affordable housing budget. It is the biggest social housing build our state has ever seen—\$5 billion. In the next financial year that will see a 67 per cent increase in our capital investment. Of course we could do more if we had funds from other levels of government, including the federal government through the Housing Australia Future Fund that the Greens political party and the LNP—the unholy alliance—are blocking right now. They are blocking right now investment that will deliver 30,000 homes—30,000 homes for women and children fleeing domestic and family violence, for people sleeping rough. That is what the position is of the Greens and the LNP right now by blocking investment. We have been very clear that the state government will pull the levers that we have—

**Mr Power** interjected.

**Mr Perrett** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Member for Logan and member for Gympie, cease your quarrelling.

**Ms SCANLON:** We will pull all of the levers that we have. We are doing that with record investment. We are also doing it through work that we are doing with unlocking more land supply. We have investment to work with councils to deliver the infrastructure needed to increase the amount of supply. We know that in the member's own electorate on numerous occasions she and many others on the other side of the chamber continuously block supply in their own communities.

While we will work with everyone we can to try to unlock more supply, unlock more social and affordable housing, those opposite refuse to accept the federal government's proposal, which is to invest record amounts that would unlock 30,000 homes. We could do more if we had that investment. I encourage the member for South Brisbane and all of the LNP members to engage with the federal government to vote for a fund that will unlock more housing.

In addition to our capital investment, I should also say that we are delivering more money to assist people who are doing it tough to help them maintain private tenancy, to help renters. I saw the member out there in the media saying there was nothing for renters. That is absolute rubbish. This year's budget delivers \$250 million in housing and homelessness support so we can help people maintain private tenancy, so we can lease places for people to live. We know the opposition do not support headleasing arrangements. They said last week that they want 2,000 people, effectively, to be abandoned. They do not want us to support those individuals.

I would encourage, particularly those opposite, to put forward some actual policies—an actual plan rather than slogans—and to get out of the way of investment and to get out of the way of the sort of supply that we need here in Queensland.

## Seniors

**Mr TANTARI:** My question is of the Minister for Child Safety and Minister for Seniors and Disability Services. Can the minister update the House on what is in the budget for the state's seniors and what the Palaszczuk government is doing to build a state where seniors feel safe and supported in the community?

**Mr CRAWFORD:** I thank the member for Hervey Bay for the question. The member for Hervey Bay, like many other members in this House, has a significant number of seniors in his electorate, but I think he just about takes the poll for that. I feel sorry for the posties in Hervey Bay on the day when the Ergon bills, or the Ergon credits, start to arrive in Hervey Bay. I think the member for Hervey Bay is going to have to go and do some work at the Australia Post depot—maybe supply some red snakes and maybe some extra water. The member for Hervey Bay's phone is going to ring off the hook at the electorate office when people ring up to say, 'Thank you, member for Hervey Bay, and thank you, Queensland government, for doing the right thing about our progressive coal royalties and delivering that money back to the people of Queensland.'

As a senior living in Australia, where else in the nation would you want to live but Queensland? Here in the Sunshine State, the so-called rivers of coal royalties are flowing to our state's 900,000 seniors. We want seniors to feel safe, we want them to feel secure and we want them to live free from physical, emotional and financial abuse and scams. Today it is a priority for this government.

I mentioned in my ministerial statement that today is World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. This morning I addressed a group at South Bank, hosted by Caxton Legal, where we were able to advise what the government does with our 16 locations across the state that support seniors who are doing it tough and who need free legal advice and support.

As I mentioned earlier, the hip-pocket bonus for each of Queensland's 2.2 million households will be at least the \$550 they will get off their power bill. In a double treat cash top-up, eligible vulnerable Queenslanders, including our seniors, will receive an extra \$520, which will bring their bill down by a whopping \$1,072. If they chuck some solar on their roof they will probably even be doing a whole lot better than that.

As the Treasurer said yesterday, this means that many low income Queensland households such as pensioners may pay nothing for their electricity in the next financial year. This is a budget about helping people who are doing it tough. We want all Queensland seniors to access the services they need. Currently, seniors get \$725 million. We are pumping that up significantly. Our seniors look forward to their hip-pocket relief from the Palaszczuk Labor government. Member for Hervey Bay, stand by those phones.

### **Public Service Commission, COVID Response Inquiry**

**Ms BOLTON:** My question is to the Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games. With the budget allocating nearly \$19 million to the commission to increase capabilities of the public sector, will the Premier advise whether this or other funding will provide for a COVID response inquiry as other governments around Australia and the world have done, as well as the needed inquiry into the contributors over many years that led to our housing crisis?

**Mrs D'ATH:** Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Under the standing orders, the question should only contain one question. There were two completely separate questions, and I ask that it be ruled out of order.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** I will take some advice in relation to that. Member for Noosa, I would ask you to rephrase the question to only contain one question.

**Ms BOLTON:** With the budget allocating nearly \$19 million to the commission to increase capabilities of the public sector, will the Premier advise whether this or other funding will provide for a COVID response inquiry as other governments around Australia and the world have done?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for the question. In relation to the Public Service Commission, there has been an increased funding allocation to ensure that the Public Service Commission is able to engage with the public sector, to be more robust and to do their job. To that end, David Mackie has been appointed the new Public Service Commissioner. He is one of the most experienced public servants, having worked for many, many years across many departments. He is absolutely the right person for that job.

In relation to COVID, the Auditor-General completed a report about our economic response. That report looked at our expenditure, which was around \$17 billion to over 300 different initiatives. It is my understanding that was provided to the parliament.

Queenslanders know that our strong health response resulted in minimal loss of life. Only seven people tragically lost their lives during the COVID pandemic. We are one of the few places in the world that was able to have the majority of our population vaccinated before COVID came into our state. This is something that all Queenslanders should be proud of because all Queenslanders played their part. It is something that they still comment on when I visit around the state.


There was also a COVID-19 Fiscal and Economic Review conducted by Queensland Treasury, and I understand that Queensland Health also intends to conduct an evaluation of its pandemic plan and the establishment of the Australian Centre for Disease Control.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** The time for question time has expired. Before I call the Clerk to read the next order of the day I want to remind members who are on a warning because I am sure you want to be here for the next process of budget consideration. The members for Nanango, Mudgeeraba, Burleigh, Aspley, Toowoomba South, Pine Rivers, Murrumba, Gladstone and Chatsworth are on a warning.


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

Appropriation (Parliament) Bill resumed from 13 June (see p. 1793), Appropriation Bill resumed from 13 June (see p. 1801) and Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill resumed from 13 June (see p. 1803).

**Second Reading (Cognate Debate)**

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (11.14 am):  
I move—

That the bills be now read a second time.

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.14 am): The best part of my job is listening to the stories of people across our great state. It is an indescribable honour when Queenslanders trust you with their personal stories, when they trust you to fight for them. I have placed a priority on getting away from George Street to listen to Queenslanders in their homes and their communities talk about the issues impacting them. I have been constantly amazed by the strength and resilience of people who have suffered in unimaginable ways. I have been equally amazed by the selflessness of people who race to comfort and support their fellow Queenslanders in their hour of need. This is what our state is all about. In tough times we trust that we will be there for each other. It is the Queensland way; it is what Queenslanders do.

Right now more than ever Queenslanders need to trust the government to provide a pathway out of the chaos and crisis that is enveloping this state. To be effective in a difficult economic climate a government needs to have a record of delivering what they promise: to deliver projects to the specifications they have outlined; to deliver projects in the time line they have outlined; to deliver projects for the cost they have outlined.

Queenslanders are prepared to give a government a break. I understand that sometimes circumstances conspire to impact these factors, but Queenslanders will not be taken for mugs. They do not want to hear excuses repeatedly. They do not want their government to blame everyone else but themselves. They do not want to see a government throw its arms in the air and say it is not possible to run things on time and on budget. It is simple: promises made must be promises kept. If promises cannot be kept, do not make them. Do not make empty promises just to scurry away from growing public pressure on an issue you have failed to deal with. Most importantly, if a promise is not kept, hold ministers accountable for their failures. Do not just reshuffle the same people around the same table. Without accountability there is no hope for improvement.

Why does this matter? Queensland families should be able to take solace in a promise from their government and plan their lives, their own lifestyles and their own finances accordingly. Businesses should be able to look at the budget delivered two days ago and make investment decisions based on those promises. Unfortunately, they cannot. They have heard the promises of record health budgets, only for the government to deliver record ambulance ramping. They have heard promises of tough new laws, only for the government to deliver fewer police and record crime rates. They have heard promises of new homes, only for the government to deliver record social housing waiting lists and cuts to residential lot approvals. They have heard cost-of-living promises around electricity, only for the government to deliver massive power price rises because they cannot manage their power plants.

Queenslanders would like to believe the promises made by this government. I would like to believe the promises made by this government. Unfortunately, the record proves we cannot. Overwhelmingly, Queenslanders believe this government is heading in the wrong direction. The chaos and crisis is sapping Queenslanders' confidence, and the government cannot be trusted to lead us through the challenges we face today. For example, Queenslanders do not trust the Palaszczuk government to fix the Queensland youth crime crisis. They do not trust them to fix the Queensland housing crisis. They do not trust them to fix the health crisis. It is clear that we must rebuild trust in government. When I first became Leader of the Opposition I created shadow portfolios for integrity, open data and customer service. That was a very deliberate signal to Queensland—

**Government members** interjected.



**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Order, members! The House will come to order. The convention is that this speech is heard in relative silence. I would ask members to listen to the speech. You will have plenty of opportunity in the upcoming debate to respond.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I believe in a government that is accountable and transparent and that will place the people we serve at the centre of everything we do, every decision we make. As a united LNP team, we have made several policy commitments to further these ideals. We have committed to reforming the estimates process to ensure ministers can be held accountable, not shielded from scrutiny. We have called for the provision of open data to improve transparency in service delivery. We have promised the reformation of the Productivity Commission to ensure the services we provide Queenslanders are the best in the country. These are all steps the government could take and it would help restore the trust they have lost. They could do it today and we would support them. They could, but they won't.

They won't because it is deeply ingrained in this government to blame others for their failures. They won't because it is a reflex of this government to use their massive internal media machine—which grew a little in this budget—to muddy the waters and hide the truth. After nearly a decade in power, here lies the fundamental truth of this government: to have any hope of fixing a problem, you must admit you have one in the first place, and the Premier and her government have shown neither the insight nor the inclination for this admission.

The Palaszczuk government cares more about big, flashy announcements than actually delivering the solutions Queenslanders need and deserve. So what does this mean for this budget? It means the promises made on Tuesday must be viewed through the countless promises this government has made over eight years that lie in a smouldering ruin. The promises in this budget should be viewed in the context of Cross River Rail, which has seen the cost blow out by billions and delayed by years, or perhaps in the context of the Olympic upgrade of the Gabba which has seen the original cost go from \$1 billion to \$2.7 billion, yet in this budget there is only \$67.7 million allocated in 2023-24 of the \$7.1 billion for the Olympic venues. That is \$67.7 million for the \$7.1 billion. There is no plan for independent delivery of generational infrastructure and no 20-year tourism vision to develop new product that we can promote while the eyes of the world are on us in a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

Sadly, the promises in this budget relating to health sit amongst the lengthening list of delivery failures—whether it be their hopelessly late and misleadingly named satellite hospitals, or the failed promise to get ambulance ramping under control. With a reputation for being big on promise and light on delivery, the government should have outlined why they have failed in the past to deliver their commitments and why this will be any different this time. Announcements do not improve the lives of Queenslanders; calm and considered delivery does.

Nowhere has trust in the government been eroded more than in health. The government went to the last election promising to keep us safe. On this basic commitment, they have failed. In keeping with their inability to accept responsibility, they have sought to blame their health failures on COVID. There is one problem with this: the health system was in a downward spiral long before any of us had heard of COVID. Ambulance ramping was 15 per cent when this government came to office. It had already doubled before COVID and it is now at 43 per cent. Queensland's ambulance ramping is the worst in the country.

There are 58,446 people on the elective surgery waiting list, 23.7 per cent of patients do not have their surgery within the recommended time frame, and the number of people waiting 24 hours in an emergency department is at record levels. After nearly a decade in power, Queensland's health system under this state government is broken and it is in dire need of repair. The glue that keeps this broken system together is the incredible doctors, nurses and allied health professionals. It is our health professionals and patients who bear the brunt of a broken system. When the minister tries to shift blame to governments a decade in the past, it is the call centre operator who must explain to a father that there are no ambulances available to come to the aid of his daughter suffering an asthma attack. These are not hypothetical stories; they are happening with disturbing regularity in Queensland. We know this because we have made a point of listening to patients and health professionals.

Early in this term, we learned of disturbing events within Queensland Health. We decided to hold a town hall meeting to discuss the health crisis. We were overwhelmed by the tragic and harrowing stories from patients and health professionals aghast at what they were forced to work in. We were honoured they trusted us to take their stories to the floor of parliament and fight for a better deal. Now, 32 Queensland Health crisis town halls later, the avalanche of stories continues. Throughout the

Queensland Health crisis, one common question is asked of me: where is the Premier? The Premier has been caught up in the glitz and glamour of the job while patients wait at the end of a phone line for an overworked ambulance officer who never comes.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Mr Acting Speaker, I take personal offence and I ask the member to withdraw.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** The Premier has taken personal offence. I ask you to withdraw.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I withdraw. I spoke earlier of trust and of the government's inability to deliver what they promised. Nowhere is that truer than in health. The satellite hospitals that were announced before the last election were deliberately misleading. While they will provide important medical services, they are not what was promised—hospitals. It is not just the opposition who says this; senior Queensland Health officials say this. They do not have overnight beds. They are not open 24 hours. They do not have an ED. Call them what they are and focus on delivering these missing services at the nearby hospitals. This is a failure to deliver. The Premier herself promised these hospitals would be open in May—all seven of them. How many are open today? This is a failure to deliver. They are more than \$110 million over budget. That is \$110 million that could have been spent reducing the surgery waiting list or funding some of those unfunded beds we heard about this morning that are counted as real beds. This is a failure to deliver. Remember the \$263 million Care4Qld strategy that was released over two years ago. That was meant to fix ambulance ramping. Today it is the highest in the country. This is a failure to deliver.

These failures have deepened the state of chaos and crisis into which the health system has descended. They also underline the point: the Premier and the government cannot be trusted to deliver what they say. It is through this prism we should view the Premier's health and hospital announcement. This \$9.8 billion program promised new hospitals, but for those on the northern Gold Coast the government is asking you to trust them at two more elections before they get the benefit from the Coomera Hospital. If you share the transport minister's views on delivering a project on time and on budget, even that is doubtful.

I have one message for the Premier: it is not good enough. The Queensland Health crisis is happening now and Queenslanders want to know: where is the Premier? Given the rivers of gold generated by the tax increases of the government, for the Premier to have only spent one per cent of the total announcement last year is an insult to the health professionals and patients who rely on this. The budget papers show just five per cent will be spent two years after the promise was made.

The government has announced maternity services have returned to Gladstone after 339 days of failure. When will they return to Cooktown, to Chinchilla, to Biloela? When will they open in Weipa—a town the government promised would have operational maternity services last year? The Premier and the minister have sat around the cabinet table signing off on every decision of the last eight years that has led to the chaos and crisis in the health system. It is difficult for Queenslanders to trust them to fix it.

When I became Leader of the Opposition, I said my job was not only to hold the government to account; it was to provide hope and opportunity and chart an alternate vision. When it comes to the Queensland Health crisis, the LNP has put solutions on the table. They are solutions designed to rebuild the trust of patients and health professionals—better resources, better triaging, sharing data in real time and putting doctors and nurses back in charge. These solutions empower our health professionals and provide transparency and accountability in government. Today the opposition outlines another two planks in building a better health system.

To underline my commitment to transparency and to Queenslanders, today I announce an LNP government is committed to making health data available in real time within 100 days of the election. I make this commitment because Queenslanders should know how our hospital system is performing and transparency drives ministerial accountability, and accountability drives change. Queensland Health collects the information; in fact the Palaszczuk government has spent hundreds of millions of dollars digitalising hospitals, so let's use it. A good government would not balk at the potential and possibilities which data driven insights could deliver to us.

Secondly, today I can announce an LNP government will deliver a contemporary Queensland Health workforce plan. It is one thing to promise new hospitals but another thing to staff them. The work we would undertake in government would make a thorough assessment of the current gaps in the workforce of our health system. It will also examine the sobering reality of why so many members of

our health workforce feel burnt out. With an ageing and growing population, we will commence this work to ensure that our health system is adequately and sustainably staffed with a highly skilled workforce well into the future—calls that have been made by medical groups for months.

We have a world-class health workforce in Queensland already. I want to ensure that it remains the case. The value of seeing the right clinician at the right time can be a life-changing or life-saving intervention. The work will allow Queensland to structure and grow our health workforce to deliver multidisciplinary care using modern models of care which deliver the best outcome for patients. That is what delivering health care is all about, not record budgets and big announcements. It is about patient care, and I will always put the patient first.

The Queensland youth crime crisis has seen a constant stream of Queenslanders becoming victims due to a government which made a conscious decision to weaken the youth justice laws when they first came to power—the first seeds of the Queensland youth crime crisis. Queenslanders no longer feel safe in their homes, with break-ins up 58 per cent since 2015, the number of stolen cars up 108 per cent since 2015, and assaults up 178 per cent. Their decision to weaken the laws when they first came to power put ideology before common sense. Eight years ago, the state government boasted about watering down youth justice laws. The only ones boasting now are young crims on social media taunting their victims. The Premier's decision created a generation of youth criminals, Labor's generation of untouchables. They know their rights are greater than the rights of the victim.

There are thousands of victims out there. I have listened to their stories and they are harrowing. I have listened to a small business owner called Paul who grew up in social housing. He aspired to be his own boss. Today he is a broken man. With three break-ins, thousands of dollars worth of damage, it is not just an attack on a person's business, it is an attack on that person's dreams. I have listened to Queenslanders who have had intruders in their own home, like Taryn and Vicki, their personal sanctuaries violated. I have heard stories of Cairns woman Caroline holding her kids and hiding them in a bedroom while her husband was assaulted by intruders as he tried to protect his family. They survived; many others have not—people stabbed in their own home or struck by stolen cars. I have sat with their families as well. This could have happened to any one of us. Queenslanders know this and they are scared.

As I travel around the state, Queenslanders are telling me they do not trust the government to solve Queensland's youth crime crisis. After reading this budget, you cannot blame them. In 2016, the government announced a five-point plan to tackle youth crime. Then in 2019, they announced a four-point plan and then a five-point plan in 2020, and in 2021 they issues a media release promoting a crackdown on juvenile criminals fitted with GPS trackers. In Townsville, three have been fitted, seven in Logan and the Gold Coast, and four in the northern suburbs of Brisbane. That is it. If the criminals do not want to wear them, they do not have to. What sort of message did that send? It was never about dealing with the issues; it was all about the announcement. Late last year we had another 10-point plan designed to tackle youth crime. It later became an 11-point plan when Labor adopted the LNP's policy to introduce breach of bail.

This government talks tough, but Queenslanders have heard it all before and crime continues to increase. Queenslanders cannot trust this government to keep them safe. We know the latest plan was thrown together at the last minute. The chaos and crisis of how this plan was formed was put on display when the LNP exposed in parliament how increased penalties for car theft were written in a way to ensure maximum penalties could never be enforced. There was also a promise to run an engine immobiliser trial before the end of this month. Again, it is the men and women on the front line that are the only thing holding together a broken system, and today we acknowledge the hard work of the Queensland Police Service. It has been a tough time for them of late. Some of them have made the ultimate sacrifice and we thank them.

Contrary to the protests of the minister, and as I indicated earlier, the reality is the thin blue line is getting thinner. This week it has been revealed that there are 72 fewer full-time equivalent frontline officers than at the time of the last election. I will repeat that: 72 fewer, in the middle of a youth crime crisis! Current police officers do not feel valued by this government, and they are leaving. I offer this advice: look after those people who are there before they walk out the door.

At the last election, the police minister actually promised more police—1,450 additional, in fact—but it was revealed recently by the minister this commitment was not for actual police officers; it was funded police positions. When you dial triple 0, only an actual police officer can respond. I say to the Premier: it is time we have an actual police minister, not a funded one.

For a government to rebuild trust, it must place the rights of victims at the centre of the solution to the youth crime crisis. As I have previously said, I have met with countless people who have been impacted by the youth crime crisis, victims and proud advocates fighting for their voices to be heard. They have described how every time another tragedy happens it brings it back to the surface again. They have described the smells, the sounds, the textures of the crimes, and they play it through their head. They have described the trauma. They say it never leaves them. It is time to show that we are on the side of victims, not the side of criminals.

That is why today I propose a set of measures to begin righting this balance. The first thing we should do is stop rubbing salt into wounds. I am talking about the government charging victims for a replacement driver's licence when their wallet has been stolen, or replacement vehicle numberplates when their plates have been stolen. We support the government's move to reduce the fee to \$35 to replace a driver's licence, but when it comes to victims of crime, we can do better—this must be free. It is time to put the rights of victims first. They have already paid a high price for Labor's weak laws. Let's not make replacing stolen licences and numberplates a further burden for them.

I urge the government to implement measures to improve engagement with victims throughout the investigation and prosecution of crimes. We must also do more to put people in contact with support when the crime happens. Quicker support can often lead to long-term emotional and financial pain being avoided. It is time to empower victims.

Over 200 days ago, the government agreed to appoint a victims commissioner as part of the response to the *Hear her voice* report. This would be an avenue for victims of crime to raise concerns about the way their matter has been investigated or prosecuted. As is often the case, the promise was made, but it has not been delivered. It was hoped that this budget would provide a clear road map for the establishment of the victims commissioner, but, despite a reference, there remains no timeline. I therefore commit that, should the LNP form government after the next election and the government still has not made an announcement, within one month we will appoint a victims commissioner to help build a criminal justice system that serves Queensland's victims.

A body that currently exists is the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council. The council comprises people from the legal fraternity, academia, a prison advocate and even an artist, but not one dedicated victim of crime. This government talks a lot about the value of lived experience. If we are to ensure that the sentencing matches the expectations of the community, there is no better way to achieve that than ensuring victims are members of the body. I commit today that an LNP government would appoint a victim of crime to the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council. Better support for victims is very important, but we cannot give up and say, 'Well, this is how things now are.' Queensland is better than that. Queenslanders deserve better than that. More needs to be done to make sure Queenslanders do not become victims of crime in the first place.

We have put our real solutions on the table and it starts with consequences for actions. This is about putting the rights of victims before the rights of young criminals. When I speak to victims of crime—and I unfortunately hear too many of these sad stories—there is palpable anger when a criminal gets off, a repeat criminal, with yet another slap on the wrist. Meanwhile, the victim is left to deal with the financial costs and the harrowing experience of being a victim.

I truly believe that kids should be given a second chance. Any youth justice system that does not have as its central tenet a belief that kids can turn their lives around and become valuable members of society is not serving the children of the wider community appropriately. That is why I am passionate about gold-standard early intervention. There are excellent programs out there; I have seen them. We must identify these programs that are working and expand them across the state. This is why the Deputy Leader wrote to the Auditor-General requesting a full review of the government diversionary program for young offenders. It is vital that the government participates fully; that the information is open.

An issue I believe is intrinsically linked to the issue of youth justice is child safety. Keeping the most vulnerable Queensland children safe must be a core priority of any government. It must be an unquestionable truth that we hold fast that we will protect those who cannot protect themselves.

In the last six months the number of child safety case workers in Queensland has fallen. How will this lead to better outcomes for vulnerable children? How will this lead to not just protecting children from harm but helping them to thrive? What we have seen from this government is investigation and assessment times blowing out, residential care numbers exploding and case plans being woefully behind. Thirty-five per cent of investigations and assessments are not completed within the 100-day time frame. There are double the number of children in residential care today than there were five years ago. Almost 20 per cent of these kids do not have a current case plan. The portfolio has been passed

from failed minister to failed minister who then move on to other posts without a thought given to what is left behind. We see the correlation between those in the youth justice system who have a child safety background. It should not be an incubator for juvenile offenders.

The third part of the LNP's solution is to unshackle the judiciary. There is a lot of community concern about the way judges are sentencing youth criminals. The judiciary enforce the laws they are given by the government of the day, and in the days of the Palaszczuk government youth crime has been out of control. Current government policy binds the judiciary through sentencing guidelines that limit their ability to administer custodial sentences in line with community expectations. That is why the LNP believes in the removal of detention as a last resort.

**Mr Dametto** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Order, member for Hinchinbrook.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** Tonight too many Queenslanders will sleep in a tent, a caravan—

**Mr Dametto** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Member for Hinchinbrook, you are warned under the standing orders.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:**—or, as we saw earlier this week, outside this parliament. Every Queenslander deserves a warm bed under a real roof. Again, we should not be here. The government has failed to deliver on land releases. Incredibly, despite a growing population, residential lot approvals—a key responsibility of state government—have plummeted; they are 31 per cent lower than they were in 2015. This failure to unlock land and create new housing stock has put pressure on the entire market but nowhere more so than for those looking for affordable options.

We have also seen a massive failure when it comes to social housing. Social housing is our housing safety net but, tragically, under this government, that safety net is riddled with holes. In fact, the social housing waiting list has exploded since 2015, from 20,000 to nearly 50,000.

I would like to raise the particular plight of many First Nations communities when it comes to housing. Many leaders from these communities tell me that a lot of the issues they face come from overcrowding. Overcrowding leads to poor health outcomes. It leads to bad education outcomes. It leads to lower employment opportunities. It leads to social problems. What is the government doing?

We were promised that a \$2 billion housing investment fund would fix these problems. We were promised thousands of new social homes. We were promised that the growth management teams would fix land supply. We were promised land audits. We were promised emergency housing at Griffith University. These promises join a long list of delivery failures and continue the erosion of trust in the government. Instead of delivering housing solutions ahead of population growth, the Palaszczuk government has delivered us the Queensland housing crisis. The government has failed to build new stock and as a result has used funds to buy existing houses.

To this end today I offer this commitment: under an LNP government the Housing Investment Fund will only be used to deliver new social housing stock. To be clear, this is a fund that needs to increase the number of total dwellings available to put a dent in the supply issues that are driving up costs. That is not to say that government should not at times step in to fill the void of community housing schemes coming off funding arrangements or strategic social housing purchases in communities. However, a signature fund must address the fundamental challenge of the housing crisis, and that is the issue of housing supply. Purchasing existing homes, the modus operandi of this government, does not increase supply. That strategy takes potential homes out of the private rental market, a market which already has not enough homes. If you are going to deliver a signature housing investment fund, every dollar it generates must deliver increased housing supply. That is what we commit to doing.

Using every component of the housing sector is needed to help ease the housing crisis gripping Queensland. However, even the government's most ardent supporters would acknowledge the community housing sector in Queensland has been neglected. A report from the Commonwealth Productivity Commission found that since 2015 the number of community housing dwellings in Queensland has declined. Queensland was the only state or territory in Australia to go backwards. As a result, funding through the National Housing Finance and Investment Corporation has gone begging. The value of social bonds for community housing providers issued through the corporation since 2019 is substantial. New South Wales has received over \$1 billion in social bonds. Victoria has shared in over half a billion dollars. In Queensland we have received \$8.9 million.

An LNP government will adjust the housing policy settings in Queensland to enable our community housing sector to flourish. Today I commit that an LNP government would grow the number of community housing dwellings every year we hold office.

A growing cost in every Queensland family's budget is, of course, electricity. Many Queenslanders voted for Labor in Queensland and in Canberra because they were promised lower electricity bills. Minister de Brenni and his government have committed to lowering electricity costs hundreds of times since releasing their energy and jobs announcement. The most recent CPI data showed Queensland's energy bills rose by 32.5 per cent in the March quarter, and recently we learnt power prices will go up 21.5 per cent from July.

The Premier is quick to claim things are national issues. They will even make a logo about it. However, when it comes to electricity prices, the generator failure at Callide, a state government facility, is a significant contributor. In August 2021, in response to a question during estimates, Minister de Brenni said the incident at Callide C Power Station would have no net impact on consumers' electricity prices—a view not shared by the Auditor-General, who said a lack of supply is a factor; and a view not shared by the Queensland Competition Authority, which blamed unplanned outages like Callide as a factor. It should have therefore been no surprise when the minister's commitment that Callide C would be back online by the end of 2022 was not met—or in February or in April.

The LNP will support any measures that will give relief from ballooning electricity bills, but where we differ from this government is in our focus on driving real reform to lower the underlying costs of these power plants that remain offline, and there is a report about what went wrong and it remains under wraps.

The government's failure to maintain their power plants has contributed significantly to the increase. Minister de Brenni has told Queenslanders the government's entire energy and jobs announcement hinges on the so-called Pioneer Dam. With no money in the capital statements for this project, the Pioneer Dam is the great hydro hoax. As a result, the Premier's jobs and energy announcement is just that, an announcement—at a time when her job was to find the energy to roll out a real plan.

Much has been made by the Treasurer of the billions of dollars being raised by coal royalties, but regional Queenslanders are asking why they do not see their fair share. As I have mentioned throughout my contribution, the government's history means they cannot be relied upon to deliver for Queensland, particularly regional Queensland. The Toowoomba to Warwick pipeline only has five per cent of its funding allocated and it is already 2½ years late. The budget has also shown that Rookwood Weir has blown out by over \$200 million.

Unbelievably, the government has cut investment in biosecurity, from \$231 million last year to \$151 million this year. As we have seen recently, the government's funding failures have resulted in fire ants marauding across Queensland. There have also been cuts to forestry industry development during a timber shortage, changes to fishing zones without industry consultation and limited funding for R and D and agtech.

Labor governments play a vital role in delivering essential services to our communities. Where this government struggles to deliver services it could do worse than to look to local government for pointers. I am proud to lead a team with several former mayors and councillors in our ranks. Councils have once again been forgotten by this government. In fact, the LGAQ wrote that councils had been 'royalty shafted'. Despite repeated calls for increased Works for Queensland funding to protect regional jobs, the government refused to listen. It is why the LNP have a shadow minister dedicated to local government as her primary responsibility. Under this government, local government is bundled into a mega department and forgotten about. Under the LNP, local government will have a dedicated voice around the cabinet table.

Queensland has some of the most diverse and iconic natural environments in the world and that is something we should all be proud of. The need to protect it for generations is vital. However, under this government I fear that will not happen not because those opposite do not talk about the environment but because all they do is talk.

We continue to have the lowest proportion of protected area estate in the country. While those opposite are happy to talk about the protected area funding from last year's budget, only 10 per cent is allocated to be spent this financial year and more than half will not be spent until after the election. When it comes to management, we continue to see an underspend. Less than \$1 million will be spent on protected areas management which will continue to see invasive species and pests run rampant in our conservation estate.

Under the Palaszczuk government, we have the worst recycling rate of any state in Australia. This government has failed to support the waste infrastructure that our state needs to transition to a circular economy—they could not even recycle a popper. When it comes to reducing emissions, we have seen the great hydro hoax, the cornerstone of the jobs and energy announcement. Let us be clear: the government will not address climate change or reduce emissions or safeguard our environment through announcements. We need a government that acts.

I want to lead a Queensland where individuals, no matter their gender, race or background, have an equal opportunity at economic security—the security to make choices that suit their lifestyle and values; the security to find suitable accommodation; the security to care for their loved ones. We need to acknowledge that for women in Queensland there are barriers that exist and, in many cases, those barriers are greater than those faced by women in other states. We continue to have the second worst gender pay gap in the country at 14.6 per cent. That is a difference of around \$14,000 in earnings per year. The difference in superannuation accounts for men and women aged 65 years or over is less than \$20,000 nationally—

**Ms Palaszczuk** interjected.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I will take the interjection from the Premier. In Queensland, it is over 50,000. We need genuine, targeted investment that outstrips that of other states or we will never catch up.

We continue to see the response to the landmark *Hear her voice* reports into domestic, family and sexual violence in Queensland. What we have not seen is an urgency in the response. We understand that when it comes to investigating coercive control, time and education is needed to ensure we get it right, but there are other recommendations that can be rolled out at a faster rate than what we are seeing. It took the commission of inquiry last year for the government to finally appoint an independent implementation supervisor. This role is crucial to the effective rollout of all of the recommendations to ensure this is not just a box-ticking exercise. The Townsville high-risk DV team was announced in June last year, and it still has not been rolled out. Statewide DVO breaches have increased by 50 per cent since June 2020.

The greatest scandal to hit our criminal justice system in a generation occurred at the forensic laboratory. After months and months of denying the issues at the forensic lab, we were presented with the final report late last year. This week marks six months since it was handed down. Six months, and we have heard so little about the progress. This budget is another demonstration of the extent of the issue. The sheer fact that we have funding extending out to the forward estimates demonstrates that this is not a minor problem to be resolved. Whether this funding will be enough will only be known when we see the full case numbers and grapple with the number of victims impacted. Victims have still not heard a formal apology from the government.

We know that housing costs and electricity bills are putting a great amount of cost-of-living pressure on Queensland families. As mentioned earlier, the Auditor-General identified the Callide power plant failure as a major contributor to the increase in energy prices. To address this significant driver of cost of living, I commit an LNP government to maintenance guarantees on power plants to ensure maintenance is not foregone to prop up the government's balance sheet. This is only part of the greater cost-of-living crisis they face. In my budget reply speech last year, I spoke of the risk of rising inflation and interest rates and the impacts this would have on Queensland families. Sadly, we are seeing that play out now, and I fear we are not over the worst of it.

We welcome the electricity rebate. I also acknowledge that the government's commitment to free kindy for Queensland families. That is a good thing. The Premier has seen other states do this and we are bringing Queensland into line. This gets a big tick from me. The \$150 towards swimming lessons—limited to those with a healthcare or pension concession card—is a sound idea which the government was forced into, despite initially denying the problem. The LNP committed to this policy in 2017. How many families since then have been denied this because of this government's failure to listen?

It would be irresponsible of me not to point out the government's failure in relation to cost overruns as well as its failure to maintain its power plants have increased the cost-of-living impacts for all Queenslanders. Likewise, the Queensland youth crime crisis has had a major impact on the cost of insurance. There is far more government can do than just providing rebates. Making our communities more resilient to natural disasters can lower insurance; dealing with congestion reduces fuel costs; improving water security and regional roads helps farmers to grow more products at a lower price. These are the sorts of things that a government in its ninth year should already be deeply invested in, but, as shown in this budget, the government is not. Long-term planning and reform is the last thing on the mind of a government that is caught up in its own chaos and crisis. It may try ministerial reshuffles,

round tables, strategies and glossy documents to convince you otherwise, but this is ultimately a government that is bereft of ideas, racked by internal brawling and led by a Premier who is more interested in red carpets than everyday Queenslanders. Quite simply, the government's inability to deliver on its core business is costing Queenslanders in more ways than one.

Under the state government, Queensland is in a constant state of chaos and crisis. Revenue has never been higher, yet failure to deliver on promises has never been worse. By the end of the coming financial year, the government will have received over \$60 billion more than was predicted in Treasurer Dick's first budget in 2020—\$60 billion more. That is a massive amount of money. How can services be so bad when the government has received \$60 billion more than it thought it would? Where has the money gone? That \$60 billion would have funded 30 tertiary hospitals—not one has been built since 2020. The health crisis goes on. That \$60 billion could fund almost 100,000 new social homes, but demand for social housing is up 70 per cent, and the amount of new stock has barely increased two per cent in eight years. For \$60 billion we could have resourced the Queensland Police Service for over 16 years.

We know where at least \$11 billion of this money has gone—cost blowouts. Hospitals, roads, stadiums and, of course, Cross River Rail, have all overrun in cost because of ministers who are not across their portfolios. It means that there is less money to employ a police officer, remove a level crossing, hire another doctor or build a home for a vulnerable Queenslander. The Minister for Transport and Main Roads has ruled out this government being able to deliver a project on time and on budget. This is the minister who has already had new trams delivered for a line extension that has just started, but will not have trains ready for the opening of Cross River Rail. This is the minister who can allocate \$120 million for three train stations just 12 months ago which now come in at \$500 million—a 317 per cent blowout in 12 months. For Queenslanders on the Sunshine Coast, who waste thousands of hours a year stuck in traffic, the decision of the government to embark on another study on the heavy vehicle passenger rail route is a hard blow to take. The route has been the same for three decades. Residents and businesses on the Sunshine Coast will know that this is nothing more than a stalling tactic—another delay on another study, with another \$15 million likely to be swallowed up by consultants on a business case.

This is the big untold story of this government—the gradual outsourcing of Public Service opportunities. The Palaszczuk government is obsessed with consultants. As this government ages, the obsession grows. It is an obsession fixated on the big four consulting firms who now enjoy cosy relationships and influence in the halls of power. The Palaszczuk government has hidden behind an ever-growing wall of consultants' reports to justify blowout after blowout of countless projects under this government. These are not the actions of an open and transparent government. This obsession was typified by the Premier spending nearly \$800,000 for Deloitte to run a report to justify her decision to Hoover up control of the Olympics into her own office. Queenslanders' money has been wasted on a self-fulfilling report to justify political ambition and control, and the high price Queenslanders are paying is rising by the day.

Opposition analysis of available data can reveal that, in the last five years alone, the Palaszczuk government has spent at least \$423 million on the big four consulting firms—\$423 million. That is \$234,000 of Queenslanders' money every day being handed to the big four. This is not sustainable; it is not a trait of open and honest government; it is not the way to value and empower the Queensland Public Service. Worse still, the actions of the Queensland government are a violation of the Coaldrake review. Coaldrake is heavily critical of the government's over-reliance on expensive consultants and its obsession with outsourcing work to the private sector—work that should be delivered by public servants and work that public servants want to deliver.

Today I announce that an LNP government will reduce the reliance on expensive consultants and will empower the Public Service like never before. Consultants will still be used when independence is required, but the days of the Queensland government handing over endless buckets of taxpayers' money to the big four consulting firms must end. This is a line in the sand. The LNP will deliver the best Public Service in the nation. The LNP will value and empower the Public Service like never before through three steps. First, to improve the procurement process when external skills are required to support Queenslanders, we will task Treasury to review how the Palaszczuk government has engaged, utilised and paid external consultants. Second, we will redirect money away from the top end of town, away from the pockets of the cashed-up big four consultancy firms, and reinvest it to empower the Public Service. That investment will provide world-class professional development and training packages to improve the skills, training, opportunity and leadership of the Public Service and ensure



we deliver the best services for Queensland. Third, under an LNP government, consultants will be required to demonstrate how they will build capacity in the Public Service before they are awarded any work in a relevant project area.

We will stop the outsourcing of tasks that could be completed by the Public Service. This policy is about valuing, empowering and resourcing the Public Service, because we need Australia's best public service to pull Queensland out of the deepening chaos and crisis of this government. A Public Service empowered in decision-making and free to give frank and fearless advice will help the LNP government drive state building projects free from the billions of dollars of cost overruns that are rife in government. Australia's best public service: better training, better capacity, better outcomes—a path to drive Queensland out of the chaos and crisis created by almost a decade of this government.

With Australia's best public service, an LNP government will start delivering the state-run services Queenslanders deserve. As the Coaldrake review exposed, the choice at the next election will be clear: Labor, who have outsourced taxpayers' money at will to the big four and ruled the Public Service with fear; or an LNP government, who will value the Public Service to give frank and fearless advice. With an empowered Public Service, an LNP government will restore world-class services for Queenslanders, no matter where they live.

One of the great responsibilities any of us have in this place, regardless of other duties, is as a local member of parliament. As the member for Broadwater, I again point to the explosion of growth in the northern Gold Coast and the growing frustration of locals that they do not see infrastructure delivered ahead of the pressure people are experiencing. I have already touched on the fact that Coomera Hospital will not be opened until at least the back end of this decade and that the first stage will deliver fewer beds than are required today. Mental health remains a major challenge for the government. The Gold Coast mental health rehabilitation unit has blown out by over \$17 million, but more troubling is delayed progress. This service is desperately needed for families under immense pressure.

In transport, the Coomera Connector is delayed and over budget, while the Hope Island train station still has an acute shortage of car parks despite being part of the 300 per cent cost blowout. Members in this House would have heard me speak about the Jabiru Island bridge duplication. Once again, this budget falls short of delivering the much needed link between Paradise Point and Hope Island. Its duplication remains absent from the forwards and, sadly, rehabilitation funding earmarked last year appears to have been underspent and cut from this year's budget. I will be asking the minister for further details about this.

Whilst the school is just outside of my electorate, I thank Minister Grace for the capital contribution towards the completion of the extra classrooms for Coombabah State High School, which services a large portion of families in my electorate. I will continue to campaign for replacement classrooms for Coombabah State School and Biggera Waters State School.

In my previous budget reply speeches I have committed an LNP government to promises, and those promises will be kept. We will establish a social enterprise investment fund—a great passion of the shadow Treasurer, who will outline the next step of this plan during his contribution today; we will establish a parliamentary budget office; we will fund our 50 per cent share of the Sunshine Coast heavy rail, even with a dodgy business case; and we will restore a Queensland productivity commission. Today I have outlined that an LNP government would deliver for Queenslanders: making real-time health data available within 100 days of the election; having a contemporary Queensland Health workforce plan; in the event this government fails to deliver, within a month of taking office appointing a victims commissioner to help build the criminal justice system that Queenslanders deserve; appointing a victim of crime to the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council; the Housing Investment Fund to only be used to deliver new stock; a commitment to grow the number of community housing dwellings in every year of office; a commitment to address energy prices by implementing maintenance guarantees on power plants to ensure maintenance is not forgone to prop up the budget bottom line; and reducing the reliance on expensive consultants and empowering the Public Service like never before.

When I first took on this job I told Queenslanders that if the government put forward a good idea I would say so. When talking about new commitments, it would be remiss of me not to mention a couple of the announcements from the government which do have merit. Free kindy for our kids is at the top of the list. We offer our strong support and urge the government to ensure classrooms are ready, qualified teachers are in place and families are ready to reap the benefits from this announcement.

Never in our state's history have taxes been higher, debt been larger and services been worse. Never has a treasurer spent so much of his budget contribution obsessed with the opposition's response to his budget—a theme replicated in two days of question time. This is a government so embarrassed with its record on service delivery and economic management that it tries desperately to create a scare campaign to distract from the view that Queenslanders believe the Palaszczuk government is heading in the wrong direction, so—

**Mr Dick** interjected.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I have more to say than you, mate.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Comments will come through the chair. Treasurer, you will cease your interjections.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** As we did last year, the opposition confirms that it will be supporting the revenue and expenditure measures outlined in the budget.

The Palaszczuk government promised 26 times that there would be no new or increased taxes, yet there have been five since the last election alone. It was a betrayal of Queensland families and those investing in our state—a deliberately deceitful plan but one tied to—

**Mr DICK:** Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at those words and I ask him to withdraw.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I withdraw—the attempt to revive service delivery and the cost-of-living relief Queenslanders need because of the failings of this government. I would never stand in the way of these things. The question is: how can we regain the trust of Queenslanders who want to live and invest in our state? Ahead of the next election, the choice will be simple: an LNP government that will outline a fully funded plan, with promises that will be honoured; or a Labor government so slippery that every Queenslanders will ask who is next on their broken promise list. Will it be new taxes on families? Will it be a Dan Andrews inspired attack on the Public Service? Will it hark back to the broken promise of the Bligh era to sell off assets after not promising them?

**Honourable members** interjected.


**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Clayfield and member for Moggill, I gave indications around the use of hand gestures. You are both wanted under the standing orders.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** Same faces, and they have form! Two years ago I asked of this year's budget, 'Where is the opportunity? Where is the reassurance? Where is the hope?' I ask the same questions today. Where is the hope? The tragedy of the last eight years of this government's failure to deliver is that it is hard to take reassurance from the government's word. It is hard to retain hope when so many times we have been hopeful for action only to be let down by failure of delivery.

In this budget the government has made much of the health and hospital announcements. Like anything, we have to look at the detail, because what the government did not tell us is that 95 per cent of the funding for its promised health and hospital announcements will be spent after the next election. The government is asking Queenslanders to believe that, despite its inability over the last eight years to manage the health system, we should trust it to deliver over another couple of years. It is the same story for Cross River Rail, for CopperString, for dams, for regional roads—the list goes on.

Queenslanders hoped the Palaszczuk government's ninth budget would chart a way through the chaos and crisis. This government has dashed that hope. Queenslanders deserve better. It is time for a new way. Queenslanders cannot afford the cost overruns this government says are inevitable. I say they are not. The opposition will empower and train the Public Service to take control of major projects from the consultants that profit from them. We will hold ministers accountable in administering their departments—the fundamental tenet of the Westminster system. These changes will drive value for money and ensure Queenslanders are not left waiting longer for the infrastructure they were promised.

I spoke at the start of my contribution to the guiding principles that I will take into government if we are given that great honour by the Queensland people: an economy built on the back of small and family business; world-class services no matter where Queenslanders live; and integrity and transparency at the centre of all we do. We must restore the hope of Queenslanders—hope this government has trashed. I say to Queenslanders: we will continue to earn back your trust in opposition and, if elected, we will restore your trust in government. By restoring that trust, we will end the chaos and crisis the Palaszczuk government has inflicted on Queensland. In just under 500 days Queenslanders will have a choice to make: real delivery over announcements, stability over chaos, hope over fear.

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure) (12.11 pm): After sitting through that for 56 minutes, the one thing we now all know for sure is that the Leader of the Opposition quite appreciates the sound of his own voice. I do, however, have some great news for the House.

**Ms Palaszczuk:** Tell us.

**Mr Dick:** Tell us.

**Dr MILES:** I take those interjections from the Premier and the Treasurer. I have some fantastic news for the House: hot off the presses new ABS labour force data confirming we have now ticked over more than 500,000 new jobs created here in Queensland since the election of the Palaszczuk government in 2015. In fact, to be precise—and we should be precise because every one of these is another Queenslanders in a job who would not be otherwise—520,949 new jobs have been created here in Queensland by the Palaszczuk Labor government because we put creating jobs as our No. 1 priority.

The Leader of the Opposition says that the best thing about his job is listening to Queenslanders, but I think we have just seen that he is a lot better at talking than he is at listening. He does not listen at all. In fact, he cannot listen—apart from maybe the occasional LNP branch meeting. All he knows is the LNP playbook and that playbook starts with personal attacks—dirty personal attacks. How unbecoming to use the privileged position of the Leader of the Opposition making a budget reply speech and having to correct the record after making a shameful personal attack. Do members know what stands out to me? These personal attacks are nearly always against women. They are nearly always men over there attacking women over here. Of course, it cannot really go the other way because there are not any women over there. They come in here and use that platform to make personal attacks on our Premier. That is all he knows how to do.

I will tell members what else: if the LNP leader listened to Queenslanders, he would know that Queenslanders love our state. They want a government that talks up our state, not one that talks our state down. Did members hear anything in that 56 minutes that said anything positive about our state? When I talk to Queenslanders they love our state, particularly at this time of year, but think about it: unemployment at historic lows, massive jobs growth, strong economic performance across every measure, record surpluses. However, if someone did not know all of that and all they heard was the 56 minutes of the Leader of the Opposition, they would think the sky was falling in. How extraordinary to spend 56 minutes and not once mention jobs. Not once did he mention jobs and not once did he mention the economy. This is the budget reply and the Leader of the Opposition did not mention jobs or the economy. How incredible is it that he took an hour to talk down Queensland without mentioning the economy!

If the Leader of the Opposition listened to Queenslanders, he would know that Queenslanders support our health workers. We think that our health workers do a great job and we are actually pretty sick and tired of the LNP criticising them every single day. They do not deserve to be attacked. They do not deserve to be called 'duds'. If he really listened to Queenslanders he would know that Queenslanders want the government to deliver the projects that our growing state needs and he stated repeatedly his insistence that the LNP would cut these projects back to their original budget. Let us think about what that means. Queenslanders know that building costs have gone up and that, when costs increase, to deliver the original project you need to increase the funding. If you refuse to increase the funding, either you need to cut those projects back to their original budget or you have to cut whole projects. In his speech he effectively confirmed \$11 billion of additional costs that would not be met by the LNP, and he pointed to Cross River Rail. If there is one thing I could say it is that Cross River Rail would have been delivered cheaper if it had not been cancelled the first time and if those opposite had not rejected the federal government funds that were on the table, there and ready. In fact, it would be built now. We would be catching trains on it now. They would be trains built in India, but that is a separate matter.

Here is where the test will be though: come the election in October next year, the actual cost of each and every one of these projects will be known. If the leader of the LNP is going to go to the election and say that he will not fund them at their cost, then it will be clear that he is cutting them. I tell members: I listen to Queenslanders and I know that they want those projects built. They want those projects delivered. I thought it was amusing that the Leader of the Opposition noted how many former mayors and councillors he had on his team, because he does not often like to recall how many former ministers he has on that team. Of course there are many, and he is one of them, and so he criticised us for not increasing funding to councils through Works for Queensland, which is our flagship funding program for local governments—

**A government member:** Which they refused to commit to at election time.

**Dr MILES:**—which they refused to commit to at election time. He did not note all of the extra funds in the budget to ensure sustainability of remote Indigenous councils and certainly did not mention that when he was the local government minister he said that the state government could not afford to give local government any more money and that they should find new ways to fund themselves. I found this 56 minutes of hypocrisy quite incredible. He again attacked our satellite hospitals, and I will tell members: I have been in a few of these satellite hospitals now and if he listens to Queenslanders after they have been to these satellite hospitals he will not be criticising them anymore. He criticised our performance on recycling when the reason Queensland still lags on recycling is that we are catching up to the other states that did not have a reckless LNP government come in and abolish the price signal that drives investment into recycling and waste recovery. We continue to recover. We continue to catch up from that highly irresponsible policy delivered, in part, by the Leader of the Opposition when he was the local government minister.

Let me turn to the very few new policies that were included in the speech of the Leader of the Opposition. The first one, which was in the paper today, was the insistence that they will freeze consultants and overhaul the Public Service. I thought his choice of words was amusing. He said they will freeze consultants and overhaul the Public Service 'like never before'. It is probably an appropriate choice of words because the last time they said it they did not do it either. In 2012 when they went to the election with a commitment to freeze spending on consultants and said that public servants had nothing to fear, the next thing they did was bring in Peter Costello—a consultant—to give public servants a hell of a lot of things to fear. They went on then to spend \$100 million on consultants from the top end of town to plan their sale of our assets. The Leader of the Opposition himself paid KPMG to lead the council deamalgamation process. That is one of the very few new announcements those opposite made—the same one that they promised in 2012 and never delivered on.

The second big announcement was that they would stop buying homes for homeless people. What do you say to the hundreds of people living in homes right now built with those funds who would not have homes?

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Lister): I understand that there is some provocation, but the interjections from my left are too many and too loud.

**Dr MILES:** Let us return to the claims of the Leader of the Opposition that he listens. If he really listens his speech would have set out a detailed plan to address cost of living, like our budget did, but did we hear one? We did not. In fact, all we heard from them was reported electricity price increases without consideration of the rebates, without including the impact of the rebates to bring those bills down. To walk in here and say that bills will go up where for most Queenslanders bills will go down, and for pensioners probably down to zero, is so disingenuous and dishonest, particularly to those pensioners. He pointed to the impact of the explosion at the Callide Power Station. Let us make it very clear that if the state government did not own the Callide Power Station it would not be being rebuilt right now. If those opposite had sold it off, a private sector operator would never rebuild it. It would have been shut, in fact, years ago. The impact of that would have been massive, as one can see in other states where privatised electricity generators are choosing to close their assets.

Finally, the big test that was set for the Leader of the Opposition was whether he would keep our progressive coal royalties. I want to point this out because he was very careful with his language. He said he would support them in this budget, but he never said he would keep them. This goes to the deal that they have done with the Queensland Resources Council to cut coal taxes if they are elected. They have not ruled out cutting coal taxes if they are elected.

Jobs are at the heart of what this government does and they are at the heart of what we have funded in my agency in this budget. The Big Build will create jobs over the next four years—\$89 billion over the next four years, supporting 58,000 jobs in the next year alone. That takes our total infrastructure already delivered or committed to a total of \$185 billion. Queensland is embarking on our biggest decade of infrastructure delivery and it is the Palaszczuk government that is funding this big build. We are expanding the services Queenslanders rely on, building more hospitals, more satellite hospitals, increasing hospital spending, more schools, we are delivering Cross River Rail and Bruce Highway upgrades, we are making trains in Maryborough again where they should have always been made. This Big Build will generate jobs, improve services and improve our lifestyle. We are delivering the projects in the Renewable Energy and Jobs Plan: the SuperGrid, \$1 billion for Pioneer.

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Kawana, order.

**Opposition members** interjected.


**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order, members to my left. I will start warning members under the standing orders.

**Mr Crisafulli** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition, you are skating on thin ice.

**Dr MILES:** Our \$80 million in land acquisition in Gladstone will allow us to continue to create new jobs there; \$45 million in the Regional Industrial Land Improvement Program will give trunk infrastructure to new estates in Mackay and in Gladstone.

Can I finally say how proud I am that this budget delivers for my community in Murrumba. It delivers better health services, better schools and jobs in our community. We are delivering the operational funding for the Kallangur satellite hospital. Despite the opposition of those opposite, I am incredibly proud of that new facility and the services it will be able to deliver, things like renal dialysis closer to home, oral health services closer to home, outpatient services like geriatric assessments and a rapid access clinic. We are delivering a new clinic at the Dakabin State High School that will service both the high and the primary school and new classrooms are funded for Kallangur State School and Griffin State School. People in Murrumba are most excited about free kindy. There are so many kids in our community and places like Dakabin and Kallangur that have not been able to access kindy will be able to now because we have made it free. This is a great Labor budget.

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (12.26 pm): On Tuesday the Treasurer delivered the budget—the Palaszczuk government's ninth. The budget proves that Queenslanders cannot trust the Labor government to solve the long-term challenges facing Queenslanders in their daily lives. The government has called it the cost-of-living budget, the budget needed to address the cost-of-living crisis.

Queensland is ground zero for the national cost-of-living crisis. Recent ABS data highlights that Queensland families and businesses face power bills 32 per cent higher, healthcare costs 5.4 per cent higher and housing expenses 3.4 per cent higher in just 12 weeks. To be absolutely clear, they are quarterly numbers and the worst in the nation by some distance. Equally clear is that Queenslanders are the poorer for it. Queenslanders need cost-of-living relief now and that is why we support the government's measures, but the more salient question is: why has the Palaszczuk government not fixed the long-term underlying service delivery failures that are driving down Queensland living standards?

The Queensland crime crisis is driving up home and car insurance premiums. That is a long-term service delivery failure that is not solved by this budget. An inability to deliver residential housing lots to the market, infrastructure, and social housing is worsening housing affordability and availability. That is a long-term service delivery failure that is not solved by this budget. The Palaszczuk government promised 150 times that power would be cheaper. It is not. That is a long-term service delivery failure that is not solved by this budget.

I want to spend a few moments now on power prices. Quite simply, the Palaszczuk government has deceived the Queensland people. Power prices are getting worse, not more affordable, which is what the latest pastel social media tiles have recently suggested. Last week it was the turn of regional Queensland to bear the brunt of this deception. The Queensland Competition Authority advised that regional prices would be increasing 28.7 per cent for households and 26.8 per cent for small businesses across regional Queensland. Taken together with last year's Queensland Competition Authority determination, regional Queenslanders now face a 38 per cent power price increase in just two years.

Why have Queensland power prices increased so dramatically? The Auditor-General and the Queensland Competition Authority say why. It is Callide. Members will recall that Minister de Brenni had initially said Callide C4 would return to service by the end of 2022 but it was pushed back to February 2023, then April 2023 and then October 2023. Just a fortnight ago it was announced that Callide C4 would not be fully operational until July 2024, more than three years after it went offline in 2021. Members will recall that in August 2021, in response to a question asked during parliamentary estimates, Minister de Brenni said that the Callide incident 'would have no net impact on consumer electricity prices'. Wrong again.

It is not me who is saying this. The Auditor-General said 'a lack of supply, from unplanned maintenance in power plants like Callide, is a primary factor in driving up electricity prices'. The Queensland Competition Authority has also called into question the minister's comments on the impact of Callide C's explosion, noting that unplanned outages were a factor in price rises. It is obvious that

the Palaszczuk government's failure to properly maintain Queensland's power plants over the long term is costing Queenslanders now. Again, it not me saying that. In 2022 the MEU called into question maintenance issues at Callide, calling on 'the Queensland Government to step in and ensure that Callide is being responsibly managed and maintenance and repair is prioritised.' No announcement can get the government off the hook—not the mysterious departure of their old mate Jim Soorley as CS Energy chair, not their silence on the future of Genuity and not even their hiding of the Brady report, which would explain what happened at Callide and why.

When we look across nearly a decade of the Palaszczuk government, a pattern of economic decline is apparent. In 2015, when assuming office, total state debt had been stabilised at \$72 billion. It went to \$102 billion before the world had ever heard of COVID and has grown to \$110 billion now. It will be \$147 billion by the end of the forward estimates. That growth is a reminder that in just four years, between 2006 and 2010—someone such as the Premier might remember those years—Labor nearly tripled state debt and they threw away our AAA credit rating as the bitter icing on the cake. That would be something that the Treasurer remembers well.

The history of Labor treasurers during the Palaszczuk government reveals a different story of sleights of hand, mismanagement and broken promises. Labor raided over \$12 billion from public servants' superannuation and government owned corporation balance sheets; \$3.4 billion was raided from the government employee long service leave scheme in the 2015-16 budget; \$2 billion came from suspending the government's contribution to the defined benefit scheme in 2015-16; \$2 billion was raided from the defined benefit surplus in Labor's 2016-17 budget; and over \$5 billion was raided from government owned corporations in the 2015-16 and 2016-17 budgets. We had the Trad years of raids on property taxes but at least she had the fortitude to remain predictably ideological.

Today, despite revenue rivers of gold, Queensland families are paying a high price for the deceit of the member for Woodridge and the chaos and crisis of the Palaszczuk government. If \$60 billion more than what the Treasurer expected in his first budget just three years ago is not enough for the Palaszczuk government to fix services then how much will be enough? What is that figure? The truth is that no amount of funding will ever be enough for them. A similar revenue windfall, albeit of a smaller nature, was recently enjoyed by the new federal government. The federal Treasurer decided to pocket 80 per cent of his revenue windfall with the aim of protecting the integrity of the federal balance sheet going forward. But what has the Treasurer banked of what is left of those rivers of gold? He has certainly barely retired any debt. In light of our Treasurer's record, is it any wonder that federal Labor do not trust the Palaszczuk Labor government? Olympic contributions have been capped, key water projects have been scrapped, Bruce Highway funding has been delayed until beyond the next federal election and \$15 billion of state building projects are at risk of being wiped.

Interest payments are now costing Queenslanders over \$3 billion a year and will soon cost \$5.7 billion per year. Since 2015, tax per Queenslanders has increased by over 50 per cent. Queensland's share of Australian GDP remains stagnant at around 18½ per cent, with a troubling downward trend since 2015.

The Palaszczuk government has a deep philosophical aversion to private business investment in this state, made obvious in its introduction of 15 new taxes since it was elected. Private business investment is down more than 40 per cent in real terms. That is after a period of record low interest rates and the instant asset write-off. Moreover, the solemn 'no new or increased tax' promise, given 26 times by the Treasurer and broken last year, was done without any respect to the industry that sustains the Queensland budget. A Crisafulli government will always treat investors, stakeholders and our international trade partners with respect. When we make a commitment we will stick to it. Queensland cannot be a state where the government could turn on you at any moment with a hit-and-run cash grab. Queensland cannot be a state where policy is made up on the fly by a government addicted to announcements and one that mistakes talking for action.

After nearly nine budgets and a decade in power, time has run out for the Palaszczuk government. It has announced untold billions of dollars for the best part of a decade and it is not possible to say that anything has improved on any measure. The billions of dollars put into the Housing Investment Fund have not delivered a single house. As is customary, the Treasurer appears oblivious to the struggles of those facing housing affordability or availability challenges. QCOSS has said that 300,000 people are under critical housing stress and the rate of homelessness has increased by 22 per cent since 2017. For the Treasurer to say that this fund will never stop giving is offensive. Far better he be truthful and admit that the fund has not yet even started giving.

The billions of dollars put into the Health and Hospitals Plan has not delivered a new bed, ward or hospital. This budget unveils the deceptive nature of their glossy brochure from last year's budget as 95 per cent of the promised funding will only be delivered after the next election. The billions of dollars tied up in infrastructure project delays and overruns have Queenslanders stuck in congestion as they wait for projects to be finished years late. Tens of billions of dollars put into record health and policing budgets have delivered the worst ramping in the country, 38 closed maternity wards and fewer police than before the last election. Of course, Queenslanders are still waiting for the billions of dollars that the government has announced for the second Bruce, the cornerstone Pioneer-Burdekin hydro hoax in the Jobs and Energy Plan and CopperString to actually even appear in capital statements in the budget.

Two years ago I announced our proposal for a loan scheme to invest \$20 million every year to empower social entrepreneurs and community organisations to change the lives of Queenslanders who need it most. Today I announce our next step. A Crisafulli government will establish Queensland's first-ever office of social impact in Treasury. The OSI will work alongside impact investors, community organisations, faith groups, philanthropic groups, corporates and social impact businesses to co-design a road map for social enterprise and social impact in Queensland. Basing the OSI in the engine room of Treasury means that ministers and their departments can unlock the information needed. In a world of infinite need but limited by scarce resources, the potential for collaboration between government, socially-minded investors and the impacting business community to identify opportunities to access finance is vast.


No social impact investment model should be off the table, whether they be social benefit bonds, outcomes focused grants, payment-by-results contracts, incentive payments and layered investments. Social impact businesses, not-for-profits and community organisations are grassroots, connected, on the ground and ready to help tackle our most difficult challenges, whether that be youth offending, homelessness or foster care. Social Enterprise Australia estimates there is 12,000 of them around Australia employing some 200,000 people—organisations like Orange Sky, the Big Issue and 'Who Gives ...' come quickly to mind. They have the knowledge, heart and personal drive to change the world around them in their own city, in their own towns and on their own streets.

I strongly support our leader's commitments today that will support service delivery and put downward pressure on the cost of living. We will provide world-class, professional development and training to improve the skills and leadership of our Public Service, because we need Australia's best public service to pull Queensland out of the deepening chaos and crisis of this government. With Australia's best public service to provide fearless advice, we will restore world-class services to every Queenslanders, no matter where they live. It is a mountain that we are ready to climb with the member for Broadwater leading us, because Queensland cannot wait any longer for a government that cares—

**Mr Whiting** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Lister): Pause the clock. Sorry to interrupt, member for Toowoomba South. The member for Bancroft knows very well not to interject from a seat other than his own. He is warned under the standing orders.

**Mr JANETZKI**: Queensland cannot wait any longer for a government that cares, delivers and keeps its promises. Queensland has never been in this much debt. Never have Queenslanders paid more tax nor the Queensland government collected such rivers of revenue gold. Never have we seen the wasteful spending of the magnitude that we see every day. As each year of the Palaszczuk government passes, Queenslanders not only have less and less to show for it, they have lost trust in the Palaszczuk government to solve any of the challenges that they face in their daily lives.

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (12.42 pm): Never will Queensland see the LNP on this side of the House. If that is the best they can do, I suggest they go back to the drawing board because talk is cheap. What the Leader of the Opposition's speech in reply—and that of the shadow Treasurer—shows is that they are completely out of touch. Clearly, the survey research is showing that they have an issue with the Public Service—and rightly so. People have an issue in trusting those opposite. Those opposite have an issue with credibility. How do you try to get credibility? You try to demonstrate that your opposition has a lack of credibility by making out that you have the credibility to deliver. It is clearly what the research is showing. To talk about trust in government—and the environment, for goodness sake—after what they did when in government is extraordinary. They talk about youth crime without acknowledging that all over Australia and the world there are similar concerns in this area. Every state and territory has been experiencing this. In order to try to control it or something about it, what did they bring in when they were in government? They brought in boot camps. They absolutely failed.

They talk about the funding of infrastructure yet they do not talk about the economic activity that generates the jobs. They are saying that they guarantee—or they did not actually say that—that all of them would come in on time and on budget. I did not hear the Leader of the Opposition guarantee that no project will blow out, no project will increase in costs or no project will not come in on time. There were no guarantees that there will be no cost increases. When it comes to the issue of crime—and all of us in this House are concerned about it—there was no guarantee that they will stop crime completely, because no government can do it. I do not care who they are. We know that there are victims out there and we want to support them. There is money in this budget to do that. But there will be victims not matter who is in government. That is the reality. It is not about politics and talk; it is about delivering what the people of Queensland need. This budget is delivering it in spades.

They did not mention one word about jobs—the most significant issue. I would like to go back and read the Leader of the Opposition's speech and see whether jobs were mentioned. There was no mention of the unemployment rate in this state—the lowest we have seen in Queensland's history. As advised by the Deputy Premier in his contribution, there have been 500,000 new jobs created since we have been in government. People in employment generates economic activity.

Those opposite talk about health, yet in the few years they were in government health was absolutely decimated. They will never gain the trust of public servants because of the manner in which they were treated. Their numbers were decimated when they were in government, no matter what their research says or no matter what they promise. We heard them say, 'We will have the best Public Service', yet they could not make one agreement in their three-year term of government. Everything we have done in industrial relations to support workers in this state has not been supported by those opposite, yet somehow they are going to wave the magic wand and it is all going to happen. As I said earlier in my speech, talk is cheap. It is about delivering. When it comes to health, who will ever forget not just the decimation of staff numbers and frontline services that we had to rebuild but the waiting list for the waiting list for the waiting list. Their response to health issues is, 'We are going to issue a report.' Good luck with that one because if that is what you are proposing I do not think you will get the trust of Queenslanders.

I am proud to stand in this House as a minister of the Palaszczuk government and speak about this budget. This budget helps ease the national cost-of-living pressures impacting Queensland while investing in health care, housing and infrastructure for our growing state—issues grossly ignored in the opposition leader's speech in reply. It tackles national cost-of-living pressures. I do not think I remember a situation as an adult like the situation we are in post COVID—all of a sudden they are in the denial phase. People such as my constituent Kevin Seymour, a very respected developer in this state, says that never in his lifetime has he seen the construction industry in this way. We have Scott Hutchinson from Hutchinson Builders, one of the most respected builders in Australia, coming out saying they have never seen the building industry in Australia and in Queensland this way in their lifetime. Yet those opposite completely ignore the post—

**An honourable member** interjected.

**Ms GRACE:** It is like he is going to come in, wave the magic wand and everything will be hunky-dory—'Just trust us, public servants, because we are going to make you the best.' I think we need more than words to be able to deliver that, because actions speak louder than words, and the member's actions require a lot of talk in order to convince people.

This budget also responds to those national health and housing pressures. Like I said, I have never seen 12 interest rate increases in a row ever before. Somehow they ignore all of that and say that it has nothing to do with anything in this state. They are living in a bubble. They are trying to convince themselves that they have all the answers by getting up and listing complaint after complaint, whinge after whinge, issue after issue, without talking about one single worthy policy that is going to address any of it.

This budget sets us up for the future with major investment in our Energy and Jobs Plan. Do they think we are going to deliver \$60 billion of infrastructure overnight? 'When's it going to happen?' they ask. Are we going to build it overnight? It just goes to show their lack of—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms GRACE:** Well, they were going to bring air conditioning into schools and it was going to take eight years for them to do that! Yet they are questioning us about a \$60 billion Energy and Jobs Plan. They have to be kidding.



They had the opportunity to deliver Cross River Rail and they turned their backs on it. It would have been built by now. They turned their backs on \$750 million from the federal government and they would not build it. It would have been built by now. They are trying to convince us that they are going to deliver not only the infrastructure that this state needs but also the infrastructure needed for the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Talk is cheap. Actions speak louder than words.

Our investment will unleash new industries and jobs in our regions. All of this is only possible because we own our public assets—we are not going to sell them—and we are making sure Queenslanders, especially in our regions, are getting a fair share from current high coal prices. Those opposite have not convinced us about what they are going to do with those royalties.

We have once again delivered a record education budget of \$17.8 billion—up 8.3 per cent on last year. That is a real record increase in funding. The Palaszczuk government will always invest in the future of our kids and grandkids through both school and early childhood education. We will give the children of Queensland the best possible start in life and support our tireless teachers, educators and staff every step of the way.

Delivering a world-class education allows every child to reach their full potential, and it should start early. That is why we have asked Queenslanders what they thought of our free kindy. More than 6,500 responded to our survey, with 98 per cent saying it would help them and their families. We have listened and we have acted. As the education minister, I am incredibly proud, as we all are on this side of the House, to be bringing free kindy to Queensland.

From next year, every child of kindergarten age will receive 15 hours of kindergarten for 40 weeks—a total of 600 hours a year free of charge, whether they are enrolled at a sessional kindergarten or a kindergarten program in a long day care centre. This additional investment of \$645 million will bring the total investment in kindy to over \$2 billion over the next four years. This is a long-term reform that will not only provide lasting positive results but also provide immediate cost-of-living relief for families feeling the crunch, with savings of \$4,600 a year for thousands of families in community kindergarten and around \$1,800 for those in long day care, depending on their circumstances.

We put our toe in the water with Kindy for All and we are now going the next step. We want to ensure that those 8,000 kids who are not in kindy will get the benefit of free kindy. There is also \$120 million for staffing, \$112 million for those from a disadvantaged background and \$91 million for children with a disability. We want to work with Down Syndrome Queensland, Autism Queensland, Hear and Say and other organisations to give our kids the best start, and this ticks all the boxes.

Equity and Excellence is how we are going to be focused on the learning outcomes. Our \$17.8 billion education budget has millions of dollars dedicated to Equity and Excellence. This includes: \$210 million for our new Educational Futures Institute—a flagship program that will provide professional development and wellbeing support; \$66 million for enhanced principal support; \$177 million for our bandwidth upgrade so that our kids can get online and learn as well; \$82 million for a virtual academy; \$30 million for our innovative Turn to Teaching and Trade to Teaching programs; and an \$8 million boost to grants and scholarship programs helping to get more people into teaching. The list goes on. There are many very good initiatives in this budget to bring about equity and excellence in our teaching.

The Palaszczuk government will deliver on infrastructure—as I said, four times the amount spent by those opposite when they were in government. We have a 10-year \$1 billion rolling land fund so as the land becomes available in our growing areas we can take those opportunities and get the sites that we need to deliver. We have \$120 million set aside for a new special school in Logan and for Springfield Central State High School to undergo a major expansion. We have \$358 million invested in new general and specialist areas. We have also allocated over \$100 million for the relocation of the East Brisbane State School, and the report in regard to that will be out very soon.

Other education highlights are that we have more teachers. We have the Great Teachers Great Future election commitment. We are on target to meet that election commitment. I am very excited to be delivering a fantastic education budget that will deliver targeted resources like Clontarf, STARS and—

**Ms Pease:** Darling Point Special School.

**Ms GRACE:** Darling Point Special School, which we visited recently. There are so many projects and so many great things that we are doing to ensure kids get a great start.

In the racing portfolio, racing has never been better and it is going from strength to strength. They are capitalising on our new funding model and delivering real and great benefits. In the industrial relations portfolio, we are leading the nation. I remember recently we had some federal commissioners here and they were complimenting us on how Queensland has led the nation on so many fronts—all not supported by those opposite.

In my electorate of McConnel, my constituents will appreciate the \$550 electricity rebate and my pensioners will appreciate the \$1,072 rebate. They will get a lot of electricity for free. As electricity goes up—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms GRACE:** Don't muddy the waters. Talk about our rebates. Talk about the amount that they are going to be getting to offset that. The same thing is happening everywhere else in Australia.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms GRACE:** You may laugh but they are going to get the rebate in their pockets. I say: bring back Deb. That is what I do say.


There is nearly \$700,000 for the all-important ongoing maintenance in our schools. My constituents will benefit from free kindy, Cross River Rail and train stations. There are so many investment opportunities in our state.

**An honourable member** interjected.

**Ms GRACE:** Well may you ask why did I say that? I really believe that, after that speech, you should bring back Deb. I am proud to be associated with this budget. I commend it to the House.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Lister): I remind the House that it is a requirement that anyone wishing to incorporate aspects of their speech into the *Record of Proceedings* should first get approval from the Deputy Speaker. I have a list on the desk here. If there is anyone who wishes to be added to it, they should see the Deputy Speaker.

Sitting suspended from 12.57 pm to 2.00 pm.

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): The Palaszczuk government has delivered its ninth budget. It is a budget of slogans, not solutions. The only surprise I have had all week is that Treasurer Cameron Dick did not post a cringe-worthy photo on his Twitter account like he has done for the last couple of budgets. Last year he was walking around the rose garden out the front of Parliament House. The year before, copying JFK, he was looking outside his window. The only surprise I have had this week is that the creepy, weird photo the Treasurer usually posts has not been posted.

Normally when the budget reply is delivered by the honourable Leader of the Opposition the Premier and Treasurer would sit quietly and listen, but I could see the anger in the Premier today. She was so angry, and she should be because that is a reflection on her government—her government. When the Leader of the Opposition was holding her government to account you could see how angry she was because the home truths were coming home. When the Leader of the Opposition talked about the Premier being more interested in the red carpet and the glitz and glamour, didn't the Premier rile up about that. She took offence because the truth absolutely hurts.

The Premier should be angry because she should be ashamed of her government. She should be ashamed of the health crisis, the cost-of-living crisis, the housing crisis and the youth justice crisis. The Labor ministers, the Deputy Premier and the education minister say that Queenslanders do not remember the last nine years. Forget about the last nine years—it is what we're 'gunna do'. The Premier always says that we are 'gunna do' this and we are 'gunna do' that. Queenslanders are fed up with 'gunna do'. The Palaszczuk government has had nine years to deliver, and all we have seen are slogans and no real solutions.

We have a part-time Premier. Some call her 'Hollywood Anna'. We have a part-time Premier in the state of Queensland who has given up about caring for Queenslanders, given up about caring for the issues that matter and wants Queenslanders to forget the past nine years like it has never happened. They basically say, 'Don't worry about what we haven't done or what we have done which has caused the issues that Queenslanders are suffering today. Worry about what we're going to do in the future. We're going to fix it.' Queenslanders are not buying it. They do not trust the Palaszczuk government, and they will not trust them in October next year for another four years. Can you imagine another four years of the homelessness issues, the housing crisis, the rental crisis, the shuffling of ministers and the youth crime crisis? Can you imagine another four years?

**Ms Scanlon** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** The honourable minister interjects but, as I have said, it is the same old reheat and reshuffle. It is the same old clowns in the same old circus. The minister who is interjecting could not even recycle a popper. When she was the environment minister she did not even know where poppers were being sent overseas. When Queensland kids handed in a popper for 10 cents she could not guarantee where the popper went. Again, it is all about the announcement. They would much rather say, 'No, don't worry. We announced a recycling program', but the minister never followed through as to whether it had been recycled or not. Now the same minister who could not recycle poppers is in charge of housing. My God! Does the Premier actually think the housing minister, who is the failed environment minister, is up to the job of delivering the housing supply issues we need in Queensland? I doubt it, but the Premier obviously thinks she is. The talent pool in the Labor Party is quite bare, so I can understand why they did not use any of the backbenchers. I can see them nodding and laughing. Yes, you—that is who I am talking about.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Lui): Member, please direct your comments through the chair.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** The member for Thuringowa—

**Mr Harper:** Keep it up, mate.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I will.

**Mr HARPER:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at the member for Kawana's outrageous comments.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I withdraw. The member for Thuringowa says one thing in North Queensland and another thing in Brisbane. It is like he hides in a cellar and does not even deliver for the people of North Queensland. He says one thing up there and a different thing in Brisbane.

**Mr HARPER:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I can do this all day as well and I will get my right of reply. I again take personal offence at the member for Kawana and I ask him to withdraw.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I withdraw. When the Leader of the Opposition talked about empowering the Public Service and reducing the amount spent on the big four consultants, guess what the reaction was from the government. The education minister, who is a senior member of the Labor government, laughed. Do you know what she said?

**Mr Harper:** I don't know. Tell us.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I am about to, because it is absolutely disgraceful. She said, 'Good luck with that.' When we talk about empowering public servants the education minister says, 'Good luck with that.' That shows the disregard the Palaszczuk Labor government has for public servants who are aspirational, who want to do their job and come up with great ideas to solve issues. The education minister, who has served in this House a long time, says 'Good luck with that.' That is the disgraceful attack the Labor Party continues on taxpayers.

We on this side believe that the Public Service can fulfil the functions the Labor Party is outsourcing to the major four at the moment. We have confidence that public servants can do what they do. They are telling us they want to, but the Palaszczuk Labor government does not trust them. I would say to the education minister that we do not need luck because we are going to trust the Public Service to do what they do. When the Leader of the Opposition said that we will have the best Public Service in Australia the Labor Party laughed—laughed!

**An opposition member:** It was impossible, they thought.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I take the interjection from the honourable member. They think it is impossible. Well, we think it is possible. We know it is possible that Queensland public servants can be the best in Australia, delivering the very best for every Queenslanders no matter which corner of this great state you live in. The Labor Party does not trust them and that is why they outsource so much responsibility. They do not trust the Public Service, but on this side the LNP absolutely does.

The Treasurer has just tweeted 'breaking news'. I do not know how a minister keeps breaking his own news, which he keeps drafting in his office as some sort of breaking news, but anyway he has tweeted 'breaking news'. I say to the Treasurer and Labor Party members sitting on that side of the House that the only party that has ever voted against a tiered system of mineral resource taxation in Queensland was the Labor Party in 2012. They voted against a tiered system of mining royalties in 2012.

We backed the budget last year. We voted for the budget last year. As the honourable Leader of the Opposition said, we will vote for the budget and the revenue measures this year, but it just shows how desperate they are getting because they have got nothing. They cannot be trusted on their own record. You would think a government that has been in power for nearly nine years would be able to come in here and talk about that record. The Deputy Premier had 15 minutes to talk about the Palaszczuk Labor government budget. He spent 13 minutes obsessed with the Leader of the Opposition. In his own contribution, in his own speech, he barely mentioned his own government and his own budget because they do not have a good history to be proud of.

Let us look at blowouts. There is an \$11 billion blowout. We put a list out, noting the \$11 billion overruns of government projects. They said, weirdly—and they have tweeted it again today—‘That’s a cut list.’ Half the projects have already been completed and opened. What we are simply pointing out is that the government cannot manage projects on time and on budget. There is \$11 billion in overruns. The Minister for Housing is looking at me perplexed at what I am talking about. What I am talking about is taxpayer money, Minister—which you have no regard for.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member, please direct your comments through the chair.

**Ms Scanlon** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I take the interjection from the minister, who does these hand gestures and cuttings and things like that. They overrun and spend on every project. It is the norm for the Labor Party. They do not know anything else anymore. Unless you hold ministers accountable for delivering projects on time and on budget, nothing will change in Queensland. Nothing will change under the Labor Party. That is why the new housing minister thinks that having the Housing Investment Fund buying stock out of the private rental market will somehow help people get a roof over their heads—when the private rental market is below one per cent at the moment and people who can afford rent cannot get a house anyway.

It is not just a social housing issue. It is a housing affordability issue. It is a rental issue. People who can afford it cannot get a house. The minister pleaded with people a few weeks ago. She said, ‘I understand. I’m a renter.’ Do you remember when the new housing minister said this? She said, ‘I’m a Queensland renter. I understand how hard it is for Queenslanders renting at the moment.’ Really, Minister? On \$400,000 a year, you understand the pressures of the rental market, do you?

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Kawana, direct your comments through the chair.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** The minister really understands the pressures of the cost of living on \$400,000 a year—

**Mr Perrett:** And a driver and a car.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** And a driver, a limo and a car. Minister for Housing, we understand how hard it must be for you—how hard it is for the minister as a renter earning \$400,000 a year who leaves work every day with a chauffeured limo. Oh! How hard!

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Kawana, direct your comments through the chair.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Thank you. Our heart breaks for the minister. What it shows is that the minister and every Palaszczuk Labor government minister is out of touch. They are out of ideas, they have no plans, they are not listening to people and they do not care. The longer they have been in power, the more arrogant they have become, and it will not get any better. I say this to Queenslanders: do not be fooled at the next election when they promise the world. The Labor Party will promise the world, but judge them on their history. Judge them for the past nine years—nine years of failures, nine years of not caring, nine years of announcements and not deliverables.


Can I talk about the Sunshine Coast in that vein for the last two minutes? The Sunshine Coast heavy passenger rail was put as one of the important projects for the 2032 Olympics. What is this government doing? A \$14 million business case—a business case! This project was first announced nearly 24 years ago. In fact the Beattie government talked about the Sunshine Coast heavy passenger rail—and Sunshine Coast locals will know it as the CAMCOS corridor—in 2007. The Beattie government announced CAMCOS would be delivered to Caloundra by 2015 and Maroochydore by 2020. Now under Minister Mark Bailey they are spending \$14 million on a business case. The member for Caloundra, Jason Hunt, was on Channel 7 local news two nights ago like a little kid. He was so excited. He said, ‘I’m so excited. We’ve got \$14 million to plan where the route is going to go for the rail.’ I would say to Jason Hunt, the member for Caloundra, that the route has been in place for 24 years. It has not changed. It is time to get on board and fund the Sunshine Coast heavy passenger rail to connect Caloundra to—

**Mr Langbroek:** Choo choo!

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Sorry, to connect Beerwah to Caloundra to Kawana to Maroochydore. I was taking the interjection of 'Choo choo!' from the honourable member behind me. Good luck with that, Hansard!

It is time to get on board. I would say to Queenslanders and Sunshine Coast residents that if you want the rail, you are not going to get it by voting for the Labor member for Nicklin and the Labor member for Caloundra. You are only going to get it by voting for an LNP government at the next election. I encourage residents on the Sunshine Coast to go to [www.getonboardrail.com.au](http://www.getonboardrail.com.au) and sign the petition calling on the Palaszczuk government to stop planning where the rail is going to go because we know where the rail is going to go. It is the CAMCOS corridor; it has been planned for 24 years. All it needs is a government willing to invest in it, get on board and deliver it. That is exactly what the opposition leader has promised to do. That will not happen under the Labor Party; it will happen under the LNP. This is a government so bereft of ideas. Queenslanders want a change.

*(Time expired)*

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women) (2.16 pm): I begin my contribution by apologising to the school students who are here to see our democracy in action for that shameful yelling contribution from the member for Kawana. It is so lovely to see you. I am so happy to talk about our record health budget which is providing world-class health care to Queenslanders closer to home. As I have travelled across the state, I have met with so many amazing frontline healthcare workers who are caring for Queenslanders every day. When Queenslanders needed them most during the pandemic, our frontline health workers stepped up—and to them I want to say a very big thank you.

Before I discuss how our budget will support these amazing staff, I want to acknowledge how bereft of ideas the Leader of the Opposition is. His two new policies today to complement his existing meaningless slogans about health were to reform health data and to create a workforce strategy. Clearly, he has not been paying attention because I have already committed to strengthening how our health data is released, including to make it more transparent and easier for Queenslanders to understand. This is notwithstanding the fact that we already release hundreds of points of data every quarter.

On workforce strategy, I am sorry to say to the Leader of the Opposition that we are already doing that. We are already well underway in developing a key workforce strategy. I have already met in the last few weeks with the AMA, the RDAQ, the QNMU and other health unions about this strategy. I am very pleased to inform the House that key consultation with health consumers and frontline workers will begin in coming months. These were his two big, bold ideas for health and we are already doing them.

He also talked about mental health. We know that he criticised our mental health levy, so my question today to the Leader of the Opposition is this: will he guarantee to keep the mental health levy? Will he guarantee that they will not scrap it in government? Because this is about sustainably funding the care that Queenslanders need.

**Mr Mander** interjected.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** It is not hard to say that you will not cut it, member for Everton—just be very upfront. I also think it is really interesting that the Leader of the Opposition in his speech talked about women, the superannuation gap and the wages gap, but did he have one idea about what to do about it? Did he welcome our \$16 million investment around getting women back into the workforce? Absolutely not. Do you know what would probably help the superannuation gap and the pay gap? Get some more women on your side of the House. That would make a difference to the superannuation gap. The Leader of the Opposition also talked about ramping. Well, hello! That is why we have an incredible plan, Putting Patients First, which involves \$760 million to tackle ambulance ramping.

**Mr Hart:** What are you doing? Building bigger ramps?

**Ms FENTIMAN:** You know what we are doing? We are doing what the doctors that I have spoken to in the last few weeks have told us will help. That is about keeping Queenslanders out of hospital in the first place—hospital in the home—

**Mr Hart:** In the last couple of weeks!

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Lui): Member for Burleigh, you are now warned under the standing orders.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** It is about investing in our satellite hospitals which will mean people can access health care closer to home and not have to go to the ED. It includes strengthening the Queensland Ambulance Service with more ambos and more trucks on the road. This is how we actually reduce pressure from our emergency departments. Queensland is one of the most decentralised states which is why we have \$70 million over four years to increase the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme. I know so many members have lobbied to increase the support to enable financially vulnerable Queenslanders to seek the clinical care they need. We have \$42 million for rural and regional birthing services, and I was so pleased to join the Acting Speaker in that announcement, and of course \$586 million for LifeFlight so that when Queenslanders need care at their most vulnerable, no matter where they are, they can get it.

As I said, at the heart of our system is workforce. Our Workforce Attraction Incentive Scheme will provide interstate health practitioners \$20,000 to move to Queensland and up to \$70,000 if they go to regional Queensland. We have had close to 1,000 inquiries. We are also supporting our student nurses and midwives when they have to travel for their placements, which is fantastic. It is a \$22 million investment to provide a cost-of-living allowance for final-year nursing and midwifery students.

I do want to touch on how much we are delivering in my community of Waterford: more than \$1 billion to continue stage 1 and stage 2 expansions, delivering well over 300 beds. There is also \$2.3 million for the new clinical skills laboratory for Loganlea TAFE, meaning better facilities and more courses. There is also \$1 million for new classrooms at Loganlea State High School, one of our growing schools.

The Acting Speaker has reviewed and approved my budget speech for incorporation and, as such, I ask that the remainder of my speech be incorporated into the *Record of Proceedings*.

*The speech read as follows—*

#### Infrastructure

In last year's budget, we delivered a significant investment of \$9.785 billion to increase bed capacity across the State, which included three new hospitals, 11 major hospital expansions and a new cancer centre. This is the biggest health build in Queensland's history. And the biggest health infrastructure agenda of any state or territory in Australia. In this budget, Queensland Health will continue delivery of this ambitious program, which has now awarded more than \$3 billion of contracts to deliver expansions in Brisbane, Ipswich, Mackay, Logan, Townsville and Cairns. This budget includes \$150 million for a new mental health facility at the Redland Hospital, which will more than double mental health capacity.

#### Mental Health

We are boosting mental health care to the tune of \$301.4 million, which will assist in implementing the \$1.645 billion Better Care Together: A plan for Queensland's state-funded mental health, alcohol and other drug services to 2027. We are continuing to explore opportunities to expand mental health and police co-responder models, so that vulnerable people experiencing a crisis can be assessed in their own home de-escalating issues before they become tragedies.

#### Women's Health

This year's budget also includes almost \$35 million for initiatives that are aimed at boosting women's health care in this state. We want to support Queensland women to thrive and succeed in a gender equal state.

In addition to the \$42M that I mentioned earlier to support rural maternity services we are providing an additional \$13.7 million will support the Growing Deadly Families Strategy so that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander babies born within Queensland have a strong start to life.

The health and wellbeing of sexual assault victims and survivors is paramount. That's why this budget includes \$1.73 million to implement activities that will ensure the integrated, timely and local delivery of high quality, trauma-sensitive forensic medical examinations to victims of sexual assault across Queensland, as part of this government's response to the Hear Her Voice 2 Report.

Health staff are often the first point of contact for people experiencing domestic and family violence. Health workers and clinicians play an essential role in keeping victims and their children safe, as well as helping to hold people who use violence against their own families to account. That is why we are employing more specialist clinicians to train frontline health staff as part of a multimillion-dollar investment.

We are investing an additional \$4.4 million into the program in 2023-24 to increase the number of Full-Time Equivalent DFV clinicians from 13 to 33, with recurrent funding of \$5.7 million committed each year thereafter to support the program.

This state budget investment will prioritise the delivery of trauma-sensitive domestic and family violence training to the frontline health workforce, providing them with the tools they need to make a difference.

#### Women's economic security

The budget papers released today include an expanded Women's Economic Statement outlining this investment by the Palaszczuk government. Recognising that economic security is the foundation on which women and girls can build prosperous lives, \$16.3 million will be invested in a range of initiatives to strengthen women's economic security.


This includes:

- \$4.6 million over two years for the Women in Trade Apprenticeships Mentoring program, to support women undertaking apprenticeships and improve completion rates.
- \$3.2 million over two years to support a Future Women—Jobs Academy program to train, support and connect up to 500 unemployed and underemployed Queensland women with paid employment and training programs.
- \$2.8 million over four years for the Women in Network grant program to support women and girls' participation and leadership in male-dominated industries
- \$533,000 in 2023-24 for the Fresh Start For Me program to establish online resources to support women impacted by domestic and family violence to return to, or enter, the workforce.
- An additional \$5 million over three years to expand delivery of the Backing Female Founders program, launching a raft of initiatives for women entrepreneurs in innovation-driven enterprises.

These initiatives are on top of our ongoing commitment and investment in Back to Work and Skilling Queenslanders for Work programs. We know that Queensland women have immense skills and talents to contribute to the growth of our Queensland economy. Only by investing in these programs can we break down the structural barriers that still exist and ensure women can live successful lives in an economically inclusive Queensland. This includes ensuring that women can participate in the workforce, and I am pleased the Palaszczuk Government is investing \$645 million investment in free kindy will dramatically assist many Queensland families with cost of living.

Conclusion

All Queenslanders deserve access to economic opportunities and a world class health care system that provides quality care closer to home. And Only a Palaszczuk Labor Government can deliver better outcomes for all Queenslanders. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (2.21 pm): I rise to speak on the 2023 budget. This budget proves that the government does not know how to fix the crisis and chaos it has created. The budget fails to deliver long-term solutions to fix the cost-of-living crisis, the youth crime crisis, the housing crisis and the health crisis. Boasts that it delivers the biggest health spend in this state's history is the same as last year and in previous years. Nothing was allocated to Gympie and we have worse outcomes.

Gympie needs a new hospital. In a record \$24.2 billion spend for health, the government refuses to fast-track delivering a new hospital at Gympie and will not commit to an ambulance station at Glenwood. We need funds for a business case and to identify and secure a new hospital site. The previous health minister has ignored all requests. Dismissive answers have included, 'Your suggestion of a suitable piece of land has been noted', or fobbed off to a bureaucrat who said the department will consider it against other funding priorities. The minister could not be bothered. I have had no response to my requests this year.

The government's own Master Clinical Services Plan says we need a new hospital. It was released in 2021 after almost two years of delays. We are now into the fourth year of the government being told Gympie Hospital cannot provide the level of service needed. The report found that—

The existing Gympie Hospital infrastructure creates significant clinical and operational challenges, with services spread across multiple, poorly connected, multi-aged buildings...The fragmented operation of the facility is exacerbated by the steep topography of the site, and the inherent forms of structural constraints of the aged buildings.

The hospital cannot be patched. It went on to say—

There is a need to move away from incremental capital works in favour of a broader investment in the site.

On every measure, Gympie Hospital has systemic problems. The only time the minister was forthcoming about what was happening at the hospital was when it became a media problem. Constituents frequently tell me about their experiences which contradict ministerial attempts to spin away problems and massage messages.

Since 2015, every budget has contained a record investment in health, yet the outcomes are worse and services in Gympie have declined. Patients and their families are distressed and frustrated as services are run down or closed. In March, a six-year-old child suffered for a week with a ruptured appendix because there is no medical imaging on the weekend. In April, we learned that the maternity ward almost closed in July last year and that almost 4,500 people, or more than one in 10 residents, were waiting for a specialist appointment. In orthopaedics, ear, nose and throat and ophthalmology, there were 1,847 waiting for an initial specialist outpatient appointment and 1,065 waiting longer than the clinically recommended times. We have had issues in the paediatric ward, ambulance ramping, emergency department, contraction of services in obstetrics, gynaecology and orthopaedics, and the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme. The fracture clinic closed last year. In 2021, it was the paediatric ward. When 5,205 petitioners fought to keep it open, the minister's response was evasive, argued about terminology and cherry-picked time frames.

Patients travelling long distances were forced to wait excessive times for financial assistance. In March, the administrative assistant to the Nambour Hospital was working on 1,100 Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme claims still outstanding from November 2022.

The youth crime crisis is impacting Gympie and communities are being left without adequate policing or even police officers. The community and businesses were so frustrated they initiated their own crime forum. Rainbow Beach Police Beat operates from underneath a house. It cannot provide the same level of service as a police station. It urgently needs a properly designated police station and additional personnel and resources. The capital statements show government has not met its \$100,000 commitment last year for a Rainbow Beach replacement police facility. It spent \$50,000 with \$50,000 carried over into this year. Any additional funding is nowhere to be seen.

There is nothing about an upgrade of additional personnel at Imbil Police Station, and Gympie police numbers are being padded with those from the outside. For almost four weeks during Easter and the April school holiday period, the Imbil Police Station had no frontline operational staff or sworn police officers. There were no police. For two days a week, an administrative assistant had to deal with issues that she should not have. Imbil's approved strength of two officers is grossly inadequate in a region of 6,500 people. There are long periods when only one operates there. The station has no interview room, no holding cell and barely enough room for the two staff. The approved strength should be four, not four as a number on a spreadsheet—four general duties police officers that the community can see.

The minister frequently claims he is not responsible for police numbers and it is outside the remit of his portfolio's responsibility. It is lazy, it is weak, it is contemptible and unacceptable. Padding police numbers with those from outside the area or trickery about definitions of frontline staff are also unacceptable.

Statewide police numbers have fallen by 72 since 2020. They have gone backwards. Whichever way the minister wants to spin it—frontline sworn officers, general duty officers, frontline operational staff or police officers—the community knows Gympie's manpower numbers are insufficient. The police are doing their best with limited manpower and resources.

A business owner impacted by youth crime wrote to me—

Gympie police is under-resourced and the fact that it is closed after hours and on weekends is totally unacceptable for a region of our size.

I am informed that, at the end of May, six new senior sergeants or district duty officers were being allocated in the region. Not one will come to Gympie. Out of all the new growth portfolios, including eight senior sergeant positions, the Gympie Patrol Group received no extra staff. The Patrol Group does not have a property crime team, drug team, dog squad, forensic crash unit, tactical crime squad, water police, PCYC, crime manager, support officer or brief manager.

Claims that the new DDOs, Tactical Crime Squad, Dog Squad are all district based and can be used in Gympie are hollow. I am told Gympie will rarely see the district duty officers who will be in Hervey Bay or Bundaberg. I am told that the Tactical Crime Squad spends only 10 per cent of its time with the Gympie Patrol Group. It takes the squad two hours to get to Gympie; it is the same for the Dog Squad.

Gympie is a high-growth region. Government slogans are not delivering. Claims this budget will 'build big' are meaningless when the budget capital statements show it has no major investment for infrastructure for our region. The region needs investment in social housing, roads, bridges, high-quality sporting facilities, funding for a multipurpose entertainment and sport facility, floodproofing transport corridors and heating for the outdoor pool at the Gympie Aquatic Centre.

The government's only major highlight claims credit for the Bruce Highway upgrade. It is an ongoing, decade-long project with the bulk of the funds, or 80 per cent, provided by the federal government. It struggled to find projects to showcase in its glossy budget highlights brochure. I welcome funding—and the minister is here—for various schools in my electorate. Unfortunately, it ignored delivering a multipurpose hall big enough to cater for all staff and students at James Nash State High School. Enrolments are already over capacity for some of the existing buildings.

The \$1.9 million commitment for the Imbil Auxiliary Fire and Rescue Station and \$2.4 million to replace the Gympie Fire and Rescue Station are overdue. Ever since I was elected in 2015 I have advocated for a new Gympie Fire Station. Land for a site was purchased in 2014, almost 10 years ago. Whenever I ask about time lines, the response has bounced around from starting in 2022 to being delayed until 2023. Only two years ago the minister said the current station was functional and the project would be delayed.



There was nothing in the budget about upgrading various roads and bridges across the region, and the minister knows about them. In order for the Borumba Pumped Hydro scheme to go ahead, roads in the Mary Valley will need major upgrades to cater for construction demands. It is cynical to boast about the hydro scheme when the government refuses to release its business case and knows it is still subject to state and federal government environmental approvals. Similar assurances were provided for the failed Traveston Dam before it met an abrupt end.

Gympie needs increased train services from Gympie North to the Sunshine Coast and Brisbane. Patients who are being increasingly diverted from Gympie Hospital to Sunshine Coast University Hospital need services so they can go there and return home.

The budget misses opportunities for our agriculture, forestry and fishing sectors and the communities they support. A complete lack of government assistance, poorly addressed labour shortages, poor policy and cuts to service delivery are driving up the price of fruit and vegetables, meat and seafood, contributing to the cost-of-living crisis.

The Premier boasts about record revenue and record expenditure, yet the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, DAF, continues to go backwards. After adjusting for CPI, DAF's appropriation revenue has been cut when compared to the actual spends and the budgeted spends in 2022-23. Public servant numbers will grow by more than 4,600 next year; DAF's staff numbers will grow by only two.

Minister Furner continually fails to stand up for the industry he is supposed to represent. He has abandoned responsibility for biosecurity, lost the war on fire ants, cut education and training, overseen timber shortages driven by bad policy and made decisions about the fishing industry without proper consultation and transparency. We face seriously grave biosecurity threats from diseases and pests like foot-and-mouth disease, lumpy skin disease and African swine fever.

Instead of safeguarding our industries, Minister Furner is cutting biosecurity spending from \$231 million to \$151 million and there is no funding for any new or additional biosecurity staff. The minister is closing the Cape York biosecurity centre at Coen, which is one of the first northern physical barriers to incoming threats. AgForce CEO, Michael Guerin, said the consequences could be catastrophic and it makes no sense. He said—

'It is simply madness to close this facility ...

'Without a solid movement control checkpoint in Cape York, an emergency animal disease outbreak on one of the Torres Strait Islands could have a catastrophic impact on red meat exports ...'

... the country has lost the ability to prevent a pest or disease from spreading ...

The war against fire ants is being lost. Last year the Premier and the minister reinvented the eradication program as a 'suppression' task force. They clearly did not intend meeting their national responsibility to eradicate fire ants. After two years of delay, the review of the national eradication program was released last week. It was scathing about the government, saying—

The inadequacy of funding and subsequent loss of momentum in implementing previous review recommendations between 2015 and 2018 set RIFA eradication back some years.

The government has always failed to act. It has never implemented the recommendations from a damning 2019 report.

Biosecurity Queensland operates the government's Tick Fever Centre, which manufactures and supplies tick fever vaccine. Last week cattle producers received notice that production was suspended from yesterday. Manufacturing will not start again for another four weeks. It is unacceptable.

Industry is desperate for skilled and unskilled workers. Last week we learnt the former Longreach Pastoral College will not be used for training. Surprisingly, the budget still has funds allocated to finalise long-term decisions on the future of assets formerly held by the Queensland agricultural training colleges. A combined \$4.8 million from last year's and this year's budgets is being spent after the assets were sold off in a fire sale. Last month the government also cut funding to AgForce's School to Industry Partnership Program. Michael Guerin said the government 'has quite simply turned its back on agriculture'.


The minister has recycled last year's budget commitment for a new Central Queensland Smart Cropping Centre at Emerald. Fisheries operators are being blindsided by decisions made with no consultation and no transparency around data collection and stock assessment processes. The minister's botched decisions are exacerbated by his continual refusal to complete regulatory impact

statements. The government is so consumed by its own chaos and crisis that no-one consulted fishers about sweeping changes to gillnet fishing zones. They learnt about it in news reports and were given no opportunity to provide feedback. Fishers deserve to see a regulatory impact statement and have a say in major changes which will impact a \$500 million industry.

Skyrocketing timber prices hurt the budgets of families who are building and renovating. The chronic timber shortage is fanned by government policies and inaction and is underpinned by two decades of systemic policy failures. They go back to failed commitments when Henry Palaszczuk was primary industries minister in the late nineties. Labor's timber failures are endemic. In November 2019 the Premier promised a timber action plan and a comprehensive two-year study to identify sustainable future options for timber supply, including on private land. The study was due in 2021. There has been nothing.

The budget has no mention of research and development or agtech, no additional support for drought assistance and nothing about supporting workforce challenges. As rural producers are being attacked the minister remains silent. The minister is silent about the federal government reforms to the Pacific Australia Labour Mobility Scheme and Labor's refusal to listen to the farm sector's plea for an extension to the instant asset write-off at current levels.

The budget fails to deliver the long-term solutions Gympie residents and Queenslanders are demanding and deserve.

 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (2.36 pm): I am very pleased to speak on the cognate bills and acknowledge my strong support for the state budget delivered by the Queensland Treasurer this week. This is a very strong budget, a budget that responds to the challenges facing Queenslanders right now whilst also investing in their future.

We are tackling the current cost-of-living pressures that are being felt right across our nation, in our state and in our neighbourhoods. The cost of groceries, fuel, mortgages or rent and utilities are all increasing and our government is determined to help where we can. We are supporting all Queenslanders through meaningful measures that will support their hip pocket when they need us the most.

The government is providing a record \$8.224 billion in concessions in 2023-24 to Queensland families and businesses. This is an increase of more than 21 per cent compared to 2022-23. We are providing the most significant electricity bill support package announced by any state or territory, more than doubling the size of the federally agreed support package for Queensland under the national Energy Bill Relief Fund.

As part of this package, all Queensland households will automatically receive a \$550 cost-of-living rebate on their electricity bills in 2023-24, while around 600,000 vulnerable households will benefit from a higher \$700 cost-of-living rebate. Once you add the \$372 rebate under the current Queensland electricity rebate scheme, vulnerable households will see total support for this group amount to \$1,072 in the next financial year. I know for seniors and pensioners in my electorate this will more than offset their electricity bill for the whole year. I look forward to meeting with my local seniors groups and sharing the good news with them over the next few months.

I have a fairly young electorate with the average age being around 29, and this includes many young families. I must say our free kindy announcement has already generated significant interest and support in my electorate. The announcement made by the Premier and the Minister for Education this week and backed in by this year's budget will see all families receive 15 hours of free kindy from January 2024 for all four-year-old Queensland children. We know this will not only further relieve cost-of-living pressures and improve access to early childhood education but also support greater economic participation for parents at a time when we really need them in the workforce as we face supply issues.

We are also providing more Fair Play vouchers for children aged zero to four for learn-to-swim activities, funding for school breakfast programs and more support for Foodbank which is supporting many of our local community centres with supplies for emergency food hampers.

It is because of our strong economic performance that we have been able to provide these important cost-of-living measures as well as increased funding for health, housing and community safety along with the critical infrastructure across all of Queensland. This is no accident. Our government made a deliberate policy decision last budget to introduce progressive coal royalties.

We waited with bated breath to hear whether the Leader of the Opposition would back in our progressive coal royalties, and we heard weasel words. We heard, 'Yes, the LNP will support the revenue measures in this year's budget.' Why can they not come out and say, 'We support the policy

of progressive coal royalties?’ We know that they voted for them last year, but since then they have distanced themselves from this decision. The Leader of the Opposition could not bring himself to even say the words ‘coal royalties’ in his speech. Queenslanders cannot, and should not, have any faith in the opposition when they cannot even utter the words. Queenslanders cannot, and should not, have any faith that in the private boardroom of the mining lobby they are not giving them a different story.

They have form. Their form is to cut, sack and sell so we cannot have any faith that they will not cut the important cost-of-living measures we have announced—tell pensioners and seniors they will no longer get support for their electricity bills. They say they support free kindy. If they do not, they will be disappointing thousands of families across Queensland who are excited about this opportunity for their young children. Will they cut the breakfast program that so many children are relying on? Will they cut the infrastructure spend on building our new hospitals and expanding our major new regional hospitals across the state, sacrificing hundreds of new hospital beds that are vitally needed in our health system? Will they prune frontline staff again? They certainly have form on this—sacking nurses, teachers and police officers, to name a few. Hopefully the announcement of a contemporary workforce plan for health staff includes not calling regional health staff ‘duds’.

The budget reply certainly had plenty of personal attacks but very little substance. I certainly did not hear anything about the significant energy plan that we are progressing. This is all under threat if those opposite take control of the coffers. I know on this side of the House we will do everything in our power to ensure that this does not happen and that we continue to deliver for our communities now and into the future.

The Acting Speaker has reviewed and approved my budget speech for incorporation and, as such, I ask that the remainder of my speech be incorporated into the *Record of Proceedings*.

*The speech read as follows—*

Health Services

Deputy Speaker, our Government continues to invest in the health of Queenslanders.

Like many across the nation and around the world—Queensland’s health system is facing greater demand and pressure than ever before.

Driven by our growing and ageing population, and compounded by pressures on primary, aged and disability care—we know the solutions are not simple and require new investment as well as reform and innovation across the health system.

The 2023-24 State Budget is continuing to build on the work of our Queensland Health and Hospitals Plan released last year which not only addresses demand pressures in the short term but will deliver long-term improvements.

Speaker, I’m proud to be part of a Government that understands the importance of resourcing our health system properly.

The 2023-24 Queensland Budget will provide a record \$25.8 billion for the Queensland health system to help meet growing demand—this operational funding will see the deployment of more doctors, nurses and paramedics.

This funding which includes an uplift of \$2.888 billion over 5 years to address demand and cost pressures and support programs and initiatives targeting improving ambulance responsiveness and reducing ramping, addressing pressures on emergency departments, reducing wait times for surgery and specialist clinics as well as boosting women’s health care and mental health care.

In the Ipswich and Logan regions that cover my electorate of Jordan, we are seeing the significant investment to increase bed capacity and to ensure patients are continuing to receive quality care whilst reducing the pressures on our busy emergency departments.

In Logan, we are seeing a \$530 million investment to deliver the Logan Hospital Stage 2 expansion project, which will see an additional 112 beds with a contract recently awarded to John Holland.

In Ipswich, Stage 1 of the \$146.3 million master-planned expansion of Ipswich Hospital has delivered a 26 bed-ward and refurbished space for allied health, oncology and outpatient care, as well a brand new state-of-the-art MRI suite.

And we recently announced the successful tender of Stage 2 of the Ipswich Hospital—a further \$710 million that will deliver around 200 additional beds.

Out \$91 million Acute Mental Health Facility in the Hospital Precinct which is nearing completion and will open this year—50 beds in a contemporary environment for best practice mental health care and assessment, recovery and rehabilitation services.

A brand new \$24.5 million Alcohol and Other Drugs withdrawal management and rehabilitation facility—providing 10 withdrawal management beds and 35 residential rehabilitation beds.

Our new public hospital in Springfield which we are delivering in partnership with Mater Health Services—another 174 public overnight and same-day beds.

Intensive care unit, much needed emergency department, maternity services and additional high level clinical services—all now under construction.

And of course, our nearly completed South Ripley Satellite Hospital.

A fantastic new healthcare facility which will ease demand on Ipswich Hospital and provide care closer to home for residents in the growth corridor—dealing with outpatient services as well as minor injuries and illnesses.

And, in even better news this Satellited Hospital will also include a Modular Sub-Acute expansion which will boost capacity with 90 additional overnight sub-acute beds, freeing up capacity for acute patients in other, larger public hospitals in our region.

#### Schools Funding

Deputy Speaker, I'm also very pleased to see the significant funding for education and early childhood in this year's Queensland Budget—a record \$17.8 billion, an 8.8% increase from the 2022-23 budget figure.

In Jordan we are seeing investment of \$42.5 million for school infrastructure right across the electorate.

We continue to progress a new building at Flagstone State School, a \$10.9 million build along with a new drop and go facility which should be completed this year.

At Spring Mountain State School, construction is about to begin (this week in fact) on two new buildings and this year's Budget provides more than \$23 million to progress this build.

And Stage 2 at our newest Jordan School—Woogaroo Creek State School is due for completion with \$9.78 million allocated in this Year's Budget.

I'm also pleased to see new funding for a number of our schools—\$10 million for new classrooms at Camira State School, \$2.2 million for new classrooms at Woodcrest State College and we are progressing \$900,000 worth of work for refurbishments at Greenbank State School.

Deputy Speaker, a slowing of enrolments has meant that our Senior Campus for Springfield Central State High School has been delayed, but I have strongly advocated for upgrades and more classrooms at the current campus and this year's Budget will deliver \$38 million to progress this along with additional funding to be made available for further land acquisitions if required.

#### Infrastructure

Deputy Speaker, we continue to see strong investment in infrastructure.

I continue to advocate for more investment for the Centenary Motorway—which is a very important connector road for my communities in Greater Springfield.

In a few months we will see the finalisation of the \$15 million Centenary Highway/Logan Motorway Interchange Upgrade—a significant and much-anticipated project for my electorate which will help reduce congestion at this well-known hotspot.

We are progressing a major upgrade of Exit 32 southbound on the Centenary Motorway, expanding this off-ramp from two to four lanes which will be further supported by the Ipswich City Council's upgrade of Springfield Greenbank Arterial Road and a new signalised intersection.

It's great to see early works underway on the duplication of the Centenary Bridge at Jindalee and planning studies continue for the Darra to Toowong and Darra to Yamanto sections of the Centenary Motorway.

There is also further funding to progress work on Exit 33 and Council's duplication of the Sinnathamby Boulevard Bridge and we are supporting Council's Springfield Parkway Upgrade Stage 2.

And, in very good news for our Ipswich communities, Deputy Speaker, this year's Budget will see the Queensland Government matching the Federal Government funding of \$3.375 million for a Detailed Business Case for the Ipswich to Springfield Rail Line.

This is a significant step forward in progressing this vital infrastructure project for our Ipswich region.

It is a project that all Ipswich Labor MPs have been advocating for and we are very pleased to see this funding announcement.

And, we continue to progress rail corridor planning—for the Salisbury to Beaudesert Rail Line Business Case (jointly funded with the Federal Government), another very important project for the southern part of my electorate.

#### Housing

Our Government continues to recognise the importance of housing—affordable housing, housing for vulnerable people, for families escaping domestic and family violence.

The Queensland Budget will provide increased funding of \$1.1 billion for the delivery and supply of social housing across Queensland—which will help to meet higher construction costs and to boost the Quickstarts Queensland program target by 500 homes—bringing it to 3,265 social housing commencements by 30 June 2025.

Our \$2 billion Housing Investment Fund will continue to boost housing supply and increase housing and homelessness support across Queensland.

To date, over 1,500 homes have been approved for support

I'm particularly proud of our Housing Investment Fund that calls on developers, institutional investors, registered community housing providers and eligible government entities to bring forward innovative proposals to add new social homes and affordable housing builds, refits or refurbishments across Queensland.

This is exactly the types of partnerships and projects we wanted to see through HIF—and I know the Government is currently evaluating a number of new proposals through the recent HIF Private Site Invitation which closed in May 2023.

#### Trade and Investment

As the Assistant Minister for Treasury, I have been really pleased to be supporting the Treasurer through the important portfolio of trade and investment—which has never been more important.

I continue to highlight terrific Queensland companies achieving international export success with the support of our Trade and Investment Queensland team and this year have visited companies across Brisbane, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, Townsville and Mackay.

Deputy Speaker, we are exporting so much more—in fact, in 2022 Queensland's exports hit \$137.2 billion—the largest ever calendar year total.

The Queensland Trade and Investment Strategy 2022-2032 continues to be progressed—a \$150 million strategy which will ensure that we continue to support our exporters as they reach for new markets and boost sales where they are already currently trading.


#### Conclusion

Speaker, in conclusion I would like to congratulate the Queensland Treasurer on the delivery of the 2023-24 Budget—I know just how challenging it is to meet the needs of our growing state and to ensure we are continuing to fund frontline services, to fund infrastructure and our growing health and education systems.

May I also acknowledge and thank the Acting Under Treasurer, Maryanne Kelly and the many Treasury officers who worked so diligently and professionally to meet the Government's requirements of delivering the State Budget.

We have continued to invest in Queenslanders—to meet their current needs and to support their future aspirations.

I commend the Bills to the House.

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (2.41 pm): I rise to give my speech in response to the budget for this financial year. Firstly, I congratulate the Leader of the Opposition on what was a very well thought out, articulate and forensic examination of this government's failures over the last nine years. It was a forensic examination which exposed this government for what they are—full of promises and very slack on delivery; full of chaos; full of crisis. This is a government that cannot deliver on the promises that they make. This year they boast about the record revenue that they have received, but our services have gone backwards.

There is no greater example of this than in some of the areas that my shadow portfolio covers. Some of the biggest challenges at the moment are in the housing space. We all know that we are in the grips of a housing crisis, with nearly 50,000 Queenslanders on the public housing waiting list. That is a 70 per cent increase in the number of people seeking social housing accommodation over the last five or six years. This government has treated those vulnerable people with contempt. How have they done that, you might ask? They have done that by continuing to make promises and failing to deliver on those promises.

A new minister has come in and has been there for a couple of weeks. There is a new minister because the former minister obviously failed in her role and had to be shuffled around to another portfolio. Unfortunately, the new minister has continued with the same narrative and the same MO which is, 'Let's make promises and not worry about the delivery of those promises.' For example, according to the government, in this budget 500 new houses will be built. When pressed about that announcement, the minister was very vague on the details and, in fact, what she ultimately said was that those 500 homes would be 'commenced to be built by 2025'. It is now 2023, we are in the middle of a crisis and they have the temerity to treat people like fools. They are treating vulnerable people with disrespect by giving them false hope by making promises that are in the never-never. Why did we come to that conclusion? It is because there have been so many promises that they have made that simply have not come to fruition.

We all remember the Housing Summit late last year, which the Premier had to be dragged kicking and screaming to hold because of a *Courier-Mail* campaign and because of the relentless opposition from the LNP that was keeping them accountable for their promises. Given that campaign, they had this summit. Basically every signature housing policy announced at that summit has proven to be an absolute dud. Let us go through some of those. There was the student accommodation which was generously donated by Griffith University. After six months of this government examining that proposal, after announcement, after announcement, after announcement saying 'Yes, there will be people there in a few weeks, a few months. It won't be long now,' and after spending \$2 million on evaluations, out of the blue they said it will now no longer happen. All of that false hope for 200 people, who are currently homeless, to be able to access emergency accommodation. Then the Deputy Premier came out,

continuing to treat the Queensland public like fools, saying, 'What we are going to do instead is buy 64 houses right across the state. Guess what? We have already done that. We have done that in a two-week period.' We are going to continue to examine and expose that deceit in other forums of this parliament. That was the No. 1 failure.

Then, there was the great granny flat announcement. It was the grandad of all announcements that has been proven to have not have an impact. We asked the housing minister about it; she could not tell us. We asked the Premier about it; she could not tell us. The Deputy Premier could not tell us about it. They eventually came up with something that they concocted somewhere. This was a policy that they said was foundational and would have such a dramatic impact on those who are homeless.

Then, we had the fabulous Help to Home program. In the middle of a rental crisis, they make an announcement that they are asking for 1,000 homes in the private rental market to go into the social housing space. This is how these people think. They do not think about extra supply, which is the core issue of our housing crisis; they think we are going to rob Peter to pay Paul. How successful was that program? They got 55 properties out of a target of 1,000—an abject failure, once again. Trying to take houses out of the private rental market was a ridiculous policy in the first place.

Some of the statistics that we have heard recently are incredibly disturbing. This minister has continued the narrative. I will say that constantly coming out and telling the public how many houses they have built misleads the Queensland public. The inference is that these are additional houses in the social housing portfolio. They continue to throw out the figure of 4,000. The Productivity Commission has exposed that deceit because the Productivity Commission has said recently that, over the term of this government, there has actually been only 1,400 additional houses—not 4,000. This is a miserly increase, in a housing crisis with 50,000 people on the public housing waiting list, of 2.7 per cent. They are big on the announcements. They are very quick to mislead Queenslanders—this is proof of that. Again, it has been exposed. Long before that, the Productivity Commission told us that this government spends the least amount of money on a per capita basis on social housing in the country. It has again been exposed. That is not me saying this; it is the Productivity Commission saying it.

What else did the Productivity Commission report say? This is a government that says it values community housing organisations. Guess what: it does not. It does not value community housing organisations. It is philosophically opposed to community housing organisations. What is the proof of that? In the last eight years, the amount of Queensland government social housing that is headleased to the community housing sector has gone backwards. There are 91 fewer properties. New South Wales has increased it by 25,000, because it respects community housing organisations. This is one of the reasons we have not been able to get access to the NFHC funding. The opposition leader explained it quite well. A billion dollars has gone to New South Wales and hundreds of millions of dollars have gone to Victorian community housing organisations, and we have had a lousy \$8 million out of a multibillion dollar fund. Actions speak louder than words. The community housing sector is champing at the bit to play its part in solving the housing crisis we have at the moment, yet this government continues to ignore it.

This government spruiks about how much money is in the Housing Investment Fund and how it has been increased from \$1 billion to \$2 billion. It could make it \$10 billion. It means nothing if no houses are built from it. At one place at Chermside the first sod has not even been turned. Thirty-two units were supposed to be done by September, yet the first sod has not been turned. Again, the government is great on announcements but absolutely pathetic when it comes to delivery.

I turn from one area of failure to another area of failure—that is, public works. Minister de Brenni thinks he has been sailing on the breeze lately because of all of the other controversies taking place, but he should not worry: people in the construction sector know his shortcomings. There is no greater example than the QBCC. The number of inquiries I get from either builders or people building houses in terms of issues with the QBCC is extraordinary. I am sure that members of the government would not realise how long it takes for a building inspector from the QBCC to go out to inspect a property when somebody has a problem. The average time at the moment is 28 weeks. That is more than six months to have an inspector go out and see a property. That is beyond belief. People who have a problem with their home, who are unhappy with what a builder has done, have to wait six months to have somebody come out and see them. That is despite the QBCC increasing its staff by 30 per cent over the term of this government.

I am running out of time. There are so many failures I am yet to mention that I do not know where to turn. In the area of sport, there is \$2.7 billion for the Gabba, which the AOC chair said needed only a lick of paint. There is no detail on that \$2.7 billion. We do not even know what it is going to provide. What is the outlay for local community sporting organisations? It is \$48 million. Just 1.7 per cent of the projected cost of the Gabba will be spent on local sporting organisations that want just a new dressing room or lights. The lack of investment in local sporting organisations is marked. Everybody is saying, 'What's happened to those grants we used to get of \$100,000, \$150,000 or \$200,000?' I tell you what: my electorate does not get it and I think most electorates represented by members on this side of the House are not getting that sort of benefit.

I turn to my electorate of Everton. The traffic congestion in the Everton area is atrocious, yet we have seen nothing from this government. This is the ninth budget brought down by this government, and each time I have raised the intersection of South Pine and Stafford roads that needs an upgrade. I will give credit to my predecessor, Murray Watt, who went and got the study done. They have the plans. The plans are there, ready to roll. It is probably going to cost about \$150 million now, but we have to get it done. Then there is Linkfield Road. Linkfield Road is not in my electorate—it is in the electorate of Aspley—but my constituents use it and get stuck in gridlock. This mob is not going to address it until 2025. You have your Labor mates in government now federally—

**Ms RICHARDS:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member is not directing his comments through the chair.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui):** Member, I ask you to direct your comments through the chair.

**Mr MANDER:** Thank you for the direction. The road network in the north-west of Brisbane is atrocious. What do those opposite do? They propose a tunnel examination that is not going to help the north-west; it is going to help their electorates. They are going to spend \$35 million.

**Mr Mellish** interjected.

**Ms Boyd** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Aspley and member for Pine Rivers! Order!

**Mr MANDER:** Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. Let's bring some civility back to this argument. It is just unbelievable how they go on.

**An opposition member** interjected.

**Mr MANDER:** Screaming. Here they go once again. We will never again hear about this tunnel—until the LNP comes to government and provides the infrastructure that is needed. That is the main reason we supported the Olympics: we want transport infrastructure built in Brisbane, and those opposite are failing miserably.

**Hon. MAJ SCANLON (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for Housing) (2.57 pm):** It is so wonderful to follow the member for Everton. It was very interesting to hear the member for Everton say that actions speak louder than words—a bloke who was the LNP housing minister who saw social housing—

**Mr MANDER:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take offence at being called a 'bloke', and I ask that she withdraw.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui):** The member has taken offence. Do you withdraw?

**Ms SCANLON:** I withdraw. Under the watch of the member for Everton we saw social housing go backwards by 428 homes, yet he has the audacity to come in here and talk about making sure actions speak louder than words. It is absolute rank hypocrisy. He also talked about some data, and that was the Report on Government Services. I want to be really clear, because I have heard the member for Everton spout some of these claims before. The data he is referring to is net recurrent expenditure. That does not include capital. Every time he talks about that, it is incredibly important for Queenslanders to know that that does not include capital expenditure.

We heard 10 minutes from the member for Everton. We heard around 56 minutes from the Leader of the Opposition. We heard essentially just slogans, no actual policies. The only new thing I heard today was that the LNP does not support us purchasing NRAS properties. They do not support our government purchasing over 300 National Rental Affordability Scheme properties that would help vulnerable Queenslanders—just like the week before last they owned up and said that they do not support us leasing properties from the private market that helps 2,000 people keep a roof over their head.

It was good to see those opposite finally support our \$2 billion Housing Investment Fund. Apparently, though, that memo has not gotten to Peter Dutton, because he is effectively blocking the very same fund at a federal level right now that is stopping investment to deliver 30,000 homes. Those opposite talk about community housing. This very fund would deliver more community housing. In fact, there has never been more money available to community housing than there is right now. Again all we heard were just slogans. Those opposite say that they want to see more community housing, but they have not articulated how other than what we are already doing.

What those opposite did neglect to say and what I note they often neglect to talk about is the public housing data. We know why that is, and that is because they have an ideological problem with public ownership in this state. They always want to privatise—off-load—assets on to other people. We know they do that because that is what they did last time. As I said, they saw a reduction in social housing by 428 homes. They talk about the fact that they want to see more social housing being built, but yet when they had their term in office they cut the social housing capital program by 90 per cent. It is a bit hard to build more social housing if you are cutting the very budget that delivers more social housing. We heard multiple times the Leader of the Opposition cherry-pick data. I was also very interested to hear him talk about public housing, as I said, and I think it is important for the House to note that Queensland is the only state that has seen public housing increase over the last 10 years—the only state. In every other state their public ownership of public housing has gone backwards, but because of our government's investment and our policy settings around public ownership we have increased that.

I was also very interested to hear the Leader of the Opposition's comments around the Closing the Gap targets, particularly given his recent comments that he does not support a voice. This is what I want to know: if he is that interested in Closing the Gap targets around overcrowding, where was his voice in 2018 when the federal LNP government cut funding to the national partnership around remote Indigenous housing? It went to zero dollars in the budget paper. That program was started by both a state and federal Labor government working together and saw overcrowding in remote Indigenous communities decrease. So I will not be lectured to about overcrowding by those opposite. I particularly will not be lectured to about it given that in this budget we are delivering an additional \$128 million for housing solutions for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.


We have also heard a lot from those opposite about the cost of projects. You would have to be living under a rock if you did not acknowledge the escalation in cost associated with building projects at the moment. If those opposite do not want us to spend what it costs to deliver projects, the only solution they have is to cut, and that is exactly what they did last time. We are unapologetically investing what we need to deliver record investment in social housing—a \$5 billion spend. The Leader of the Opposition though had 56 minutes for his speech and could not say the words 'we support progressive coal royalties'. If they cannot support the very measures that will fund increased investment in social and affordable housing, then the only way that they are going to be able to fund projects is to cut them.

I want to also remark on some of the Gold Coast projects, because I find it very interesting hearing from those opposite about projects like the three new train stations as part of our Cross River Rail project, the Coomera Hospital, the Gold Coast University Hospital expansion, the mental health rehabilitation unit, the Robina Hospital expansion and a satellite hospital in Tugun. They get up and talk about these projects but fail to admit to Queenslanders that none of those projects would exist if they were elected to government because none of them on the Gold Coast committed to any of those projects. The only thing they committed to was a planning study for the Coomera Hospital—no actual money for the infrastructure that you would need to build the thing, just a planning study. There would be no mental health rehabilitation unit at our Gold Coast University Hospital, there would be no expansion there, there would be no expansion at Robina Hospital and there would be no Tugun satellite hospital. I know the member for Currumbin gets up and rants about that project, but it would not exist if her party was elected to government. Gold Coasters know that, and the *Gold Coast Bulletin* knows that. I table the front page of the *Gold Coast Bulletin* from the other day which says 'State's huge cash splash on coast health and transport'.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Gold Coast Bulletin*, dated 14 June 2023, titled 'Hey Big Spender—State's huge cash splash on Coast health and transport' [\[869\]](#).

It is only Labor governments that are delivering in this budget for the Gold Coast, whether it be for the health infrastructure that our community needs, the housing that we need or cost-of-living measures that we know so many people need right now through power bill rebates and universal access to Kindy for All. This is a Labor budget that we are all incredibly proud of and I commend the bills to the House.



 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (3.04 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the appropriation bills for 2023-24. The Palaszczuk state Labor government's ninth budget is confirmation that Queenslanders can no longer trust Labor to fix the chaos and crisis that is impacting their lives each and every day. At a time when state government revenue has never been higher, unfortunately state government services have never been worse.

**Government members** interjected.

**Dr ROWAN:** I hear those on the other side interjecting, but government services here in Queensland have never been worse. It is important to look beyond the Labor rhetoric and spin in this state budget to understand and appreciate the impacts that will continue to be endured by everyday Queenslanders due to Labor's abysmal track record of management and significant policy failures. These are the facts. Under the current state Labor government, the growth in total expenses at 71 per cent certainly surpasses revenue growth at 65 per cent. Whilst the state Labor Treasurer may not like to hear it, total state debt will now be \$147 billion over the forward estimates, with annual interest expenses to exceed more than \$5 billion by 2026-27. It must also be highlighted that, based on the state Labor Treasurer's own figures, tax per capita in Queensland has increased by 50 per cent under the state Labor government, with debt per capita set to increase by 35 per cent over the forward estimates.

At the centre of this state Labor budget is an uncomfortable truth for the Palaszczuk state Labor government: Queenslanders are suffering under the weight of a Labor state government that is so focused on itself and its image. Labor has well and truly lost sight of what matters to most Queenslanders. Queenslanders are rightly sceptical of another Labor budget that is big on announcements, particularly from a Labor state government that has a long history of failing to deliver on the promises made. Despite an annual record spend in health every year, the Labor state government's record on health continues to deteriorate, just as it did under the Beattie and Bligh Labor governments. Despite last year's record health budget, Queenslanders are continuing to suffer the worst levels of ambulance ramping in the nation and what this means for patients right across Queensland is extraordinary in terms of the harms and the detrimental outcomes to them. Further, since last year's Labor budget there has also been an additional 30,000 Queenslanders added to the public waitlist to see a specialist doctor. Unbelievably, in the middle of the Queensland health crisis, over \$9 billion—that is, 95 per cent of the 2023-24 Queensland Health budget—has been pushed out to be spent beyond this financial year.

Queenslanders are also suffering from Labor's youth crime crisis that continues to impact communities right across our state and it is nothing short of extraordinary that at a time when Queenslanders are desperate for action and a strong commitment from their state government to maintain law and order the number of full-time frontline police has in fact fallen. It is little wonder that Queenslanders do not trust the Labor state government to deliver the comprehensive solutions that are needed to fix Labor's crime crisis.

As the Liberal National Party's shadow minister for education, I now wish to address the \$17.8 billion in funding that has been allocated in the 2023-24 state budget for the provision of education in Queensland. The inclusion of \$645 million for the provision of 15 hours of free kindergarten for Queensland children is certainly important for the thousands of Queensland families who have been struggling to cope with Labor's cost-of-living crisis. Queensland families have been desperate for additional relief, particularly as New South Wales and Victoria made significant announcements over a year ago to implement free kindergarten and preschool. Many Queenslanders are asking: why did it take the Labor government here in Queensland so long to act? It was in fact a year ago when I addressed the Labor government's 2022-23 state budget where I specifically highlighted the importance of the current state Labor government considering such a measure. As I said in my budget speech last year—

In relation to early childhood education, we have seen the leadership provided in New South Wales and Victoria with multibillion dollar investments. The government here in Queensland certainly needs to look at that and consider implementing that into the future.

The Labor Minister for Education was well aware and put on notice as to just how important it was to ensure that our young Queenslanders do not fall behind their peers when compared to other states and territories. There are also concerns in relation to sufficient workforce capacity and capability and ensuring service and safety quality standards.

The announcement by the government of free kindy and free swimming lessons for eligible children under four years is positive and will be welcomed. However, on other issues it is disappointing—but not unsurprising—that Queensland taxpayers are continuing to pay the price for Labor’s failure to ensure safe work and learning environments in our schools. As I revealed last month, more than \$67 million in WorkCover claims were paid during the last financial year to Queensland teachers and staff. This represents a 94 per cent increase in total WorkCover payments made since the election of the Palaszczuk state Labor government in 2015, with total WorkCover payments made to teachers and staff who had suffered physical and psychological injury now exceeding \$347 million. When it comes to ensuring the safety of staff and students, the Palaszczuk state Labor government’s behavioural management framework in Queensland schools is broken. There must be zero tolerance towards violence in our schools. The safety and wellbeing of staff and students has to be paramount.

The Palaszczuk state Labor government is so consumed by its own chaos and crisis that the Labor Minister for Education is seemingly unaware that school principals are being contacted by the Department of Education and questioned on their suspension and expulsion decisions. I table an ABC News article from 2 June 2023 titled ‘Principals report pressure from Queensland’s education department to overturn suspensions’, which specifically references the concerns of the Queensland Teachers’ Union on behalf of its members. I respectfully request that the Labor Minister for Education immediately engages and consults with the Queensland Teachers’ Union and frontline principals and teachers who have raised the alarm on this practice.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the ABC News, dated 2 June 2023, titled ‘Principals report pressure from Queensland’s education department to overturn suspensions’ [[870](#)].

Along with delayed new infrastructure in our schools and school projects and infrastructure budget blowouts, Queenslanders simply cannot trust the state Labor government to deliver the world-class education system that all Queensland students deserve. The state budget papers for 2023-24 have also revealed that yet again not a single reading, writing or numeracy target was achieved across years 3, 5, 7 and 9, with a significant gap in results for Queensland’s Indigenous students. The Palaszczuk state Labor government needs to understand that for Indigenous students here in Queensland those targets are not being met. Despite the rhetoric in relation to Closing the Gap, those targets are not being met and, in fact, they are worsening here in Queensland. Queenslanders can no longer trust the state Labor government to lift educational outcomes in Queensland. This is a consequence of the teacher workforce crisis which is burning right across Queensland. Again, they are unable to recruit and retain teachers here in Queensland and this, combined with the housing affordability crisis and the lack of accommodation in regional and rural communities, is leading to a lack of teachers entering these schools and communities to teach our students of the future.

The Labor state government is certainly one of chaos, crisis and confusion. As the Liberal National Party shadow minister for the arts, I note the state government’s investment to support Queensland’s richly diverse and important artistic and cultural sectors. Continuing to grow and showcase all that Queensland has to offer when it comes to our artists and creative talents is incredibly important, particularly as the world turns its attention to Queensland ahead of the 2032 Olympics.

As the state member for Moggill one of the most important responsibilities I have is working consistently and collaboratively with various community groups, schools and local residents to fight for and deliver enhanced infrastructure, additional services and increased funding for our local area. Through my ongoing and strong advocacy, particularly through parliamentary work here in the Queensland parliament, extensive ministerial correspondence, sponsored petitions and meetings with various departments and governmental representatives, there can be no doubt that the Palaszczuk state Labor government has been comprehensively informed as to what specifically must be funded and delivered for local residents of the electorate of Moggill.

As a result of this continued strong advocacy as the state member for Moggill, I am pleased that I have secured over \$18.8 million over the forward estimates for a new school hall at Kenmore State High School. This is a very positive development for that school. It is a terrific outcome. I wish to thank the Kenmore State High School community, including principal Paul Robertson and P&C president Kerry Schreiber, who have supported my ongoing advocacy for this vital school infrastructure.

I am also pleased to have secured and see that there is \$6.5 million for additional specialist classrooms at Kenmore State High School; \$285,000 for an additional learning area at Kenmore State School; \$2.2 million for additional specialist classrooms at Moggill State School; as well as \$141,000 for an upgraded and extended outdoor learning area at this school.

I am also pleased to have secured \$900,000 to be spent this year at Pullenvale State School for the repurposing of its administration space; and after securing more than \$25.5 million last year for additional classrooms and infrastructure at Kenmore South State School, I note that over \$14.8 million will be spent in the 2023-24 financial year.

I am also pleased to highlight that over \$24 million will be spent this year on the Mount Crosby flood resilience program, including over \$11.1 million to construct the new vehicle bridge. This is particularly important for that community given the severe weather and flooding event that occurred last year.

That being said, the Palaszczuk state Labor government continues to ignore other critical infrastructure and other vital services that residents of the electorate of Moggill deserve. Despite the Labor state government telling local residents that they were repurposing \$12.5 million from the \$25 million Kenmore roundabout project to cyclist safety, they have only allocated \$1.9 million in this year's budget. Further, and of most concern, is the fact that the matching \$12.5 million from the federal government allocation appears to have been cut by the federal Labor government. We have to remember that the Albanese federal Labor government was elected with the support of Greens preferences.


Local residents deserve absolute clarity, openness and transparency on government funding, including the state Labor government's specific plans to reduce congestion and improve cyclist and pedestrian safety on Moggill Road. This certainly must include funding to fix the OLR intersection of Almay Street, Kenmore Road and Moggill Road through to Kilkivan Avenue. There are certainly safety concerns that still exist at this intersection. I do acknowledge and thank officers from the Department of Transport and Main Roads who have been out to have a look at the intersection and engage with stakeholders and the school. Local residents also want definitive progress on the vital safety upgrade to the Mount Crosby-Warrego Highway interchange after further unacceptable delays last year.

An integrated road and public transport plan for the western suburbs of Brisbane with comprehensively funded solutions to ease traffic congestion and improve public and active transport services with cyclist and pedestrian safety prioritised has once again not been delivered by the state Labor government. On the subject of public transport services, I again share the disappointment of local residents who have joined my specific calls for the extension of public transport routes to communities that are either insufficiently or not even serviced by public transport. This includes the extension of the 444 bus service to the Moggill District Sports Park and the Moggill Ferry and for the state Labor government to increase public transport service timetables, including additional 443 services.

I have repeatedly raised a number of safety concerns on specific sections of Moggill and Mount Crosby roads, including along Moggill Road from Vyner Street to Grandview Road. Additional and improved footpath and pedestrian infrastructure along Moggill Road and Mount Crosby Road, including critical pedestrian travel sections through Pullenvale, Pinjarra Hills, Mount Crosby and a dedicated footpath to the Moggill District Sports Park, must be delivered. It is simply not good enough that local residents, including veterans and seniors, as well as school students and families, must continue to risk their safety when travelling by foot along the state-controlled Moggill and Mount Crosby roads.

Families in the electorate of Moggill are already struggling with population growth and the impact this is having on school enrolments, particularly for the electorate of Moggill's only secondary school, Kenmore State High School. This state budget is a significant missed opportunity by the Palaszczuk state Labor government to fully fund a new high school to service families in the electorate of Moggill. I also take this opportunity to call on the Palaszczuk state Labor government to continue to fund local environment and creek catchment groups. This is important for not only environmental protection but also vital conservation work. I also believe that there should have been an additional investment in police, ambulance, fire and emergency service resourcing in the electorate of Moggill, particularly given recent natural disaster events.

When one looks at this budget, it is certainly not delivering comprehensively for the electorate of Moggill. It is certainly not delivering comprehensively for all of Queensland. There is much more work that needs to be done by this government to improve service delivery, not only in the electorate of Moggill but also right across Queensland. That is what Queenslanders are calling for. In my remaining time I would like to acknowledge the Leader of the Opposition for his thoughtful contribution today. I certainly welcome the announcements that he made.

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (3.19 pm): I rise to speak in support of the appropriation bills. There are two issues that I want to discuss initially. The first is obviously the cost-of-living measures that are being delivered in this budget. They are outstanding. There will be a \$550 electricity rebate for every Queensland household, that is, over two million households. For vulnerable Queenslanders the rebate will be \$700 per household. If we add that to the existing \$328 rebate, that is over \$1,000 in electricity rebates. For many older householders, that would just about cover their electricity bills. What a great initiative from the Palaszczuk government. I congratulate the government for the \$650 rebate for eligible small businesses in Queensland. They will get that automatic rebate on their electricity bills in the next financial year. That is another outstanding cost-of-living measure.

I am really happy about the 15 hours per week of free kindy for Queensland families that will be delivered by this budget. That means some families will save up to \$4,600 a year in another great cost-of-living measure. I am also really pleased to see an expansion of the FairPlay voucher system so that eligible children aged up to four years can have swimming lessons. We all know how important being able to swim is in Queensland. This is not only a cost-of-living measure; it can help save lives in our state. For regional Queenslanders who need to travel for essential health care, the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme will be increased by \$70 million over four years. Once again, that is a great cost-of-living measure that will also help save lives. We have heard that from July Queenslanders replacing their driver's licence will pay just \$35.

One thing I really appreciate, and we have not heard too much about it so far, is the \$2.7 million to expand school breakfast programs, which are such a crucial and underestimated part of our school landscape. Recently I visited two breakfast programs in schools in my area. I could see what a benefit it was for not only the kids but also the teachers, support workers and parents as they interacted. At Deception Bay State School the program is so important that they have implemented it five days a week because it gives their kids a great start to the day, making it a great day to learn.

We know that the state government understands the pressures that Queensland families face. I know it because every day I talk to people in the shops, at hockey and when they walk into my electorate office for a chat. That is why we are making cost-of-living relief measures the centrepiece of this budget.

I will not speak for too much longer but I do want to talk about a couple of aspects of the budget that struck me while I was listening to opposition members speak. I was waiting for someone from the LNP to say something that is relevant to the diverse sweep of Queensland that we have today and to talk about the actual policies they might have to make Queenslanders' lives better—and I mean real policies and not a collection of slogans. Once again, what we heard today was virtually nothing. What little they have said has shown how irrelevant they are.

Yesterday and this morning I was struck by the very fact that the LNP just do not get modern Queensland. Their view of Queensland is very narrow. It is based in the 20th or, God forbid, even the 19th century. They have said nothing about the renewable economy, nothing about Skilling Queenslanders for Work and nothing about a vision for the mass urban centres that will be built in our state in the years to come. In fact, dare I say, I do not think they have made the transition to the 21st century very well at all, but we know they have always been anti trans.

The Leader of the Opposition has said that he wants to build hope over fear. It is true that they want to appeal to people's hope because that is how they suck people in. They use people's hope to get their trust, they harvest their stories and use them for their own political gain and then they just drop those people after they have used them. That is the LNP business model in Queensland politics. It is a heartless tabloid model. They use people's hope and let them down.

The Acting Speaker has reviewed and approved the rest of my budget speech for incorporation. As such, I ask that the remainder of my speech be incorporated into the *Record of Proceedings*.

*The speech read as follows—*

The Palaszczuk Government continues to invest in the communities in Bancroft with a range of welcome capital projects.

The new Moreton Bay Central Fire and Rescue Station is already under construction in Steel St, Narangba. This new and permanent station, built at a cost of \$6.8million will cover the suburbs of Mango Hill, North Lakes and Deception Bay. The roof is on, the internal fit-out has started, and expressions of interest are already out for QFES personnel to work in the station.

Investment in local sporting facilities continues as we head towards the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

- There is \$140,000 for new lights for Deception Bay Football club as part of the Activate! Queensland program. These much-needed lights will allow more matches for local teams and more training.
- There is \$250,000 for a new amenities block at Caboolture Clay Target Club as part of the Activate! Queensland program. This amenities block is long-awaited and much needed at this large and active sports shooting complex.

- There is \$180,000 for the Deception Bay Athletics Centre as part of the Activate! Queensland program. This will contribute to their treasured project of build an artificial running track at this centre, which hosts one of Queensland's leading Little Athletics Clubs.


I am really pleased to see a continued investment in our local schools, especially our older schools at Deception Bay.

- Deception Bay state High School (\$455,000 in new funding for playground and tuckshop upgrades, \$6M of \$8M for a new block, \$100,000 in new funding for covered walkways),
- Deception Bay State School (\$200K in new funding for block refurbishment of H, I and OLA blocks, \$4M of \$8M for a new hall), and
- Deception Bay North State School (\$200,000 in new funding for block refurbishment of SC block)

The massive investment in local roads and highway continues in this Budget. The Bruce Highway upgrade between Pine Rivers and Caboolture will see \$56 million allocated in State government funding going towards construction, project scoping, design and planning of these upgrades, including the Dohles Rocks Road on and off ramps.

This year's funding will see the completion of our local satellite hospitals. \$79 million will finish the Pine Rivers Satellite Hospital and Kallangur, and \$79 million will also go the new satellite hospital at Caboolture.

There is \$11.6M to deliver new social housing under the Housing Investment Growth Fund (HIGF) capital grants (construction) budget item for Bancroft.

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (3.25 pm): In speaking to the appropriation bills I would like to say that there are definitely some positives to the budget and there are also some negatives. I want to highlight some of the positives and the first is the \$3.5 million for the Kurrimine Beach boat ramp. That is a big positive for the region.

In rural and regional areas, most activities are around either hunting pigs or fishing. If you have no access to the water, it is difficult to engage in fishing. I acknowledge the community for their powerful lobbying. They have spent almost four years pushing for this boat ramp. At the present boat ramp you have to deal with crocodiles and jellyfish. When the tide is out you have to use a tractor to bring in the boat and then you have to deal with sandy erosion and congestion. Sometimes fishing competitions have had to be cancelled because it is too congested. If you cannot facilitate a competition then the need for a new boat ramp is evident.

I acknowledge the Minister for Main Roads and Transport particularly for getting members of his department to visit Kurrimine Beach and to draw up the plans. Now we have the funding. We are very excited for Kurrimine Beach but the whole region benefits. It is a great initiative. We are very appreciative and no doubt the community welcomes that funding.

I acknowledge the \$8.5 million for overtaking lanes to be built between Mareeba and Ravenshoe. Everyone gets frustrated with roadworks but the end product is important. We have seen a lot of works happening between Atherton, Mareeba and elsewhere. There has been a lot of frustration felt over a number of years because of those roadworks. The big issue, as I mentioned before, is congestion. Another issue is not having the opportunity to overtake, which is especially difficult in a farming community when tractors and other vehicles are trying to get from one place to another. Therefore, our community very much welcomes that \$8.5 million for passing lanes. That is good dollars well spent.

I want to mention the \$1.46 million to widen and seal the Ootan Road, which is an inland road that is mostly dirt. Trucks unload at Mount Garnet and then go through the Tablelands to Mareeba and come back again to pick up another dolly. That means that there are a lot of trucks on the road causing congesting on the Atherton Tablelands. Most truck drivers would prefer to go on the Ootan Road. If we sealed that road we would see hundreds if not thousands of truck movements every year going around the Tablelands, through the Gulf and up the cape. While this is a great investment, much more money needs to be spent. However, we appreciate the \$1.46 million that will go to that project.

I acknowledge the \$50 million to upgrade the Bruce Highway from Cairns to Innisfail and Innisfail to Ingham, along with the bridge upgrades at Flying Fish Point Road, which has been an issue, and Mundoo Road, Bamboo Creek. That is very important.

In good news, there is \$7.1 million to complete the Atherton Hospital, which is almost ready to be opened. There have been petitions and we have been working with the community. We acknowledge that a number of ministers have come up to the Tablelands, particularly when we had the Ravenshoe blast where we saw a number of deaths. The Atherton Hospital could not cater for many of those injured in that blast. We are looking forward to seeing that opened. No doubt, that will benefit the whole of the Tablelands region in different fields and sectors. The good news, too, is that we now see evidence that people have submitted applications to apply for those positions when those extra spots become available.

There is \$1 million for the Atherton State School to install a security fence around their grounds for the safety of students. This was a big issue. A lot of people found that it easier to walk through the middle of the school during the day and this posed a huge safety issue. I acknowledge that the Minister for Education stepped in and saw that this as a safety issue. We definitely thank the minister for the \$1.1 million in funding for that fencing around the school to address the safety issues, in particular.

There is \$3 million towards the acquisition of land for a new site for the Atherton fire and rescue service. Everyone understands that over the years we have upgraded to new appliances and they are state-of-the-art appliances. However, Atherton could not fit those new appliances in the old fire station. Receiving this \$3 million for the land and to construct the new fire station is vitally important, particularly in terms of access for those new appliances. There is an element of excitement in being able to quickly and safely resolve emergency issues. These will be good dollars well spent.

The final funding has been delivered to complete the new Atherton neighbourhood centre. This community hub is still in the process of being constructed. It has been a long process. We received funding for the case study going back probably five years ago from the previous minister for communities. We ended up getting half the funding on the condition that the federal government would put in half the funding. Finally, after two or three years the federal government put in that funding. The money is there and it will probably be completed by about November this year.

I acknowledge the school funding in my electorate of \$9.2 million. There is \$99 million for roads and \$3 million for infrastructure. We wanted to see funding for preschool swimming lessons through the SwimStart program—the \$150 vouchers. I stood here 2½ or three months ago, raised those concerns and pushed those issues. I am very pleased to see the government providing those vouchers, particularly in rural and regional areas where people have to travel long distances. Sometimes it is a 120-kilometre round trip to get kids to training. There is a cost factor. This will provide families with an incentive to get their children swimming lessons from virtually birth right to school age. It will save lives. One death is one death too many. I believe that they are good dollars well spent.

We did not see the rollout of the telestroke service, but I believe that that is still on the way. I acknowledge the members who have been lobbying for that. It is very important for rural and regional Queensland. If an assessment is done very quickly, it saves lives. It also saves stroke victims from disability and impairment if we can get to them much earlier. We are looking forward to seeing that roll out. I believe that that will come.

A disappointment was the lousy four cents per kilometre for the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme. To give members a heads-up, in 2003 I was a candidate and I pushed for an increase in the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme from 10 cents a kilometre to 20 cents a kilometre. We are seeing so many people travelling to access specialists and surgery. The red tape involved in getting doctors and specialists to sign the forms to get the subsidy for the cost of travel was not worth it. We had it increased from 10 to 15 cents. We pushed and finally by 2012 we had it up to 30 cents. It has not increased from 30 cents and it is now 2023. With the \$15 billion in royalties and given that a lot of patient travel affects a lot of people in rural and regional Queensland having only a four-cent increase is a pittance. That is something that the government needs to look at, because the cost of travel has caused a lot of frustration in rural and regional Queensland. In the city hospitals are close but when you are looking at a 300- to 600-kilometre round trip it is a huge cost.

I raise the ongoing issue of the Herberton Petford Road. I refer to the main section, Watsonville to Irvinebank, which has been a longstanding issue and needs to be addressed. Before I was even the state member, residents had been lobbying for this road to be fully sealed. The part from Herberton to Watsonville is almost finished now. The issue is the road from Watsonville to Irvinebank. There have been numerous, ongoing issues. There is a lot of frustration around that road not being graded every year. There is only a certain amount that Main Roads provides to the council. It is very hard to get that graded every year. There are a lot of potholes and numerous, ongoing issues. If we seal that road it would not only benefit locals but also encourage tourists to visit the area as Irvinebank has a massive, rich history. I will read out a few comments because this has been going on for a long time. I will table these documents soon.

In terms of the Herberton-Petford-Irvinebank road, from 1986 to 2000 12 letters were written either to the council, the minister or the sitting member; there was one question on notice; and there was one analysis done. Another 14 letters were written about the Irvinebank-Petford road from 1998 to 1999. From 2000 to 2005, before I was the member of parliament for the area, there were 68 letters, one speech and one petition signed by 175 residents. There we have another swathe of letters and

petitions. We have also had another 11 letters recently. It adds up to 105 letters, one speech, a question on notice, one analysis and one petition with 175 signatures from 1986 to 2023. The road still has not been sealed. I table all of those letters.

*Tabled paper:* Bundle of correspondence and documents regarding the condition and maintenance of the Herberton-Petford Road, the Herberton-Irvinebank Road and other roads [\[871\]](#).

I know that the Minister for Transport and Main Roads will read them all. One letter states—

I just wanted to bring to your attention a proposal for the Department of Transport and Main Roads to consider for this road. As far as I am aware this is a long-standing issue for which promises have been made in the past but remain unfilled.


The grade in January 2022 was good for only 2 weeks and the subsequent grade in August/September was essentially like having marbles spread across the road and the road has been in a terrible condition for the last 9 months.

The grade that has just been completed is already suffering corrugations after about a week due to no new material being available to properly repair the road.

People may argue Irvinebank isn't big enough to justify such expense. However, millions of tax dollars are spent especially in the south-east corner of the state. Also, how are people meant to be attracted to Irvinebank when Atherton, the next nearest large town where work is available, would mean travelling on an unsafe road every day.

They say that the low-cost option of sealing the road would resolve the problems. That section of the road would not have to be graded every year. Those problems would be resolved.

*(Time expired)*

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (3.40 pm): I am sure that if people were listening to the contributions earlier from the opposition they would shake their head in disbelief in hearing what was coming from that side. The sheer hypocrisy of what has been put forward by the opposition today is outstanding. Queenslanders should be rightly concerned by the budget response today by the Leader of the Opposition. It was Newmanesque in style. I was in the architecture industry before coming into this chamber. I can tell members of the decimation of the department of public works, QBuild. When they talk about project delivery, their track record in that space is beyond belief.

When we look at the one significant project delivered—which was 1 William Street—the Auditor-General reported pretty clearly on that. The land was sold under its value by about \$237 million and then the building was leased back on a fixed term to the government. What a sham deal for Queenslanders! When they talk about project delivery, we only need to reflect on their track record when they were in government.

I am really proud of this budget. I know how much concessions and rebates mean to our Redlands community. We have been talking a lot about that with people in our community. This additional money that will be provided to every household is amazing—\$550 for households, up to \$1,072 for those who are on eligible concession cards and \$650 for our eligible small businesses as well. I have spoken in this House many times that ultimately the legacy that you leave behind that secures our communities for today and positions them for future generations is what we are all evaluated on. I am extraordinarily proud that, in addition to the cost-of-living relief that our—

**Mr Head** interjected.

**Ms RICHARDS:** Member for Callide—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Martin): Order! Direct your comments through the chair.

**Ms RICHARDS:** Deputy Speaker, I am not taking the member for Callide's interjections.

I am really proud of the work we are doing in the health space. We have opened the new carpark that unlocks the site, as well as committed to commence stage 2, which will be a \$150 million mental health facility. That is going to be transformative for the Redland Hospital. It is building on stage 1, which has the ICU and 37 beds with ADCO—

**Mr Head:** Is that the fake hospital?

**Ms RICHARDS:** Honestly, that is so rude. We have stage 1. The additional 25 new beds that Hutchinson Builders are delivering have just been taken out to the site. That is over a 40 per cent increase in bed capacity that we will see at Redland Hospital. That builds on our \$78.9 million satellite hospital located at Redland Bay. It is going to deliver renal dialysis, chemotherapy, older persons care, consultant services in neurology, cardiology and more mental health services. I know the member for Callide does not like our satellite hospitals, but I would love to take the member for Callide to speak with a cancer patient who will be receiving chemotherapy at our satellite hospital and let's see how fake it looks as a hospital at that point!

I am absolutely proud of the work that we have done with our paramedics. We have delivered more paramedics in our region. Let's not forget that Queensland is one of the very few states in Australia that delivers free ambulance care to Queenslanders. When you talk about delivering in health, it is our Palaszczuk government that is delivering. I will sit my track record in health any day of the week next to that of the LNP. They closed the Wynnum Hospital. They closed the Barrett centre. They sacked nurses. Seriously, there is no comparison.

When it comes to road and infrastructure, I thank Minister Bailey profusely for the support that he has given me on the Cleveland Redland Bay Road. The LNP were not even going to start looking at it until 2025. We are delivering now on the ground the \$110 million stage 1 duplication, and this budget commits to the next stage—the upgrade from Anita Street to Giles Road—another \$80 million. That is fantastic news for my growing southern Redlands. That is excellent. We had a great time looking at the \$46 million ferry terminal project in the Southern Moreton Bay Islands.

In education, the free kindy is absolutely outstanding. We are delivering for the state school on Russell Island. We are building a brand new Redland Bay state school out there. There is so much work going on out in the Redlands whether you are talking about health, education, roads, jobs, concessions or supporting our communities. I am extraordinarily proud of this budget. It is absolutely outstanding. It positions our community for the future. Thank you very much to everybody who has supported our Redlands community.

The Acting Speaker has reviewed and approved my speech on the budget for incorporation. As such, I ask that the remainder of my speech be incorporated into the *Record of Proceedings*.

*The speech read as follows—*

Over the past five and a half years, together we've achieved a lot and below details our great work! Our Palaszczuk Government will continue delivering for all Redlanders.

#### **Education**

##### **PROGRAMS**

Free Kindy

Kindy in the State School—Russell Island

Bay Island Early Learning Centre—Early Learning Program funding

Fee Free TAFE

Additional support for School Breakfast Programs

Textbook and Resources Allowance

Skilling Queenslanders for Work—Running Wild (\$500K)

##### **PROJECTS UNDERWAY**

A new \$68M State School in our southern Redland Bay set to open in 2024

A new \$5.9M Prep and Kindy Learning Precinct and new classrooms at Russell Island State School

A new Student Engagement and Tuckshop Precinct—Cleveland District State High School

\$644K in maintenance and minor works 2023-2024

##### **PROJECTS COMPLETED**

Airconditioning and Solar for all our Redlands Schools

\$11M Victoria Point State High School new Technology and Hospitality Precinct

\$500K Victoria Point State High School Science Building Upgrade

\$1M Victoria Point State High School Library Upgrade

\$2M Victoria Point State High School Hall Expansion

\$1M Victoria Point State High School New School Fence

\$15M Redlands TAFE Revitalisation—nursing and trades

\$500K OSHC Redland Bay State School + \$100k new shade structure

\$500K OSHC Victoria Point State School and refurbished music and general classrooms

\$125K Russell Island State School Playground

\$125K Macleay Island State School Playground

\$11M Redlands District Special School New Learning Precinct

\$500k Macleay Island State School Admin and Library Refurbishment

\$400K Russell Island State School Landscape works

\$1.2M Russell Island State School Classroom Refurbishments

\$550K Thornlands State School Block AM Upgrade

\$600K Thornlands State School Refurbished Administration Building

\$100k Thornlands State School Multipurpose Court Resurfacing

\$109K Redland Bay State School Entrance Upgrade



\$1.6M Redland Bay State School New Buildings  
 \$700k Bayview State School New Buildings  
 \$400k Redlands District Special School New Buildings  
 \$6M Cleveland District State High School new multi purpose hall  
 \$3M Cleveland District State High School new manual arts building  
 \$9M Cleveland District State High School new classrooms  
 \$2.4M YMCA new Vocational School and Youth Hub  
 \$3.9M Carmel College New Admin Building and Hall  
 New School Crossings—Bayview, Macleay Island, Russell Island, Carmel College, Victoria Pt, Faith Lutheran Redlands College

### **Transport and Roads**

#### **PROGRAMS**

Free Inter-island Ferry Fares for Southern Moreton Bay Island residents and visitors

#### **PROJECTS UNDERWAY**

\$80M Stage 2 Cleveland Redland Bay Rd Upgrade—Anita Street to Giles Road  
 \$110M Stage 1 Cleveland Redland Bay Road Upgrade—Magnolia Street to Anita Street  
 \$46M SMBI Ferry Terminal Upgrades with Redland City Council  
 \$400K Redlands Transport Study  
 \$900K Mt Cotton Rd, Duncan Rd to Double Jump Road, Redland Bay Road and Taylor Road  
 Resurfacing Colburn Avenue Victoria Point

#### **PROJECTS COMPLETE**

\$30M Eastern Transitway  
 \$4M South Coast Road Safety Program  
 \$5M Old Cleveland Road Gateway Onramp Upgrade  
 \$9M Victoria Point Bus Terminal  
 \$9M Redland Bay Marina  
 \$1M Moreton Cycleway Stage 1

### **Health**

#### **RESOURCES**

More nurses, doctors, allied health professionals and paramedics

#### **PROJECTS UNDERWAY**

\$150M Stage 2 Redland Hospital Expansion—new Mental Health Facility  
 \$62M Stage 1 Hospital Expansion that includes new ICU and 38 beds  
 \$25M Redland Hospital new 28 Bed Ward  
 \$78M new Redlands Satellite Hospital  
 New Queensland Ambulance Service Ferry  
 New Virtual Queensland Hospital

#### **PROJECTS COMPLETE**

\$52M new 7 Level Hospital Car Park  
 \$6M Full Hospital Expansion—Detailed Business Case following on from Prelim + Master Plan  
 11 Additional QAS Paramedics to service the SMBI  
 \$1.7M Redlands Hospital Emergency and Birthing Expansion  
 \$1.5M Hospital Expansion Preliminary Business Case  
 Hospital Expansion Master Plan  
 Redlands Hospital—Mental Health Living Edge Pilot  
 Redlands Hospital—SLAM Skin Cancer Facility

### **Community + Community Safety**

#### **PROGRAMS**

Concessions and Rebates, including electricity rebates to ease cost of living pressures  
 New Redlands High Risk Team to support victims of domestic and family violence  
 Increased Neighbourhood Centre funding  
 Gambling Community Benefit Fund  
 Fairplay Sports Vouchers  
 Regional Arts Development Funding for local arts programs  
 Containers 4 Change Facilities  
 War on Wreck Program 800+ vessels removed—significant number in Moreton Bay  
 Maritime Enforcement Team—operating across Moreton Bay  
 Redlands Rapid Response Team—Homelessness

## PROJECTS UNDERWAY

\$108K Redlands Netball Association for court resurfacing  
 \$11M new Fire Station for Mt Cotton Road  
 Redlands Housing Diversity and Supply Strategy

## PROJECTS COMPLETED + ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Funding for implementation Queensland Marine Rescue  
 2 x new Police Officers Russell Island  
 2 x new Police Officers Macleay Island  
 2 x new vessels—Police Barge and High Speed Jet Boat  
 New Police Vehicles and Mobile Police Beat  
 New Police Equipment  
 4 x Fisheries Patrol Officers  
 2 x New Fire Appliance—Russell Island and Lamb Island  
 \$1.5M+ Community Benefit Fund Delivery—kayaks, ride-ons, storage sheds, club equipment, facility upgrades, sports lighting, turf and so much more.  
 \$150K Redlands Rugby League for new change rooms  
 \$150K Victoria Point Sharks Club for lighting upgrade  
 \$160k Victoria Point Sharks + VPSH Oval Upgrade  
 \$175k Macleay Island Bowls Upgrade  
 \$3M+ in Social Housing and Temporary Crisis Accommodation  
 \$1M+ additional Maybanke Crisis Accommodation  
 Maybanke Additional Child Support Worker  
 \$2M IndigScapes Upgrade  
 \$500k Centre for Women & Co. Domestic Violence Program Funding  
 Coastal Erosion Funding to Redland City Council



**Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (3.45 pm): Chaos and crisis is all this government is bringing to Queensland. Revenue has never been higher but services have never been worse. Tax revenue will have doubled under this Labor government by the end of this four-year budget period, yet ambulance ramping is at record levels, especially at Ipswich Hospital and Logan Hospital. Where has all the money gone? It certainly has not gone into improved health services. Queensland Health is again a basket case.

The Palaszczuk government does not deliver on its promises to Queenslanders. Queenslanders can no longer trust this government, which has been in office for too long and has become too arrogant and far too complacent. This budget fails to properly fund the Labor government's announcements. Most of the projects have money in the never-never beyond the forwards.

The Treasurer promised 26 times that there would be no new or increased taxes this term, but he has introduced five. Even so, total state debt will be \$147 billion by the end of this term—up a massive \$50 billion or so in just the last four years. Where has all the money gone? It certainly has not gone into housing, where we have massive waitlists for public housing and a government that builds homes at what would charitably be called a snail's pace. It certainly has not gone into police, where we have 72 fewer police officers on the payroll than in 2020—but 98 more media and marketing officers in the Premier's department.

The government promised over 150 times that power would be cheaper. Queenslanders faced the worst price rises in the nation at the start of this year and will do so again on 1 July. I have always fought for affordable, reliable energy for Queensland because that is what our families, farmers and small business need—to grow jobs, to grow food and fibre, and to keep our economy ticking over in the Scenic Rim electorate and across the state. We can thank Andrew Fraser, a former Labor treasurer, for the 43 per cent increase that came about in 2012 because Andrew Fraser asked to be able to charge all Queenslanders more for their electricity.

Under this government, affordable, reliable energy is dead—d-e-a-d, dead. What has caused this? The Auditor-General and the Queensland Competition Authority have both confirmed that a factor driving up bills is the government's failure to properly maintain our power plants. They are owned by the state. Having the Callide C generator offline now for two years and possibly another year to come is going to place even more pressure on prices. We need to support affordable, reliable sources of energy and that includes keeping our coal generators running to keep the generation cost down in the face of an unreliable, expensive and incomplete renewable network.

The irony and the hypocrisy displayed by this government trying to sell a budget that, at its base, is underpinned by massive coal royalties delivering a sugar hit of \$10 billion this year, after the government has treated the resources sector with contempt over its entire time in office and while the Labor Party regularly tears itself apart about the coal industry, is not lost on me. I am sure it will be remembered by regional voters as well.

Part of that sugar hit is being used to pay out \$1.4 billion to subsidise the increase in prices in the energy system. What about farmers and businesses? The pressure from this government's poor management of the energy sector will be felt on the ground hard in those parts of the community. Higher power bills for farmers and businesses means higher prices for food and the daily essentials for all Queensland families. Despite the rivers of gold running into Treasury, nothing is done to address this. What about next year when power prices push even higher? Will the government subsidise again the power bills of households? The state-owned energy assets deliver nowhere near enough back to the government to cover all of these subsidies.

I also want to call out the government for its rank hypocrisy when it comes to subsidies. For years farmers and businesses have cried out for help from the state to lower energy costs—yes, a subsidy—and the government has done nothing. Farmers and businesses create jobs. They grow the food and fibre our state needs, yet there has been no support. Apparently, not all subsidies are equal. This subsidy is just a move by a panicked government that is sending prices through the roof as a result of their negligence in maintaining our generators and through their headlong rush to an unreliable, expensive and intermittent source of energy in the renewables sector. They know what is coming, and they are getting in early to try to make people forget it is their actions that have brought about this spike.

We have a \$14 billion coal royalty this year but it is forecast to drop to \$5 billion next year. After this year when it is all spent what will Queenslanders have to show for it? The government is trying to sell the budget as the Big Build, but in reality they are adopting the tactics of propaganda adopted throughout time by telling the big lie—a lie so big that people will think they are telling the truth. In reality, this is a budget aimed at—

**Mr BAILEY:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member is clearly using unparliamentary language and he ought to withdraw. He used the word 'lie'.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin):** I will just get some advice. Member for Scenic Rim, will you withdraw that unparliamentary language?

**Mr KRAUSE:** I withdraw. Let's look at the health promises. The Scenic Rim electorate relies on two hospitals where ramping is out of control: Logan and Ipswich. There is a promise of nearly \$10 billion in the budget to build more capacity at hospitals, but over 95 per cent of that is programmed after June 2024. After spending eight years failing to properly manage the growth we need in hospitals or build additional capacity, and with a \$14 billion royalty take this year—\$10 billion more than they thought they would get—still the government has not got it together to deliver spending now to build the extra capacity we need in those hospitals.

This budget fails on cost of living, fails on health and fails the Scenic Rim electorate in so many ways. There is no Big Build from the government there and there never is, because the Labor Party government has failed to invest in the area for years. A one-off sugar hit of \$10 billion will come and go in this budget, and there is nothing in the budget to fix the problems this government and its predecessors in the Labor Party created for the regions I represent.

The biggest problem Labor has created is on the state road network. A \$10 billion sugar hit sees no new funding for the long-term upgrade of the Mount Lindesay Highway in and around the Scenic Rim electorate. There is disaster funding, sure, but there is nothing new to make it fit for purpose. Even funding for planning on the Jimboomba to Cedarvale section is on the go-slow. It is a relatively small amount, \$1 million, but it is staged out over three years. With its rivers of gold the government should bring this forward and get on with it. That adds to the go-slow on the Joanna Street to South Street duplication, something that was 80 per cent funded by Scott Buchholz and the LNP federal government a long time ago. It was meant to start in early 2023. It is now mid-2023 and there are still no signs of a start. Again this reflects on the failure of this government to deliver. It is all announcement, no delivery.

The government has no plan for the Amberley interchange and the federal Labor government has allocated zero funding for this project over the next four years. It is an absolute disgrace that, with a \$10 billion sugar hit, this project cannot even be brought into the forwards by either level of Labor government, state or federal. The member for Blair, Shayne Neumann, and the members for Ipswich

and Ipswich West must have pretty much zero impact on what their governments do, because this is their opportunity and they have blown it. Mark Bailey blew it in 2018 after he rejected the \$170 million put on the table by the then LNP federal government—

**Mr BAILEY:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member is a very experienced member. He continues to flaunt standing orders by not using correct titles and he should be doing so.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member, can I remind you to use correct titles.

**Mr MADDEN:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offense at the comments of the member for Scenic Rim and I ask that he withdraw.

**Mr KRAUSE:** I withdraw. The minister for Main Roads blew it in 2018 when he rejected the \$170 million put on the table by the then LNP federal government.

The Deputy Premier now has a decision to make, as he has called in a dump proposal for Willowbank where the proponent is Wanless. Will he back another dump for Ipswich—knowing there is no plan and no money to upgrade this interchange and the community rejects the dump—and give in to lobbying from Labor aligned lobbyists Anacta Strategies after all the donations made by them to the Labor Party? Will he say yes to a dump with such a history—a history that saw Anacta banned from lobbying the Labor Party here in Queensland—or will he finally see sense, listen to the people of Ipswich and Mayor Theresa Harding and her council and knock this dump on the head? These are big decisions, but with no road upgrade planned and no funding on the table for the Amberley interchange it should be a no-brainer.

There is nothing new for Beaudesert Nerang Road at Wonglepong to upgrade a culvert and finally seal a stretch of gravel road that locals have been campaigning to fix for 34 years. The former director-general of Main Roads was there when we committed to fix this in 2014, only for the incoming minister in the Labor government to scrap it in 2015. It is a disgrace to Main Roads and should be fixed. There is nothing to upgrade Boonah Rathdowney Road and the appalling section 4.5 kilometres west of Musgrave Bridge or to scope an upgrade to Coulson Crossing on Boonah Beaudesert Road or to widen the Crows Creek Bridge on that road where there was a fatality three or four years ago and a big miss just months ago. There is nothing new for Beaudesert-Beenleigh Road, where I know Main Roads has been assessing upgrades to a section of road near to the site of a recent fatality. They have been looking at that for quite a while now, but while our roads keep getting busier with more businesses, tourists and heavy vehicles traffic, there is no new allocation in this budget for that road. There is also no funding for Harper's Crossing on Mount Alford Road or for further works on Rosewood Warrill View Road that are still needed.

There is no end to the number of road issues this government has failed to address for years in the Scenic Rim electorate, from Tamborine and Beechmont to Willowbank, Cedar Grove and Grandchester, but this \$10 billion sugar hit from coal royalties will not benefit the region when it comes to roads in any significant way. There is, it seems, even a cut of \$127,000 from safety works on Henry Robert Drive on Tamborine Mountain. It is an absolute disgrace if that is the reality. Canungra needs road investment to deal with the growth there and in other parts of Scenic Rim and Logan. The budget delivers nothing but the cold shoulder for Canungra. Through the council there is a proposal in relation to upgrading Gallery Walk on Tamborine Mountain, otherwise known as Tamborine-Oxenford Road. Tamborine Mountain is the jewel in the tourism crown of Scenic Rim, and this project deserves attention from the government.

When it comes to police, we are 72 police officers down across Queensland since the last election. What a disgrace that this government has failed in its most basic duty to preserve public safety. This is something that all parts of the electorate suffer from. We need to see the government back the police 100 per cent and recognise the difficult and dangerous work they do every day, especially in the domestic and family violence space, and give them the institutional strength to do that work but also the essential policing of other crimes such as traffic, property crimes, crimes against the body and others.

**Mr Healy** interjected.

**Mr KRAUSE:** I will take that interjection from the member for Cairns. Police tell me they do not have the time to do this because they do not have enough resources. They are 150 short in the Logan district, yet you have the sarcasm—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Through the chair, please, member.

**Mr KRAUSE:** I apologise, Mr Deputy Speaker. The member for Cairns has the audacity to make fun of a resourcing issue that our police highlight time and time again. They do not have the resources and they do not have support, and the member for Cairns thinks that is amusing. The member for Cairns should hang his head in shame.

**Mr HEALY:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take offence to what the member has said and ask him to withdraw.

**Mr KRAUSE:** I withdraw. It is outrageous that there has been a cut to biosecurity funding in this budget from \$231 million to \$151 million. The locals I represent know that feral pig and wild dog populations cause havoc for livestock, residents and native flora and fauna in the beautiful Scenic Rim region. Clearly there is no recognition of this by the so-called greenies in the government, who say little and do less about truly improving our biosecurity situation. Minister Furner—or ‘Furner the Fire Ants’ Friend’—has overseen a program that is failing miserably to eradicate—

**Mr BAILEY:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member persistently uses personal titles and not formal titles as under the standing orders. He has been directed many times.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I heard what he said. I am just going to get some advice. Member for Scenic Rim, I will ask you to withdraw that. You have to use correct parliamentary titles. That is the second time you have done that. If it happens again I will issue you a warning.

**Mr KRAUSE:** I withdraw. Minister Furner has overseen a program that is failing miserably to eradicate or even contain the fire ant. Constituents have many concerns about the aerial baiting program’s effectiveness, but they are equally concerned about whether the way the many crews that are tasked with eradicating this when they are discovered is actually working. We have seen recently another highly damning report of this program. There is a huge potential for these pests to be in New South Wales soon, if not already, placing at risk the amount of funding for Queensland to continue the program. Perhaps this will be the time to rethink the strategy overall or consider alternative approaches.


I note there is funding allocated for PCYC infrastructure in this budget. Beaudesert has a PCYC proposal that will require funding in the future in order to build a long-needed community asset to host a PCYC and also to function as a major indoor sports and community facility. I am aware that Scenic Rim council is in a process with the state’s Department of Resources to approve the use of a council reserve for a PCYC. I call on the state to approve this use as soon as possible so that, with tenure secured, the organising committee for the PCYC can seek government support to build the facility in partnership with PCYC. I have advocated for this PCYC since the very first moment it was proposed, and I am glad that council has followed my lead in advocating for it. It would be a massive addition to the entire district.

For all of this term, I have been calling for the government to invest in the Boonah auxiliary fire station. I note there is a \$2.5 million allocation to upgrade and refurbish this station. At present, it is one of the oldest in Queensland and is inadequate for modern purposes. The replacement new generation fire appliances for Boonah auxiliary would not fit into the station. Our community deserves better. I acknowledge that budget allocation. I also acknowledge the \$700,000 allocation for the Mount Alford Rural Fire Brigade station and note the strong advocacy of all those brigade members who have sought that funding.

The support provided for kindy places is something I acknowledge will be welcomed by the community, although I have concerns about there being enough teachers to support this expansion as early as 2024 and the unforeseeable consequences this may have. Are we going to see an even greater shortage of teachers in primary schools as a result of this decision?

It is great to see the government adopt my policy from 2017, when as shadow minister for sport I championed \$150 vouchers for swimming lessons for kids. Recently I have heard the Minister for Sport announce several grants to sporting clubs and facilities in the range of a couple of hundred thousand dollars to a million dollars or more. Beaudesert Kingfishers need investment under these initiatives to upgrade their facilities, change rooms and amenities. When the LNP was in office, there was a very clear, open process for applying for these grants, but now the process is not like that. There should be absolute openness in these grants, the application process and the criteria so that all electorates—government and non-government—have an equal opportunity to apply for these grants.

It has now been 687 days since the Deputy Premier said that conflict of interest provisions in the Local Government Act would be streamlined. We have not seen the reforms yet. They should get on with it. They caused enormous issues at Scenic Rim council, who had an adviser appointed to it. I am aware that the adviser’s tenure has now ended but those reforms still need to be made.

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (4.02 pm): Mr Deputy Speaker, I apologise to you, the House and Hansard in advance. I have a bit of a cough. I think a frog has just crossed its legs in my throat. I think it might have been from all of those Kneewuckers last night, so forgive me as I begin my speech.

I rise to support the Appropriation Bill 2023. I want to first congratulate the Treasurer for this budget—the best budget the Labor government has delivered in decades. It looks after Queenslanders. I wonder if those opposite have hit a wall. It is only Thursday and I question their level of energy. There is nothing positive; it is all whingeing and whining. This is a great budget for Queensland. It looks after Queenslanders. It goes to the very core of looking after Queenslanders, wherever they may live.

We know the cost-of-living increases have had an impact on everyday Queenslanders in each of our electorates. Rising prices across the board in food, fuel, electricity and building materials are being felt right across the nation and in fact all around the world in this post-COVID space we now find ourselves in. Global uncertainty has also pushed up prices, and we have seen massive issues with supply as well. At a Queensland level, we know that a responsible and caring Labor government can make the right decisions to ensure we provide our people with as much help as possible through these most challenging of times.

For instance, the Premier's announcement of free kindy for young families will save on average \$4,600 annually. We know just how popular this announcement is already. It will certainly help those young families in my electorate of Thuringowa. The cost-of-living relief goes further, with \$550 going to each home to reduce the impact of increasing power prices on everyday Queenslanders. Of course there is a further \$572 for eligible concession holders, equalling \$1,072. I know the seniors in my electorate of Thuringowa will welcome that. I know this budget has a clear focus on health, housing, infrastructure—

**Mr Head** interjected.

**Mr HARPER:** I am not taking your interjections, member for Callide.

**Mr Head:** You just did.

**Mr HARPER:** He is a serial pest, Mr Deputy Speaker, if you can warn him. I welcome the budget as it will provide for all of these and more in my electorate of Thuringowa.

**Mr HEAD:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at those comments from the member for Thuringowa.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Martin): The member has taken personal offence. Will you withdraw?

**Mr HARPER:** I withdraw. Before I get into the nuts and bolts of the budget impact in my electorate, I want to congratulate the health minister and Treasurer for increasing the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme by \$70 million. That impacts the cost of accommodation, flights, buses and taxis. I have been making representations, along with other regional MPs, because we know the impact those increases have on patients. We have seen right across the board that those increases have had an impact on patients who have to travel from regional, remote, rural or Indigenous communities in our state to access treatment and care at a major health service or hospital.

I was pleased to see funding of \$17 million go towards building the new Kirwan health campus. I only got a briefing today from the department, so we will announce this very shortly. That is a total budget of \$40 million. I cannot wait for that to get underway. This new building will see facilities for prenatal and antenatal care, dental care and other areas of community health. Recently the health minister visited the Kirwan health campus with me and we got to meet the hardworking and dedicated health staff who deserve that new facility. As I said, it will start very shortly. The health minister knows I am keen to see the refurbished current area used for other aspects of health, be it spinal or rehab beds. I continue to gain community support, with a current petition underway to utilise that refurbished site when the new building is done.

I go to the major announcement, as the members for Townsville and Mundingburra will know. It was only last week that we had the Premier in Townsville to announce that \$538 million—over half a billion dollars—is being invested in our Townsville University Hospital to expand it by 143 beds. The new helicopter landing site will be on top of that building. That is normally only ever seen in capital cities. That is a real sign of progress and how our city of Townsville is growing. I know the people of Townsville and North Queensland will welcome that investment. To round out on health, we are delivering the new Burdell Ambulance Station to the cost of \$12 million for our expanding and growing city. I know local paramedics will welcome the new station with open arms.

Community safety has been a challenging issue for our community for well over a decade. I very much welcome the announcement of \$15 million for the new Kirwan police facility at the 1300SMILES Stadium. Further funding has been allocated to the Stronger Communities Early Action Group, supporting the office of public prosecutions to support criminal prosecution functions in North Queensland. There is funding for a Fast Track Sentencing pilot and Townsville Community Youth Response. We heard today that the Johnathan Thurston Academy will be expanded by \$4.7 million. These are all gold standard early interventions that the government is undertaking. They are evidence-based and they are working. We continue to do all we can to reduce rates of crime by investing in those programs.

It would be remiss of me not to mention my signature project. I am not speaking about Drivelt, but you can literally take a trip along the Townsville Ring Road Stage 5—and I thank the best transport and main roads minister in Queensland, Mark Bailey; thank you, mate—which is nearing completion. I thank everyone for their patience as those roadworks continue along Beck Drive. Of course I am speaking about Riverway Drive Stage 2, which has received more funding to begin those early works. We are working with Townsville City Council to deliver that new water pipeline and that has delayed the project, but we have invested a further \$33 million into that. The people of the Upper Ross know that that work is well underway.

I do want to address the member for Herbert who is misleading the community in today's *Townsville Bulletin* by saying it is at risk. The member for Herbert did not lift a finger for that additional funding. That was through the hard work of Minister Mark Bailey and me. We announced that. He did not even know about the announcement, let alone the water pipeline. He is telling a furphy to the people of Townsville. Once again, it will be delivered under a Labor government working with the federal Labor government. I understand the review is underway. I will fight and scrap to make sure that project is delivered for the good people of the Upper Ross.

I commend the Treasurer for delivering one of the best budgets this state has seen. It is all about looking after the people of our great state. I have had the remainder of my speech on the budget checked by the Deputy Speaker for incorporation. As such, I ask that the remainder of my speech be incorporated into the *Record of Proceedings*.

*The speech read as follows—*

Townsville, and my electorate of Thuringowa have received significant funding for major projects, such as \$1.2 billion on infrastructure projects such as CopperString, raising of the Burdekin Falls Dam, and Lansdown Industrial project. Once again, we see a further \$1.3 billion in Health, which is welcomed by our hardworking and dedicated health staff across our Health and Hospital Service. In North Queensland we are no strangers to disasters, and I welcome nearly \$37M for disaster recovery. And we know Housing is a real and present challenging issue for our City, so I very much welcome the \$70M for social housing and the nearly \$18M for homelessness services to help try our best to help those most vulnerable in our community.


I am also very proud to see \$57M on education, and I welcome the \$5.8M being allocated to the Kirwan State School for a new hall. I have raised this with the education minister after meeting with the principal and staff regarding getting a new hall for students to assemble, and conduct other school activities, and this growing school certainly deserves one. After previously delivering a new hall for Kirwan State High School, get funding for a new hall which will very soon start construction at Thuringowa High School and of course receive \$12M in former term to deliver a new performing arts centre for Heatley, this is about continuing that track record of delivering for my local schools.

So I very much welcome funding for: Willows State School will receive \$650,000 for refurbishment of block A. Heatley Secondary College will receive \$200,000 for prioritised nominated project. Rasmussen State School will receive \$148,000 upgrade playground infrastructure, \$720,000 to refurbish Block E and \$175,000 to refurbish outdoor learning and eating areas. Kelso Primary will receive \$545,000 to upgrade Block 2, and a further \$124,000 to upgrade the tuckshop. Heatley Primary School will receive \$124,000 to upgrade their tuckshop, and I continue to lobby for a new hall for this school and I will not give up. Kirwan State High school will receive \$440,000 to upgrade the home economics area. All up my electorate of Thuringowa will see over \$12.4M spent on local schools.

The Townsville Ring Road receives a further \$10M to finish this massive infrastructure project that will see a far safer road for all of us to travel daily. And of course Riverway Drive Stage 2 has received more funding which I know all in the Upper Ross will welcome.

When it comes to major infrastructure, I see more funding to upgrade the Upper Ross Sub Station to the value of \$5.8M, \$79M to the Kidston High Voltage Power line that is creating over 500 local jobs and is well underway.

Speaking of energy, ergon workers will receive \$6.3Million in new tools and equipment to safely do their job and I know they will welcome that announcement. A further \$5.5Million is budgeted to replace 66 kilovolt outdoor switch gear and \$5.3M is set for the Bohle TAFE Campus for their hydrogen and renewable training centre. We are certainly powering ahead in North Queensland. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (4.10 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the budget. It does not give me much pleasure to follow the member for Thuringowa who genuinely believes that this is the best budget. Let me tell the member for Thuringowa: the people of Townsville, like every

other community across this great state, are struggling with the increased crime because it was the Labor government that changed the laws eight years ago. In this budget, member for Thuringowa, police officer numbers are down by 72. There are 72 fewer police across Queensland. But how many media spinners have we got? How many media spinners in the Premier's department?

**An opposition member** interjected.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** That is right—I will take that interjection—up 98. If the member for Thuringowa genuinely thinks that having a budget that reduces police numbers but increases the spinners to make the budget look better is the best, I really worry about those poor people he represents. That is why, at the next election, Natalie Marr will be the best member for Thuringowa. She will come in and I am looking forward to working alongside her to reduce the crime rates in the great town of Townsville and all across Queensland.

Those two figures show how the Palaszczuk government have lost their way. They are more interested in fixing media problems than fixing the health crisis, the housing crisis, the crime crisis, the cost-of-living crisis, or fixing the crisis in maternity services in regional Queensland—that is another thing that is happening. This is all whilst they have an extra \$60 billion worth of revenue.

What at the end of the day can Queenslanders say they have with their big debt balloon that we now have and that extra revenue of \$60 billion? I know that the people of my electorate of Nanango have missed out. In my patch, in the electorate of Nanango, there is only a budget of reannouncements. The people of Nanango know that, and they should not be treated like duds from these people over here in government. In fact, I can only find one project that has not already been announced.

**A government member:** They like their new hospital.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I will take that interjection about the hospital because I will be writing to the Speaker about this. The health minister—the fourth health minister—tried to say that—

**Mr Head:** It looks great.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** It does look great. The hospital looks fantastic. Guess what? The health minister announced today—

**Mr Power** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Martin): Through the chair, please.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:**—20 new beds. What an absolute joke! The nurses were on the phone to my electorate office straightaway. They said, 'Deb, guess what? The joke of a health minister does not even know there are only 32 beds open and the short-stay unit has not even opened yet.' Yes, we love having a shiny new building, but what the nurses and the doctors tell me each and every day is that they need the beds, and they need the staff and the support. Also, they need the mental health services that I called for, that Lawrence Springborg, when he was the health minister, said he would build. That is exactly what we were planning to do. So, when the health minister comes in here and announces 20 new extra beds—well, minister, I would love to see where it is in the budget. Or, actually, is it like the police numbers: they are budgeted for, but not physically there?

**Mrs Gerber:** 'Funded'.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Funded—I will take that interjection. It is just like the tick and the fire ant problem we have across this great state, and we wonder why. I saw a Brisbane City Council bus covered with a big sign that said, 'Look out for fire ants' and this is while the Palaszczuk government has cut the biosecurity budget. The minister for fire ants has cut the biosecurity budget from \$230 million to \$151 million, all whilst the graziers in my electorate and further north are trying to fight the tick problem—the tick problem which has been created by the Labor government because they refused to do the extra funding that is required to hold the tick line in Queensland. We have seen they have given up on the tick line; now they are going to give up on the fire ant line. It is not good enough. I do not believe the Palaszczuk government, nor the minister for fire ants, gets—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock! Member—

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Sorry, minister for agriculture.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member, you are well aware of using correct titles. If you do it again, you will be warned.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I withdraw. The minister for agriculture needs to understand that the issue of fire ants is exceedingly dangerous for the people of Queensland and also the tick line.



I also want to go onto the projects that were not listed in this budget because we know that it is a bad budget for many reasons. In my electorate, it certainly is a bad budget for buildings. I have been calling for the Blackbutt Police Station to get an upgrade. We have a building that is falling down around the hardworking police officers in Blackbutt. I have even had senior police officers from other districts say to me that the Blackbutt Police Station is definitely one of the worst buildings they have ever seen that houses four full-time police officers at once. It does not even get any planning money, so that is gone.

We know the bad bridges in my patch. Seriously, I have spoken about the Tanduringie Creek Bridge so many times in this House. It is a bad bridge. It is the bridge that the school bus nearly went over, nearly killing all those little kids and the bus driver. It needs replacing, Minister for Main Roads. Please! The Running Creek Bridge on the Brooweena-Woolooga Road burned down. That bad bridge burnt down after a car crash. Still there is no funding for that bridge to be replaced.

Who could forget the mystery of the GS Bond Bridge, the disappearing \$13 million? It was listed in QTRIP in 2019 and 2020, and then it has just disappeared and gone away. We are still looking for a solution, minister, for the GS Bond Bridge.

What about Scrub Creek causeway? The community of Scrub Creek, near Toogoolawah, were isolated for many weeks after the floodwaters from the Brisbane River ripped away their only exit out in 2022. A temporary solution is still in place, however, a major investment must be made to improve access for those residents of Scrub Creek.

I have talked about bad bridges. We will continue now onto bad highways and roads. There is no new funding for major highways like the Burnett Highway, the Wide Bay Highway or the Bunya Highway. In the Somerset, there is no new funding for the D'Aguilar Highway or the Brisbane Valley Highway. I have recently asked about overtaking lanes. Minister, you are in the House. I would love some more overtaking lanes, please—any! In fact, the only real announcement in this budget for the entirety of the Nanango electorate that is new is the much needed \$6.7 million commitment to seal the remainder of the Maidenwell Bunya Mountain Road. That is a long-awaited announcement. I have been calling for that for many years. It has been on the priority list. To get up to the beautiful Bunya Mountains, it needs sealing. It is interesting that QTRIP has section B completed before section A, but however it works, let's get it done.

I have talked about the lack of health funding for the short-stay unit. I say to those local nurses, doctors and admin who constantly come into my electorate office, thank you, thank you, thank you for the work that you do on behalf of my community. We know. We hear you. We know you need more resources and we know you need more staffing.

To all of those beautiful young grad nurses that are out there in regional Queensland, that may be right out there, when you are applying for those jobs into New South Wales Health, please keep the faith because after October next year you will get a better government that will look after you, that will respect you and that will keep you in regional Queensland.

I note there is no telestroke funding, a service for which I have been advocating for some time. There is no funding for a paediatrician or a persistent pain clinic.

While the Minister for Main Roads is here I wish to quickly talk about the funding I wanted in this budget for anti-hooping measures at Dundas in the Somerset. I have talked many times about this blatant and dangerous activity. I have actually heard the member for Pine Rivers talk about this issue as well. It is a massive issue and something needs to happen. If this is the best budget ever, why are all those things not being funded? Cormorant Bay Cafe is still closed. Who knows what is happening there? Special education schools is something we have been calling for in the South Burnett for many years, but there is nothing happening there. There is nothing in the budget for Kingaroy Fire Station, and I have talked about biosecurity.

In the small amount of time I have remaining, let me turn to water, manufacturing and regional development. It is obvious from the Palaszczuk government's ninth budget that Labor cannot fix the chaos and crisis impacting water security not only in our regional communities but also in the south-east and impacting our important manufacturing industries. This budget is a complete con job for regional Queensland. It fails to give any glimmer of hope when it comes to future water security or manufacturing. In fact, most of the money that is supposedly sitting in the glossy brochures is actually past the next election. It does not even make sense. It is like the big hoax of the Pioneer Valley hydro. Is it any surprise we have landed here when the current water minister of Queensland is actually campaigning against federal investment in nation-building projects like Urannah and Hell's Gates? Let me turn to Burdekin Falls.

I was shocked to find out Labor were seriously asking Queenslanders—and North Queenslanders at that, the people of Townsville and Burdekin—to believe their reannouncement of an announcement they made in 2017 to raise the wall of Burdekin Falls Dam after abandoning their commitment to raise the wall and build hydro there six years ago. Six years ago, at the 2017 election, they announced hydro for Burdekin; they were going to raise the wall and have hydro-electricity. Six years later they have not even put a shovel in the ground, but they want us to believe they are going to do it again, like the Haughton pipeline and all those announcements. Minister Butcher is desperately trying to claim credit for a project that is half what the Premier promised in the lead-up to the last election.

When we look at the budget papers they reveal a damning 54 per cent increase—a blow-out—for Rookwood Weir. We have spoken about many other infrastructure projects that are not on time and not on budget, but a 54 per cent blowout?

**An opposition member:** Didn't want to do a deal with the feds.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I will take that interjection. They did not want to do a deal with the feds and now look at it—54 per cent blown out.

It is obvious. We know that the cost of the projects keep blowing out. I wonder whether it is because the Premier is just too embarrassed to negotiate with the federal government over these obscene cost blowouts. She does not even want to ask the feds to help bail her out. Maybe it is suddenly not so politically convenient for the Premier to be talking to the federal Labor government. Either way, it is a complete disgrace.

The state's contribution has now gone from \$183 million to \$385 million—obviously more than double—and there are many other examples. In my electorate alone that budget blowout could have built the Barlil Weir five times over; we could have built the Blackbutt irrigation scheme, a much needed scheme; the Barambah west weir; and for my neighbour in the north the member for Callide, the Coalstoun Lakes irrigation scheme.

Let me talk about the Toowoomba to Warwick pipeline, the project the Premier said would be built by October 2020. It was going to be completed almost three years ago, yet in this budget they have allocated \$13.4 million, which leaves \$245 million completely unfunded for the project that was going to be completed three years ago. It is unbelievable. How could any Queenslanders trust anything the Palaszczuk government are saying in relation to this budget?

In relation to regional development, we know the Minister for Regional Development does not do anything in that patch. Any money there looks to be a line item in the Premier's again, and the Premier is talking about doing regional development in two places: Sunshine Coast and Gold Coast. The people of regional Queensland will see right through that. We know in the manufacturing space we in Queensland should be the envy of the world, but again there is no assistance. We see that the manufacturing hubs have just disappeared into the abyss, probably because all the managers are resigning in droves.


If there is one thing that this budget proves it is that Queenslanders cannot trust the Palaszczuk government. They have rivers of gold coming into this great state—\$60 billion—and at the end of the day in October 2024 when we see a Crisafulli government elected where will Queenslanders look to see these big shiny projects from the Palaszczuk government? This government have wasted it; they have forgotten to build. That is the problem. The majority of the money that is in this budget for any project is not even being spent before the next election. I understand why the roads minister is sitting there cackling, because if it were not so serious you would laugh. You would actually cry because there is \$60 billion and debt is through the roof, but the minister will not deliver any of the roads that I have again pleaded for.

This budget is a hoax, this government is a hoax and we look forward to coming to government in 2024.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Martin): Member for Nanango, earlier in your contribution you made some comments that were unparliamentary. I ask that you withdraw.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I withdraw. Can I have clarification what it was?

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Yes.

 **Mr HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (4.25 pm): If the member for Nanango wants to know where the money went, I will give her a bit of a tip. If she listens to me I can tell her where some of it went. First and foremost, I want to begin by acknowledging the hard work of the Treasurer and the cabinet and saying what an absolutely fantastic budget this has been. The people of Cairns have welcomed this with open arms. It has been fantastic.

The budget delivers on several key measures aimed at easing the cost of living for Queensland families. We recognised that to a total tune of \$8.2 billion. As we have heard before, as part of the 2023-24 Queensland budget every Queensland household will receive an electricity rebate totalling at least \$550. This rebate will be split evenly across four quarters for the next financial year. On top of that \$550 rebate, eligible concession holders will continue to receive the standing \$372 concession. This means that eligible concession holders will receive a total of \$1,072 in power bill relief. This is real help when people need it. They need it now and we are working towards that. This is something we have been talking about and it is important that government listens and reacts. That is vital.

In addition to that, we are also going to be providing \$645 million over four years to make kindergarten more accessible to more Queensland families. This will equate to 15 hours of free kindy per week for all four-year-old Queensland children. Families will save on average around \$4½ thousand per year through this initiative. We know at this time it is absolutely essential and this will be a great help to those families. The Free Kindy initiative will commence in January of next year. I can tell honourable members that I have already received correspondence from both kindergarten teachers and families in my electorate to say how excited they are about that.

In addition to that we have an extension of the Fair Play vouchers. This will ensure that everybody gets a fair go. There are the SwimStart vouchers; the budget is also providing \$4.8 million over two years to expand the Fair Play scheme. These vouchers up to \$150 will be available for eligible kids aged up to four years. There will be 30,000 of them across the state, which I think is fantastic. I know my electorate will be very happy to hear that.

Speaking broadly, we have significant investment in Cairns. We are looking at \$1.7 billion on infrastructure for productivity-enhancing infrastructure and capital works, and that is estimated to support around 4,900 jobs. We have \$1.6 billion going into health. That includes the \$26 million upgrade of our emergency department, the \$70 million which is being invested in our mental health facility and the \$250 million which is put aside for the expansion of our hospital.


Out of the significant investment across the state—and we are talking billions; I think it is the largest investment in education—\$79.9 million will be going into education in my electorate and the Far North. I can tell honourable members the students at Trinity Bay will be getting a \$20 million performing arts hall, which is fantastic. Parramatta State School and Balaclava State School will be seeing improvements to after school hours care facilities. These are investments where we need them. I know that Cairns State High School will see significant improvements in essential infrastructure.

In terms of social housing, \$206.5 million will go into the Far North. I acknowledge that, just as importantly, the budget provides a significant capital increase of \$1.1 billion for housing and homelessness, as well as additional supporting funds. These funds are available to invest in such projects as the Cairns youth foyer. We are ready to work with stakeholders to identify a site. This is something that we have been talking about for quite some time, and I know that the Cairns Alliance of Social Services will be very happy to hear this news.

We have received \$17.7 million for homelessness services; \$150 million for the new common user facility; \$27 million to upgrade roads and bridges in our marine precinct. There is over \$350 million being invested to expand our marine infrastructure. We know that this will provide a strong future for our children, so we are expanding our educational facilities. Our marine college is being expanded, with \$16 million in total and \$8 million in this budget. It is not only about expanding the infrastructure; it is about providing a flow chart so that people can study, learn and go straight into a job. There are significant contributions for so many areas of TAFE. Looking at the Chamber of Commerce, we have invested in a wellness fund there. We will be investing \$1 million in a Cairns Indigenous training centre. These outstanding measures are about job creation. There are so many areas where we are doing well.

I wanted to touch on the budget reply speech of the Leader of the Opposition—the current Leader of the Opposition, that is. I was interested that he made no detailed suggestions. He mentioned nothing about jobs and nothing about job creation—absolutely nothing whatsoever. It was so broad that I almost forgot what he was talking about. I have spent my entire working career in commercial entities—some of which turn over hundreds of millions of dollars. That speech was devoid of any fiscal relevance; it

was concerning. What I found interesting was the comment of the current leader that part of their side's solution to the health problem was to let doctors and nurses run health facilities. That is interesting because every question time he expects the health minister to override them. The only thing more impressive than the inconsistencies of what you are presenting to us is your inability to articulate anything of any sense.

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (4.32 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Appropriation Bill 2023-24. From the outset I will say that revenue has never been higher, but services have never been worse. There is no better example of that than Queensland's scandal-prone electricity network. The budget papers are riddled with spin, strategies for strategies and reannouncements. This shows very clearly that the chaotic and crisis-ridden Palaszczuk government does not deliver on its promises to Queenslanders. It is abundantly clear that Queenslanders can no longer trust this government.

The people of Condamine, whom I proudly represent, are feeling that more than ever. Once again, the people of Condamine have largely missed out on significant funding for road infrastructure, increases in police officers and resources for our local stations, or affordable housing in the communities of the Condamine electorate. The constituents who live in rural and regional communities deserve way better from this Palaszczuk government. The funding announced in this 2023-24 budget for the three high schools in Condamine was announced in the 2020 budget, and has continued to be announced every year since. Still, not one of these school halls has been completed in Pittsworth, Oakey or Clifton. The cost of materials and labour has increased dramatically during that time, adding significantly to the total cost for completing these infrastructure projects. The official opening of each hall is eagerly anticipated by the school communities in these regions. We continue to wait for that day.

At long last, there has been some funding for the construction of the Toowoomba to Warwick pipeline which will supply water to the residents of the communities of Cambooya, Greenmount, Nobby and Clifton. In the 2023-24 budget, \$13.4 million is allocated out of a \$273.1 million total spend. This will ensure a clean drinking water supply for these communities. During the last drought, water was trucked in at considerable expense. This project is way behind schedule. As part of the negotiations between government and council on this project, council secured funding in the budget for a water treatment plant for these communities at a total cost of \$15 million—\$5.2 million in this budget. I assure members that this funding will be welcomed by these communities.

The only road in Condamine to receive any funding is the Gore Highway, albeit somewhat meagre. There is \$1 million from this budget out of a total of \$24.3 million to improve road safety on the Toowoomba to Millmerran and Toowoomba to Athol roads. There is no much needed funding for the New England Highway or for the four lanes to Oakey on the Warrego Highway. Replacement of the Drayton auxiliary fire and rescue station will be funded \$2.4 million in the 2023-24 budget out of a \$7.5 million total spend. We are crying out for more emergency services and officers now—not in 10 years time. The \$16.1 million funding for InterLinkSQ intermodal terminal is welcomed. Anything that can improve the productivity of the transfer of freight is positive news. This will be delivered in partnership with the private sector, which is why it will be delivered.

That is it for the Condamine electorate. There is nothing to boost police numbers to combat the crime crisis that is gripping Condamine, as it is the rest of the state. We have recently seen a business owner in Gowrie Junction spread-eagled across the bonnet of a car during a fuel theft drive-through. We have seen a police car rammed in Meringandan. This is not the streets of New York or Mexico City; these are small country towns in Condamine.

I now turn my attention to my shadow ministerial portfolio of natural resources, mines and energy. This budget was the Premier's opportunity to invest in our power plants and to address the fact that Queensland has the highest rising electricity prices in the country. It was an opportunity for the Premier to restore confidence in the resources industry. However, all this budget shows is that this chaotic and crisis-ridden Palaszczuk government is obsessed with announcements but completely lacking when it comes to delivering on anything that they commit to. There is a lot of gloss and PR spin, but no action to address the fundamental issues across energy and resources.

A prime example of this government's chaos and crisis is the Premier's so-called foundational project, Pioneer-Burdekin pumped hydro, a project that this week has been exposed as nothing more than a great hydro hoax. The 2023-24 budget confirms that there is no funding and no commitment to build this flagship project in the Palaszczuk Labor government's so-called Energy and Jobs Plan. When we look a bit further, the proposed Borumba Dam Pumped Hydro project still does not have a business case or any EIS. It needs state and federal approvals and is still a long way from construction starting.

What is most concerning is that the Premier wants Queenslanders to seriously believe that these projects are virtually shovel ready. That could not be further from the truth. Premier Palaszczuk has form when it comes to energy and hydro. Queenslanders were promised upgrades to the Burdekin Falls Dam six years ago, which included hydro. The Premier's commitment, which at the time included a higher dam wall, was clearly nothing more than a complete con and a PR stunt in the lead-up to the 2017 election. Now we hear the Premier's reannouncement of a higher dam wall, but without the hydro six years later. Does the Premier really believe that Queenslanders are going to fall for this same stunt twice?

The budget also spruiks funding for CopperString; however, there is only \$594 million in this year's budget with \$4.4 billion still unfunded and out in the never-never. What is clear, though, is that the Palaszczuk Labor government cannot be trusted to deliver on any of the promises they make, let alone to build the dams and water infrastructure that is needed for the future of our state.

It is clear the Energy and Jobs Plan was just a PR stunt aimed at winning the next election. This chaotic government has shown that they cannot possibly deliver any of these projects they spruik on time or on budget. Queenslanders are in the midst of a cost-of-living crisis and the ever increasing power costs are only adding to the burden of this. One of the key announcements of this government has been the energy bill subsidies to help consumers pay their electricity bills. This is an admission by the Palaszczuk government that they have lost control of rapidly rising energy prices in this state. The only solution that they have is to spend \$1.48 billion on a one-off subsidy. This will be welcomed by consumers, but it does not address the underlying cause of the skyrocketing price increases. The Labor government has stated over 150 times that power prices will go down—a promise that has consistently proven to be false. The only way the government can achieve this is to hand out a cash splash.

Labor's increased coal royalties have provided the funds to do this, but what happens next year and the year after that? Due to the decline in coal prices, royalties are expected to decrease from \$15.3 billion for 2022-23 to \$5.3 billion in 2023-24. That is a \$10 billion drop, and that is from the government's own figures. Where is the funding going to come from next to pay for this minister's failures? Queenslanders and Minister de Brenni were warned by the Queensland Competition Authority and the Audit Office that the failures of the Callide Power Station would result in a price increase—advice the minister ignored. This budget is not addressing the systemic issues with Queensland electricity prices rising more than anywhere else in the country. Is it any wonder, given the chaotic and crisis-ridden approach the Premier takes to governing?

As I mentioned before, when identifying elements driving up electricity prices a recent QCA report pointed to 'uncertainties associated with the availability and reliability of coal-fired power plants and their impacts on the supply-demand balance in the Queensland region'. The QCA then points to major outages at Kogan Creek and Callide C as examples. This is yet again at odds with the comments made by the Minister for Energy when he said that the explosion at Callide 'would have no net impact on consumers' electricity prices' after generators broke down. This yet again shows that Queenslanders cannot trust anything this minister or government say.

After denying that a lack of maintenance was to blame for the generators failing, the minister was again called out by the MEU for the failings at Callide. As opposition leader David Crisafulli announced this morning, the LNP in government will implement maintenance guarantees on power plants to ensure maintenance is not forgone to prop up the government's balance sheet. This of course will ensure stable supply and address skyrocketing energy prices occurring under the Palaszczuk government's watch.

The ownership structure of Callide C3 and C4 remains in doubt, with no funding in the budget papers to suggest the government is purchasing the remaining share in these generators following the collapse of equity partner Genuity. I note the Treasurer has not used coal royalties to alleviate the doubt and uncertainty about these generators moving forward.

Queenslanders will not forget that the Premier signed up to the federal Labor gas price cap, which has undermined investment confidence into domestic gas in this state. As the transition occurs, it is without doubt that gas will play a part in ensuring a stable electricity supply. It is deeply concerning that the Premier is willing to put political interests with her Labor colleagues ahead of a reliable domestic gas supply for Queenslanders.

The Palaszczuk government has been the beneficiary of a royalties boom that has come off the back of record-high coal prices, so you would expect a significant reinvestment into the very industry that has provided this wealth. When you look through the budget papers you realise that resources and mines barely rate a mention. This once again exposes what little influence the Minister for Resources exerts around the cabinet table. This was an opportunity to provide transport, both road and rail, to

fast-track the development of the North West Minerals Province. I note there is some funding for gas exploration in the Bowen and Galilee basins which will be welcomed by industry, since the Premier has put the future development of domestic gas in this state under a cloud. The Palaszczuk government continues to send mixed messages to the resources industry and undermine investor confidence. It is having serious and wide-reaching consequences that will hurt investment opportunity in Queensland for years to come. Is it any wonder, given the chaos and crisis of this government?

Who could possibly forget the debacle that has been Acland stage 3—an approval process that dragged on for 14 years before final approvals were granted? Disappointingly, we see objectors once again, financed by the EDO, going back to court on the very same issue. The resources minister must answer how much the taxpayers of this state are providing to the EDO to continue this legal warfare and these delaying tactics. This is a prime example of Labor's chaos and crisis that undermines critical investment in this state.

We have seen the islands of the Queensland coast fall into disrepair and resorts abandoned under this government's watch. This was only exposed by a committee inquiry called for by the opposition. The government failures are starving what should be huge tourism drawcards of so much potential, and it is concerning that there is no funding or mention in the budget to address the serious issues identified in the committee's report.


There is no funding in the budget for the development of commercial mooring in Brisbane's CBD area. It is inconceivable that we have no commercial river trading opportunities in what is called the river city and in the lead-up to the 2032 Olympics. This goes directly to the chaos and crisis in this government, and I implore the minister to take action to ensure our important river tourism can be shown to the world as we prepare for an influx of tourists over the next 10 years.

I know that morale is low across the departments because of the chaos and crisis of this government. The LNP constantly hears from government whistleblowers with their concerns.

**Ms Boyd** interjected.

**Mr WEIR:** 1 William Street is leaking like a sieve, I can assure you. The LNP and I are determined to fix it. As the Leader of the Opposition said this morning, a Crisafulli government will empower the Public Service to do what it was hired to do: to proudly serve Queenslanders and the industries it represents. The LNP will reduce the reliance on external consultants and use the savings to deliver Australia's best Public Service that we can all be proud of.

If there is one thing this budget proves it is that Queensland cannot trust the Palaszczuk Labor government to fix the chaos and crisis impacting on their everyday lives. We know that state revenue has never been higher but services have never been worse, and we know that the Palaszczuk government does not deliver on its promises to Queenslanders. This is abundantly clear, both in my electorate of Condamine and to me as the shadow minister for natural resources, mines and energy. This budget does not deliver and it is so clear that Queenslanders can no longer trust this government.

 **Mr MARTIN** (Stretton—ALP) (4.47 pm): I rise to address the Palaszczuk government's record-breaking investments for Queenslanders in this year's budget. This budget supports our commitment to ease national cost-of-living pressures that are impacting Queenslanders while also investing in health care, education, housing, community safety and infrastructure in our growing state. It is a responsible budget that also significantly lowers our state's debt.

The Palaszczuk government has prioritised parents and households over the negative campaigning from the big coal lobbyists. It is important that Queenslanders get their fair share from record coal prices, and this budget ensures that this money is being invested where it matters most—through free kindergarten, electricity rebates, more hospital beds, more police and more police resources, and more social and affordable homes.

The LNP need to be honest with Queenslanders. Will they support progressive coal royalties and support cost-of-living measures for ordinary families? If not, what will they cut? If not, who will they sack? What will they sell and what will they privatise? Queenslanders deserve to know. How can those opposite support projects in their electorates if they cave in to the big coal lobby and rip \$7 billion out of the budget?

Queenslanders are right to ask which projects they will cut and whose jobs will get 'trimmed'. I can only assume that the LNP's proposed reformations of the Public Service will be ruthless and terrifying. Certainly in Queensland if you are a public servant you have something to fear from an LNP

government. On this side of the House we believe that the riches of the state belong to the people of this state, and we make no apologies for insisting that record profits enjoyed by extracting Queensland's coal are shared by the people who own it.

As the Premier said, a budget is never just about the numbers; it is about the people. I am proud to be part of a government that puts ordinary Queenslanders first. The budget delivers the largest surplus ever recorded by any state or territory and the biggest infrastructure build ever undertaken by a Queensland government. Our \$89 billion Big Build will support more than 58,000 jobs and ensure that Brisbane is ready to host the 2032 Olympic Games.

One key aspect of the budget is delivering energy relief to Queenslanders to help tackle the cost of living. There is \$1.4 billion to support households and small businesses facing cost-of-living pressures. It is the most significant electricity bill support package announced by any state or territory, more than doubling the size of the federally agreed support package for Queensland under the national Energy Bill Relief Fund. The Palaszczuk government is providing \$550 off power bills for every household in Queensland and a further \$700 in electricity rebates for seniors and concession card holders that will bring the total cost-of-living rebate to \$1,072 for vulnerable households. Around 205,000 eligible small businesses will also be receiving \$650 off their power bills, and I know that that will be welcomed in Stretton. This package will more than offset typical household electricity bill increases in the upcoming financial year and in some cases households will have zero bills or be in credit. That means that since 2018 the Palaszczuk government will have provided all Queensland households with over \$1,125 in electricity rebates. As part of this package, we have also allocated \$60 million for household energy initiatives and \$10 million for vulnerable household energy advice initiatives to deliver energy efficiency measures that keep the costs down for households and enable more choice and greater energy equity.

Education is such an important part of life and I am proud to be part of the Palaszczuk government that values and champions state school education. Every young student deserves to be given the best education opportunities possible, and this budget delivers that by providing a record \$17.8 billion for education and early childhood learning. A key aspect of the education package is free Kindy for All—something that has been very popular in my community and very popular all around Queensland. It will provide every little Queensland child with 15 hours of free kindergarten per week from 1 January 2024 and the program is set to save families up to \$4,600 per year and see a further 50,000 Queensland children benefit from free kindergarten. That is certainly something that I am very proud of. I have spoken with lots of families in the Stretton electorate. They are very excited about this initiative. Everyone is talking to everyone about it. It is the No. 1 topic of conversation at barbecues and family get-togethers.

The kindy package also includes an increased investment in early childhood education in terms of the workforce, which is very important, as well as support for children in disadvantaged areas and children with a disability. We will also be providing a boost of \$48.3 million over four years for safe and secure teacher housing in rural and remote communities as well. Mr Deputy Speaker Lister, the Acting Speaker has reviewed and approved my budget speech for incorporation. As such, I ask that the remainder of my speech be incorporated into the *Record of Proceedings*.

*The speech read as follows—*

This budget includes many new school infrastructure projects this financial year in the Stretton Electorate. This includes brand new classrooms and other upgrades for Sunnybank Hills State School, which has been named Queensland's number 1 primary school for the past two years in a row. The families, teachers and students at Sunnybank Hills work incredibly hard and new classrooms are much needed for such a popular and growing school.

Another rapidly growing and popular school is Stretton State College. With around 3.5 thousand students, Stretton State College is the recipient of an \$11 million multi-year package for a new sports hall that will cater for students in the fantastic academy programs of basketball, soccer, and rugby league. I am excited to see how well the Stretton rugby league teams perform this year after taking out Queensland titles in multiple age groups last year.

Mr Speaker, it is important that our school kids start the day in the best possible way—and that is with a healthy breakfast. I am excited that our government is expanding the School Breakfast Program that provides healthy and nutritious meals to Queensland school kids every week. The School Breakfast program is available to schools all around the state and supports families most in need. I have been to several of the school breakfast programs in the morning before class at schools in my electorate and I can see the positive impact that the program has on local students. There is no doubt that when kids have a good breakfast, they learn better.

I am also very pleased about further investment in Acacia Ridge TAFE. In collaboration with the Albanese Government, we are providing 37,000 Fee Free TAFE and vocational education and training courses for Queenslanders in 2023. Australia is seeing unprecedented workforce demands across the trades sector, so it is vital that we provide people with the skills necessary to fill those job roles and build successful careers. Our government is doing just that by ensuring that Queenslanders can afford to gain new skills in important industries.

A few weeks ago, I had the pleasure of visiting the Acacia Ridge TAFE campus where I met dozens of students who are studying in both new and existing industries as part of the free or subsidized TAFE programs. There are heaps of exciting courses at TAFE for people that are interested in trying something new and there are plenty of great jobs out there for people with recognised TAFE qualifications.

#### Healthcare

This is a record \$25.8 billion health budget to ensure Queenslanders get the best health care closer to home. Some \$24 billion will go to delivering the critical frontline services Queenslanders rely on. That includes \$764 million to put patients first with a plan to reduce ramping and improve access to our emergency departments.

It means keeping Queenslanders out of hospital and providing alternatives to emergency departments. Supercharging virtual care. Hiring more paramedics and putting more ambulances on the road. Investing in frontline health workers. And also providing more beds for our growing population.

In addition our satellite hospital program has been well received by my community. Despite attacks from those opposite—the public clearly support these satellite hospitals.

I was pleased to visit the site of the new Eight Mile Plains Satellite Hospital this morning along with my colleagues the Member for Toohey, and of course new Health Minister Shannon Fentiman. Construction on the satellite hospital is well underway and is scheduled to be operational early next year.

The Eight Mile Plains Satellite Hospital is a great asset for our community that will allow locals to access important medical care closer to home and take pressure off our emergency departments at QE2 and Logan Hospitals. The services available at the new facility will include a minor injury and illness clinic, medical imaging and diagnostic services, renal dialysis, chemotherapy and consult rooms for 280 appointments per week. It's a great block of land in a fantastic location halfway between the Logan and QEII Hospitals. There will also be plenty of ongoing secure jobs for nurses, doctors, and support staff right in my local area.

In addition to this we are funding more beds. That's 206 new beds at Logan hospital, and 28 new overnight beds at QE2 and 249 new beds at the PA. We are committed to delivering world class health care for Queenslanders and for our growing population.

#### Transport

I am happy to announce that the \$30 million Beaudesert Rd & Illaweena St intersection upgrade is nearly complete with new bus stops, shelters, bike paths and safer pedestrian crossings. I know many locals will be happy to no longer be stuck in roadworks and have much improved traffic flow on the way to work and school pick ups and drop offs.

In other news, the announcement that we are removing the Kuraby level crossing is very popular in my electorate. For the many people who use this crossing it will be a great improvement. On behalf of my community I thank the Minister for Transport for committing to this important upgrade.

This project also includes upgrades to the Kuraby station which we also look forward to.

#### Other

Its great to see continued funding for Kyabra Community Association. So that they can continue to deliver their important community services. The team at Kyabra do an amazing job supporting and strengthening individual, family, and community life. They provide a range of services to people and children in need and are strong advocates of social justice and equal rights. They work to ensure that everyone no matter where they are from has equal access to opportunities in life.

This budget also sees record investment in housing. Our big social housing build will see a 67 per cent increase to our capital program in the next financial year alone, with an additional \$1.1 billion to help deliver 13,500 new homes. Every Queenslander deserves a safe and secure roof over their head. Across Australia, housing pressures are having an impact including here in Queensland, with tens of thousands of people migrating here from interstate. Its understandable that people want to move to our great state. And this budget is a budget that supports growth and looks to the future.

This budget is also one that delivers for community safety. Delivering a record operating budget of \$3.281 billion for the Queensland Police Service. It includes \$101.6 million to boost police resources and combat youth crime, \$87.5 million for police recruitment initiatives, and \$56 million for PCYC initiatives and infrastructure.

This is great because it means more police, more facilities and more vehicles and more equipment for out frontline. I am very pleased to see funding for PCYC which means more services, new clubs, refurbishing existing buildings and replacing old ones. These programs keep young people active and engaged in worthwhile activities—helping prevent crime before it happens.

On this note Mr Speaker I wanted to conclude by saying that this is a great budget for Queensland and a great budget for the people of Stretton.



**Ms CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (4.52 pm): Over the past week and today it has been quite incredible to hear government members announce how proud they are of tackling the cost-of-living crisis and how proud they are, as am I, of the region that I represent and the massive workforce that I represent that go into the Bowen Basin every single day and mine that coal that this state then enjoys the royalties from. Our greater Whitsunday region, by the government's own admission, received \$623.4 million from the capital program—the lowest investment in the capital program in the entire state behind outback Queensland. That is what the Palaszczuk Labor government thinks of Central Queenslanders and thinks of the communities of the Mackay-Isaac-Whitsunday region and the good, hardworking coalminers who drive in and drive out every day risking their lives on the Bruce Highway



and the road into the Bowen Basin on the Peak Downs Highway, which has some of the highest death rates in the state. I represent that large workforce which has produced \$15 billion in royalties, but we have seen very little returned back to the region that I represent.

When I take a closer look at the capital investment I wonder: where has the funding gone? It has not gone into new boat ramps. It certainly has not gone into improved roads. When it comes to energy infrastructure, I point to the massive announcement that we saw earlier this year—the Pioneer-Burdekin hydro project, now affectionately known as the ‘hydro hoax’. Why do I think it is a hydro hoax? It might have something to do with the fact that there has been no business case and that there is no environmental impact statement. In fact, the feasibility study was not really made public—or is it the fact that not one community leader from industry right through to the mayor had ever even heard of the project?

I want to take the House on a little reminder journey. The Energy and Jobs Plan was announced just post the federal budget. It was the same day as Police Remembrance Day. The reason I know that is I was at the police remembrance service in Mackay which was held up by the late arrival of the Premier. She had not arrived on time because nobody knew the Premier was coming. The Premier was coming not to attend Police Remembrance Day; the Premier was coming, as we thought at the time, to announce and release the full inquiry report into the Mackay Base Hospital maternity and gynaecology disaster. But, no: the Premier was there with the Minister for Energy and the Minister for Water to announce the Pioneer-Burdekin hydro project. The morning of that day people received a phone call saying, ‘Would you like to come along to a press conference because we’re about to announce something exciting for your community?’ We then saw the glossy brochures that do not depict, and are not images of, the Pioneer-Burdekin pumped hydro location. In fact, that location is set between two subtropical rainforests.

I note that the Minister for the Environment is in the House and I congratulate her on the reshuffle in terms of her portfolio, and I suspect that she is probably the only minister who is very happy with the reshuffle. On behalf of the residents of the greater Mackay region and given the importance of this project to the state interest, which is the cornerstone of an energy plan, and to give surety to the residents of the Pioneer Valley and Mackay, I put on the public record an invitation to the environment minister, who I know had representation when the Labor conference was up in Mackay.

That is another point: not only was there another announcement and the opening of a hydro office in Mackay the day before the Labor conference but it also coincided quite rudely with a civic reception to commemorate Australia’s worst air disaster which my community and the mayor of Mackay were hosting for three international American visitors. It was a very important day, because yesterday marked 80 years since the tragic loss of lives of American servicemen in the Bakers Creek air crash. The Premier decided to drop into town that day with no notice and open an office. Instead of the mayor and other civic leaders being able to attend that opening, we were doing the right thing in attending a civic reception. That is not all: the hydro plan was so important in terms of undertaking pre-drilling studies that the department and Queensland Hydro decided to pick World Environment Day to commence the drilling. There has been an announcement, and in the budget there is over \$15 billion in royalty revenue for a cornerstone energy plan that is all about one project—the Pioneer-Burdekin hydro project—yet we have not seen the environment minister go and inspect the Eungella National Park, which has over 1,417 recorded species. We have not seen the drillers put on record a platypus management plan, which is what they should have done. There are three critically endangered species, eight endangered, six vulnerable and six near threatened. The hypocrisy of this Labor government, which holds its environmental credentials so high, when it comes to this plan—whether it is in my community or across the state—is almost farcical. It is like something out of *Utopia*.

I want to move on. There has been a decline in road funding across my region of 31 per cent in line with the capital investment. In terms of road funding, there is no funding for my local roads such as the Mackay Bucasia Road upgrade. This is an area which has the highest population in Mackay, and growing. The minister continues to ignore our pleas about congestion and the risk that that road poses because it is one way in and one way out for 23,000 residents. There has been no increase in Bruce Highway flood mitigation funding, and now we see the combination of the Goorganga Plains study and the Hamilton Plains study being part of a coordinated approach to address flood impacts on this location.

I inform the Minister for Main Roads that these two watercourses are 15 kilometres apart. One cuts off the Airlie Beach community to its hospital in Proserpine and the other one cuts off the entire community to its airport. What did we see announced in this budget? A business case which still has not been completed that was meant to be completed at the start of this year that will not be completed

by January next year. This is not good enough and it is certainly not good enough when we are looking down the road at an Olympic Games, where we want to showcase the great global brand that is the Whitsundays when it comes to tourism investment.

I would also draw to the attention of the House the lack of funding for a commitment to deliver a renal dialysis unit that was announced in Proserpine by former minister Kate Jones. Three years later we still do not see the renal dialysis unit delivered. I beg the health minister to fast-track that. People in their eighties are risking their lives on the Bruce Highway several times a week to go to Mackay when they should be able to access that service in their home town. I commend the staff at the Proserpine Hospital. They do an incredible job with very little.

I acknowledge the funding that was given to my schools: Proserpine State High School and Proserpine State School. My schools are continuously growing and struggling with the population growth that we see surging in the Whitsundays. I acknowledge those commitments by Minister Grace and thank her for the investment in the upgrade of classrooms and specialist services. I also acknowledge that the council in Mackay received significant funding for the Bloomsbury water supply upgrade which is desperately needed to ensure that we have drinking water for the long-term—a basic necessity that many take for granted.

I would like to turn now to areas of my shadow portfolio. The commission of inquiry recommendation for the government to appoint an independent implementation supervisor to oversee the implementation of Hear her Voice recommendations did not come soon enough. It is critical to ensure that those measures are implemented in a timely manner and are evaluated. Statewide DVO breaches have increased by over 50 per cent. Last week I was in Townsville, where we are still waiting for the high-risk team to come to fruition that was announced a year ago. We are also awaiting the Mount Isa high-risk team, which is still out in the tender process. I urge the Attorney-General to ensure that that is finalised. Women's lives are at risk.

I believe that what happened at the forensic lab is the biggest maladministration ever overseen by any Queensland state government. The implications for victims of crime are yet to be realised. The budget line allocated in this budget is an admission by this government that they have failed victims of crime. What this means for our justice system, what this means for victims and the trauma associated with what is to come over the next decade or more is something that should not be forgotten. It needs to be put under the spotlight each and every year that passes.

I acknowledge and recognise the government's further contribution to domestic and sexual violence services. I hope that the Attorney-General confirms funding to the Red Rose Foundation which was left in limbo after the department did not release their evaluation and confirmation of funding. The Red Rose Foundation does incredible work that is supported by both sides of this House and I want to make sure that they are not forgotten in the machinery-of-government changes.

**Ms McMillan:** They will not be.

**Ms CAMM:** I will take that interjection. I am sure there are members in this House who will be advocating for that very strongly. There is funding that addresses low female apprenticeship retention and completion rates. However, this funding has come nearly 18 months after the state government's report into the issue which recommended urgent action. The report detailed completion rates for Queensland female apprentices in male dominated industries being at least 21 per cent worse than that of their male counterparts. The private sector, particularly the mining and services industry, are doing their bit.

I acknowledge and welcome the government's announcement of free kindergarten. I hope that the commitment is not just a shiny announcement and that there has been detailed planning, that there are educators ready to go and kindergarten classrooms are ready to open by the start of school next year. Many, in particular the most vulnerable in our community, will rely upon that. The gender pay gap is still the second worst in the country, a difference of nearly \$14,000 per annum. I acknowledge the Women's Budget Statement this year. It is a lot meatier than it has been in previous years. I also acknowledge that the Minister for Women outlined superannuation differences and gaps which I believe I raised in the House last year when it was not outlined in too much detail in the budget statement.

I highlight that, when it comes to the budget, announcements are important but real action has to follow. The way that the Minister for Women denigrated another woman of this House because of her career and her service to nursing is not becoming of the Minister for Women and not becoming of any female member of this House. I will call it out every time for what it is: it is bullying and it is shameful. There are nurses all across this state who have accreditation to train and to provide administration.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Lister): Order, members. I will warn members under the standing orders from now on.


**Ms CAMM:** The fact that one member decides to give up that career and come and serve as a member to better inform public policy and to legislate and then is criticised for doing so by a senior minister of the government and the Minister for Women is disgusting.

**Ms McMillan** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The member for Mansfield is warned under the standing orders. There will be more to follow if I see them.

**Ms CAMM:** The Women's Budget Statement, as I said, outlines a lot of substance which is very important and critical to closing the gap. The new housing minister raised that the opposition does not have any ideas and that we did not actually touch on any solutions. I have some solutions for the new Minister for Housing. The Minister for Housing could, in fact, approve the Mackay community housing stock transfer.

On 31 May 2018, when I was a director of the company and a former deputy mayor, I met with the former housing minister. That is five years ago. We had been advocating for it for two years previously. It is still not signed off. If the Minister for Housing could sign that off for the Mackay community and get that done in the next six months that would be incredible. What a win. I will give her another idea: she could fund over-50s housing in the Whitsundays. The council has donated the land and the community is fundraising. We have repeatedly called for state government funding. There is another solution to help close that gap for women over 55. The Minister for Housing could also investigate the fact that our refuges, when it comes to domestic and family violence victims, are full, hotels are full, there are no rental properties, no social housing properties and women are sleeping in cars with their children. If the Minister for Housing could work with the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence that would be fantastic and a great start in closing the gap for women who are most vulnerable and at risk and whom this Labor government has failed to keep safe.

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (5.07 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Appropriation Bill 2023. I acknowledge and thank the Treasurer and Premier for delivering a solid budget that speaks directly to all Queenslanders no matter where they live. Cost-of-living pressures have been a major issue in recent times. The Palaszczuk government acknowledges the extreme pressures that cost of living has on families and households in Queensland by delivering a budget that aligns critical investments directly to benefit vulnerable families and households. I quote the Treasurer where he says, 'In this budget, our government will deliver greater and more widespread cost-of-living relief than any other government in Australia, state or federal', and that is exactly what Queenslanders can expect from this budget.

In this budget the Palaszczuk government will deliver more hospitals, more houses and more roads. We are doing everything to protect our services by delivering vital infrastructure because we know our communities deserve quality services. We are investing in local initiatives to support jobs and the local economy and we are doing absolutely everything to protect our great lifestyle. This budget will make a lot of difference to families and households in Queensland and it will certainly make a lot of difference to communities in my electorate of Cook, one of the most vast and diverse electorates in this state.

Health continues to be the No. 1 priority of the Palaszczuk government. A \$38 million overall health investment for Cook means that families will have access to quality health services closer to home. Mossman Hospital will receive \$250,000 out of a \$5.2 million total spend for roof cladding replacement and remediation works. This is in addition to the millions already spent on the redevelopment at the Mossman Hospital. In Cape York we will replace ageing infrastructure, utilising standardised design to deliver a safe, compliant and contemporary environment at Pormpuraaw Primary Health Care Centre. In Bamaga our investment will rectify and replace the end-of-life, noncompliant hydraulic pipeline at the local hospital.

In the Torres Strait we continue to support the redevelopment of Thursday Island Hospital and the separate primary healthcare centre and also the delivery of a new CT scanner. Our investment will deliver to the Mer Island community a brand new primary healthcare centre so that people living on Mer Island, in the eastern part of the Torres Strait, can continue to access health care closer to home. Since first elected, I have fought hard for vital funds for the Cow Bay Primary Health Centre to support the health needs of the Daintree community. I am excited that in this budget \$263,000 out of a total spend of \$14.9 million will be used to replace ageing infrastructure, utilising standardised design to deliver a safe, compliant and contemporary environment.

Our children deserve the opportunity to receive good quality education no matter where they live. This government continues to invest in infrastructure and to maintain and carry out minor works in schools across Cook to ensure safe and adequate learning environments to enhance our children's learning. In Cape York, our investment will support classroom refurbishment at the Hope Vale campus of the Cape York Aboriginal Australian Academy, Kowanyama, Northern Peninsula Area State College and Western Cape College in Weipa. At Western Cape College in Weipa we are also constructing a new building for additional learning spaces. Aurukun will receive funds to construct access ramps and pathways, while in Lockhart River we will enhance the administration block.

We will upgrade playground infrastructure in the Torres Strait at Tagai State College on Dauan Island and Kubin community on Moa Island. We are upgrading playground infrastructure as well as tuckshops on Masig, Warraber and Horn islands and at Aurukun in Cape York and Mount Molloy on the Atherton Tablelands. Clearly every child, no matter where they live, will benefit from this government's strong budget measures.

The budget also includes initiatives to support the local economy. Pajinka, on the most northern tip of Australia, is one of the many beautiful places I have visited in my electorate with a lot of tourism potential. I am excited that we will invest in Pajinka to support the clean-up of the former resort site for the development of low-level tourism infrastructure. Ongoing investment in the Wangetti Trail will see the trail come to completion so that we can open our doors to more visitors to our region. Mapoon Aboriginal Shire Council has worked extremely hard to create economic opportunities for the local community. I know that Cullen Point Campground is a popular visitor destination in Cape York; \$1 million out of a \$2.9 million total spend will go towards the upgrade and expansion of the Cullen Point Campground in Mapoon and the development of an historical interpretation walk of the mission village site in the Old Mapoon precinct.

Cook is home to many local artists and I am proud of the many talents in my electorate. I welcome the \$744,000 in the budget to support art centres throughout Cook to grow an ethical and sustainable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts industry.

The Palaszczuk government continues to work closely with local council and community organisations to deliver critical infrastructure to support our great lifestyle. Communities in the Torres Strait rely heavily on sea transport to access food supplies and services and to stay connected. Fuel infrastructure is an essential and critical service for many outer islands of the Torres Strait. I am pleased that the government continues to support the great lifestyle of people right across the state. Through this budget we will invest \$752,400 out of a \$1.1 million total spend for the Multi-Island Fuel Infrastructure Replacement Project. That is an important initiative that I am proud to deliver with the Torres Strait Island Regional Council.

Deputy Speaker, Mr Acting Speaker has reviewed and approved my budget speech for incorporation. As such, I ask that the remainder of my speech be incorporated into the *Record of Proceedings*.

*The speech read as follows—*

\$6 million out of a \$8.5 million total spend to upgrade the Horn Island passenger jetty and cargo wharf as well as \$672,757 out of a \$961,057 total spend to expand the Horn Island affordable housing project for Indigenous home-buyers.

\$669,956 out of a \$1.0 million total spend to provide building upgrades and an external face-lift, opening up the front of the Everlina Plaza building to customers in Hopevale.

\$370,000 out of a \$1.5 million total spend for the operation of the Kowanyama's Women's Meeting Place, and \$46,000 out of a \$184,000 total spend for the operation of the Kowanyama Men's Shed.

\$100,000 out of a \$1.4 million total spend to upgrade community infrastructure at the Coen Airport.

\$600,000 out of a \$1.5 million total spend to upgrade approximately 9km of Weipa's essential sewer network mains using an industry recognized process of rehabilitating and relining the existing pipes.

\$300,000 of a \$4.5 million total spend to commence the \$4.5 million construction of the Bamaga Fire and Emergency Services Complex.

\$140,000 for ongoing maintenance investment in training infrastructure at Thursday Island TAFE.

\$26,000 out of a \$40,000 total spend to develop a masterplan for the island's only sports centre that will identify a clear purpose and establish long-term vision.


\$150,000 to install field lighting at the Cassowary Park to give locals more flexibility to host night games.

\$296,000 out of a \$370,000 total spend to upgrade shade structures to improve safety and the efficient usage of lawn bowls greens.

Speaker, I am pleased that in this budget, every household in Queensland will receive \$550 electricity rebate. It does not stop there, eligible Queensland concession holders will also continue to access their \$372 standing concession and Queensland concession holders will also receive an additional electricity bill rebate of \$150. This is a good cost of living measure and I know this will go a long way to supporting households in Cook.

As a parent, I can remember enrolling my babies in Kindy for the first and the excitement on their little faces, about attending school and what a big deal that was. My kids are a lot older now but still I have fond memories of them attending kindy, making friends, being exposed to new things and learning new skills. I absolutely loved watching their little confidence grow and little minds develop. However, for many families I've spoken to in recent times, Kindy has become optional and so many families, choose to keep their kids at home. This will all change in this budget because come January 2024, all 4 year old Queensland children will benefit from this governments \$645 million investment over four years to fund 15 hours each week of free kindergarten.

Speaker, this is a good strong budget that speaks to all Queenslanders. A budget to help families and households cope with extreme challenges of cost of living pressures. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (5.13 pm): I rise to speak on the appropriation bills for 2023-24. From this year's budget it is obvious that the Premier has thrown as much money as possible at Queenslanders in the hope that they will think of her favourably at the polls in 499 days. I actually think that there is more of a short-term aim and that it is one that members opposite and their union masters will be monitoring. My sense is that it is too little too late for this Premier.

In my city of the Gold Coast, where the Premier spends a lot of time, whilst residents are always respectful of a position such as the Premier's, the youth crime crisis, homelessness and ambulance ramping have our constituents ready to take out their frustrations on the Labor Party next year. Queenslanders will remember this Premier—not for the kitchen-table politics this budget promises but for the youth crime crisis, the health crisis and the housing crisis that the Palaszczuk Labor government has allowed to occur over the past decade.

This government has introduced 15 new taxes, including four new and increased taxes in this year's budget, at a cost of more than \$10 billion to Queenslanders, all of which prove Labor's broken promises. Let us not forget that, since becoming Treasurer, Cameron Dick has said at least 26 times that there would be no new or increased taxes in this term—a promise clearly broken. It does not matter how much he tries to justify them or says he is not sorry for the coal lobby; it proves that his words and Labor's words before an election cannot be believed.

This government's inability to manage infrastructure projects has seen massive cost overruns for Cross River Rail, Gold Coast Light Rail stage 3, the Coomera Connector, the Gabba redevelopment and, of course, the three train stations that we heard the Leader of the Opposition say in his response today are now costed at \$500 million. There has been over \$10 billion in cost blowouts on major projects. That is \$10 billion that could have been spent to fix the health crisis, the housing crisis or the crime epidemic that is spreading across our state.

The Treasurer's cost-of-living or Big Build budget, as it has been coined, fails to repair frontline services or deliver long-term cost-of-living relief for Queenslanders. The Palaszczuk Labor government's budget has revealed that full-time frontline police numbers have fallen by 72 officers in the middle of the Queensland youth crime crisis. In my electorate of Surfers Paradise, where there is a station at Surfers Paradise and another at Broadbeach, the numbers have clearly fallen over the past couple of years.

I turn to my shadow portfolio areas and, firstly, that of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partnerships. We are all aware that Labor state governments have dominated policy affecting Indigenous Australians over the past 25 years and the gap remains as wide as ever in many areas, including health and education. I refer to the latest data released by the Productivity Commission, which reveals that out of the 19 life outcome areas for Indigenous Australians only four areas are on track to be met by 2031. In fact, from the latest data, targets to reduce the rate of incarceration for both Indigenous adults and children in out-of-home care have worsened.

I refer to an article from the ABC titled 'Government says updated Closing the Gap data highlights need for structural change'. The article points out that for Indigenous Australians aged between 15 and 39 years the leading cause of death is intentional self-harm. The article quotes federal Labor Minister for Indigenous Australians, Linda Burney, as saying, 'We cannot continue to go down the track of very little change.' I table a copy of that article.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the ABC News, dated 15 June 2023, titled 'Government says updated Closing the Gap data highlights need for structural change' [\[872\]](#).

An article from today's Financial Review is titled 'Only four of 19 Closing the Gap targets on track'. The article quotes Labor Senator McCarthy. The article states—

She said the whole of the Australian community remained frustrated by the lack of progress, and a 'long road' to equality remained.

'These are clear signs of the layers of disadvantage that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples face and reiterates the importance of working closely with communities and state and territory governments to close the gap.'

I table a copy of that article by Tom McIlroy.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Australian Financial Review*, dated 15 June 2023, titled 'Only four of 19 Closing the Gap targets on track' [873].

Focussing on Queensland, it is no surprise that from the *Queensland Closing the gap—Annual report 2022* we learned that the gap in life expectancy, child development, reduction in suicide, health, education, housing and overcrowding, incarceration and over-representation of children in out-of-home care are all not on track. This Labor government has had a decade to get this right.

I refer to the Auditor-General's report No. 14 of 2022-23 titled *Health outcomes for First Nations people*. A couple of things were recommended. At page 3 the report states—

Queensland Health committed to delivering implementation plans every 2 years under its *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Capability Framework 2010-2033* ... Queensland Health has not delivered any implementation plans since releasing the framework in 2010.

If you want proof that this government is big on announcements and poor on delivery you need only look at the Auditor-General's report released last week. On page 3, dot point 4, the report states—

Queensland Health also committed to fully measuring the success of its cultural capability framework, but it has not developed a system to do this. While it has delivered initiatives under the framework, it cannot demonstrate if these have been effective or how they form part of a coordinated strategy. An independent review in 2018—

that is, five years ago—

also recommended Queensland Health address these shortfalls, but the review was not formally actioned.

I quote again from the Auditor-General's report, 'Queensland Health has not acted to improve the PTSS.' I note that there has been an increase from \$60 to \$70 for the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme. The Department of Health began a reform project in 2017 that identified 32 outstanding recommendations from PTSS reviews. The department has not continued this project and last reported on it in 2017. I acknowledge that a concession has been given in this budget, but the important thing it says in this report—

Many of these recommendations, if actioned, would improve the experience of First Nations people using the PTSS.

Here we see a classic example of a number of issues mentioned by the Auditor-General where the government has had up to 13 years to do things for Indigenous Australians and Indigenous Queenslanders but clearly has not and is now looking for other solutions. This year's budget again shows significant failures to reach learning outcome targets for Indigenous students across all year levels in reading, writing and numeracy. Indigenous students' attendance rates are much lower than non-Indigenous students and have a disproportionate rate of disciplinary absences.

We have heard in this budget about the Labor government allocating \$11.7 million over three years for a First Nations water strategy. Twice in the last month we have heard of alarming developments about water contamination in Yarrabah. Despite the government claiming elevated lead levels were confined to the local health centre, last week it was reported that elevated lead and copper levels were detected in water supplies at a kindergarten, primary and secondary schools in the Far North Queensland community. This highlights another example of the government's systemic failure to plan and deliver for our Indigenous communities.

Twelve months ago we heard the Deputy Premier touting in his 2022-23 budget announcements \$22.3 million as part of the \$120 million for the Indigenous Councils Critical Infrastructure Program to support Indigenous councils to implement projects and infrastructure works relating to critical water and waste water. Where is the progress? Given the track record of this Labor government, the people of Yarrabah will not be put at ease with this latest announcement on water from the Treasurer. I note that there is no mention in this year's budget of the Indigenous Councils Critical Infrastructure Program, but I know that many of the projects in these communities are not finished and, in some cases, have not even started. The government does not deliver on its promises to Queenslanders.

I have also mentioned the Auditor-General report released on 7 June about serious and systemic failures when it comes to Indigenous health. These findings were released on the same day as the government's priority was renaming Fraser Island instead of working to achieve better outcomes for Indigenous Queenslanders. I quote from the Auditor-General's report—

Many commitments appear hard to achieve without significant investment and focused effort across the health system.

For a decade this government has been big on announcements and very poor on delivery, and it continues to fail in implementing Indigenous health plans for our First Nations Queenslanders.

Moving on to the seniors and disability portfolio, it is somewhat ironic that today is World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. I heard the minister refer to it today. It is disappointing to hear that elder abuse is growing in Queensland. There has been a 15.6 per cent increase in notifications received by the Elder Abuse Prevention Unit in 2021-22. The statement about seniors this morning was full of motherhood statements but light on details about the specifics of elder abuse. How can you fix an issue if you do not measure it? In the case of Queensland, it cannot be measured if it is not even defined. How can any government understand the depth of abuse and assist those most in need without a consistent definition and the ability to measure data? Queensland's aged population is growing and the rate of elder abuse will grow with it. It is a matter of urgency for the government to take the abuse of older people in our community seriously. The lack of action in addressing the issue of elder abuse in our communities is apparent. These numbers will continue to rise, our elderly are at risk and the Palaszczuk Labor government continues to be lethargic in its response. Seniors have all but been forgotten in this budget.

The release of the Queensland public sector workforce profile revealed there are 120 fewer disability support workers than when the government was elected in 2020. This, along with a 44 per cent increase in withdrawals or cancellations of Queensland community and personal service industry trainees before completing their qualification, leaves a workforce shortage in an already struggling disability sector.

As we have heard from the Treasurer, revenue has never been higher and yet in multicultural affairs there have been no changes to funding this year. The Holocaust Museum, a promise by the LNP prior to the last election—and copied by Labor—is still not open. Whilst multicultural affairs has wraparound services funded in several portfolios, it is disappointing to see the lack of funding and initiatives outlined in this year's budget.

Labor has turned its back on the Gold Coast, and there is no better example than in my electorate of Surfers Paradise. Only last month the Treasurer announced the Palaszczuk Labor government was finally getting tough on hoons with a rollout of anti-hooning cameras across the hardest hit regions in Queensland. Guess how many the Gold Coast was allocated? A big fat zero! I table a copy of an article entitled 'Hoons put on notice' showing that these cameras are only going to Logan, Townsville and Ipswich.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Townsville Bulletin*, undated, titled 'Hoons put on notice' [\[874\]](#).

Fewer police and weaker laws are what created the youth crime crisis, and now in this budget we discover police numbers going backwards. In Broadbeach there were 408 offences between May 2022 and April 2023 involving vehicles, including stolen cars. We now have Queensland as the car theft capital of Australia.

Recently, I sent an email to 10,000 constituents asking for feedback on issues in my electorate. Hooning, the lack of traffic patrols, the elderly feeling unsafe and the youth crime crisis all featured in the feedback received. This was the biggest number of responses of frustration my office has ever had. This budget has finally let the cat out of the bag, confirming what whistleblowers have been saying for months: that there are fewer police keeping Queenslanders safe. I refer to an article in the *Chronicle* from 6 June 2023 titled 'Crims make mockery of law.' In this article it reports—

Repeat offenders are thumbing their noses at Premier Palaszczuk's "toughest laws in Australia" to tackle youth crime ... is doing little to deter young offenders.

In the article, Queensland Law Society's former president and criminal lawyer Bill Potts says—

... the numbers show a system "flailing and failing". "The simple truth is these people don't care and indeed see being arrested as a badge of courage ...




The youth crime crisis is affecting all Queenslanders—my neighbours, and, sadly, I am not immune. Just two weeks ago while visiting friends for lunch on a Sunday, I had personal items stolen from my vehicle by a 15-year-old girl. The audacity of this offender was palpable. After she was arrested and then shortly after released, she contacted me via direct message on Instagram to tell me to get it right and that the details reported on in the paper that day were not correct. I quote—

Please get it right I was the person who stole from your car not the other person okay get your story right.

Having confirmed that this was the person who had done this to my car and stolen from me, she subsequently sent me another direct message—without identifying that she was 16—saying, ‘15 just to correct you.’ I table a copy of that de-identified direct message.

*Tabled paper:* Extract of Facebook comments, undated, relating to an article from the *Gold Coast Bulletin* titled ‘Arrest over cop, polmie incident’ [875].

When the Premier says that the best thing we can do for these young people is get them a job, my constituents think that is a joke and shows exactly how out of touch the Premier is. A young criminal, well known to police, defiant about any consequences, shows how out of touch is the Premier. The people of Surfers Paradise deserve a government that listens and not one that has abandoned the Queensland Police Service, which is working so hard in my community. There are crime-ravaged communities. We are committed to fixing the youth crime crisis. The opposition leader has said exactly what we are going to do when it comes to fixing that. We want appropriate delivery in our failing health system and to restore safety in our community. We deserve better than a Palaszczuk Labor ‘kakistocracy’.

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (5.28 pm): I rise to make a contribution in relation to the budget. This year’s budget is a Labor budget through and through, and I am proud to present it to my community. It is a budget that supports our first responders and provides state-of-the-art facilities and capacity for them to deliver world-class services to Queensland. In this year’s budget we will see the planning work for the new Mount Cotton Road permanent fire and rescue station come to fruition with \$8.2 million of a \$10½ million spend to bring this contemporary emergency response facility to life. Not only will it provide a first-class futureproof facility for our firefighters with capabilities to cover the urban, suburban, semirural and nearby island communities; it provides peace of mind to that part of my community that is at risk during bushfire season.

Our local ambos are also big winners in this year’s budget. Beenleigh Ambulance Station, one of the biggest outside of Brisbane, will receive a brand new station to support the growing demand for health services. I spoke to the station OIC earlier today and he was over the moon to provide his staff with a facility to meet their growing workforce. When I attended Beenleigh Ambulance Station only last month to inspect one of their newly delivered vehicles, I was amazed at the number of staff who operate out of that station, and it will only grow as we increase our QAS workforce and QAS fleet. On top of my 2020 commitment to build a new justice precinct for Beenleigh, the police, fire and ambulance services in Beenleigh are undertaking generational renewal under this Palaszczuk Labor government.

Education in Macalister is also another winner in this year’s budget. In just over a month’s time the new Beenleigh State High School hall will be completed and, with that, the next wave of educational infrastructure renewal will commence. Mount Warren Park State School is the home of an Early Childhood Development Program which services my electorate as well as parts of the Springwood and Waterford electorates. For those who do not know what an ECDP is, it is basically an early intervention program for those young children diagnosed with disabilities to help prepare them for school life in either a special school or a mainstream school. This is an extremely important service to make sure that these wonderful and vulnerable children have a chance for a good start to their schooling career. Beenleigh State School and Windaroo Valley State School will also receive amenity and facility upgrades.


Some serious road bottlenecks will also be targeted in this budget for Macalister residents. Kicking off the 10-year Beenleigh Better Roads project is an upgrade to the City Road-Logan Street intersection—one of only two access intersections into Beenleigh off the M1 at exit 34. Traffic frequently backs up onto the roundabout, previously known as the ‘Bin Chicken Bayou’, and onto the northbound lanes of the M1. The upgrade will see an increase in turning lanes for traffic coming off the roundabout and onto the Beenleigh ring-road. The funding in this year’s budget will see the design, consultation and land acquisition commence for the intersection upgrade.

I have always spoken about Beenleigh’s potential. I spoke about it in my first ever speech in this House. Beenleigh is a peri-urban centre halfway between Brisbane and the Gold Coast on the M1 and on the express train line, so I was proud to see a number of tourism-based investments in Beenleigh in this budget—yes, tourism in Beenleigh. Watch this space.



What is taking shape in the Distillery Road precinct is groundbreaking. Capitalising on the work that Kenton Campbell and Zarraffa's are doing with the Distillery Road Market, the government will invest in food tourism with new kitchen facilities at the Beenleigh Rum Distillery. Yes, eating is cheating, but pairing good food with rum is a winner in my books. Just down the road we are joining with the Logan City Council to build the Logan Riverine Discovery Centre. We will be contributing \$950,000 this year for the design, construction and fit-out of the centre, which will activate stretches of the Albert River with adventure activities and educational facilities.

There are so many winners for my electorate in this budget. There are the cost-of-living electricity rebates but more importantly for my young families is the free kindy. Free kindy will give my families the head start that these kids need. So many times I have spoken to principals who see their preppy students start who have never engaged in any formal education. This will make it possible. This will give them the start that they need. I know my principals are absolutely thrilled to see what this will bring in terms of student development and grade improvement over the next four years. This will change Queensland lives. That is just the start with this budget. I could stand here all night but, instead, I will commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr DAMETTO** (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (5.33 pm): I rise to give my contribution on the budget. As the local member for Hinchinbrook, I spend a fair bit of time getting around the electorate and I even spend time outside the electorate as well so that I have an ear to the ground to try to get a good understanding of what regional Queensland constituents and residents of North Queensland want. They are always asking for things a little bit different from the south-east corner. That is not because we do not want the big ticket items that the south-east corner has. It is mainly because they realise that they are not always going to get those things.

What keeps North Queenslanders happy is the opportunity to use our great outdoors. They are interested in things like boat ramps and making sure we have marine access, making sure we have access to national parks and making sure the trails in national parks are being looked after. Industries—whether they be in agriculture, fisheries or heavy industry—always want to make sure that money is being spent to keep the lights on in North Queensland and that the jobs that they love and work towards keeping are being supported by the state government.

I rise today not only as the member for Hinchinbrook but as the Deputy Leader of the KAP in the absence of the member for Traeger. I should mention that he is away at the moment awaiting the arrival of his third lovely child, so I will be speaking on behalf of the KAP today.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DAMETTO:** Thank you. I will pass on those lovely messages.

This year's budget will see \$15 billion in coal royalties returned to Queensland. That is something we should all be celebrating. In the same breath, we should be seeing that money returned to the places where that money was generated. We should be seeing our small regional towns paved in gold. It should look like the Dubai in Queensland right now with the amount of money that is being pulled in. We should be paving the streets in gold. The reality is that we are not seeing that. We are seeing that money spent in other places, and I will come to that in a minute.

The state government will run a surplus this year of \$12.3 billion, which is good. If I were in that position, I would make sure that we were paying down some of our debt, but our debt will increase to \$147 billion by 2026. That is unbelievable. Good fiscal policy is about paying down your debt when you have extra dollars coming through. Even my mum and dad taught me that. It might be the Italian in me. I am a little frugal. Money saved is money made, the Italians say.

We have also noticed in the budget that the Premier has an extra hundred staff. That is brilliant. I wish they would flick a couple our way for our electorate offices. We need help out there. I think every member of parliament would love an extra person working in their electorate office.

We are going to see some good things delivered to the state through this budget. I do not want to dwell on things that are not being delivered. We should be thankful. We have free kindy statewide. That is something that we will be celebrating in the Hinchinbrook electorate and across the KAP electorates. We will be welcoming that. Getting children into early childhood learning is important, especially for some of those kids from disadvantaged families. Getting them into a classroom sooner will no doubt help them as they progress through school life.

We were told some time ago that renewables were going to bring down the price of electricity—that they were going to drive down the price of electricity. Yet we have seen it rise year on year. I think we are going to see a lot more of that as we continue to invest in renewable energy. No matter how you transition to renewables, there will be some large capital costs and the end user is going to have to pay.

The state government is going to give a \$700 cost-of-living rebate on our electricity bills. That will be welcomed by vulnerable households. Also, there is a further \$372 under the Queensland Electricity Rebate Scheme for eligible Queenslanders. That will mean \$1,072 will go to combating the price rise in electricity. It is supposed to go up by 28 per cent next month. That is crazy. Year on year it is going up. Other than fuel and groceries, I do not know of anything else that has gone up by 28 per cent this year. Small businesses will get a small rebate of \$650. Anyone who runs a cold room or is in hospitality will tell you that that will not go very far. That will not butter the bread on both sides.

Health in regional Queensland is very close to my heart and the KAP. We are about delivering equitable and quality health services to the regions. I thank the state government for ensuring that dialysis units were delivered to the Hinchinbrook electorate in last year's budget. We have not got much in this year's budget though. There is \$530 million for the Townsville University Hospital which some of my residents will benefit from, but the small town of Ingham has a hospital and they need a CT scanner. We have had everyone working on this. We have had everyone from Peter Smith from the CAN to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Advisory Council and me lobbying the state government for a CT scanner.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Walker): Pause the clock. The idle chitchat happening in the background is getting quite noisy and it is very hard to hear. If you want to have a chitchat, take it outside.

**Mr DAMETTO:** Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. It was getting that loud, I thought I was going to have to be like an auctioneer and speak above the crowd to get my speech out.

**Mr Knuth:** Sold!

**Mr DAMETTO:** Sold! There is \$330 million for the Townsville Hospital, which is a great upgrade, but we do not have a CT scanner for the Ingham Hospital. I have been told there is light at the end of the tunnel. There may be some funding in another pocket somewhere to help us out with that. A CT scanner is so important for anyone who has a stroke. If you have a stroke you must be given anticoagulant drugs to unblock the blockage as quickly as possible. You cannot have those administered until you have had a CT scan, and the closest CT scanner to Ingham is about an hour to an hour and a half away at the Townsville University Hospital. We want to align with other parts of regional Queensland to ensure we have not only a public but also a private scanner available 24/7. I have faith that the minister will deliver this at some stage.

The KAP has been lobbying for increases to the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme even before the good member for Hill was part of the KAP, but he has lobbied for increases to the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme. Since then there have been some increases. I took up the fight a little while ago for the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme to increase from 30 cents to 60 cents—just to line up with the cost of living—and from \$60 a night to \$120 a night. Unfortunately, we only saw a four cent per kilometre and \$10 per night increase.

**Mr Knuth:** Shame!

**Mr DAMETTO:** That is a shame. I will take that interjection from the member for Hill. Something else to celebrate is that the Burdell area, near where I live, is going to get a new ambulance station. That money was allocated last budget. We are going to see \$12.4 million spent on a brand new ambulance centre. That will be the hub for Townsville. They are doing a bit of decentralisation and the hub for ambulance services will be in Burdell, which is great.

We do want the Minister for Transport and Main Roads to take note of some problems and bottlenecks at the North Shore Boulevard and Shaw Road intersection. It is a nightmare for people to get out of Burdell or out of Shaw into Wilcox Street on a daily basis. With the ambulance station right next door to this intersection, which is bedlam, we would like to see some upgrades there at some stage. I know there is money there for business cases at the moment. We hope that progresses quickly. Who knows, by the next state budget we might even have a promise in there for the election. I hope so.

In housing we have also have \$322 million being spent statewide. We are going to see \$16 million of that—\$16.4 million, to be precise—in Townsville. That equates to about 32 houses. There are about 2,000 people on the waitlist in Townsville to get into public or social housing, so those 32

houses are going to be a bit of a ripple in a big pond, but we are thankful. Unfortunately, we did not see any north of Townsville. There are no new houses for the Hinchinbrook shire or parts of the Cassowary Coast that I look after.

For QFES statewide there is \$1.4 billion, which is great. We have the SES and fire and rescue there being funded. It is good to see those people will not have to do so many sausage sizzles trying to raise funds for the vital equipment they need when we need them most.

**Mr Knuth:** Hear, hear!

**Mr DAMETTO:** I will take that interjection from the member for Hill. There is a record police budget spend but we are not seeing the extra numbers that we need out on the beat. Once, the QPS was able to keep what is happening on our streets at night under control, but the reality is we have kids out there in large cohorts who are very active. They are well organised and they cause chaos every night on our streets. I used to ring up once a week to the Deeragun Police Station to find out who had their car stolen last night because I wanted to try and support that person. Now I wake up every morning on the northern beaches and it is like, 'Which person do I ring?' There are about three cars that go missing every night. The QPS is doing a fantastic job but they need more support.

In terms of youth justice, \$1.4 billion has been poured into this since the Palaszczuk government took control of the state and \$440 million will be allocated in this budget. The KAP would have loved to see something done with alternative sentencing options with relocation sentencing at least trialled. The counterpart of the Labor Party in Western Australia is trialling this right now. We cannot wait to see the information that comes out of that trial. Hopefully, it gives this government the gumption to try something new. The people of Townsville cannot wait for the next state election for a change of government if that was to happen. They need to see something change now. They cannot deal with another year and a bit of the absolute lawlessness on our streets at night. I ask the government to do something now rather than later.

A lot of money has been spent on child services and child safety, but many people say it needs a full rework. We will see \$58 million spent on addressing some of the DV shortfalls. We would love to see the QPS given more skills and more people with specific training in DV when they walk into people's homes so they can try and help figure out the problems sooner.


As my time is running out, I have to get to a few things that have happened in the Hinchinbrook electorate which I am very happy about. Tourism will see a boost on Hinchinbrook Island. The world renowned Thorsborne Trail is the most beautiful trail. It is one of the top five hikes in the world. If you have not hiked it, get up to Townsville, get up to Ingham and get over there in one of the tour boats and do the whole trail. It takes three to four days. The government is spending \$1.5 million this budget out of a total \$3.2 million spend. The best thing about this is that they have consulted and started to include the TOs from the start, unlike what happened in previous years where it was, in my words, not done well.

We will also see TMR invest in the area. We have \$280 million invested in the stage five ring-road, which helps out my electorate as well. It is not in the electorate but it helps those residents who travel every day. There is \$109 million to complete the Townsville northern access intersection upgrade. It is jointly funded with the federal government. This is a great project. It will mean that we will hopefully have no more roadworks for a little while between Ingham and Townsville. It is the last little section to be completed. We have some really good roads, and credit to the minister and the department for making sure those projects have gone ahead. We do want to see works in the future between Ingham and Tully. We have some very narrow, dangerous bridges, especially between Ingham and Cardwell. My mother travels that road every day to go to work, and I would love to see her—along with the rest of my constituents—driving on safer roads.

We also see a lot of money being spent on training and skills. We did not see any announcement for the Ingham TAFE, which is all but sitting dormant up in Ingham. Forty or so people go through that TAFE each year. It is a beautiful, big building. Very little is being focused on to make sure we have the courses necessary. We have been doing some work with the department and the minister, and we hope to see some money flow through for that at some stage soon. In terms of infrastructure for the electorate, money which has previously been allocated is being spent on the sewage treatment plant at Port Hinchinbrook, which we welcome.

While I am on my feet I will talk about the schools. We are always very happy with the Minister for Education and the way she looks after schools not only in Hinchinbrook but across the whole state. It must be a huge ask. Gee, if one person gets a black security fence, everyone wants one. We got one last year. The member for Hill has got one this year, and I am sure the member for Traeger will be lining

up for one soon too. How good is tuckshop? I used to leave my lunch at home so I could buy tuckshop—that is how much I love tuckshop. A number of our tuckshops are getting money spent on them. Trevor Buchanan is the principal at Bluewater State School. The tuckshop at Ingham State School is also being looked after—principal Maryanne Macdonald will be happy about that—and principal Janene Franklin will be happy about the tuckshop upgrade at Toobanna State School—one of our small schools that matter. There are some highs and lows in this budget, but that is it from me.

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (5.49 pm): What a ripper of a budget this one is. Can I start off by congratulating the Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment on a fantastic budget for Queensland. For my community of Pine Rivers, it delivers some great projects that I am really excited about. There is money in this budget for our Eatons Crossing Road upgrade—a project that I campaigned really hard to get funding for that will see safety improvements through that corridor.

Bray Park State High School is getting a brand new building which will be focused on industrial technology precincts and it will also upgrade the manual arts facility. I thank the minister for this tremendous investment in the local high school at Bray Park.

In terms of other investments, I was out the other day on site at Lawnton Ambulance Station where remediation works are already commencing to build a brand new ambulance station that is accessible for our community and replaces the old ambulance station at Petrie. This will increase capacity and provide modern facilities for our ambulances and our paramedics. The Dayboro Police Station is getting replaced, which is fantastic. It is a really old, dingy building. I was there the other day giving Sergeant Ken Robinson his Queensland Day award, and I have to say that that facility is in complete need of a replacement. It has been wonderful to work with the community to get a fantastic plan together on that.

We also have upgrades to the Trevena Glen Farm. It is creating a ride-on mini train railway attraction and some fantastic things to create a better experience there. I thank the Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport for that investment in our community. It is a bullseye for Samford archery which will be getting an increase in funding for their facilities to increase the archery capability in our local community. It is an absolute bullseye. We also have investment in the North Pine Dam. I thank the Minister for Water for that investment. It will ensure that we fix up that dam wall.

I was so excited on Sunday to announce the Gympie Road bypass tunnel with the Treasurer and the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. For our community, that will be a complete game changer. It will help those parallel roads along that corridor and it will help locals getting from place to place. It will take through traffic off our local roads which will improve the lifestyle of members of our community meaning they are not stuck in traffic and they can get home sooner.

We have our Kallangur Satellite Hospital which is under construction right now. It is such an exciting facility and it will increase the capability of our local hospital at Prince Charles. In addition to that, we are creating 93 new beds there, a new car park, which is very much needed, and new clinical services. There is lots and lots locally in our budget.

The cost-of-living relief is a fantastic and welcome addition to our community. It is done without adding to inflationary pressures in the economy. It does not matter whether it is the energy price, the free kindy or the SwimStart vouchers, it will help families and households in our local community.

We continue on with a huge investment in our front line as well with the men and women who represent our community every day. I thank those fantastic folk out there serving our community.

We also have the largest budget surplus of any state or territory in the nation right now. This is something to be proud of. It has been done through progressive coal royalties which enables us to do a big build and also provide that cost-of-living relief. We can only do this because we own our energy assets and we are getting those progressive coal royalties. This is good Labor policy that is delivering for our communities and the families in our communities.


I listened with real interest to the very prolonged budget reply attack speech from the Leader of the Opposition today. I learnt when they went to the election in 2017 that the swim vouchers was one of their policies. I am a keen observer in politics. I would like to know how the LNP are going to pay for their policies, what they stand for and what they are going to deliver to our community. I have been diligently working today to try to find out what the LNP plan is but I could not find a thing.

**Mr Healy:** Any luck?

**Ms BOYD:** I had no luck at all, member for Cairns. I take that interjection. The only plan I could find that had over 50 policies in it was Campbell Newman's plan around getting Queensland on track. I had to go way back. The member for Clayfield was there, along with a previous member for Callide as well as the member for Surfers Paradise of course. The really interesting thing for me was that we could not actually find any commitment from the LNP at all around what they stand for in Queensland or what they will provide for Queenslanders. If they are going to talk about promises from previous elections, which promises are they still upholding and which ones are they going to dismiss? I cannot see any evidence there. I see no private members' bills coming through this House. We cannot find a single written policy from the LNP that David Crisafulli has put his name or his face to.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Walker): Pause the clock. I ask you to please use correct titles.

**Ms BOYD:** The Leader of the Opposition is nowhere to be seen in terms of policy commitments for the LNP. They need to write it down. The LNP need to write down these policies and be accountable to them because it is the only way that we will actually know what it is the LNP stand for because everyone is still terribly confused.

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (5.55 pm): I rise today with my response to the government's 2023-24 budget. And so it is that one financial year of the chaotic and crisis-prone Palaszczuk government draws to its close and another is about to begin. I am on my feet today as shadow minister for health and ambulance services, shadow minister for medical research and shadow minister for women and as the proud member for Mudgeeraba.

I will start my contribution focused squarely on matters relating to the health portfolio. Queenslanders live the ups and downs of our public health system. They rely on it and they need it—whether it is an appointment for their child to see a specialist, whether it is a surgery to fix a grandparent's ailing knee or whether it is a call to triple 0 during an emergency in what could be a life-or-death situation. Queenslanders rely on our public health system. Because of the total chaos and the crisis of those opposite in how they govern our state, our public health system is now in a state of chaos and crisis as well.

Those opposite might not like hearing it but Queensland Health is in crisis. The last minister for health could not acknowledge that fact, and I am not sure if the current minister ever will. If she will not, then she had better get used to hearing it and I will tell this House why. The patients waiting on ramps and in overflowing emergency departments know it. The staff, my colleagues, working triple and double shifts scrambling to find a bed for a sick or injured Queenslander know it. And the public at large know it. They see it and they read about it. They hear about it from their friends and family who have experienced it. They know the Queensland Health crisis is real. There are not many Queenslanders out there now who do not know someone who has waited years for an appointment for a specialist or sat for hours to be seen in an emergency department. That is a fact.

It lays bare the extent of the crisis. That is no reflection on our incredible health staff who are fronting up every single day. The patient care they deliver is exceptional under the most trying of circumstances. They are being slammed, they are being smashed—every single day. The fact our health system is in the dire situation it is is no way a reflection on them. It is a reflection on someone though; it is a reflection on those opposite—a chaotic, crisis-prone government which is three terms and nearly a decade into its tenure; a government which has failed to properly plan, resource and run our health system. No record health budget will stop that rot, the chaos or the crisis because those things are all set in stone now.

In fact it was a record, record, record health budget last year as well, if I am to quote the Premier. Look at what that record health budget got us. Those opposite can bleat and bleat and bleat about a record health budget all they like, but no amount of bleating about a record health budget will change the Palaszczuk government's record on delivering health care.

When I rose to address last year's budget, I remarked that ambulance ramping here in Queensland was the worst in the nation at 42 per cent. Despite that record health budget last year, guess what? Ambulance ramping in Queensland is still the worst in the nation—only now it is worse, at 43 per cent. In fact, so bad was ramping last year that paramedics and their patients waited a combined 147,000 hours on ambulance ramps. Record ramping from the record health budget—that is their record on health.

When I rose to address last year's budget, I remarked that there were 250,000 Queenslanders waiting to see a specialist. Despite that record health budget last year, guess what? It has risen by 30,000 people to over 280,000 Queenslanders. That is their record on health.

When I rose to address last year's budget, I spoke about the nearly 60,000 people waiting for elective surgery. At the time around one in five patients would wait longer than clinically recommended for their surgery. Now it is nearly one in four. That is their record on health. Those are the cold, hard numbers behind their record health budgets, both this year and last.

It is why the LNP has put our solutions on the table to help the health crisis: real-time data monitoring of our hospitals, better resources, improving and strengthening triaging practices and putting doctors and nurses back in charge. We bolstered those commitments today. We have committed to ensuring that a real-time data platform will be delivered within the first 100 days of our government. That is because we value transparency and accountability. We have said we will deliver a contemporary health workforce plan if elected. As we rightly pointed out earlier, it is one thing to promise new hospitals, it is another thing to staff them.

I also touched on something else in my address last year. It is an issue which spans both the health portfolio and the women's portfolio of which I proudly have shadow ministerial carriage. This issue, of course, is maternity services here in Queensland. I said last year how it was inexplicable that mothers in Queensland were faced with the prospect of roadside births after maternity services in their towns were shut. Did the situation improve last year with the record health budget? Just weeks after that budget was handed down, the Gladstone maternity ward went on bypass. A region of over 60,000 people without a maternity ward—it beggars belief. For 339 days that ward was on bypass, even with that record health budget. How this situation was ever allowed to occur in the first place is nothing short of a disgrace. When the history of the Palaszczuk government is written, the saga of Gladstone's maternity services bypass will go down as one of its darkest chapters.

However, it is not only Gladstone where this has happened. Since coming to office, birthing services in Chinchilla, in Biloela and in Cooktown have also closed their doors. It was with its own great fanfare that the government announced \$42 million in this budget for maternity services. There was just one problem: there were no details—and I mean zero details—about when Biloela, Chinchilla and Cooktown maternity services would reopen. What about Weipa? It was meant to be opened years ago. The Gladstone bypass might be one of the darkest chapters of this Palaszczuk government. It would be but one chapter in an entire book about the Palaszczuk government's failures to manage our state's maternity services.

To those opposite who have the temerity to talk about women's issues like it is something they own, I have some news. If they want to talk about women's issues, a good place to start would be allowing women to birth in the towns where they were born, where they have grown up and where they live and work. This government who crows about being on the forefront for women has continued to fail them in multiple and significant ways.

Moving on from the maternity crisis, we had the forensic lab disaster and the denial of this government that anything was wrong, disregarding the critical nature of the lab, particularly for female victims, or just being completely ignorant to its significance. We have had the failures of the state's response to domestic, family and sexual violence against women laid bare through the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce, yet there is no urgency for the government to get moving on the recommendations. It is unsurprising then that we continue to see Queensland women left behind the rest of the country on the path to equality. We have the second widest pay gap in the country. This government has had every chance to genuinely impact the lives of women for the better, but all we have had is more talk.

I want to address the comments made in this House by the Minister for Health this week, the comments where she referred to me as a fake nurse in fake scrubs. I have trained and practised as a clinician. I assume that is only something that the Minister for Health can dream of. When I talk about health care as part of the budget, I do it through the lens of someone who has delivered patient care. There are people on both sides of this chamber with this perspective and experience; the Minister for Health is not one of them.

Just like other registered nurses across Queensland, I have held the hands of patients as they passed. Just like other registered nurses across Queensland, I have comforted those receiving a life-changing diagnosis. Just like other registered nurses across Queensland, I have scrubbed up to walk into theatre where a patient's life is on the line. When we talk about delivering health care as part

of this budget that is the actual end result. That is what it funds. The Minister for Health will never understand those things. She will never understand what that feels like. There is nothing fake about being a registered nurse. It is a protected title under Ahpra and one that I am qualified to hold.

To my colleagues, every educated nurse out there—practising, educating or running a hospital—I say this: there is nothing fake about the nursing you do or have done. In the minister's pathetic and detestable attempt to verbalise me, she has insulted every registered nurse in Queensland. The morale amongst nursing staff in Queensland Health is at rock bottom, record health budget or not, and the comments from the minister calling nurses who might be in education or administrative roles fake will do untold damage to the collective spirits of the nursing profession across this state. Only the minister herself can explain her bizarre, hurtful rant. Those comments will haunt her throughout her time as the minister, however long or short that is.

In yet another display of her arrogance and ignorance, the chauffeurs that she referred to on my ride-along were all senior operations officers with the QAS—senior paramedics, not chauffeurs—or does the minister think that they are fake paramedics? The only reason I was not in the back of an ambulance was because her government have refused to allow me to be in the back of an ambulance even though student nurses, student doctors, student paramedics and even the media do ride-alongs in the trucks. At least Steven Miles and Cameron Dick let me get in the back of an ambulance.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Walker): Pause the clock. The Treasurer has a title.

**Ms BATES:** Sorry, the Deputy Premier and Treasurer when they were the health ministers. Mudgeeraba has once again been forgotten by this tired third-term Labor government as key community projects continue to go unfunded. Labor has an addiction to announcements, for projects that are never delivered. The Palaszczuk government has left Mudgeeraba behind.

I have been pleading with them to fund the raising of the Austinville Causeway before someone is killed when the road floods. I am tired of raising it, and I am sure those opposite are tired of hearing about it, too, but it does not diminish its importance. The causeway is great imagery for those opposite but not important enough to fund. When they put out their 'If it's flooded, forget it.' photos, where do you think the photo is from? It is the Austinville Causeway. We need \$1.5 million to raise the causeway so more drivers are not swept off the roads in floods and communities remain connected in times of natural disasters. I have written, talked to, met with ministers and their departments trying to explain just how important this project is, but it remains at the bottom of the priority list.

Then there is the long-touted Merrimac train station, first announced in 2017 and reannounced every year since. It has not even broken ground. In classic Labor fashion, Merrimac train station, which was announced along with two other stations at Pimpama and Hope Island, at a cost of \$120 million, is now edging closer to a \$500 million project. Another blowout and not a train in sight.

Our roads continue to be neglected, we have seen next to no money at all for schools in Mudgeeraba, and what has this government done to fix the housing and cost-of-living crisis impacting my electorate? We continue to be neglected here on the Gold Coast, and it is just not good enough.

We have another budget and another list of recycled projects being reannounced: the reannouncement of upgrades to Nerang-Murwillumbah Road which has been happening for two years; the reannouncement of the Merrimac train station, first announced in 2017; the reannouncement of the Lower Beechmont community facility, announced in last year's budget and announced again in this year's budget; and the reannouncement of the Springbrook National Park visitor facilities which was completed two years ago.


The only positives we can take from this budget is \$387,500 to help in expanding Swell Festival, an 11-day sculptural exhibition around Hinze Dam as part of the Tourism Experience Development Fund. Thank you, minister! We will see the government match the federal government for disaster recovery funding to repair Gold Coast-Springbrook Road. Robina Hospital will also see very long overdue funding to the tune of \$10 million for the replacement of the mobile duress system and refurbishing the transit lounge in the acute care unit. That is the absolute least the doctors, nurses and frontline staff there deserve. What about all the other resources they desperately need? What about the fact that Robina Hospital staff cannot go to work and park their car without fear of copping a hefty fine because the parking facilities are inadequate?

Let's talk about the illegal hoons who are making a mockery of this government's weak laws and punishments. Again let me put on record how I have written, met with and talked to the minister and his department for the past eight years. I have explained that installing CCTV cameras in Lower Beechmont, Springbrook and the Numinbah Valley would help our hardworking police hunt down and

prosecute these criminals. But nothing. Our police and our community have been let down again. This government could not even include the Gold Coast as part of their recently announced program to target dangerous driving. Police had to break up a group of around 100 cars in Robina as part of a hooning operation in May, but that was not enough to warrant any funding support.

I was pleased to see, though, that the Gilston State School will receive \$600,000 to refurbish block amenities, but we need much more. I have said it until I am blue in the face—we need a new state high school west of the M1. Local high schools are reaching capacity and there is no room or capacity for future development unless it is up. Are families expected to leave the area? No, they want their children to get a consistent education.

While this government remains at the helm, Mudgeeraba will continue to be forgotten. My community deserves better and Queensland deserves better. I will continue to fly the flag for Mudgeeraba and fight to ensure the people there get the support they deserve.

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Alger—ALP) (Minister for Treaty, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister for Communities and Minister for the Arts) (6.09 pm): I rise to support the Appropriation Bill 2023, and I offer my congratulations to the Treasurer and the Premier on delivering a budget that has the needs of Queenslanders at its heart. I want to start out by saying how underwhelmed I was by the thoroughly uninspiring budget reply delivered by the member for Broadwater.

**Ms Bates:** He said something nice about you.

**Ms ENOCH:** I was not talking about you. It is not all about her.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Walker): Pause the clock, through the chair, member for Alger. Thank you, Minister.

**Ms ENOCH:** Last month when the member for Broadwater supported this government's Path to Treaty legislation it appeared the Leader of the Opposition had turned a corner. Despite the right wing of his own party heaping the pressure on him, he supported a path to treaty, and I congratulate and I acknowledge that. However, what we have seen since that moment is a total retreat by the Leader of the Opposition back to the safety of the far right of the LNP. It seems you just never really know which version you will get with this leader.

What we got earlier today was, at best, lip-service—no real substance, just the usual slogans and half-truths we get from the LNP, no depth whatsoever, no vision. Today when the Leader of the Opposition had his chance to frame up his vision, what did he do with it? He used his platform to dismiss a member of the Sentencing Advisory Council because she is an artist. If he had any depth to him at all, if he had done any kind of research, he would have known that the person he was dismissing is an Indigenous woman. In fact, she is the granddaughter of the late Eddie Koiki Mabo, a long-term worker at Sisters Inside who manages youth programs that support criminalised and imprisoned girls and young women. She is a woman who is more than qualified to be a member of the Sentencing Advisory Council on every level. Is this how the Leader of the Opposition views First Nations people? He should, in my opinion, apologise. There is no depth, no thought; it is the fundamental lack of respect that is in his DNA.

This is someone who sat around Campbell Newman's cabinet table and signed off on sacking 14,000 public servants, yet he now promises he will rebuild the Public Service. As if! No doubt the LNP focus groups are telling them that Queenslanders just do not trust them when it comes to the Public Service. It is right that Queenslanders should not trust the LNP because on top of sacking thousands of people, the LNP spent \$100 million preparing for asset sales. They set up a special consultants unit to prepare state owned ports and energy and power firms for privatisation, and now we are meant to believe they want to get rid of consultants.

The LNP has no credibility when it comes to the Public Service. The only certainty is that under an LNP government there will be more cuts and sackings in the Public Service. The LNP has no credibility on infrastructure, only empty promises. The only significant infrastructure they built when in office was 1 William Street. This is in stark contrast to the Treasurer's outstanding budget, which will fund new and improved infrastructure the length and breadth of our state. Rebuilding trust requires more than empty promises, more than motherhood statements and more than empty slogans gleaned from focus groups. It requires strong leadership that is sadly lacking from the member for Broadwater.

Cost-of-living pressures are being felt in household budgets right across the country and we know that families are doing it tough here in Queensland. That is why the 2023-24 state budget tackles national cost-of-living pressures with the largest household relief package anywhere in the nation and



an increased investment in frontline community services. All of this is only possible because we own our public assets and we are making sure Queenslanders, especially those in our regions, are getting a fair share from current high coal prices. The question must be asked: will the opposition support our progressive coal royalties and, if not, what will they cut, sack and sell?

The \$492 million annual budget for the Department of Treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Communities and the Arts includes a \$3 million boost to food relief services, including \$315,000 in additional funding for Foodbank Queensland and almost \$2.7 million over two years to expand the popular School Breakfast Program. I have seen firsthand how the healthy meals provided by school breakfast programs make a real difference to the wellbeing and education of the children who need it most. By expanding the School Breakfast Program our government is ensuring Queensland schoolchildren get the best possible start to their day while helping to ease some of the pressure on struggling families.

This budget is also continuing to deliver significant funding for neighbourhood and community centres, which our government delivered in last year's state budget, particularly the construction of new centres and upgrades to existing centres. Importantly, this budget further supports Queensland's Path to Treaty. An amount of \$4.6 million over five years has been allocated to support the repatriation of ancestral remains and sacred objects belonging to Queensland's First Nations peoples and countries. The Queensland Museum Network has been returning remains as well as secret and sacred objects to community and country since 1990 and is recognised by the Australian government as Queensland's peak body for repatriation. Over the past three years the Museum Network has experienced a marked increase in the number of skeletal remains and significant cultural heritage items in its care due to public surrender and returns from international and interstate entities. Repatriation is fundamental to progressing treaty as it forms part of the truth-telling process, and this funding boost will ensure it continues and is led by First Nations peoples with the establishment of five identified positions.

This is my sixth budget as Minister for the Arts and I am proud to say that in addition to supporting vulnerable Queenslanders, the budget also delivers boosted investment in Queensland's arts and culture, which is a job-creating industry in this state. Over four years we will invest \$51.4 million to secure Queensland's cultural calendar and futureproof the state's premier cultural infrastructure ahead of Brisbane 2032. This includes \$13.4 million over three years from 2024-25 to lock in World Science Festival Brisbane as well as blockbuster exhibitions at Queensland Art Gallery and the Gallery of Modern Art from 2025-26, which boost Queensland's economy and support local jobs. The budget includes a \$9 million commitment to a further three years of World Science Festival in Brisbane, including regional programming, which will ensure the festival builds on the almost \$40 million in economic impact already delivered by this exclusive-to-Queensland event.

In my electorate of Algeester this year's budget is supporting schools, families and small businesses. In particular, the budget will deliver a new three-storey learning centre at Pallara State School as well as upgraded and refurbishment works at Watson Road State School and \$500,000 towards the Southern Suburbs Rugby League Football Club's Mortimer Road precinct. This is in addition, of course, to the electricity rebates being provided to all Queensland households and free kindy, which will be welcome news for the families of Algeester.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the Acting Speaker has reviewed and approved my speech on the budget for incorporation. As such, I ask that the remainder of my speech be incorporated into the *Record of Proceedings*.

*The speech read as follows—*

Community Services

The Palaszczuk Government's continued investment in Neighbourhood and Community Centres includes the \$4.5 million we previously committed to build Rockhampton's first neighbourhood centre, as well as 20 additional specialist community services workers for neighbourhood centres to support vulnerable Queenslanders.

As well as providing a space for ongoing community activities, neighbourhood and community centres often provide essential frontline services for vulnerable people. The continuation of our investment in these centres is further evidence of our government's commitment to supporting struggling Queenslanders.

Boost to diversionary services

We're also investing in harm minimisation by providing more funding for public intoxication services in Mount Isa.

This investment of \$6.1 million over two years includes \$4 million to expand the local diversionary centre to better meet the needs of women accessing the centre.

These services support community members at-risk of harm due to intoxication in public places.

#### Arts Cultural infrastructure

Speaker, returning to the Arts portfolio, the Palaszczuk Government is securing the state's key cultural infrastructure and collections for future generations.

\$28.8 million will be invested in the management and conservation of the heritage-listed Queensland Cultural Centre and the delivery of a flexible performance space at the Queensland Performing Arts Centre (QPAC). A further \$6.9 million will enhance the storage and accessibility of the state's extensive cultural collections and improve access to library services for vision impaired Queenslanders.

As our state grows, and as the 2032 Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games draw nearer, we are investing in, and preserving, our state collections, and future-proofing our cultural infrastructure.

In addition, by injecting \$9 million over three years into World Science Festival Brisbane, we will continue to engage Queenslanders in the wonders of science, attract visitors to the state and boost the state's leadership in the global knowledge economy. Since the Palaszczuk Government commenced our investment in World Science Festival Brisbane for the 2016 Festival, it has attracted 1.2 million visitors in both Brisbane and at regional programming in Toowoomba, Ipswich, Chinchilla, Gladstone and Townsville.

This is a remarkable outcome, especially given the interruptions the Festival has experienced in recent years as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and 2022 South East Queensland flooding event.

Similarly, the Palaszczuk Government's commitment to ongoing support for Blockbuster exhibition funding to the Queensland Art Gallery and Gallery of Modern Art will continue to realise important economic and social outcomes for Queensland. Blockbuster funding, which was cut by the Newman Government, and restored through the leadership of Premier Palaszczuk, has delivered countless memories for many thousands of Queenslanders and visitors to our state.

At a time when Australians were unable to visit the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York to view works by some of the finest European masters, our investment ensured that QAGOMA could bring a mind-blowing collection of the Met's priceless masterpieces to Queensland.

Innovative programming supported through Blockbuster funding such as Marvel: Creating the Cinematic Universe and The Motorcycle: Design, Art, Desire, attract whole new audiences to QAGOMA.

Importantly, blockbuster investment has enabled the Gallery to deliver exclusive exhibitions of scale, boosting visitation to Queensland and supporting strong cultural tourism and economic outcomes for the State.

Since 2016, the Palaszczuk Government's investment of \$22.8 million in blockbuster funding has delivered more than \$140 million to Queensland's economy, boosted interest in visual arts among countless Queenslanders and supercharged Queensland's global reputation as a cultural tourism destination of choice.

That's why the Palaszczuk Government restored blockbuster funding to QAGOMA, and that's why we are supporting this as a permanent fixture through the 2023-24 budget.

#### First Nations

The Budget will also support self-determination and economic empowerment for First Nations peoples. We're investing \$1.4 million over four years in a new whole-of-government First Nations Economic Strategy being developed and planned for release in 2023-24.

The strategy will be progressed in a partnership approach to ensure First Nations peoples and communities are at the forefront in building new pathways to jobs, skills and training, education and business development opportunities in urban, regional and remote areas throughout the state.

#### Algeria Electorate

Deputy Speaker, the Palaszczuk Government is also continuing to deliver services and cost of living support to people in my electorate of Algeria. It starts with our commitment to make kindy free for all Queensland families. In doing so, this \$645 million budget boost will save families around \$4,600 per year.

This is significant, not just because of the impact of childcare costs on a household budget, but also because the early years are so crucial in the development of young people.

Some of those children may go on to attend Pallara State School, which will also benefit from this budget with the construction of a new 3-storey learning centre.

Or some of them may go on to attend Watson Road State School, where they will benefit from an \$800,000 commitment in this budget to refurbish Block E, as well \$448,000 in upgrades to playground infrastructure and tuckshop facilities.


This Budget also sees a \$2 million investment in Algeria for new social housing construction, providing more homes for vulnerable Queenslanders.

Importantly, the 2023-24 Cost of Living Rebate on Queensland energy bills will be increased to more than three times the size of last year's rebate. This is a real cost of living investment that will have a real impact. Just last week, I met Joan, a constituent from Acacia Ridge who spoke with me about the rising cost of energy and what she does to conserve money from her pension. Joan is an early adopter of rooftop solar. She was quick to get on board with clean energy, knowing it will push down the cost of her electricity bill, and we agree. That's why the Palaszczuk Government will be working with stakeholders to identify and design solutions to make the benefits of solar energy available to more Queenslanders, including renters.

## Conclusion

Speaker, this Budget will help ease national cost of living pressures impacting Queensland, while investing in infrastructure and services for our growing state. All of this is only possible because we own our public assets.

This is a budget that will support all Queenslanders, and I commend it to the House.

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (6.17 pm): I rise to speak to the appropriation bills. This year's budget confirms what millions of Queenslanders already know: without the regions Queensland suffers. Without the regions Queensland will suffer to the tune of \$18 billion, as confirmed by the budget papers. Let's put that into perspective as far as this budget goes.

It is an undeniable fact that the lion's share of those mining royalties are produced in the Burdekin electorate, home to the Bowen Basin and the majority of coalmines in this state. When we speak of the budget in the Burdekin electorate, the project that this government refers to time after time is the Moranbah Hospital, a project that was promised in the 2020 election and might be finished in late 2024, but nevertheless it is a project that I fully support.

What does that project look like compared with the contribution from the people who actually live and work in Moranbah? It equates to a paltry 0.29 per cent of the royalties produced in regional Queensland. That is right, it is not even one per cent. The project itself includes no new beds and questions still remain about whether additional services will be provided at that facility.

This is a project that still does not have a line item in the budget papers, a project that the Treasurer thinks will shut us up in the Bowen Basin and the Isaac region. I have news for the Treasurer. If he thinks that throwing less than one per cent of the coal royalties back into the Isaac is going to keep us quiet, he has another think coming because those residents are angry and the workers are even angrier.

I wonder what the residents and the workers in the Isaac think of this budget as they are bouncing down the Peak Downs Highway tonight or tearing their tyres to shreds on the Kilcummin Diamond Downs Road or the Mount Coolon Road. Do honourable members know what is most galling about this budget? It is the massive cost blowouts associated with Cross River Rail, Coomera Connector, Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 3A and the Gabba redevelopment.

There have been cost blowouts to the tune of around \$5.5 billion. All we have ever asked for, in the Burdekin electorate, is for our fair share of the royalties pie. It is abundantly clear that we are being ripped off. My constituents have a right to question this government as to why these royalties are not flowing back to the region that produced them—royalties that could pay for upgraded roads, teachers, doctors, housing and additional services. If the Peak Downs Highway is the artery, it is the Mount Coolon Road, the Kilcummin Diamond Downs Road, the Clermont Alpha Road and the May Downs Road that are the veins of the area. Whilst we have a hospital being built in Moranbah, the roads that would deliver patients to that hospital are substandard and, in many cases, nothing more than goat tracks. This is undeniable, for we have seen an ambulance vehicle destroyed on one of those roads, school bus runs suspended and train roads loaded with livestock overturned. These are the roads that are used to transport produce. These are the roads that the men and women who generated those billions of dollars in additional royalties use to travel to and from work each and every day, and they deserve better.

Whilst I am in the western area of my electorate, it is worth noting that this budget includes reannouncements such as the upgrade of the Moranbah Community Centre and additional housing in Moranbah—the first of which was an election commitment by the LNP and both of which were funded under the Resources Community Infrastructure Fund. This fund is 70 per cent funded by the resource companies and—in case anyone has forgotten—a fund that was established by the former treasurer as part of a deal on mining royalties.

I welcome the investment into education facilities in Moranbah, Coppabella and Clermont, but these investments will become missed opportunities if the government thinks that the job is done. We still have major teacher shortages, which the minister is aware of. Clermont State High School will be five teachers down on the first day next term. Today we have schools in that area where, during ATAR testing, teachers and students who are not taking part in testing, cannot access the internet. We have schools in Moranbah where teachers have to use a roster system to use their computer to access the internet.

I welcome the announcement from the minister around free kindy, but I make the point that communities like Moranbah have long waiting lists, and this announcement will mean nothing if facilities are not expanded in that community. The opportunity for a better future for our communities and for the students themselves cannot be forgotten. I will continue to fight on behalf of all the constituents in the electorate to ensure that opportunity is realised.

Education, and more specifically training, is a missed opportunity in the Burdekin area. While large sections of the TAFE college in Home Hill fall to wrack and ruin, we have key industries that are calling out for skilled staff. By realising this opportunity, we would provide jobs for locals and ensure food security during uncertain times globally.

An extra \$10 billion in royalties was received by this government during this financial year. Despite that astronomical figure, there is no money to improve flood resilience on the Bruce Highway to ensure people can get to medical appointments and to ensure that our state's key highway is not thrown into chaos every year. There is no money to improve safety on the Peter Delamothe Road or the Collinsville Road where, in the space of a few kilometres, one of the railway lines that makes those royalties possible crosses the road several times, and there is not one overpass in sight.

I previously mentioned the issues that are faced on the Bruce Highway north of Bowen, where every wet season we see traffic come to a standstill, sometimes for days at a time. These closures strand travellers, they bring freight along the coast to a halt and they prevent people from accessing medical services. That highway is the artery of the north, and it needs upgrading and maintenance. It is disappointing to see in this budget that there are no new funding arrangements for the 200 kilometres of the Bruce Highway which runs through my electorate.

Turning to health, there is no money for a CT scanner at the Ayr Hospital. What does that mean? It means that up to 15 times a week, an ambulance is used to transport patients to Townsville for CT scans after hours. In addition to the impact on ambulance services and the patient being transported, the current system effectively takes up one nurse position just in transfers. For the price of just 12 days of this government's policy of outsourcing to the big four consulting companies, so much more could have been achieved. The omission of this scanner is best described as a missed opportunity. That is the theme of this budget—missed opportunities.

The promises from this government to improve our health system are promises that they will be held to account on. This government also needs to understand that in areas like Bowen, people need to travel for medical appointments. I have focused on opportunities to make our communities better, but in this case I am referring to access to essential medical services. In Bowen, sadly, access to specialist appointments can be difficult, if not impossible, due to a lack of transport services. I take this opportunity to call on the Minister for Health to give this lack of access the attention that is needed and the attention that it deserves. The Burdekin electorate is proud of the massive contribution that it makes to the Queensland economy. When we contribute an additional \$10 billion, all we ask for is our fair share. All we ask for is for opportunities to be made realities.

I move on to my shadow portfolios. The Leader of the Opposition during his budget reply speech spoke of the need to listen to victims of crime and of the LNP's commitment to include a victim of crime on the Sentencing Advisory Council. Like the Leader of the Opposition, I hear from victims every day, and I also hear from police officers throughout the state. If you want a true picture of the youth crime crisis, it is victims and police officers who will paint that picture. Just like victims of crime, police officers across Queensland will be appalled to know that between September 2020 and March 2023, full-time frontline police numbers have fallen by 72 officers. In the lead-up to the 2020 election, Queenslanders were promised 2,025 extra police personnel by 2025, including 1,450 additional sworn officers. Halfway through we actually have fewer police—an absolute kick in the guts for our serving police, for Queenslanders and for victims of crime. There is an important issue here. Attrition is outstripping recruitment—a fact that the minister seems to be oblivious to. Unless the minister addresses the appalling attrition rate within the QPS, we will continue to see a negative figure when it comes to the policing numbers in this state.

Funding for the replacement of the Townsville police academy and for the relocation of the Oxley academy, the Dog Squad and the Specialist Response Group is limited, to say the least. Yet again, this government is asking Queenslanders to believe that they will deliver when it comes to police. Based on their track record, I do not see Queenslanders falling for that. Let me give you some examples of cost blowouts from last year to this year: the Cairns police facility upgrade, a 15 per cent increase; Caloundra


South, 50 per cent; Cooroy police, 33 per cent; Dalby police, 36 per cent; Dayboro police, 20 per cent. When you add up all those figures, it amounts to tens of millions of dollars in cost blowouts just in police facilities.

All Queenslanders support the notion of keeping our youth engaged and active to help deter crime and to help them achieve their full potential—something that PCYCs throughout the state have done for decades. I note that this budget includes more than \$50 million to support PCYC programs and to implement a restructure. Given that taxpayers are helping to fund the restructure and given the recent revelations regarding the culture within the PCYCs across this state, I ask the minister to confirm that these additional contributions will end the excuses when it comes to him providing answers. You cannot commit more than \$50 million of taxpayers' funds and expect the taxpayer to believe you when you dodge responsibility.

I move on to the Queensland Fire and Emergency Service and some of their projects and cost blowouts: Airlie Beach, 27 per cent; Greater Springfield, 82 per cent; Gympie South 25 per cent; Moreton Bay Central, 13; Mount Cotton, 46 per cent. Clearly, this minister should not be trusted to build a chook house when you look at the blowouts in the facilities across the police and fire and emergency service portfolios. There have been tens of millions of dollars in cost blowouts—where is the accountability? The minister needs to explain why it has taken more than a year to allocate funding to purchase land for new fire stations. Most of all, the minister needs to give staff and volunteers the details of a disaster and emergency management reform program. Whilst more than \$40 million has been directed to this program, we have no idea what the additional positions actually are. It is impossible for those of us on this side of the House—for Queenslanders, staff or volunteers—to support this expenditure and this program without the details. Those brave men and women who respond when Queenslanders call for help deserve answers and details. Given the disbandment of the current QFES is scheduled for 1 July 2024, time is running out to treat those people with the dignity and respect that they deserve.


In the corrections sphere, this budget confirms our worst fears. Overcrowding continues to increase and, as a direct result, the safety of the staff in those facilities has been put more at risk. The budget confirms what we have been told. There have been increases in assaults in our prisons—serious assaults. Prisoner-on-officer assaults have remained at the same rate as last year when they should be zero. Our custodial officers have the right to feel safe in the workplace. There has been a seven per cent increase in prisoner-on-officer assaults; a six per cent increase in serious prisoner-on-prisoner assaults; and a 29 per cent increase in prisoner-on-prisoner assaults. Prisoners returning to corrective services with a new correctional sanction within two years have also increased. Offenders who have been discharged from community correctional orders who return with a new correctional sanction within two years have also increased. These are sobering figures when you look at our corrective services system.

Sitting suspended from 6.31 pm to 7.30 pm.

 **Mr LAST:** The inclusion of funding for design work, site investigations and other preliminary works for the expansion of the Townsville correctional precinct and an enhanced primary healthcare facility at the Brisbane Correctional Centre indicate that, in light of all the previous promises, we may finally see action to fully address overcrowding. I would ask the minister what consultation has been done with regard to the Townsville facility. We know that in the last budget corrections staff increases totalled nine and that not one of those nine positions was for a custodial corrections officer, we know that firefighters worked 27 overtime shifts every single day to keep Queenslanders safe, and we know that police resources are stretched beyond breaking point in the middle of a youth crime crisis.

Whether you look across the state in areas like police and emergency services or at my electorate of Burdekin, one thing is very clear when it comes to this budget: it is built on a river of gold, earned in Queensland by Queenslanders. The budget documents even admit that this is a river of gold that will largely dry up in the coming years. The question is: what have we achieved with that river of gold? Have we made the most of the opportunities presented to us? The answer, sadly, is: no, we have not. The reason is that this government is in a state of chaos and crisis. It is Queenslanders who are paying the price for that chaos.

It is often said that actions speak louder than words. This morning we heard the Premier say that this government is listening and acting. The performance of this government and this budget show that, until October 2024 at least, Queenslanders will need to endure a government that is big on words but fails to act.

 **Ms LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (7.32 pm): I rise today to speak in support of the Appropriation Bill 2023. In doing so, I congratulate the Premier and the Treasurer on delivering a cracker of a budget. Before I get into it, I give a shout-out to my five-year-old daughter, Odette, who is watching at home. I hope that your rainbow snake is going well. I give a big thank you to my mum and dad, Sharon and Peter McKee, who are looking after her this week while I am here fighting for a better future for Keppel—not only for kids in Keppel like Odette but also for all kids right across Queensland.

The biggest surplus of any state in Australia's history, the biggest infrastructure build ever undertaken by a Queensland government, significantly reduced state debt from previous forecasts, a 10 per cent increase in health, more housing, free kindy, textbook allowances for high school students and huge electricity rebates: that is all included in the 2023-24 financial year budget. Importantly, this budget has a record \$8 billion in concessions to help Queenslanders who have been doing it tough.

Queenslanders own the state's mineral resources including coal. Coal royalties are the money paid by mining companies to the people of Queensland in exchange for the right to mine their coal. This ensures Queenslanders are compensated fairly from the earnings mining companies make from this finite natural resource. I support progressive coal royalties, as does everyone on this side of the chamber, as does the majority of my community. Progressive coal royalties mean that the royalties generated from our resources—Queenslanders' resources—go back into good jobs, better services and a great lifestyle. We can only deliver the largest surplus of any state in Australia's history as well as our state's biggest cost-of-living program, our state's biggest building program and lower debt for one simple reason: progressive coal royalties.

I have been listening to the speeches of those opposite, and I have not clearly heard them say that they would keep the progressive coal royalties, which are delivering over \$7 billion to the budget. The member for Toowoomba South was asked multiple times on radio but refused to say that the LNP supports progressive coal royalties. How can they support projects in their electorates if there is going to be a \$7 billion hole in the budget? They cannot, so they will have to cut projects and sack frontline staff across Queensland—just like Campbell Newman. Would they cut or 'prune' the \$550 electricity rebate? Would they cut free kindy? Would they cut the increase to the PTSS? Would they cut the new Moranbah Hospital in the electorate of Burdekin? It was interesting to hear the member for Burdekin talk about the benefits of royalties—like the \$48 million new Moranbah Hospital—but he refuses to say whether or not he supports progressive coal royalties.

The LNP like to take donations from coal companies, and that is the only reason their position on progressive coal royalties is so incredibly vague. Would the members for Toowoomba North and Toowoomba South cut the Toowoomba Hospital? Would the members for Nanango, Warrego, Gregory, Condamine and Southern Downs propose to cut the \$333 million for the Royal Flying Doctor Service? How would they fund the over half a billion dollar 10-year agreement with LifeFlight to provide vital aeromedical services or CopperString 2032? The LNP have already announced that they want to cut \$10 billion from infrastructure, and the member for Chatsworth has admitted to a secret plan for \$2 billion in cuts.

For so long as there is a Labor government in this state, we will keep progressive coal royalties. All we have heard thus far is evasion, vagueness, ambivalence and ambiguity from the LNP. The Leader of the Opposition's budget reply speech was 50 minutes of fluff—sweeping, big statements with absolutely no meaning, no outcomes and no actual plan. I call on those opposite to answer this very basic question: do you or do you not support progressive coal royalties?

**Mr Hart:** No.

**Ms LAUGA:** No?

**Mr Hart:** No, and I'll say it in my speech.

**Ms LAUGA:** I take that interjection from the member for Burleigh. It is out there now. They actually do not support progressive coal royalties.

I was incredibly proud to take on the position of Assistant Minister for Health and Regional Health Infrastructure and am especially pleased to be serving as assistant minister to the new Minister for Health, the member for Waterford. The first thing I raised with the new minister was the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme, something I am incredibly passionate about. The Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme supports rural, remote and regional Queenslanders to access health care when it is not available near their home. Queensland is Australia's most decentralised state. We are the only state in the country where more people live outside the capital city than in it. If services are not available in regional Queensland, people have to fly, drive or catch the train, which can be really draining if they are quite sick and can be a logistical nightmare to coordinate multiple appointments with different doctors.

I know the plight of sick regional Queenslanders all too well. When my grandmother who lived in Gladstone was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, we did not have any cancer care available in Central Queensland. She would fly every few weeks from Gladstone to Brisbane. I was living down here going to uni, so I would pick her up in my Holden Barina and drop her at the Royal Brisbane for her to have chemotherapy and drop her back at the airport afterwards. I saw firsthand how difficult it can be to travel from regional Queensland to access health care in the city when you are really sick. That is why I am so incredibly pleased that the Palaszczuk government is increasing the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme as part of this year's budget.

With respect to Keppel, I am very pleased that this budget includes the funding for the Yeppoon-Rockhampton road project—the road upgrade that those opposite and One Nation tried to stop but an upgrade which is critically important for the over 11½ thousand vehicles that use that road every day. The Acting Speaker has reviewed and approved my speech on the budget for incorporation and, as such, I ask that the remainder of my speech be incorporated into the *Record of Proceedings*.


*The speech read as follows—*

I'm pleased that the funding for the Emu Park Rocky Road upgrade is included—these brand new overtaking lanes will improve the safety and efficiency of this busy arterial route for tourists, businesses and commuters.

The Budget also includes funding for the Rockhampton Ring Road, improvements to PCYCs, infrastructure for Great Keppel Island, schools, the Emu Park Sewage Treatment Plant, a significant school infrastructure spend including \$818,000 for minor school maintenance projects across Keppel. I know schools love a fresh coat of paint, new roofs, disability access and improvements to playgrounds and facilities. It's great for students, staff and the entire school community to see their school improved.

I'm keen to see the Capricorn Coast Brothers Junior Rugby League project included in the Budget as well as the Capricorn Coast Memorial Gardens project, which will provide Livingstone residents with a landscaped parkland setting as a final resting place for their loved ones.

The First 5 Forever Program has an allocation of \$223,000 which although is a small amount, I consider this program to have a huge impact. Improving the literacy of children under 5 is one of the most effective ways to give children a great start to life and that's why I will always back literacy programs like First 5 Forever and I thank the librarians who run it in our local libraries.

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (7.39 pm): Member for Keppel, I listened to your speech, but let me tell you who else I listened to: I listened to the then treasurer of Queensland before the last election say on 26 separate occasions that there would be no new or increased taxes. What did he do? In typical Labor form, like his predecessors before him, he immediately broke his commitment to the people of Queensland, the small businesses of Queensland, the doctors of Queensland and the ratepayers of Queensland. He broke those promises. What did he try to do? He tried to put a tax on GP practices, making it more expensive to go to the doctor. What did he try to do? He tried to put a nationwide tax on property that was owned in Queensland, making it harder for renters to be able to rent a home, taxing mum-and-dad investors who provide 90 per cent of rental accommodation in Queensland.

Do not come into this House, member for Keppel, and say you listened to what was said because we pay attention to the things that matter, and, member for Keppel, I paid attention to what you said back in 2015. How is Great Keppel Island going? Still no resort, still no casino, still no services—another fail by a failed member, the member for Keppel.

**Mr SMITH:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member's comments need to be addressed through the chair, not directly to a member opposite. I ask that you rule on that.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Lui): Member, please direct all comments through the chair.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** I listened to the member for Keppel and as I said to the—

**Ms LAUGA:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I find the comments that the member made personally offensive and I ask him to withdraw.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** I withdraw. Both yesterday and this morning we were subject to the usual barrage of self-congratulatory, self-serving, face-saving, post-budget ministerial statements. As I listened to the barrage of self-serving and self-praise, I reflected on the Palaszczuk Labor government's budgets over the years—unfortunately far too many of those years. As I did so, the level of chicanery and the level of deceit and dishonesty we have seen each year—

**Government members** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Members to my right, please come to order.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** As I did so, the level of chicanery, deceit and dishonesty we have seen each year the Palaszczuk government has delivered a budget has become more stark, like the abandoned debt management trust of the 2015 election—a trust that bit the dust which was going to quarantine 66 per cent of GOC dividends; a bit like the Bruce Highway Trust, a trust that disappeared; a bit like the plan to fix the Bruce Highway itself; a bit like the member for Miller's emails that also disappeared. From stopping payments into public servants' superannuation funds for five years—never told anyone it was going to do that; raiding the Public Service long service leave entitlements in 2015—never told anyone it was going to do that; ripping \$10 billion out of government owned corporations and forcing them to borrow up to 100 per cent in order to do that, something that under corporations law would actually be a crime; a \$4 billion raid on public servants' superannuation in 2016; the massive hoax of the sale of the titles office—

**Mr BAILEY:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. As fascinating as this trip down memory lane is, this is actually about the 2023 budget, not budgets 10 years ago. I certainly encourage the member to come back to the budget that is before the House.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I will seek some advice. There is no point of order.

**Mr NICHOLLS:**—the barely mentioned Debt Retirement Fund in the Queensland Future Fund; the subsequent \$2.1 billion worth of borrowings in the Debt Retirement Fund to improve liquidity—another joke, just more debt; to the billions more in borrowing under the Trad Treasury years; the breaking of promises not to increase taxes, as well as raking in hundreds of millions more from state owned power companies: this government has always lacked the intestinal fortitude to address the major problems facing Queensland finances. It relies on financial trickery and chicanery each and every year.

This year's budget is no different—\$60 billion more over three years from the 2019 budget, rivers of gold, five minutes of economic sunshine, a surplus that will expire on 30 June this year and then back into deficit. There are rivers of gold from no efforts of its own—no reform, no change, simply clicking the ticket on the way through—and total state debt heading towards \$147 billion, and that is how much the taxpayers of Queensland are on the hook for. Forget net debt; when the bill comes due and the interest payment is due, it is \$147 billion—nothing else, unless it is proposing that it is going to sell off the assets that make up the balance of the state's superannuation fund more than it already has done; otherwise it has to find \$147 billion to pay it off.

Since 2015 it has been one accounting dodge or a broken promise after another—not one consistent plan—and the goalposts continually change as a government bereft of ideas continually tries to scrounge up more money to pay for its blowouts, waste and incompetence. Just last year the doozy was the imposition of three higher tiers of royalties for the coalmining industry. All this week the government has obviously been defensive about its position. I wonder why. Why would that be? We are continually told by this Treasurer that all in this place must unconditionally support the Labor government's royalty regime and if we do not then we are jeopardising the future of Queensland and Queenslanders. He says that this is the test of an opposition.

The Treasurer refers to cost-of-living relief as if he is the only Treasurer to consider the problem, but his answer is simply to add to the inflationary pressures already running rampant in this economy, supported and sponsored by his mates down in Canberra. Economists today and as recently as this morning have highlighted that what the Queensland government has done is simply adding to inflation. It is somewhat ironic that we are continually harangued by a Treasurer and members of a government led by a Premier who in—

**Ms Farmer** interjected.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** I will come to the member for Bulimba shortly. It is somewhat ironic that we are continually harangued by a Treasurer and members of a government led by a Premier who in a 2012 train wreck of an interview on the *7.30 Report* on five occasions, when asked what she would do to fix the state's financial problems, could not answer; an opposition where the then shadow treasurer outlined his alternative plans and told the ABC's Chris O'Brien—I hope you are listening, Cobby—'We don't have to tell you our alternative. That's not our position.' That is what he said. That is what the shadow treasurer said in 2012: 'We don't have to tell you our alternative.' Speaking of 2012, I thought it might be interesting to reflect on that year, because members opposite have delighted in referring to those years, because that was the year of cost-of-living relief delivered by the LNP government.

**Mr Power** interjected.



**Mr NICHOLLS:** The member for Logan could not even make it into the place that year; I do remember that!

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Whoopsadaisy; he could not make it. 2012 was the year that cost-of-living relief was delivered by the LNP government that was necessary because of the taxes, fees and charges imposed by the Bligh government on an unsuspecting public—a Bligh government that included this Treasurer, this Premier, this education minister, this tourism minister and the Speaker, and they all voted to increase Gateway Motorway tolls by 30 per cent and abolish the principal place of residence concession on family homes, increasing the cost by \$7,000. How does that go for housing affordability?

Labor increased land tax. They increased car registration to the highest in the country. They implemented the failed water grid, a program that cost billions of dollars and added billions of dollars of debt. They increased power prices each and every year at 10 per cent. They increased public transport—and the Premier was the transport minister who did it—30 per cent a year each year for the subsequent years and they increased gaming taxes, as well as locking in a 43 per cent increase in electricity charges. They also supported Julia Gillard's carbon tax on everything—a great big carbon tax that in their heart of hearts they all wanted—that added to the cost of living for every single Queensland. Let us not forget it was a Labor government that abolished Queensland's Fuel Subsidy Scheme immediately after telling people at the election they were never going to do it.


The LNP introduced the principal place of residence concession making homes more affordable; we introduced a \$15,000 new home owner grant; we halved public transport fare increases; we introduced the 10th trip free on public transport; we froze car registration for three years; we froze tariff 11 electricity prices; we gave every residential property an \$80 water bill rebate; and we increased the payroll tax threshold for small and family business. On top of that, in our first year we put an extra 300 police on the front line—in one year only. We did not go back by 72 over eight years; we went 300 ahead in the first year and 242 in the second year. We also introduced a three-tier coal royalty scheme with reasonable rates that ensured Queenslanders received their fair share of the extraction and sale of the coal they owned while ensuring mining companies did not shut up shop, sell off and go overseas like they are doing under this mob. We actually supported coalmining activities. We proposed all these things in our first bill after election in 2012 and in the 2012 budget and we implemented many of them through the Fiscal Repair Amendment Bill.

The Labor Party were the only people who said nothing about the tiered royalty regime in 2012. In a 55-minute budget reply speech the member for Inala not once mentioned a tiered royalty regime program—timid, silent, afraid or just simply cowards. Let me tell members that the only people ever to vote against a tiered royalty regime were the member for Inala, the member for Mulgrave and the other members of the parliamentary Labor Party in 2012: Trad, Scott, Mulherin, Byrne and Miller—the same sorry and sad bunch who, with the exception of the member for Inala and then member for Rockhampton, Bill Byrne, did not even turn up to speak on the 2013 budget and then voted against the appropriation bills in 2013. They voted against the 2013 budget which had \$860 million of funding for NDIS in it and \$2.5 billion of recovery funds following ex-cyclone Oswald. It was all voted against by the Labor Party.

I say to the Treasurer: we are not beholden to you, matey, and we will never need to take your advice about the right thing to do. The Treasurer is in no position to demand anything because the record shows that Labor and the Premier have already failed this Treasurer's test: they voted against tiered royalties.

**Mr Mellish:** Ten years ago!

**Mr NICHOLLS:** 'Ten years ago', says the member for Aspley—an admission of guilt. Guilt is never going to go away from this party. The legacy of debt and deficit continues under this government. We have seen areas of budget mismanagement. We see programs to deal with the problems of youth justice spread through six different departments, highlighting this government's incompetence when it comes to dealing with one of the most seminal issues affecting the community of Queensland. Cars are being stolen, homes are being broken into and this government has no plan. The Premier says they are throwing a lot of money at it, but the problem is not getting better. The youth detention centres have no funding to build them. Time does not permit me to list the litany of failures of this government. Let me simply say, yet again, with the exception of the Kedron State High School hall, this government provides no funding for Clayfield. This budget is a 'fudge it', not a budget.

 **Mr SMITH** (Bundaberg—ALP) (7.54 pm): Somebody definitely woke up after the dinner break. They had a bit of fun. It is wonderful to be on my feet following the former, former leader of the LNP, who is the former, former of other formers to come. The member for Toowoomba South had a bit of a smile on his face because halfway through he realised that his job was safe. He was doing cartwheels. We will have to go back and watch it on camera. He was so happy. We remember the slogan in 2017: 'It'll be grim under Tim'. Well, the last 15 minutes was pretty grim. Thank goodness the people of Queensland did not back him in 2017. I am going to bring the 'It'll be grim under Tim' T-shirts back out. What a memory that was.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at the comments made by the member for Bundaberg and I ask that he withdraw.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Lui): Member for Bundaberg, do you withdraw?

**Mr SMITH:** I withdraw and sincerely apologise. I remember election night of 2017 very well. It was when the Queensland people returned a Palaszczuk Labor government. In 2020 they had another opportunity to return the Palaszczuk Labor government. This time Queenslanders are watching another fantastic Labor budget delivered by a Labor Treasurer as a member of the Palaszczuk Labor government. Queenslanders love the Palaszczuk Labor government.

We have a guarantee that every single Queensland household receives a \$550 electricity rebate to kick off the year. That is good for mums, dads, families, pensioners and workers. As well as that, 600,000 Queenslanders will receive over \$1,000 in electricity rebates. For many people right across Bundaberg and Hervey Bay who have solar panels on their rooftops it may very well mean they will not pay a single cent for electricity. The people of Bundaberg, Hervey Bay and all across Queensland back in the strong Palaszczuk Labor government because they know it will not be grim under the Palaszczuk Labor government. It would sure be grim under Tim and all of the LNP.


We have a record health budget that is delivering for the people of regional Queensland. I joined with my regional Queensland colleagues to ensure that we received \$70 million extra for the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme which means that regional Queenslanders can travel down to Brisbane and get a return on their petrol and overnight accommodation. What is more, there is money in this budget for our new level 5 Bundaberg Hospital. There is a member opposite looking at his hand trying to count. He is only getting to three, but one day he will get to five.

A great way he could learn to get to five is by acknowledging the fantastic work of our professional educators who will be teaching every single four-year-old across Queensland in kindy. It is good to know that from 1 January next year every single four-year-old child will have free kindy. That means it will be affordable, accessible and will have a curriculum taught by professional educators giving them the head start in life they need so that one day they will be able to go out, get on the tools and have a great career and raise a family. They will be able to be doctors, nurses and lawyers. Some of them may even work in the brand new level 5 Bundaberg Hospital. They might even one day work on Riverway Drive in Townsville when it is at stage 27.

This is also a great budget for our firies and our SES personnel in Bundaberg. Minister Mark Ryan has ensured there is \$2 million in this budget to acquire new land for a second fire station for the good people of Bundaberg. Our region is growing. There are more people than ever before coming from across Queensland into the Bundaberg region. We are one of the top five destinations in South-East Queensland for Queenslanders to move to.

We have expanded and are making sure that we are meeting health demands by not only increasing the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme but also building the new hospital and an alcohol and other drug rehabilitation centre. We are ensuring that we back health workers and we are ensuring that we look after our firies and our SES by building them facilities at a second site.

I want to talk about the big swing, no ding that was the Leader of the Opposition's budget reply speech. It was big swing, no ding and no policy, except to say that in the first years of an LNP government they would release live data for emergency. Gee, that's good! When granny is on the floor, you are not going to be looking up the emergency rate at a hospital. You will be calling triple 0. The paramedics will come to your house and take her to hospital where there will be hardworking nurses who have not been sacked under an LNP government because they backed in a Palaszczuk Labor government.

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (8.00 pm): What a missed opportunity this has been for real generational infrastructure investment that would have shaped our state. We have the same story of excessive growth in the public sector, cost blowouts on every project and delays in key infrastructure

projects. I note that Labor copied the 'Big Build' slogan from the failed Victorian government that, as in Queensland, has much to do with government debt and unrealistic plans that will be kicked into the never-never. We know that royalties and taxes have reached record levels in this budget, but we hear very little about the projected deficits for next year and the questionable surpluses year on year after that.

For four years we have been calling for changes to the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme and we welcome those. I do note the issues that are now confronting the people of Bundaberg, particularly with the reduction in the Tilt Train services from Bundaberg, and that this is about a lack of planning and maintenance as we see services significantly reduced. Why is this an issue? It is an issue because in Bundaberg we do not have the specialists and the necessary services for those people who need them—which necessitates regular trips to Brisbane. I note that the solution offered by the minister is for people to travel down the night before and stay another night afterwards, adding two nights extra accommodation. That is a cost-of-living pressure and \$10 extra in the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme does not solve the problem. To remove ambiguity with the issues raised about the Tilt Train services—and the minister and the member for Bundaberg are both in the House—I table the train services timetables and a summary of the changes that show the reduction in Tilt Train services. I encourage everyone with an interest in the Bundaberg-Burnett region to sign our petition calling for services and the acknowledgement of how serious this issue is.

*Tabled paper:* Documents, undated, titled 'Queensland Rail Travel: Timetables' [\[876\]](#).

I bring to the attention of the House the Queensland Health service delivery statements, pages 139 and 140, in relation to the Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service. As in every budget, health services receive cash injections but no vision or commitments to the much overdue reforms to fix the culture in the Queensland Health system. Total weighted activity units are vastly underperforming on, ironically, acute inpatient and emergency department figures. I do not understand how you can severely underperform in those areas when the answer to questions around poor emergency and elective care is that it is because we have no beds. There is less activity in those two areas and it is the worst performance in the state.

The Wide Bay HHS is 8,400 units down on the \$5,094 Queensland rate, which is roughly a \$40 million income that they are being paid but have not delivered on. The second issue in the budget papers is the expected cost per unit of activity is \$5,094 and the WBHHS has spent \$5,740 per unit of activity, which equates to an expense over income of \$70 million. The finances are clearly out of the control. Members will remember that since 2019 in this place I have been forecasting that that would happen. We know that this deep issue will have to be dealt with. On effectiveness measures, we need to be deeply concerned about the reported numbers. They were all at 100 per cent in 2014 under the LNP and remained so until 2020 when they started to crash. The current delivery of emergency and elective services is appalling.

Let us say I am a cancer patient who was referred for an urgent consultation. I should have been seen within 30 days but only 72 per cent of people are seen in that time, so I have a seven-in-10 chance of being seen. The longer I am left the more my cancer can spread. I am then referred for various diagnostic tests that are no longer included in the statement. Endoscopy is very important and was legislated by the LNP. It has now been dropped off and is not even reported in the current budget papers. I may have to wait to get the diagnostic procedure I need before being added to the category 1 surgery wait list, which is no longer 100 per cent within 30 days. Emergency departments report that only 55 per cent of patients are treated within four hours of the clinically recommended time frames. I have also demonstrated that many patients are without appropriate care and follow-up after they present.

The statement suggests that categories 2 and 3 are no longer used for performance purposes. That is pretty disgusting when they are underperforming so badly in activity terms. The proposed numbers for 2023-24 will not be achieved as they are barely an increase on the current year. It is highly likely that the Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service will need another \$50 million to \$70 million to bail it out or it will need to go into administration. I have reported on that in this place before. I have raised these concerns in previous years. Given that they have been severely underperforming all year, I cannot see any chance of improvement and the quality will get a lot worse as finances bite even harder. It is heartbreaking to see these numbers. They are as bad as those we inherited in 2012 from the Bligh government. They were repaired and maintained at 100 per cent for seven years. The board should be held to account for allowing that deterioration and it should have kept the executive team in place instead of sacking them.

Health remains a No. 1 priority for the Burnett, especially for the Discovery Coast. The budget makes absolutely no commitment to health infrastructure in the region. How can that be when there are no healthcare services for 125 kilometres each way? Recently I received correspondence regarding the Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service's proposed multipurpose health service in Agnes Water and 'underwhelmed' is the word that comes to mind. Frustratingly, the application to the Commonwealth government for the establishment of that service was unsuccessful. That is simply not good enough.

Quite frankly, that touted multipurpose health service could have been a life changer for residents who currently have no choice but to make a three-hour round trip to Bundaberg or Gladstone for hospital care or specialist treatment. Residents in Agnes Water and Seventeen Seventy deserve access to health care just like everyone else. We are lucky to have two very hardworking local doctors who support a population of 6,000 people, which grows to 11,000 during peak times. It is no secret that those GPs rarely get any time off. We also know that for over 20 years there has been very little change to service delivery in that area and we cannot afford any more inaction on this issue. I will continue to fight for health infrastructure for the Discovery Coast. It is understood that a detailed service plan and infrastructure business case for Agnes Water is currently being prepared by the Wide Bay HHS. It is vital that that plan reflects the needs of the community.

Again, as I have done for many years, I go on the record to call for a neighbourhood centre for the Agnes Water community. It will not be forgotten about. The state budget has outlined \$39 million over three years to upgrade and construct neighbourhood centres, but again there is no mention of Agnes Water. For years we have been fighting for a dedicated centre in the region. I am determined to work with the Minister for Communities and the Minister for Housing to see this project become a reality.

Neighbourhood centres are a universal and vital point of access for community members. The centres are essential local infrastructure that provide hubs that are accessed by a wide cross-section of the community, including people who are marginalised and those who have significant needs. Often they are referred to as the 'brain bank' of local knowledge and are a real focal point for the community. The Discovery Coast Community Support Service has been operating out of a tiny three-metre by three-metre office space for years. With the local population continuing to grow, the cost of living at an all-time high and the housing crisis getting worse, the lack of support for the centre is simply not good enough. I call on the minister to help the Discovery Coast find a purpose-built neighbourhood centre as a matter of urgency.

The budget provides for a reduction in the learner driver fees. Again I acknowledge the work of Carmen McEneaney and our local campaign and petitions.

I want to say on the record that the Walkers Point boat ramp is still not funded despite promises having been made. For many years it has been named the No. 1 priority project in Queensland but still cannot get the funding it needs.

I thank all of the strong advocates for water safety and, in particular, acknowledge the FairPlay vouchers making swimming lessons more accessible. It was great to have the minister acknowledge in question time the work we did in progressing that important public policy outcome. We first raised the issue with the minister earlier in the year and, of course, on 28 May the government announced the SwimStart vouchers.

I will continue to work for projects for the region that have again been neglected, including: Moore Park Beach flood mitigation; the Bundaberg to Bargara bike path and the widening of Bargara Road; the funding commitment for sporting structure in Bargara; a feasibility study for a future Bargara state high school; and the Bargara Road and Hughes Road intersection upgrade. That is a terribly dangerous road and we seem to write a letter about it every couple of months. It would be an easy fix, but we need a commitment to and some respect for that project.


Other projects I will continue to fight for include: Round Hill Creek maintenance; Moneys Creek Lagoon rehabilitation; and a falls prevention program at the Bundaberg Hospital. I will take a moment to refer to recent correspondence from the department. While that is in Hervey Bay, fall prevention programs are the No. 1 strategy but they do not run in Bundaberg. I again put that on the program. I want to make sure that it becomes part of the future agenda.

There is a lack of social and affordable housing in our region. When you drive into Bundy or out into the region, it is terrible to see the caravans and tents on the side of the road. We have to do so much more in that space.

There has to be reinstatement of driver reviver funding. I acknowledge the members for Southern Downs and Callide whose electorates have suffered badly from what seems to be a petty cut to construction activity that we need to get back on the agenda. There needs to be upgrades of slipways and overtaking lanes on the Isis Highway and Rosedale Road. These are seriously unsafe roads where upgrades need to be considered.

Many have concerns with the budget, including economists who have warned that the budget will likely add to inflation because of the government's decision to inject more moneys from coal royalties into programs instead of being fiscally responsible. That is something that has been talked about many times tonight. These rivers of gold will not happen often and we have to do better with making sure we deal with issues such as paying down debt.

Overall, there is funding for some local issues that we applaud. The kindy program has been well received. There are concerns out there, as raised in question time this week, about staffing and the capacity of these institutions. Staff in my office have been on the phones hearing of concerns out there about the lack of consultation. It is a good initiative. We will make sure going forward that all the children in our regions benefit from early access to kindy.

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (8.10 pm): I am very happy to rise in support of the cognate bills supporting the Queensland budget. This budget does the tough things so that we can do the things that are needed. This year, every single Queensland household will receive a \$550 rebate on their electricity, while vulnerable Queenslanders will receive a higher rebate of over \$1,000. This is an unprecedented intervention by the government at a time of globally and nationally high electricity prices—only made possible because of our strong budget position. We are taking action to reduce the cost-of-living pressures. As the Treasurer pointed out, these support measures are deflationary, not inflationary. Of course, we are still dealing with the inflationary aftermath of the untargeted nature of the JobKeeper payments to businesses during COVID.

This budget provides this support whilst also delivering the largest budget surplus ever recorded in Queensland or Australia—an outstanding achievement. I note those opposite never achieved a budget surplus. They promised it, printed the mugs federally, had the 'back in black' things and claimed a surplus a year before it happened; they never got there at a state or federal level in recent years. Whilst the budget positions of other leading states have gone backwards compared to pre-COVID forecasts, our budget position has improved since our pre-COVID forecasts. The Premier's tough stance on keeping COVID at bay ensured our economy did not suffer during COVID and we did not suffer long lockdowns like Sydney and Melbourne in particular.

This surplus is all the more possible due to the sensible and strong decisions of this government, and in particular the Treasurer, on our progressive coal royalties regime. I was listening to the speeches of those opposite. They have not said that they would keep the progressive coal royalties, which are delivering \$7 billion to the budget. I heard a no from the member for Burleigh earlier in terms of whether they would. The Leader of the Opposition needs to come clean on this. He is saying one thing in the boardroom of the coal lobby and another thing in public and in parliament. How can they support projects in their electorates if there is to be a \$7 billion hole in the budget? It means they will cancel the Big Build and cut frontline staff across Queensland, just like the LNP of old.

Locally, I am so pleased about free kindy for all Queensland kids from the start of the next school year. LNP members were interjecting about free kindy, saying it is only 15 hours a week. They clearly do not understand how long day care programs work and how a subsidised kindy program would fit into that. I can see how this will help parents of children who otherwise may not be able to afford kindy or have to make other sacrifices to be able to afford kindy. They will now be able to see 15 hours a week. This will bring equality of educational outcomes to all Queensland children. This is an outstanding commitment.

Speaking of great outcomes, I was so pleased to see in the budget that Zillmere State School has been successful in its bid for a proposed nutrition and wellbeing centre. In their own words, 'The centre will help the P&C deliver healthy options to the children and be a centre where the food produced in the wellbeing garden can be shared for all.' Well done to Zillmere State School and its P&C.


Those opposite are opposed to the coal royalties regime. Without that we would not be able to deliver some fantastic outcomes. Locally, I am very excited about what we have been able to do regarding planning for the future infrastructure needs of the north side, with \$35 million in the budget for a detailed investment proposal into tunnels from Kedron to Carseldine—a Gympie Road bypass. Early work undertaken shows that a tunnel between the Kedron end of Airportlink and Beams Road has the potential to deliver a range of benefits for commuters, the local community and the broader

South-East Queensland transport network. A Gympie Road bypass would reduce commuter times by up to 15 minutes in each direction. Friends and family could spend this extra time however they like. Those in Bald Hills, Carseldine and Bridgeman Downs in my area would particularly benefit from this. This ties in when combined with Cross River Rail time savings we will get on the north side. The entire area will be dramatically improved by measures that Labor governments have taken.

This ties in with the planning underway by the transport minister on the Bruce Highway western alternative further north and the Gympie Arterial Road improvements as part of the Gateway merge projects on the cards. The benefits to locals will go far beyond that. There will be better connections to the Bruce Highway to and from the Sunshine Coast, better connections to the west of the city and, very importantly for me and the member for Stafford in particular, improved amenity and livability for locals by removing through traffic from Gympie Road. Currently locals have to battle with traffic coming from the Moreton region and the Sunshine Coast when they are trying to go to the shops or drop their kids to school. Gympie Road is increasingly becoming a barrier, and this will remove that.

The LNP scrapped the extension of the northern busway on a similar route when they were last in government. They wanted to scrap the Northern Transitway. The Northern Transitway will provide an outstanding boost to public transport on the surface, with additional bus lanes on Gympie Road from Kedron to Chermerside. I urge the LNP to reconcile their love of congestion and of scrapping projects with what the community actually wants. Their proposal last election was to remove one set of traffic lights on Gympie Road. Ours is to remove 18. I urge the LNP to get behind this project.

This week the Leader of the Opposition said he would not stand in the way of the project but then accused the government of spending \$35 million on another study. On the one hand the Leader of the Opposition says we commit funding without business cases and on the other hand criticises us for doing a business case. The member for Everton was blowing up earlier, presumably because he is upset that we are not bulldozing up the north-west transport corridor as he, his federal colleagues, his council colleagues and the LNP candidate for Aspley last election wanted to do. Which is it? You cannot have your cake and eat it too. If we had listened to the LNP and what its former candidate for Aspley wanted to do, we would have destroyed hectares and hectares of bushland and split suburbs like Carseldine, Bridgeman Downs and McDowall in two by putting a motorway up the north-west transport corridor. I am pleased to see that commitment and others in the budget. I commend this budget to the House— an outstanding Labor budget.

 **Dr MacMAHON** (South Brisbane—Grn) (8.16 pm): A \$12 billion surplus: Queensland is an incredibly wealthy state. We have the resources, hardworking people and caring communities—enough for everyone to have a good life. Our hospitals are falling apart, our state school kids are missing out on a decent education, families are living in tents and property investors are evicting workers to raise the rent. Across our state, corporations are making more and more profits. The wealthy are getting wealthier while everyday Queenslanders are doing it tough. Kids are going to overcrowded schools. Our hospital staff are overworked. Workers cannot afford their rent let alone save for a place to call their own, but the banks are making record profits. Mining corporations are making record profits. Energy companies, supermarkets, multinational pharmaceuticals and property investors are all making record profits. Here is a number you will not see in this budget—\$8 billion. That is how much money Queensland's wealthiest 10 people—those mining billionaires, property moguls and consulting firm CEOs who donate to both Labor and the LNP—made in the last year. That is \$8 billion.

There is a lot of big talk about growth from this Treasurer, but where is this growth going? Not into the pockets of Queenslanders, not into the services we rely on, not into our communities, but straight into the profits of wealthy investors and big corporations. In the last year while real wages of millions of Queenslanders went backwards, the wealthiest 10 Queenslanders made \$8 billion. That is more money than the combined income of every single nurse and public school teacher in Queensland. That is more money than has been spent on building public housing in the past 20 budgets combined.

The enormous wealth of the very few comes at the expense of everyone else. How is it that ordinary people have to work more than ever before and somehow have less? How is there a cost-of-living crisis when our state has a \$12 billion surplus? Inequality is at the heart of the economic and political system that Labor and the LNP have created. At a time when we need a bold plan to transform our economy from one that benefits the wealthy few to one that benefits all Queenslanders, the Labor government is lacking.

**Ms Boyd** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Lui): Member for Pine Rivers, order!

**Dr MacMAHON:** They do not like to hear it, obviously. Because just like the Liberal Party, Labor have been bought off wholesale by corporate donations and cushy boardroom jobs and cash-for-access meetings. They are high on the fumes of a failed economic system—

**Government members** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Members to my right, order!

**Dr MacMAHON:** It is party being held together by sticky tape and cash-for-access meetings whose leaders like Anna Bligh end up CEO of the banking lobby. Talk about being a party for the working people—what a joke! This is another budget for the rich by the rich at the expense of everyday Queenslanders.

This Labor budget gives property developers land tax concessions, gives away our resources for a pittance, gives money to wealthy overseas gas companies and will continue to see working Queenslanders miss out on a good life. This Labor budget will continue to see our hospitals crumble, our classrooms overcrowded with parents picking up the funding slack, and renters evicted into the streets by wealthy property investors. The enormous wealth of this state, the productivity growth and the increasing corporate profits—ordinary Queenslanders are not seeing a cent of that. Labor has shown its true colours—a party that puts band-aids on crisis after crisis.

Last year the Treasurer took a page from the Greens' homework and finally increased coal royalties—something we have been asking for for years. After 10 years of Labor and the LNP freezing coal royalties, the Labor Party finally caved under a wave of Greens' electoral success and years of pressure.

**Ms Pease** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Lytton, cease all cross-chamber interjections.

**Dr MacMAHON:** We welcome the Treasurer picking a fight with his corporate donors, but these changes capture just a fraction of the record profits that these mining companies have made—which tripled to \$83.5 billion last year. After years of the coal industry ripping off Queenslanders, these progressive royalties let coal billionaires off lightly. The Treasurer is only willing to increase royalties on coal sold at super-profit levels and will not touch the industry and his coal lobby mates unless they are making buckets of gold from profiteering off the war in Ukraine and wrecking the climate.

Queensland does not need new investment in coal mines and gas. Every expert and scientist is telling us that, if you want to keep global warming below two degrees, for the sake of our farmers, pensioners, workers, the reef and a livable planet, we cannot open any new coal and gas. Instead of spending taxpayer money to prop up the fossil fuel industry, we need to ensure that the existing fossil fuel workers and their communities who have given Queensland so much get the support they deserve.

We can do this by increasing not just the super-profits royalty rates but the base royalty rate to 35 per cent. The Treasurer should not stop at coal. Our gas industry is 96 per cent foreign owned. Last year they doubled their revenue to \$20 billion. In the final years of coal and gas, these big companies should pay their fair share and ensure all fossil fuel workers are supported with a fair transition plan and not just left to the whim of the free market. We have a private member's bill that gives some instructions on how you can increase gas royalties which I table.

**Ms RICHARDS:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Are you going to table that?

**Dr MacMAHON:** Yes, I am tabling this.

*Tabled paper:* Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) (Royalties and Cost of Living Relief) Amendment Bill 2022 [\[877\]](#).

I know Labor like to copy the Greens' homework. Here is another bill you can copy.

It has also been a big year for the banks. Their profits are up 19 per cent from last year on the back of interest rate rises. Thousands of people are in mortgage stress while the banks make huge profits. Who is heading up the banking lobby? It is the previous Labor premier Anna Bligh. This is money straight out of the pockets of owner-occupiers and renters and into the hands of big business.

**Mr POWER:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The profits of the banks, while interesting and discursive, is not relevant to the Appropriation Bill.

**Ms Boyd:** In any way.



**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Pine Rivers, order! I will seek some advice.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order, members! There is no point of order.

**Dr MacMAHON:** We also have a bill that would raise a levy on the big banks which would raise a \$1 billion—

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for South Brisbane, are you tabling that?

**Dr MacMAHON:** I am tabling this.

*Tabled paper:* Big Bank Levy (COVID-19 Health Response) Bill 2021 [\[879\]](#).

You could also copy that one—a billion dollars that could go straight into our healthcare system. We could also raise billions of dollars by introducing the Greens' empty homes levy and taxing investors who leave perfectly good homes empty and turn what could be homes into Airbnbs.

*Tabled paper:* Land Tax and Other Legislation (Empty Homes Levy) Amendment Bill 2022 [\[878\]](#).

All of these are available for the government to copy when they would like to. This money could be spent rescuing our public services, like health and education, from decades of chronic underfunding by both Labor and the LNP. Yet Labor continue to refuse to touch the real estate industry. They refuse to touch Airbnbs. They refuse to increase our public housing stock in line with growing need. They refuse to stop renters from getting evicted in the middle of a housing crisis.

**Government members** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Lytton, member for Pine Rivers, member for Aspley, member for Maryborough, order!

**Ms McMILLAN:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I seek your advice. The documents that the member is tabling have been previously ruled out of order by the Speaker. I ask whether you would consider that she is disrespecting the Speaker or, in fact, reflecting on the chair.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The member is not looking to introduce the bills. She is merely putting them on the record. Member for South Brisbane, you have the call.

**Dr MacMAHON:** These bills are on the record for when the Labor Party want to pick them up and implement them. This budget will see the housing crisis only get worse. The Treasurer and the housing minister are patting themselves on the back because they found \$320 million for 500 extra homes—500 extra homes—when there are over 47,000 people waiting on the social housing waiting list, when there are 300,000 Queenslanders struggling to pay their rent or their mortgage, when tents and shanty towns are popping up all across our suburbs. There is no freeze on rent increases. There is no vacancy levy to stop wealthy property investors from leaving good homes empty. There is nothing to crack down on landlords flipping long-term homes into short-term hotels.

**Government members** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Members to my right, order!

**Dr MacMAHON:** The Treasurer is happy to peacock around with a \$12 billion surplus, but that surplus means nothing for the renters who are facing yet another rent rise, for the families who face eviction, for those workers who are being pushed out of their neighbourhoods by wealthy property investors. The way things are going, with Labor's current social housing commencement rate, it will take nearly five decades to house everyone on the social housing waitlist.

**Mr Power** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Logan, cease cross-chamber interjections.

**Dr MacMAHON:** I know you do not want to hear this, but this is the system that you have created. It will take five decades to house everyone on that register. How is that okay?

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for South Brisbane, please direct all comments through the chair.

**Dr MacMAHON:** We have an immensely wealthy state, but this government is happy to let renters continue to struggle, with no limit on the amount by which rent can go up, willing to let owner-occupiers continue to struggle, for families to get evicted, for mums and kids to sleep in tents in parks, for pensioners to live out of their cars. I will also table our Rent Freeze Bill for when you are ready to actually take on the real estate lobby and do something for renters.

*Tabled paper:* Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation (Rent Freeze) Amendment Bill 2022 [\[880\]](#).



This government continues to fail working families who send kids to public schools. This budget continues to underfund Queensland's public schools by more than a billion dollars every year, with the budget increases barely covering inflation.

**Ms Pease** interjected.

**Dr MacMAHON:** Queensland does not reach its minimum 80 per cent of the Schooling Resource Standard—wilfully underfunding public schools!

**Ms Pease:** They're state schools.

**Dr MacMAHON:** It is an absolute shame and disgrace that Queensland has some of the most underfunded state schools in the country. Yet, budget after budget, from both Labor and the LNP, they continue to refuse to stand up for working families and fully fund our state schools.

**Government members** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Members to my right, order!

**Dr MacMAHON:** The states are expected to put in 80 per cent of Queensland funding. Do you know how much Queensland puts in? Sixty-nine per cent. Our schools are underfunded. I am not making this up! This is in the bilateral agreement that this government signed with the federal government—wilfully underfunding our state schools, leaving state schools having to ask parents to fork out for out-of-pocket expenses, leaving P&Cs having to raise money for essentials for our education system. Every Queensland kid deserves to attend a good school and get a good education, but Labor and the education minister refuse to fund our state schools.


My office recently heard from a first-year teacher who took up a position in a public school in Brisbane's northern suburbs. He told my office how he had spent \$7,000 of his own money on classroom furniture and resources because he did not want to see his kids going without or having to share exercise books. Another first-year teacher told my office how excited she was to finally begin teaching after three years of study; however, within six months she left the profession and returned to child care because the workload and limited resources available to her made teaching unmanageable. This government and this budget is setting teachers and our children up to fail, but it does not have to be like this.

Along with chronically underfunding our schools and underpaying teachers, Labor is destroying a local state school: East Brisbane State School. The education minister, the Premier and the Deputy Premier all stand ready, shoulder to shoulder with the bulldozers, shovels and sledgehammers at the gates of East Brisbane State School, and the only thing the government can provide the kids and parents of East Brisbane is a vague \$100 million set aside for the future of the school—a future that the education minister has decided without listening to the school community or the P&C; a future that the government continues to keep our community in the dark over to continue to swindle and weasel their way out of questions; a future that, if this Labor government gets their way, will see one of the fastest growing neighbourhoods in the inner city left without a school. All for what? A \$2.7 billion plan to knock down and rebuild the Gabba. This plan will destroy a school, a local park and family homes and cause traffic chaos. A \$2.7 billion plan to use taxpayer money to knock down and rebuild a single stadium is absurd. Everyone I speak to says this is an absurd waste of money. I go and talk to local residents in my community. You should try it sometime; you will find out a bit about what is going on on the ground.

That \$2.7 billion of taxpayers' money should be going to building public housing and maternity units. You could make public transport free for seven years with that money or build 80 new schools across our state. While Labor is planning to spend at least \$2.7 billion knocking down the Gabba, they are letting our health system crumble. The Premier herself said yesterday that our GP system is crumbling. People cannot afford to see a GP. There are long wait times to see doctors. The state government could set up GP clinics with state employed GPs across the state and make sure our public health system is fit for purpose. We need investment in free training pathways for nurses and doctors, especially in the regions. Of the more than 5,000 nurses and midwives surveyed in a recent Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union survey, 78 per cent of respondents said dangerous workloads were a barrier to them staying in the workforce. Almost two-thirds cited insufficient pay. Instead of genuinely backing our nurses and midwives, last year a pay agreement effectively gave nurses a pay cut with pay increases that were nearly instantly outstripped by inflation.

Let me tell you that a \$12 billion surplus is cold comfort to the emergency room nurse run off her feet, or the 18-year-old living in a tent in the park, or the mum putting a school excursion on her credit card. The CEOs, boardroom members and lobbyists responsible for trashing the planet are laughing

all the way to the bank. For the rest of us, this budget entrenches inequality and ensures things will get even worse in the coming years. This budget and this Labor government will make the housing crisis worse. We will continue to see our schools and hospitals crumble. We will continue to see the cost of living rise. The lines for food banks and housing are growing every day. The Greens are the only party here building a movement that is standing up for everyday people.

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (8.33 pm): It is so disappointing to see the real challenges and problems of our society distilled down to cynical TikTok grabs where they are attacking the very institutions that make our state strong. I cannot believe that the parents of Brisbane State High School would listen to that diatribe and think they are going to a terrible school that is falling apart. It is an extraordinary school filled with extraordinary students and fantastic teachers who are achieving so much.

It is unusual for me to say that there are also fantastic institutions that the whole of South-East Queensland relies on such as the Queensland Children's Hospital, the very institution this Clayton's AOC wants to attack, which has been enhanced and built and provides great services for our children. We used to have people who believed in internationalism, believed we could build great things here in Queensland and show the world we had something to say—not clinically attack the Olympics and throw away international relations. We are actually a party that believes in bringing people together, showing off our great state and being proud of it. What I am disappointed about is that nothing we have heard is about real solutions. This is all about generating false and fake anger, creating internet bitterness and dividing our society. We on this side reject that absolutely. Those opposite, including the member for Callide, who supported that speech so well, are actually the people who elected that piece of cynicism, and we reject it because we are trying to steadily build for a better Queensland.

I rise to support the Queensland state budget and the appropriations bills. Logan is a growing area, and every day new families move there to new housing to start their journey to a great Queensland lifestyle. The government, the Premier and Treasurer get that. They understand that growing areas need services. They need schools, health investment, better roads and cost-of-living support. To do that we need a strong economy and we need a strong budget. That is why this budget delivers a surplus, and it is off the back of hard decisions we had to make during COVID. They wanted to bring in the disease from down south. They wanted to fly planes in. They wanted to open the borders 64 times. There were hard decisions when we had to say that a share of those super profits belong to the people of Queensland. That is why we made the tough decisions about ensuring that we have progressive coal royalties. If we had not made these tough decisions, if we had not kept Queensland safe, if we had not kept the focus on the Queensland economy, the size of our economy and those employed would have been much less. This strong economy means that we can deliver for areas like Logan.

Growing areas need investment, and that is why, where others are cutting, we are continuing and increasing our Big Build program. The Logan Big Build includes the Mount Lindesay Highway investment, which has just been completed through to Chambers Flat Road—four beautiful lanes—and now we are moving ahead to do four lanes through Jimboomba to get that vital flow of traffic through there. We also have four new floors at the Logan Hospital, which is an extraordinary investment for families and seniors in Logan, who absolutely need the best services.

We are building new schools like the one we have just announced off Park Ridge Road to service Logan Reserve and Park Ridge, but that builds upon the ones we have built in Everleigh, which I share with the member for Jordan, and Yarrabilba. We are building the Greenbank battery, which is part of our investment in transforming our energy system, bringing energy security to our local area but also ensuring that renewables match in with our old network. We are keeping our community safe through investing in cameras and police.


We also know that families are doing it tough. Inflation, especially in housing, is stretching budgets. Look, our Premier gets it; she speaks to renters in Inala. Our Treasurer gets it. He knows that young families are struggling with mortgage payments in Barambah. I know that, when I speak to people at the Park Ridge shops, costs are going up. We get it; they get it. That is why this budget delivers extensive, but targeted, relief. There is relief for seniors. There are SwimStart vouchers for families who want to give that vital skill to their kids. There is free kindy, which is essential. I am not a prep teacher, but I have spoken to many prep teachers who know that if kids do not get kindy they start off at a disadvantage. It is not just for the kids who did not get kindy: if we have an equal playing field, every kid goes in together so your kid and the other kid can immediately start on the next lesson instead of perhaps being held back by kids who did not get that experience.

There are electricity rebates, and the reason why we can do that is because we own the assets. That means we can provide that relief, and that is really important. Because electricity prices are one of the things that has contributed to inflation, the ABS and Phillip Lowe have made it absolutely clear that this is a disinflationary initiative. Putting it in the bills means that that brings back some of that inflationary effect. Well, they do not get it. It is a basic concept, but they do not get it.

I have not really heard them say it, but the key question here is if they have the guts to say whether they support progressive coal royalties. We know going forward that this is important to keep our budget strong and to be able to provide these things. Are they going to be clear about it? Are they going to say whether they support it or not? I understand the member for Burleigh is going to be clear, but we cannot hear that same kind of clarity from the opposition leader. The member for Broadwater does not have that clarity because he is whiffing and waffling and he is unclear. He is saying one thing to one group and another thing to another group. Let us have some clarity and say how secure our economy will be. Let us keep progressive coal royalties because we own the coal. It is our coal. When there are massive profits, we deserve a fair share of it.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): Member for Logan, in referring to someone's intestinal fortitude before, you used unparliamentary language. I ask you to withdraw.

**Mr POWER:** I apologise and I withdraw. It was a slip and I acknowledge that and I apologise.

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (8.40 pm): I rise to add to the debate on the budget. This is my 12th budget reply since I have been in this House. I have spoken numerous times on Labor budgets. They are all smoke and mirrors, and I have said that over and over again. This budget is more smoke and less mirror, I have to say. This budget fails to deliver long-term solutions for the cost of living, it fails to do anything about the youth crime crisis, it fails to fix the health crisis, and it does not do anything to fix the housing crisis. As I have said, the budget does not assist with the cost of living. I do not really understand how members opposite do not get that increased electricity costs are pushing up the cost of living.

**Mr Power:** They are.

**Mr HART:** I take the interjection from the member for Logan. Electricity prices are pushing up the cost of living and there is a rebate for one year. The question then revolves around what do we do next year, the year after and the year after that? Rather than—

**Mr Power:** This is a good thing.

**Mr HART:** This is a good thing for the people—

**Ms Fentiman** interjected.

**Mr HART:** I cannot hear over that screaming from the other side. The reality is that it is false logic to say that this is deflationary; it is actually inflationary when the price of something goes up. When you add a rebate to it, you are providing a temporary fix, a one-off sugar hit, but what happens next year and the year after and the year after? Therein lies the problem. A subsidy is not reducing the ongoing cost of living for people. It reduces it that one time that you provide the subsidy, and it only reduces it by the subsidy.

**Mr Power:** Do you think we should do it again?

**Mr HART:** No, I do not think it should be done again and again; I think real action should be taken to reduce the cost of living. That is what we should be using this one-off sugar hit that has been provided by coal royalties for. We should be using that to actually reduce the cost of living, permanently, not just on a one-off basis.

We see over and over again that every policy this government puts in place adds to inflation. If you look back 10 or 15 years at the price of electricity, it was stable for years and years at \$35 a megawatt. It was not until the Labor government started to bring in a carbon tax that things jumped and then there was renewable energy. Do members remember the carbon tax that 'will not be under any government that I lead'? The then prime minister of Australia, Julia Gillard, stood there on the hill and said, 'There won't be a carbon tax under a government I lead,' and then she brought in a carbon tax the moment she got elected. That is what Labor governments do. They tell you one thing and then they do another thing.

**Mr Power** interjected.

**Mr HART:** Let us talk about the 43 per cent that this government keeps trying to reinvent history about.

**Mr Hinchliffe:** You just said when the carbon tax was introduced. That's a reinvented history.

**Mr HART:** The member for Sandgate might want to listen for a second. I think he might have been in the government that put in place gold-plated transmission systems in 2010 that led to the AER, the Australian Energy Regulator, locking in 15 per cent increases in electricity year on year for five years. We were elected in 2012 and those 15 per cent rises were locked in. They were caused by a Labor government spending money over and over again on the gold plating of the network system, and that is exactly what they are going to try to do again. They are going to try to do the same thing again.

We have already heard about their \$62 billion energy plan. Do they think for a second under a cost recovery system that, if you go and spend \$62 billion on something, somebody is not going to try to recover that money?

**Mr McCallum** interjected.

**Mr HART:** Does the member for Bundamba agree that they try to recover money? That is what happens in the real world, not this fairy world that the government appears to live in. In the real world when private enterprise invest in something, they expect a return on it. That is what has happened with the government's so-called renewable energy plan. They have got private enterprise to invest in renewable energy, all requiring a return and, heaven forbid, the price of electricity has gone up. Well, who saw that coming? I did, but apparently no-one over there did. No-one saw it coming. There will be more of it, mark my words. This is not the end of this story.

The government complains over and over again about the cost of electricity when we were in, but they actually locked it in place. We have seen a 25 per cent and a 35 per cent increase in electricity in the last six months alone. That is much higher than the 45 per cent that they claim electricity went up under the LNP when we were in government that Labor had locked in in 2010. I just do not get why this government does not understand how the energy system works. It is a cost recovery system, a regulated asset base. You spend more money and more money is recovered from people through their electricity bill.

The government comes out and says, 'We'll give everybody a rebate. We'll give some back.' They are the words that the Premier used—'We'll give some back.' Well, do not take it away from them to start with. Lower electricity prices right at the start, rather than taking it off people so everyone has higher electricity bills—including businesses—causing inflation. They are going to give subsidies back to some people. Only some people are going to get free electricity and it is only for one year. What happens every other year? I just do not get it.

We had the Coaldrake report, *Let the sunshine in*, about the integrity system in Queensland, but this government seems to be rushing to turn the lights out in Queensland rather than letting the sunshine in. Mark my words, that will start to happen soon too. The ministers over there have not bothered to watch what is happening in New South Wales right now. They are having actual lack of reserve, every day, because of what they have done down there, and it is only going to get worse. Electricity prices are only going up under this government, and that does not help the cost of living.

The government keeps talking about the \$89 billion Big Build. It is a big con. It is a complete and utter con. I do not think they will actually build half of this stuff that they talk about. We have a minister for transport—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): Member for Burleigh, I remind you to direct your comments through the chair, please.

**Mr HART:** Yes, Mr Deputy Speaker. We have a Minister for Transport who declares that anybody who says that projects are currently coming in on time and on budget is some sort of manure delivery system. I cannot use the words they say, but it basically means a manure delivery system. He is exactly the minister who goes out there and says, 'This project is on time and on budget.' The Cross River Rail—look at what it happening there—blown out. Light Rail Stage 3 on the Gold Coast—on time and on budget? No, that has blown out. Everything these ministers touch blows out. They are blown out.

Let us look at what will happen to the state debt. We have a one-off sugar hit that is being used by the government to try to minimise what will happen as far as cost of living goes this year, but it is not ongoing. The government's budget papers show that coal royalties will fall over the coming years. This one-off sugar hit is not going to continue. The government will not have the money to keep this up. It is quite clear, when you look at the budget papers, where this money is going to come from. Net debt, something they like to talk about all the time, is going to go from \$5.8 billion this year to \$47 billion in 2027. That does not include the super liabilities of another \$21.2 billion. That is why we keep talking about the debt of the state being \$147 billion.

It is no good trying to con the people of Queensland by inflating the assets of Queensland and saying, 'You net those off against what the actual debt is,' because that does not work. The government has been caught out overinflating items in the budget before. You only have to look at what they did to the titles office a couple of years ago where they shifted the titles office into a fund at an overpriced rate, two to three times what the actual valuation was.


**Mr Power** interjected.

**Mr HART:** I take the interjection from the member for Logan. When I was a businessman, and I still am, it is pretty straightforward to value something. You value it on the return that it is getting. If you look at the titles office and multiply the return it gets by a normal figure that an accountant would use or a figure you would use to sell a business, you come up with a pretty straightforward number. It was not \$4.7 billion. It was nowhere near that. That is what the government does; it overinflates all of these things. This is a government that is fiscally incompetent, there is no doubt about that.

**Mr Power:** There is a \$12 billion surplus!

**Mr HART:** They have not been able to fix the youth crime crisis. I will run out of time here, Mr Deputy Speaker. There is so much material to use. There really is so much to use. They have not fixed the youth crime crisis. In fact, we have fewer police officers than we had two years ago, and those figures have been proven lately. I have been trying to find out exactly how many officers are available for each shift in the Palm Beach police division. I have asked three or four different versions of questions in the House to try to elicit that, and they keep telling me that it is fully manned, yet when I speak to our local police officers they tell me there is only half of the normal staff available for any rosters down there. That is the reality of it. It is not the make-believe that the government wants to talk about; it is the reality of what is going on. The reality for the people in Palm Beach is that their houses are being broken into, their cars are being stolen, and the government just does not care about that.

We have heard every member over there say this one-off sugar hit is paying for everything that this government is doing. It cannot be paying for everything. When you add up the numbers that the government is spending versus the amount that they are getting in, they do not balance. It is all going to be debt, and that is not helping the cost of living.

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (8.55 pm): Congratulations to Treasurer Cameron Dick, the Premier and the whole Palaszczuk cabinet for the 2023 budget. It supports families, grows businesses, develops new industry, creates jobs and addresses the cost-of-living pressures. Won't the mums, dads and pensioners of Burleigh be excited when they hear that their member does not want them to get their rebates? All other households across Queensland will receive a \$550 cost-of-living rebate—

**Mr HART:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at what the member has just said and I ask her to withdraw.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I will take some advice, thank you. Member for Mackay, the member for Burleigh has taken personal offence. I ask you to withdraw.

**Mrs GILBERT:** I withdraw, Mr Deputy Speaker. All households across Queensland will receive a \$550 cost-of-living rebate, and pensioners and concession card holders will receive up to \$1,072, delivering \$1.48 billion for additional electricity bill support not only for households but also for small businesses. Queensland is a modern, progressive state and we are on the cusp of a green energy revolution. We can only realise this with vision and leadership—leadership that is not afraid to make hard decisions and stick to them.

Those opposite have stood up here in the chamber and they have wrung their hands about all the infrastructure they want rolled out in their electorates, the additional staffing levels they want increased in schools, police stations, hospitals and health clinics, all while the member for Chatsworth is sitting on a shopping list of projects that will be slashed off our current infrastructure program. If they were in power, all of those on the other side calling out, 'Give us more,' will miss out while their shadow ministerial team are in full flight playing Jack the Slasher. In fact, the Leader of the Opposition has announced he is going to overhaul the Public Service. The last time they did that, thousands of Queenslanders got the sack. It is time to be afraid.

The last time those shadow ministers were in power, my region got zip. The Vines Creek bridges, for instance—vital infrastructure to keep the port-to-pit supplies of fuels, explosives, large pieces of machinery moving; the most vital path for our sugar exports from the mill to the port—were reduced from two-lane bridges travelling at 80 kilometres per hour to two one-lane bridges travelling at 40

kilometres per hour. The truck loads had to be reduced because the bridges were in such bad repair. Sugar, fuel, fertiliser and other commodity trucks could only be three-quarters full. This meant extra loads and extra expense. That is the infrastructure history of those opposite for my electorate.

I congratulate the Treasurer on having the foresight to introduce the progressive coal royalty tax into Queensland. Because of this decision we are realising the largest health infrastructure build ever undertaken in this great state. Those opposite voted for the coal royalties and now they are silent in terms of their support. What are they afraid of? They need to stand up in this House and tell us how they would pay for the projects that they back and that they are calling for without royalties. All of those projects would end up on their slashing list.

I have been out in my neighbourhood and across my electorate and I have asked people on the street what they think about collecting more money from coal companies while prices and profits are high. They are all behind the coal royalty structure in Queensland. I asked people in work uniforms clearly branded with their coal company as well as people who are not in the industry. They were in favour of collecting royalties for Queenslanders instead of the money going to shareholders. In Moranbah it was particularly interesting. There was high-vis everywhere and they were big supporters of the new coal royalties. They are happy to be getting a new purpose-built hospital.

The member for Burdekin tries to walk both sides of the fence on this issue. He is telling coal companies he is going to review the royalties program, but then he tells his constituents that he is going to deliver them more of everything. How is he going to do it? The community are not stupid. The minerals in the ground in Queensland belong to Queenslanders. Once they are mined, they are gone forever. We will not get a second bite of that cherry.

My electorate is one of the most exciting places in Queensland to be. We are at the centre of a green energy revolution, set to be the region for the largest pumped hydro project in the world. Our industries are diversifying and growing. Our tourism is about to come into full bloom thanks to the support of the Palaszczuk government to grow regional Queensland and our communities and businesses.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the Acting Speaker has reviewed and approved my budget speech for incorporation. As such, I ask that the remainder of my speech be incorporated into the *Record of Proceedings*.

*The speech read as follows—*

Tourism in my region was put on the back burner during the last minerals boom in the Bowen Basin. We are building our tourism experience back into the Mackay Isaac Region based on our natural beauty. We have exciting adventure trails to the west, rain forest to the north-west, pristine beaches and tropical islands to the east. People are also attracted to our diverse range of events, music festivals and concerts. Just recently Legends on the Lawn was well attended and July is our full month of continuous festival activities, international, national and state sporting events, like Rumble on the Reef and national skate boarding competition.

We are ready to do more. The Palaszczuk government has set our new tourism experiences in motion through \$1 million funding to build Wild Cat, a purpose built catamaran to take tourists out to the reef and local islands.

To get tourists out onto our islands and pleasure boats to interact with our islands and reef, our region will receive funding—Great Barrier Reef Marine Funding from the Tourism activation fund.

Our area is geared up to interact with the natural environment, with our abundance and variety of flora and fauna.

Some not so friendly, Crocodiles are protected species in Queensland. To keep locals and visitors safe, the budget delivers funding for public education programs and signage, as part of the Crocwise program. Also, devices to detect and deter crocodiles will be rolled out.

There is more. Dan and Amanda Pelagalli of Mackay Adventure Lodge and Wake Park received \$50,069 from Tourism Experience Development Fund. Dan and Amanda's newly built lodge will attract a new level of tourism to Mackay by providing a high level of glamorous backpacker style accommodation for all ages, adding to our local offerings. Dan and Amanda will also purchase a bus to run tours to our local attractions specialising in the wallaby on the beach experience.

\$2 million of Act Eco funding will assist Marine Media to deliver a \$6.5 million two-storey tourism facility, featuring accommodation for 26 persons, including an office, reception area, lounge, deck areas, accessible lift, kitchen, dining area, boat workshop/storage and laundry.

The facility will be used by guides and operators to deliver world class adventure and nature-based tourism experiences across the Mackay region, including fishing tours in the nearby dams, hiking and trail running in the nearby Crediton State Forest and Eungella National Park and mountain biking once the adjacent Pioneer Valley Mountain Bike trail is constructed.

The project is estimated to attract 3,200 annual visitors and generate \$2.9 million in overnight visitor expenditure a year, providing 19 construction jobs and 23 operational jobs.

**Education** is the passport to a person's future. Having quality learning space is a must for our students. This budget delivers the necessary funding for ongoing maintenance and upgrades to our local schools. We will see refurbished classrooms, new and improved playgrounds, new fencing and everyone's favourite tuckshop upgrades and much more across a range of local schools. Education is for everyone; Andergrove SS will be upgrading their accessibility points for all ability students.

We have some of the most talented students in Queensland in our region. The students from North Mackay State High School Marching Band have represented Mackay at Disneyland and are invited to participate in the Brisbane ANZAC march every year. They have many talented students in all areas of performing arts. Congratulations to the school community for your lobbying and persistence, a \$14.1 million performing arts centre is in this year's budget. Having a purpose built performing arts centre will help students on their journey to artistic careers or just instil in them a love of the arts.

Getting children school ready for formal learning puts them in good stead for their educational future. Free Kindy for all 4 year olds will commence January 2024 and will take pressure off household budgets to engage 4 year olds in their first stage of pre-education. Kindy helps children be classroom ready, it can also pick up issues with hearing, sight and coordination early. Families on average will save \$4,600 each year on Kindy fees. A win, win for families and education. Thank you to Minister Grace Grace for leading the education portfolio.

We need to be conscious of water safety for our young children. A good way to keep them safe is learn to swim classes. Eligible 4 year olds will be able to access one of the 30,000 SwimStart vouchers to become water safe.

Without good health life is difficult to navigate. The work of Minister Yvette D'Ath is now being carried forward by Minister Fentiman to roll out the Palaszczuk government's historic hospital and health infrastructure spend. This is only possible by distributing coal royalties to the whole of Queensland. Including, the Mackay Base hospital's 128 bed expansion for paediatric, medical, and surgical patients. Also delivering more acute, sub-acute, women's, children, and neonatal services in our city.

To take pressure off our Mackay hospital the services surrounding Mackay within the Mackay HHS are receiving upgrades and rebuilds. The Sarina hospital and staff accommodation is nearly completed. With weather permitting, patients will begin using the purpose built hospital on Brewers Road by the end of this year.

The Moranbah hospital, staff accommodation rebuild, and new helipad will begin construction this year and receiving patients by the end of next year.

Proserpine hospital will receive the refurbishment of the clinical and assimilation training area, clinical assessment rooms and office space. Through the Rural and Regional Renal program, they will begin renal services saving patients needing to travel to Mackay.

We know that the Queensland public health system is under pressure from increased demand for services as well as a shortage of a skilled workforce.


The challenge of workforce shortages is particularly real for rural, regional and remote hospitals and health facilities, like those within the Mackay HHS. I welcome the \$5,000 payments available to nursing and midwifery students completing their final practicum in a rural and regional setting. When students experience life in the regions, they are more likely to apply for work outside of the south east corner on completion of their study.

There is dignity in work and being able to sustain yourself. We cannot rely on our traditional industries to keep our community in work into the future without innovation and value adding to diversify our economy. As sucrose from our sugar cane is becoming more unpopular as a food source, the bagasse that is generated from the sugar milling process is being processed into new bioproducts at the QUT Mackay Renewable Bio commodities Pilot Plant precinct converting the biomass into commodities like aviation fuel, marine fuel and bio diesel.

Sucrose through a fermentation process it can be processed into protein, this is world leading, the humble sugar plant can potentially be part of developing our world food security.

Stage 2 of the Resource Centre of Excellence will transform the mining industry in the Bowen Basin. The centre will develop the retrieval and processing of critical minerals from the tailings of coal mines. This will see the mines delivering coking coal and critical minerals for our lifelong batteries.

My region is booming because of the management of the Palaszczuk government.

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (9.01 pm): This is a budget that fails Queenslanders. It is a budget that fails small and family business, a budget that fails the Sunshine Coast, a budget that fails generations of Queenslanders to come, a budget of inefficiency and of waste with more of the same chaos and crisis. The Premier and her ministers tell Queenslanders that only they can be trusted to fix the Queensland health crisis, Queensland's youth crime crisis, Queensland's housing crisis and Queensland's cost-of-living crisis. However, why would any Queenslanders trust the Palaszczuk Labor government when all we have seen is failure after failure in those very policy areas?

We are now up to our fourth Palaszczuk government minister for health; all have been promoted after failing in that portfolio. They have been promoted to occupy high offices like the Deputy Premier, the Treasurer and the Attorney-General, but what do Queenslanders have to show for eight years of Palaszczuk Labor government incompetence? They have seen the worst ambulance ramping in the country, Queenslanders dying because an ambulance did not come in their hour of need, grandparents suffering for years due to delayed surgery that they should have had in months. That is the record of this Palaszczuk Labor government and Queenslanders deserve better.

In her contribution to this debate, the new Minister for Health spent much of her time criticising our commitment to release health data in real time within 100 days of the election. We make that commitment because Queenslanders deserve to know how our hospital system is performing and because transparency drives accountability and with accountability comes change. Let's contrast that with the record of the Palaszczuk Labor government.

The Minister for Health tried to suggest that the Palaszczuk Labor government was already providing timely health data. That ignores the fact that the Palaszczuk Labor government previously released health data each month. Then they stopped for a bit and when they recommenced releasing data they dropped it back to quarterly. Nearly every single month we are looking at data that is five months old when it is finally released. That is not transparency or accountability.

We know that the Minister for Health thinks that data needs to be cleaned before it can be released to the public and we know that the Minister for Health has access to that data. So it begs the question: why does the Minister for Health think that Queenslanders cannot be trusted with the same information? The only plausible answer is that doing so would be politically inconvenient.

While I am on the subject of the member for Waterford, I want to address her criticism of the Leader of the Opposition having the hide to raise the issue of women's economic security. Let's have a look at the performance of the Minister for Women when she was the minister for training and skills development. During her reign in that portfolio the percentage of female apprentices who completed their training fell considerably. Under the member for Waterford the number of female construction apprentices who successfully completed their training fell from nearly 72 per cent to 53 per cent. What action did the member for Waterford take? Not much!

I will give the current Minister for Training and Skills Development some credit. She identified that there was a problem in relation to female apprenticeship completion rates and there is some funding to address that issue in this budget. I would note that this funding comes nearly 18 months after the state government received a report into the issue which recommended urgent action on it. However, taking 18 months for urgent action is hardly warp speed, but it is par for the course for this tired, third term Palaszczuk Labor government.

While I am on the subject of training, let's have a look at the record of the Palaszczuk Labor government more broadly. We know that we are in the middle of a skilled worker shortage, which means that every Queenslanders pays more for essential goods and services. It feeds inflation. It is a crisis in large part due to the failures of this state government. The Palaszczuk Labor government have never met their own apprenticeship completion target. That is not just this year—never. They have never met their own apprenticeship completion target. As a result, there are at least 16,000 fewer qualified Queensland tradies and we are in the middle of a skilled worker crisis. Every single quarter since January 2021 more Queensland trainees cancelled or withdrew from training than completed training. In the five-year period from 2018 to 2022, 3,905 more construction trainees cancelled or withdrew from training than completed their training. Labor have failed to meet their school-based apprenticeship and traineeship target every single year for the last eight years. School-based apprenticeships—

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I hear those opposite saying it is not true. However, I suggest they look at the data. The Training Ombudsman's own report will tell them that exact fact. School-based apprenticeship and traineeship completions in the last financial year were 65 per cent below the state government's own target. Over the last eight years the government have fallen short by 6,200 school-based apprenticeship and traineeship completions.

Small business has been all but forgotten by this Labor government. Aside from \$650 of compensation to cover the Palaszczuk Labor government's price gouging on electricity, there is no real support for tradies or small businesses as they deal with the exact same cost-of-living pressures and inflationary pressures that families are facing. Even that \$650 is majority funded by the federal government.

Let's look at some positives. I acknowledge that there is some funding, albeit a small amount of funding, in this budget for small business wellness, mental health support, cybersecurity and workforce advisory initiatives, nearly all of which were announced many months ago. Nevertheless, most of those initiatives will be welcomed by small businesses and chambers of commerce, but that is where it ends. There is nothing meaningful in this budget to make life easier for Queensland small and family businesses. Aside from the very limited federal government compensation for skyrocketing electricity



prices, there is nothing in here to reduce the operating costs of small businesses. While the state government are paying tens of thousands of dollars to get staff to the public sector, there is no support in this budget, no measures in this budget, to ease the same pressures on small and family businesses. Even the investment pipeline from this so-called Big Build is a mirage with 95 per cent of funding falling after the next state election.

Businesses frequently tell me that they have no confidence in the economic management of the Palaszczuk Labor government, which is so often driven by reactive, short-term political imperatives. The chaos and crisis so often on display by the Palaszczuk Labor government has been writ large this week. What Queensland businesses need is a considered vision that will grow the Queensland economy. Based on what we have seen for the last eight years, it is clear that only an LNP government can provide that vision.

Turning to the Sunshine Coast, this budget is the latest in a long line of Labor budgets that ignores the Sunshine Coast. There is no funding in this budget to build the heavy passenger rail to Maroochydore so desperately needed by my community. Perhaps even worse, this budget cuts projects that are critical to tackling the challenges facing the Sunshine Coast.

I refer to projects like the upgrade to the Sugar Road and Mooloolaba Road intersection. Some 20,000 vehicles use that road every single day. The Labor state government—the minister—has acknowledged that it is congested and that it has an unacceptably high crash rate. The Labor state government promised that work would start in mid-2022, then they pushed it out to the middle of this year. Now the project has been cut. I have met with the Minister for Transport and Main Roads on that site and he acknowledged to me face-to-face that the works needed to happen. In fact, against my better judgement, I praised the Minister for Transport and Main Roads for his willingness to listen and act on that particular project, but I spoke too soon.

**An opposition member:** Foolish.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I was foolish in that case—I should have known better. The Sugar Road and Mooloolaba Road intersection upgrade should be an example of how the system can work. Instead, this Palaszczuk Labor government have spent millions on the design and the planning, but they have built nothing. Now they have cut it. The message to the Palaszczuk Labor government is simple: enough with the announcements and the business cases. It is time to get on with the job of building the roads and the rail that the Sunshine Coast needs. If the Palaszczuk Labor government will not build the roads and the rail that the Sunshine Coast needs then a Crisafulli LNP government will, because I will not stop fighting—and my Sunshine Coast LNP colleagues will not stop fighting—for the roads and the rail that our growing community needs.

On another note, I welcome funding to construct the new school hall at Buderim Mountain State School. Such a facility has been desperately needed for many years now. In fact, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition went to Buderim Mountain State School many years ago, and he was telling me that a hall was needed back then. Since that time, Buderim has grown considerably. It is a project that I have worked on with the P&C, the school council, school leadership and the community more broadly for many years. All of those stakeholders are astounded that the state government will not allow the P&C to pay for the hall to be air conditioned. To be clear, my community is not asking for the state government to pay to air-condition the hall; rather, all we want is for the state government to allow the P&C to pay to air-condition the hall. The builder, Kane Constructions that have been awarded the tender to construct the hall, have said that they can install air conditioning for an additional \$600,000. This is another \$600,000 that the Buderim Mountain P&C is willing and able to pay, but there is one road block, and that road block is the state government.

I think it is important to note that the P&C is already contributing over \$1 million to help fund the build. This is funding that many schools have provided by the state government. The P&C are going above and beyond to deliver on P&Cs Qld's purpose of enhancing and improving facilities and resources for schools. It makes me wonder why people would volunteer for a P&C, why they would sacrifice their time when the state government seek to restrict them from delivering on that very purpose. It is important to note that the school halls at both Hervey Bay State High School and Mango Hill State Secondary College—both in Labor electorates—have had air conditioning installed as part of construction funded by the state government. This is not without precedent, and Labor need to get on with the job of delivering for all Queenslanders—not just those in marginal Labor electorates.

My community want to know why the Palaszczuk Labor government are making it so difficult for our school hall to be air conditioned. I understand that the Department of Education have commissioned a consultant to consider air conditioning the hall. In a political manoeuvre from the TV show *Utopia*, I

have been told that the department and the consultant do not need to speak to the builder about their plan to air-condition the hall. Never mind that we need this resolved sooner rather than later, because the build needs to progress and the commission of an external consultant looks awfully like a play to run down the clock. The department have let the cat out of the bag. Departmental staff have said that the only people that can change the decision to not air-condition the Buderim Mountain State School is the director-general or the minister, so it is time for the minister to step up. The minister has acknowledged how important it is for students to learn in a comfortable environment. Here is an opportunity to air-condition a state school hall and have someone else to pay for it. We know that there is \$147 billion worth of debt. Someone else wants to pay \$600,000 to air-condition a hall and they will not take it. How often does a deal like that come along? Let's cut the red tape and get on with the job of air conditioning the Buderim Mountain State School hall.

Finally, I want to acknowledge the funding for two projects that are important to my community. The first is upgrades to pedestrian access near the Chancellor State College between Scholars Drive and Columbia Street. I have been pushing to get these upgrades built since May 2020. At that time, I sought funding under the School Transport Infrastructure Program, alongside Councillor Christian Dickson and the Chancellor State College P&C. It is good to see that the state government have finally come to the party and fund this project, making it safer for students to make their way to and from school.


Secondly, I would like to make mention of the bridge and shared pathway across the Sunshine Motorway at Stringybark Road. This is an area where many students frequent and, frankly, it is dangerous. There has already been \$2.8 million spent on planning for the project. It is time, once again, to get on with the job of building this important upgrade to help keep pedestrians safe.

Before I finish, I want to talk to the Minister for Education's comments this morning in her ministerial statement about the growing Palmview community. She spoke about the new high school and about how it is wonderful that it is open. Indeed, it was wonderful that the minister opened the new high school finally last week. It begs the question why we had to wait until June to open it. Parents know what the reason was. The reason was that the school was not finished. The school was still a construction site when students walked in there in January. It was a construction site because, like so many things, this government cannot plan, cannot execute and cannot deliver. Who pays the price? Our communities pay the price. Communities like the Palmview community that had a construction site for students to walk into on their first day of school. This is replicated time and again across the state.

**Mr Hinchliffe** interjected.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I can hear the current member for Sandgate—he will not be in a few months, I suspect—interjecting. He has been around long enough. He has seen plenty of delivery failures by a Labor government, but communities deserve better.

Another failure for the Palmview community is that they are beset by young criminals because this Labor government have cut police numbers in that community. Since I was elected in 2017, police numbers have gone backwards and the community has grown by over 6,000 people. The Labor government are ignoring our communities and Queenslanders deserve better. There are many more important priorities that my communities need, but time is against me. I will finish with this: it is time for the Palaszczuk Labor government to focus on delivering for all Queenslanders. Queenslanders know that the Palaszczuk Labor government lacks substance. They know that this tired third-term Labor government are only interested in the photo-op, but they forget about the follow-up. Queenslanders deserve better.

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (9.17 pm): I rise with great excitement tonight to speak about this year's budget. I am going to start with one of my favourite announcements—free kindy! I have often said that the member for McConnel is like the Oprah Winfrey of the Queensland parliament and this year she has certainly delivered the goods. You get free kindy, you get free kindy—every Queensland kid gets free kindy! I have to tell members that there is a lot of excitement in my community about free kindy for every Queensland kid who is starting kindy in 2024 and beyond. Kindy will be free for eligible-aged children who attend a government approved program, offering free kindy from 1 January 2024, which members might remember is, in fact, my daughter Elyse's birthday. We know that a quality kindergarten program offers lifelong benefits. Kindergarten participation encourages a love of learning and leads to positive long-term outcomes for children by playing a crucial role in shaping a child's development and preparing them for future success. I think we can all agree that is so important.

Importantly, families will benefit from this free kindy whether or not they attend a sessional kindergarten or a kindergarten in a long day care program. Free kindy is offered for 15 hours a week in the kindergarten program—meaning 600 hours a year—delivered by a qualified early childhood teacher. As a mum of two kids who have already benefited from kindy, and another who will benefit in the years to come, I am so proud that our government is doing this.

I want to touch briefly on the flood recovery programs and update the House on the expenditure from last year's budget that has affected my community, particularly in Oxley and Corinda, where over 400 homes were substantially impacted by floods. I can update the House that in my electorate alone a total of 78 homes have now been bought back. Hundreds more homes will be retrofitted and raised up—some cases have been approved already, with many more still to come. This has been a life-changing program. I place on record tonight my appreciation for both of the ministers who are continually working with my community on this important program. It has made such a difference in my community.

Of course, it would not be a parliamentary sitting week if I did not update the House on how the Centenary Motorway works are going. Members would know that major works are now underway on the Jindalee bridge—a project on which we are partnering with the Albanese government. I have been working alongside my good mate the federal member for Oxley, Milton Dick.


**A government member:** Good bloke.

**Ms PUGH:** He is a good bloke; I take that interjection. This critically important project is just the first step in a total corridor upgrade between Darra and Toowong. Earlier this year Transport and Main Roads conducted vital community consultation to identify the community's priorities for the next stage of works. In the coming months we will see the feedback collated and presented to the community again for final consideration before options are selected for advancement by Transport and Main Roads.

I do not have to tell members of this House just how excited I am about the works on the Jindalee bridge and how excited I am to see the future options being put on the table for the entire corridor in the western suburbs, which is growing at a rate of knots. There is a lot happening in that space economically. We need to make sure we get that corridor developed so that those jobs and those communities can continue to grow and continue to thrive.

In the time I have remaining to me, can I say how disappointed I have been to hear the opposition whingeing and whining about the Centenary Motorway—complaining about the cost increase that has of course come as a result of factors that are increasing all kinds of costs in construction right around the world. They have put it on their list. We do not know exactly what that list means, but people in my electorate know what happens to road projects in Mount Ommaney when the LNP get into government. Last time they cut the Sumners Road overpass. We built it. It was budgeted to cost \$80 million. In fact, we brought it in under budget—at \$65 million—and six months early. It is a fantastic bit of kit. My community will not stand by and watch that kind of thing happen again.

I congratulate the Treasurer and the Premier on a bonza budget that delivers cost-of-living relief for Queenslanders and vital infrastructure upgrades for the Mount Ommaney electorate. I commend the budget to the House.

 **Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (9.22 pm): This is Labor's ninth budget. After nearly a decade of inaction and wasted opportunities, things are finally starting to catch up with them. Queenslanders just do not trust them to do what they say they will do. That is absolutely the case for my community on the Gold Coast. The new hospital at Coomera is a prime example. We are getting only a fraction of the funding this year, so even when this is built towards the end of this decade it will come too late and with not enough beds. That means Gold Coast University Hospital, which already has the busiest emergency department in the nation, will continue to be under enormous strain for many years to come.

We have also found out this week that there are 72 fewer police on the front line in Queensland than before the last state election. For my community, with some of the highest rates of domestic violence in our state, that is extremely concerning.

It has also been more than half a decade since work supposedly began on planning and building the second M1. Construction is only just beginning, and the QTRIP in this budget shows that it will still be happening after 2027. The full stage 1, from Carrara to Coomera, will not be finished for at least four years. We still have not seen the design for the section in my area, so locals have no idea if it has adequate sound barriers. Not having an alternative road to the M1 for local Gold Coast traffic means that driving anywhere in our city is a nightmare. Lack of infrastructure like this is a big handbrake on housing supply.

Housing is the No. 1 issue for my community. I represent a lot of renters, and they have never done it as tough as they are doing it now. There is not much in this budget that will make these renters' lives easier. Without more properties being available, this crisis will not be solved. Social housing is an important part of the mix. I proudly represent Labrador, which has the highest proportion of social housing properties of any suburb on the Gold Coast. It is important for the broader market, because every vulnerable Queenslander in a social housing property is someone who is not competing for another rental, but the government is failing to deliver this vital safety net. The recent Productivity Commission report showed the state government had built only 1,395 properties, despite repeatedly claiming they had built over 4,000. It found that every other state has increased community housing numbers but that Queensland has 91 fewer homes under Labor.

Not a single new home has been built under their Housing Investment Fund. Instead of following up and looking into why this money was not doing what it was supposed to, the government could not resist the opportunity for another announcement so they doubled the fund. It is like something out of Utopia, which is of course a great show on the ABC but is not meant to be a guide for how to run a state government. There is zero focus on outcomes. All they care about is how big the number in the press release is.

More housing, of course, does not mean development at all costs. I have fought alongside my community against inappropriate proposals which would have put density among the beautiful houses of Labrador and ripped up the vital green space of Arundel Hills. We need to encourage development in the right places. That is the biggest challenge the Gold Coast faces as we head towards having a population of a million people in the next decade or sooner.

In Labrador that means accepting more density along the water and along Frank Street. It means having rapid public transport along Olsen Avenue, from the hospital and Griffith University to Harbour Town, to make sure we can better utilise a corridor that has great potential. On the Harbour Town precinct itself, I was briefed by Lewis Land a few weeks ago about their plans for Harbour Shores, with construction starting next year on the empty blocks along Oxley Drive next to Biggera Creek. In a decade, around 4½ thousand people will call this area home. They have further plans for the rest of this hub, and the best thing government can do to support this huge housing opportunity is to have a plan for better transport infrastructure connecting to Harbour Town. The Parkwood golf course has five-storey retirement living towers being built which will be home to hundreds of people, and locals have few concerns about this. This type of proposal, with a limited footprint, could have been proposed for Arundel Hills, and I am sure it would have got community support.

There are two substantial state owned blocks of land in my electorate, on the edge of Smith Collective in the Gold Coast Health and Knowledge Precinct on Smith Street. They are zoned residential and are right near Griffith University and the Gold Coast University Hospital. This is land that has no remnant habitat, it is next to multistorey buildings, it has a major motorway and light rail as transport connections, and of course it has the best Woolworths around and hopefully more and more eating options. Lot 1A and lot 1B in the Health and Knowledge Precinct together add up to 16½ thousand square metres. I want this state owned land to be used for student housing, health worker housing or a combination of both. Surely a proposal of at least developing multistorey buildings like the existing Smith Collective could be fast-tracked. I ask the state development minister what time frame the government believes something could be built here in. These are some of the largest and most ideally located sites on the Gold Coast, and they are owned by the state government. Let's talk to the market about getting a residential development underway. Surely the Housing Investment Fund could support building affordable student and health worker housing on this site. It would bring more people into the precinct which grows this hub, and it would be good news for the hospitality venues there.

The vacant land around Westfield Helensvale is another unrealised opportunity for substantial housing in a key precinct. This area has every possible transport connection. The state government and council should be sitting down with landholders to get a plan together to put density here.

I welcome the last bit of funding in this budget for Coombabah State High School's new health and sports science centre, with new classrooms, change rooms, a commercial kitchen, a kinesiology lab and a health room to deliver their certificate III in health services with specialised beds. We need similar investments in Arundel State School to replace their demountables with a multistorey permanent building. Musgrave Hill needs more funding for their early years precinct, Labrador State School should have their proposal for a cover over their tennis court funded, and Southport State High School is bursting at the seams, so they need a new sports hall.

This is my fourth budget as the shadow environment minister, and in every single one Labor has talked a big game on the environment, but when you look at the detail and you measure the outcomes they simply do not deliver. This cannot be clearer than when it comes to protected areas. Way back in 2015 Labor set a target of protecting 17 per cent of Queensland. At that point our estate was sitting at 7.8 per cent. This budget shows that almost a decade later it is at just 8.38 per cent. That is just over half a per cent more of Queensland protected in nearly a decade.

Last year we finally saw a new \$250 million fund announced—the first and only decent injection of funds into this made by Labor—but there were two issues. Firstly it was back ended so, despite years of inaction, Labor's time line meant that it would need to be re-elected a fourth time to deliver only just a small part of what it promised at the start of its time in government. Half the funding is expected to be spent in the final year of the program. We are in a biodiversity crisis. Climate change is making this worse. Better conservation is taking too long and it is likely that this government will not have increased the protected estate by even one per cent in almost a decade.

The second problem with this funding is it is only to increase the public protected area estate. Labor has no interest in properly funding private protected areas. The only way we are going to increase conservation land in this state to a level which will give us some chance of protecting our biodiversity and stopping extinctions will be by working with private landholders. There will be more and more market desire for this as well. The government needs to provide a down payment and it needs to create the right framework to make it easy for landholders if they choose to be part of this. Right now it is too complex and management funding is completely inadequate. It is nowhere near enough to incentivise landholders to make their property a nature refuge.

Expanding the protected area estate must happen hand in hand with better management. Feral pigs are one of the greatest threats to our environment and to our agricultural sector. National parks have become their sanctuaries. Biosecurity Queensland estimated in 2021 that our state is home to 2.3 million of them and the damage feral pigs do to our conservation estate is devastating. They contribute to the spread of invasive plants and diseases; they damage wetlands, crops and livestock; they impact the quality of soil and water and prey on native species, including going after the eggs of young birds and turtles. They are just one of the invasive species impacting our protected areas which means we need better investment in management.

Putting a conservation status on land is not enough on its own. It needs to be looked after. What I cannot understand is why more resourcing is being delayed. The budget included new world-class protected area management funding, but what kind of world-class management are we going to get this year with less than a million dollars being allocated to this new program? How far will that stretch across our state? There is more money allocated for future years, but the environment minister needs to explain why we need to wait until 2027-28 to get up to \$10 million in one year as planned. It is needed now and you just have to talk to any farmer from across Queensland who backs on to a national park to find out how well it could be spent.

In line with the LNP leader's comments about empowering our Public Service, we really need to see more value placed on our Parks and Wildlife Service. A good start would be giving it its own line item as key frontline staff in the government's workforce profile reports. These are passionate environmental experts who deserve support to make sure they can do what they signed up to do—care for Queensland. They are out working to control invasive species; to manage fire trails and fuel loads; to ensure lives, property and biodiversity are protected. They upkeep park facilities for Queenslanders and for people from across the world to enjoy. Where we see national parks undermanaged it is squarely the fault of the state government, not the rangers on the ground. They go above and beyond with the resources that they are provided. Without more support, they will continue to struggle to achieve what they can see needs to happen in our protected estate.

With regard to resource recovery, the underspend on the Resource Recovery Industry Development Program where barely a third was rolled out and the slow pace of the Recycling Modernisation Fund where we lagged behind every other state in the nation shows that the government is failing to support investment in recycling facilities. It could not even recycle poppers in our state and exported tens of millions of them interstate and overseas. Just \$22 million of the \$1.1 billion Recycling and Jobs Fund has been spent. Queensland has the worst recycling rate of any state in the nation. A focus on outcomes is urgently needed for the management of our waste.


The Great Barrier Reef was all but missing from the budget. It is our greatest natural environment. It is under serious threat from climate change and water quality, yet it barely rated a mention in the budget. While the reasoning for not reaching some of the effectiveness measures in the SDS for reef

water quality programs was the magnitude of the problem before us, there is seemingly no targeted increase in funding to help address the issue. I found out through answers to questions on notice that the government's support to Life Sciences Queensland has been cut, so it was positive to see some funding for strategic science and international partnerships included as a new budget measure.

It was hard to find anything in the budget on innovation. A recent Australian startup funding report found that Queensland had just eight per cent of all venture capital raised across Australia over the last year—less than half of what it was six years ago. I am happy to see ground finally being broken on projects in the Health and Knowledge Precinct more than half a decade after the Commonwealth Games ended. We still have no funding from the state government for Griffith University's ADaPT 2.0 building though. The LNP committed to fund a third of this at the last state election and I am again calling on the government to pick up the phone and work with its federal colleagues to figure out a funding deal for this facility. The Gold Coast cannot just rely on tourism, hospitality and construction jobs; we need the government to invest in this building to connect students with world-class industries that will further innovation in our state.

Finally, when it comes to the youth portfolio, this government made it abundantly clear the value it puts on young people when it forgot to assign it as a portfolio to a minister in its recent reshuffle. We did find it buried in the Department of Treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Communities and the Arts SDS, but there was very little mention of youth. Being forgotten and cast aside gives no confidence to young Queenslanders that their voices will be heard by this government.

I will finish where I started: after nearly a decade, Queenslanders just do not trust Labor to deliver what it says it will. It is a great honour for me to represent my community in this place and I will keep advocating for what the people in my part of the Gold Coast need the most.

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (9.36 pm): Queenslanders cannot trust the LNP. Today the leader of the LNP said in his budget reply speech, 'Don't make promises you can't keep.' Well, that is more than a bit rich coming from a member who was part of an LNP government that told public servants they had nothing to fear right before it sacked 14,000 workers. The LNP said that, if elected, 'it would draw a line in the sand so it can overhaul the Public Service in order for it to be reborn'. To be reborn, first there would need to be a death, and with the LNP we know that it will be death by a thousand cuts—cuts to jobs, cuts to services and cuts to infrastructure. The LNP always cuts; Labor always builds, and that is clear in the budget—a budget with an \$88 billion Big Build of job-creating and economy-boosting infrastructure over the forward estimates.

In contrast, the LNP has an infrastructure cut hit list. We know this because it was helpfully published on social media by its leader before it was quickly taken down. That LNP hit list includes health facilities like satellite hospitals, mental health units, ambulance stations; transport infrastructure like Cross River Rail and bridges; sports fields; critical transmission infrastructure like CopperString 2.0, and the list goes on and on. Through its budget reply the LNP offered up wet-lettuce policy solutions like a health workforce plan—not one commitment for a new health facility, not one commitment for an extra health job, not one commitment or policy on the climate or the environment, which is something that the member for Bonney and shadow environment minister conveniently left out of his speech. In fact, it barely mentioned jobs at all or the economy.

The LNP refused to commit to keeping our progressive coal royalty scheme even though it voted for it and even though it funds at least \$550 in power rebates to each and every householder in their electorates and to each and every Queensland household. Wait for it; I am getting to it, members. Instead of being straight up with Queenslanders that it will not keep it, we heard weasel words about supporting current revenue measures without ruling out repealing the progressive coal royalty regime that is delivering the cost-of-living relief for every single Queensland household, that is delivering new hospital beds and that is building job-creating infrastructure.

This is LNP duplicity in action. This is why Queenslanders cannot trust the LNP. There is always plenty of criticism from the LNP, but they never have any solutions, no new ideas or policies, just the same old faces from the Newman government joined by a few new faces like the member for Callide who fits right in with the old ones.

This is a budget for all Queenslanders. It is a budget that delivers a fair go to keep our local Bundamba community booming, a budget that delivers on the Palaszczuk Labor government's continued commitment to tackling the cost of living, creating more good local jobs and better services closer to home. It is a budget with a clear vision built on Labor values to help all Queensland households at a time when they truly need it most. The power of public ownership of energy assets means that our

local households will receive an automatic \$550 rebate on power bills with more than \$1,000 in rebates for vulnerable and low-income households. This is only possible because we have kept our energy assets in public hands. They are not for sale. This is a great Labor budget for Bundamba and all of Queensland that should be passed as quickly as possible.

On that note, the Acting Speaker has reviewed and approved my budget speech for incorporation and as such I ask that the remainder of my speech be incorporated into the *Record of Proceedings*.

*The speech read as follows—*

Deliberate and targeted support will ease cost of living pressures for our local Bundamba community through a record \$8.2 billion in concessions funding the biggest package in Australia. Free kindergarten for all will save our families up to \$4,600 a year, and we are expanding our hugely popular \$150 FairPlay vouchers to include swimming lessons.

I'm proud that our publicly owned Swanbank precinct an icon of our local community will be transformed through a \$54.4 million investment. This is a landmark move for Swanbank, which is set to become South-East Queensland very first Clean Energy Hub, starting with \$41.5 million to support the installation of a 250MW battery. The state-of-the-art battery project will support 60 highly-skilled local jobs during construction and up to 10 upon completion. We're also investing in a turbine upgrade and other overhauls at Swanbank, and this is exactly why we can continue to keep power prices down while at the same time providing our local households with the nation-leading rebates announced this week. It's all about more good jobs through clean, cheap, reliable energy.

Our cost of living support extends to our record housing investment to get more Queenslanders into safe, secure and affordable accommodation sooner. Locally that includes more social and affordable housing across the Ipswich community, with \$59.2 million for new and upgraded facilities. In Bundamba we've already opened four social housing complexes, and another at Goodna is nearing completion. The biggest ever concentrated investment in housing in Queensland's history also includes funding for homelessness support, emergency accommodation, rental grants and bond loans.


Health and education continue to be two other key areas of investment for the Palaszczuk Government, and this budget includes more than \$230 million for our local community. The 200-bed expansion of Ipswich Hospital is being backed by a new purpose-built acute clinical service building, a new emergency department and six additional operation theatres. The \$710 million Stage 2 project is expected to support 1,700 jobs during construction. New and upgraded schools will help give our local kids the very best start in life. This includes funding for the next stages of our local Ripley Valley State Secondary College, Ripley Central State School and Woogaroo Creek State School, and a further \$52.6 million for our new state school at Bellbird Park that is on track to open next year. Upgrades will also be completed at Bundamba State Secondary College, Collingwood Park State School, Goodna Special School, Redbank Plains State High School and Riverview State School, and we're delivering more than \$1 million in general maintenance and minor works at schools across our local community.

The full accessibility upgrade of Bundamba train station is on track with more than \$14 million for this major project. This is a huge investment in our local community, and works will provide improved access for all commuters, particularly people with disability, the elderly, those travelling with prams or luggage, and people recovering from injury. The project will support more than 200 good local jobs during construction, delivering better public transport services. When it comes to train transport, I'm particularly pleased with funding to progress more essential infrastructure to support our local community the Ipswich to Springfield rail loop. The Palaszczuk Government has matched the Federal Albanese Government's \$3.75 million commitment to undertake the Ipswich to Springfield Rail Line Business Case, bringing the total to \$7.5 million. This is in addition to the \$2.5 million previously allocated. The Business Case could see a total of nine potential stations connecting the Ipswich line and the Springfield Central line, and this would include two stops in the booming Ripley Valley, another important area of investment.

This budget supports one of the fastest growing communities in Australia with \$8.5 million to deliver more essential infrastructure and unlock more land for housing in the Ripley Valley Priority Development Area. Our record Ripley funding includes a further \$78.9 million for our South Ripley Satellite Hospital, \$26 million for the neighbouring sub-acute facility, \$7.3 million towards the new Ripley Ambulance Station, and \$5 million for the new Ripley Police Station. The budget also includes:

- Over \$3.8 million for infrastructure upgrades at our local Bundamba TAFE.
- More support for those impacted by the 2022 floods with \$220 million for the raising, repairing and retrofitting of homes as part of the Resilient Homes Fund.
- Funding for our hugely successful local Skilling Queenslanders for Work and Back to Work programs.

This is a budget for all Queenslanders that will keep Bundamba booming while supporting our local households with record levels of cost of living relief. It is another investment in good local jobs, better services and the great Queensland lifestyle we all enjoy. And it caters for our rapidly growing local community with more world-class health and education closer to home, improved infrastructure, and record numbers of frontline workers. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (9.41 pm): I rise to make a contribution to these cognate money bills on behalf of the people of Southern Downs. Members in this chamber will know that I tend to place a very local focus on bills that come before this House and there is plenty to be discussed regarding the budget for my electorate of Southern Downs. I looked closely at the budget and it provides not much that is new in my electorate.

I do not say that we received nothing, but most of the announcements are simply continuing funding for projects that have already been announced, such as the Toowoomba to Warwick pipeline, Gore Highway safety upgrades between Toowoomba and Millmerran—some of that will be in my electorate—and the Warwick State High School school hall. I would like to thank the government and the minister for that because that will be great for them. Every second year Warwick State High School

puts on a fantastic theatrical production. They just finished this year's production, *The Age of Rock*, and it was outstanding. I hope that those facilities will enable them to perform at home rather than having to go to the Warwick Town Hall.

The Goondiwindi Hospital upgrades, including air conditioning and the switchboard, are good stuff and I acknowledge the government for that. I know that the government is assisting the Goondiwindi Regional Council with the roof replacement on the Inglewood reservoir and there are ongoing improvements which have been going for several years to the visitor facilities at Girraween National Park.

I want to talk a little bit about the Toowoomba to Warwick pipeline that we have heard so much about. I need to put on record that this is not a panacea for the water difficulties that my electorate has faced. I am always cautious about biting the hand that feeds us. I acknowledge the government's investment in a pipeline to take water theoretically from the South-East Queensland grid down to Warwick. It is a nice thing to have, but what I do not know is what the cost will be to ratepayers. Given that it is looking like \$300-odd million I ask the question: why is the government persisting in building a pipeline from someone else's scarce supply to the town that did not run out of water instead of spending half as much to build Emu Swamp Dam in the town that did run out of water—Stanthorpe—that would not only give surety of supply to the residents of Stanthorpe but also to the horticultural producers who are the economic lifeblood of our community? I know the Minister for Water understands those things. I would love to see funding for Emu Swamp Dam in this budget.

**Mrs Gerber:** Hear, hear.

**Mr LISTER:** These interjections suggest that I have been silent on the matter of Emu Swamp Dam. Does anyone else think that? I appreciate that a project like Emu Swamp Dam would ordinarily be funded jointly by the federal and state governments. That is a normal process for a project like this. Given that the town of Stanthorpe did run out of water and for 16 months had to have drinking water trucked to Stanthorpe at great expense to the state government—and I do thank them for that—the water supply situation for Stanthorpe has not been dealt with. It will rear its ugly head again. If the predictions that we hear at the moment are to be believed, we are heading for another period of dryness and drought.

It would be very sad to see Stanthorpe go through the difficulties it did before when it ran out of town water. Not only did it mean that the supply was restricted for the consumers in Stanthorpe but also it had an adverse impact on the local economy because people from Brisbane, the Sunshine Coast and the Gold Coast who frequent Stanthorpe for the tourism experiences and B&Bs and so forth, in intending to do the right thing, did not come because they were concerned about depriving us of our water. That really hurt local businesses and the local economy. It also impacted the population who live on the Granite Belt outside of the town of Stanthorpe. About half of the Granite Belt's population live in Stanthorpe and half live in the country areas and villages. Those people did not collect rainwater because of the drought so they were dependent on driving into town with a thousand-litre pod on the back of their ute to fill up in town from the municipal supply. That had to stop because of the drought. It was only through the extraordinary efforts of volunteers and generous donors and benefactors from all over Queensland, particularly on the Gold and Sunshine Coasts, that they got any water. The member for Bonney personally drove a ute full of water up for my constituents on the Granite Belt and I am grateful to him for that.

If Stanthorpe is to grow, if Stanthorpe is even to remain viable as it is now, it needs a solution to its water problem. It goes without saying that the horticultural production on the Granite Belt is extremely efficient. One megalitre of water produces \$70,000 worth of leafy green vegetables at the farm gate. It is a very effective use of water, it is an effective way of providing food security, and it is a very labour intensive industry. Having water for our growers to produce that food causes great flow-on effects through the local economy and that is something we should really be looking at. I will continue to on occasion whisper the name 'Emu Swamp Dam' and hope that the minister and the government can at some stage find their way back to the table on that project.

The housing situation in my electorate is dire. I see the housing minister in the chamber. Her predecessor answered a letter I wrote to her asking about the share of houses from the state government's investment in public housing. I understand there were about 5,700 houses intended over a certain period. At the time about 80 or 90 were destined for the Darling Downs area, including Southern Downs, and only four were destined for my electorate which, I imagine, apportioned appropriately, would be one in Goondiwindi, one in Stanthorpe and maybe two in Warwick.



We are currently facing a situation where we cannot get public servants, teachers and police into the community because all of the government houses are full and there is nothing for rent. It is especially a problem for the private sector. There are businesses who are crying out for staff but they cannot get them even though they may be willing because Goondiwindi is a great community, a great place to live, for want of housing. I may be corrected, but I believe that Goondiwindi has the lowest vacancy rate of any town in the state of Queensland. It is ridiculously low. It more than allows for the time to vacate and bring another tenant in. People are doing it tough. That is quite apart from the obvious social consequences of people not being able to find homes when projects like the MacIntyre Wind Farm progress and there is an influx of workers coming for those good jobs and they take houses. It is understandable that with their better buying power they will secure those houses for rent. It has left people worrying that they will be without a home. It has left people who need to move into the area unable to find a house.

The housing crisis is more than a slogan. It means something very significant in Goondiwindi, Stanthorpe, Warwick and places all over the state. For example, the nursing home in Goondiwindi, Kaloma, is an outstanding institution that is run by and for the people of Goondiwindi. Even in the current environment where there is great demand for nursing homes, it has closed about a dozen beds because of a lack of staff. The main impediment to hiring staff is not the labour market, which obviously is stretched, but that there is no housing available for workers. That is very concerning.

I want to talk about electricity. The budget provides for a new rebate that ostensibly is supposed to benefit all Queenslanders. I take that to mean Queenslanders in my electorate of Southern Downs as well. However, it is far from certain that my electors who live in the localities of Wallangarra, Texas, Inglewood, Goondiwindi and beyond, in places like Toobeah, Bungunyah and Talwood, who source their electricity from New South Wales, will benefit from the rebate. I have written to the Treasurer and asked him to confirm that those electors in my electorate will be able to benefit from the \$550 rebate and in the case of small business the \$650 rebate. I will be very disappointed if the answer is no. I know that the Treasurer or his staff will be watching. I ask that, when he responds to the second reading debate, the minister clarifies whether those customers in my electorate of Southern Downs and perhaps in other parts—I wonder whether the member for Warrego has constituents who are supplied with electricity from New South Wales—will be able to benefit from the electricity rebate. I want to talk about crime in Goondiwindi.

**Ms Leahy** interjected.

**Mr LISTER:** I take that interjection from my honourable friend the member for Warrego. It is horrendous at the moment. I am always in two minds about speaking about the horror of the crime that is going on because the people of Goondiwindi are proud and they have an outstanding community that, in every other respects, is the envy of many places around Australia. They do not like to be labelled. As I have said in the past, Goondiwindi is not Mogadishu but you could be forgiven for thinking so this week because many outrageous crimes have been committed. About a dozen crimes occurred on Tuesday night and Wednesday morning of this week. I spoke about those incidents in the adjournment debate on Wednesday night. I will not go into so many details because I am no longer certain that the perpetrators have not been apprehended or charged. Out of an abundance of caution I will not speak in detail about them.


The crimes that occurred involved a spate of outrageous home invasions and also motel room invasions. The offenders had identified a car that they wanted to steal from a car park space. They kicked down the door of that particular motel room and assaulted, in some cases viciously, the occupants of the rooms to take their car keys. On Wednesday night I spoke about the effects on a prominent citizen of Goondiwindi, Councillor Susie Kelly, who is a much beloved member of the community. Susie Kelly and her family were subjected to a very frightening home invasion. I am hearing that these invasions and attacks are now being committed with more and more violence. Years ago it used to be that it was almost just cheeky action by some kids. These days the perpetrators are favouring the use of pre-emptive violence against good people in order to steal their car keys and there have been some very serious assaults.

I want to go on the record in this House, and I have said it before, that I believe that if this situation is not addressed then deaths will occur, either of perpetrators because of defensive actions by the victims or of victims because of the assault by the perpetrators, or because of misadventure and the unlawful use of a motor vehicle. That is my belief.

Yesterday in the chamber I heard the Attorney-General talking about how the LNP is too fixed on the idea of simply locking up individual youth offenders. We all get that it is not good for youths to be incarcerated. However, we cannot look at that in isolation. Anybody who says, 'This is a complex issue and, therefore, we have to allow a situation where they are on the streets night after night' is effectively saying that good people in our communities who live by and uphold the laws must simply tolerate the crime until Labor's policies have dealt with the causes, complex though they are.

I say that measures need to be taken now such as unshackling magistrates so that they can order a custodial arrangement for a youth offender who comes before them so that that offender cannot go back onto the streets to reoffend. At the moment the law says that detention is a last resort. That is not good enough because the people in Goondiwindi, Stanthorpe, Warwick, everywhere else in my electorate and, in fact, everywhere else in Queensland are entitled to nothing less than the protection of the government through the laws that they pass.

I simply put it this way: in Goondiwindi people are dismayed and aghast. Recently I have been inundated with complaints from constituents, including people who may never before have complained to a politician about their lot. Goondiwindi is a town that prides itself on getting itself where it needs to go under its own steam. People cannot sleep at night. People are traumatised by what has happened to them, including people in the electorate of the member for Warrego. This is not a simple question about the ideology of balancing society's needs in terms of rehabilitating youth offenders and looking after the community. You cannot have both at the same time in Goondiwindi. That is the practical effect on the ground and I am quite certain I speak for other places where there is rampant youth crime. We need to ensure that persistent youth offenders are locked up in some way or fashion to prevent them from continuing to commit crimes.

 **Mr TANTARI** (Hervey Bay—ALP) (9.56 pm): I rise to speak in support of the appropriation and revenue bills before the House. This state budget focuses on the things that matter to Queenslanders and the people of Hervey Bay. It continues to deliver the economic recovery that the people of Queensland and Hervey Bay expect from governments. As a regional member, this budget shows that the Palaszczuk Labor government has listened to regional Queensland and is delivering on its commitment to not leave regional Queensland behind.

This budget takes action on national cost-of-living pressures and tackles the cost of living by providing a record whopping \$8.2 billion in concessions to ease the cost-of-living pressures for families and businesses. That is an increase of 21 per cent from the year before. Amongst the cost-of-living measures will be rebates on electricity bills for all Queenslanders. Each household will receive \$550 and those who live in the most vulnerable households, in addition to the existing \$372 under the Queensland electricity rebate scheme, will receive \$700, making a total of \$1,072. That is \$1,072 for some of the neediest in our communities. For some it may go close to eliminating their annual electricity bill, which is a great outcome. Many in that group will be pensioners, Health Care Card holders, Commonwealth Seniors Card holders and those eligible for a carer's allowance.

All Queenslanders will receive that assistance because they are benefitting from the fact that we own our power assets. This would not have happened under an LNP government. Not one of us, let alone the most vulnerable in our communities, would have seen a single cent in returns from our assets, which we have all worked hard to pay for, because they would have been sold off long ago. We know who would have been getting the benefits from our assets: their LNP mates. I know that the people in my electorate of Hervey Bay will appreciate the cost-of-living rebate, which will go a long way towards easing some of the national cost-of-living pressures that families are experiencing at this time.

Further to this, another great announcement made by the Premier and the Treasurer is that, as of next January, all four-year-olds will be able to attend kindy for free. That is a great outcome for families. With 15 hours a week of free kindy for 40 weeks, the average saving for a family will be around \$4,600 per year. I will say that again: \$4,600 a year. That will be a great boost to the family budget. Those savings could go towards things like paying the rent or the mortgage and putting more food on the table. It will allow many people to work more and also to improve the educational outcomes of their children.

The Palaszczuk government has to be applauded for increasing the availability of free kindy to more families—around 8,000—in this budget. But there is more. I am delighted to say that, following a call-out to the Minister for Health by me and many of our other regional members who are sitting in the chamber tonight, the Palaszczuk government listened to our regions and raised the rate of subsidy for the Patient Transport Subsidy Scheme known as the PTSS. This will mean that patients required to travel outside of Hervey Bay to access health services will now have the cost of that travel further reduced due to a higher rate of PTSS. Many members of my community have asked for this rate to be

lifted. This budget's allocation of a further \$70.3 million over the next four years shows the Palaszczuk government has responded to this call and delivered another cost-of-living outcome for the people of Hervey Bay. I want to thank all members of the Hervey Bay community who collectively lobbied to have the PTSS rate lifted. Our voices were heard and you have all contributed to this great outcome. Our community thanks you.

Another great cost-of-living measure that will assist families in my electorate is the announcement that the well-loved FairPlay scheme will be expanded over the next two years to provide SwimStart vouchers of up to \$150 for eligible children aged up to four years to learn to swim. This will allow many families to ensure their littlies can get the core training in swimming and water safety. In the electorate of Hervey Bay this is a very important skill to develop given that we are a seaside electorate and have many water bodies that can be dangerous to little people if they are not prepared and made comfortable around water.

Another reduction to the cost of living will be the renewal of drivers' licences which will now have a flat rate applied at \$35. It is these small, everyday reductions in costs that make a big impact to the family budget by the end of the fortnight. I again congratulate the Palaszczuk government for acknowledging the national cost of living on family budgets and for acting to ease this pressure.

This budget continues to provide the funding for the next stages of major infrastructure currently underway and needed for the Hervey Bay electorate—namely, the Hervey Bay Hospital, Urangan State High School, the Urangan Point State School hall, Booral Road and Boundary Road in Urangan, the Maryborough Hervey Bay Road and Pialba Burrum Heads Road intersection; the purchase of land for the Hervey Bay replacement fire and rescue station; funding towards trunk infrastructure that acknowledges the growth that is in Hervey Bay today; funding to rebuild the Pialba substation and to upgrade the Eli Waters sewerage infrastructure; major and minor school upgrades right across the electorate, including a refurbishment of block D of the Sandy Strait State School; and collaborating with the Fraser Coast Regional Council by providing joint funding towards the Hervey Bay Centre Master Plan Implementation stage 1 and the Scarness Beachfront Tourist Park redevelopment. All these projects bring jobs and economic prosperity to the Hervey Bay electorate.

This is what Labor governments do. We listen to our communities and we act. With this budget the Palaszczuk government has done just that for the Hervey Bay electorate. The Acting Speaker has reviewed and approved my speech on the budget for incorporation and, as such, I ask that the remainder of my speech be incorporated into the *Record of Proceedings*.

*The speech read as follows—*

Speaker, previous LNP speakers in this debate, use the same old language of doom and gloom about this good cost of living budget.

With no real thought or acknowledgement of the outstanding work by this Government to keep the budget in the black, something we all thought on this side was their economic mantra.

Speaker, we keep the budget in black and they still moan, because it comes from the royalties of our rich resources that we all own, and not from the pockets of Queensland's families and the most vulnerable in our community.

Instead of embracing the massive action taken on tackling the national cost of living issues, and work done to steer our economic prospects, the other side continues to scare and drive division in our community.

We on this side know that this budget delivers better services for all Queensland no matter where they live – unlike the LNP, who if they were in power bringing down this budget, would have just inflicted more cuts, sold more off and jacked up cost of living for every Queensland family.

We know that they can't wait to start pruning away in the background, cut, cut, cut like Johnny Depp's Edward Scissorhands, the member for Chatsworth is champing at the bit, to slash and burn the budget by \$10 Billion.

Mr Speaker, another part of this cognate Bill I would like to address in my contribution is the section in the Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill 2023 that deals with Payroll Tax.

This particular area won't be a headline grabber like a number of the other measures in the cognate bill but has a substantial impact on the regional businesses and employment in my electorate of Hervey Bay.

This cognate Bill amends the Payroll Tax Act 1971 to implement a 2023-24 State Budget measure to extend the 1 per cent payroll tax rate discount for regional employers for a further 7 years, until 30 June 2030.

This cognate Bill also implements a further 2023-24 State Budget measure to extend the 50 per cent rebate for wages paid or payable to apprentices and trainees to include wages paid or payable during the financial year ending on 30 June 2024.

These measures give certainty to small and medium regional business and their employees, saving these businesses many thousands of dollars to reinvest in their businesses and employing and growing their business in tough economic times where people are spending less because of the national cost of living pressures.

Speaker, as the Treasurer said in his introductory speech our economy is now the envy of the nation.

Around the world economic conditions are deteriorating as interest rates rise ward off inflation. The Queensland economy is forecast to grow 2% this financial year, rising to 3% in 2023.

By comparison, the Reserve Bank of Australia expects national economic growth to slow again, to 1½% in the calendar year 2024 and inflation is forecast to continue easing, down to three- and three-quarter percent next financial year.

Employment growth is forecast to ease from 3¼% in 2022-23 to 1% next financial year.

But unemployment will continue to remain low by historical standards, at 4¼% next financial year, rising to 4½% in 2024-25 Queensland's fiscal position is easily the strongest of the major states.

As the Treasurer stated in his budget speech, the people of Queensland recognise the importance of the things that matter, like better hospitals, smarter schools, safer roads and creating a pipeline of infrastructure that creates jobs for decades to come.

Speaker, the last budget delivered record funding to ensure a strong health care system for all Queenslanders.

It delivered for Hervey Bay by ensuring our hospital is upgraded and improved to meet the growing demand of health services in our region.

This 2023-24 budget keeps the jobs growth going in Queensland and continues that trend, by providing the funding for the many and varied programs and services needed to move my community forward.


This budget continues delivery on the promises made and delivers for the people of the Hervey Bay electorate.

Speaker, a budget tackling the cost-of-living rises, growth in jobs, health, education, infrastructure, housing, and this is what a Labor budget is all about.

As I have said in this place previously, I will do my best to ensure the people of the Hervey Bay electorate gets its fair share from our government and with this 2023-24 budget the Palaszczuk Labor Government has delivered on its promises and commitments made to the people of Hervey Bay.

Speaker, the Palaszczuk Government are doing what we promised, and with this budget we continue to build a better Hervey Bay.

Speaker, I support the Bill before the House.

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (10.02 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the 2023-24 state budget. This Palaszczuk Labor budget fails to deliver for Queenslanders on the long-term cost-of-living relief, the youth crime crisis, the health crisis and the housing crisis. This budget proves that Queenslanders cannot trust the Palaszczuk Labor government to fix the chaos and crisis impacting their everyday lives. Queenslanders cannot trust this government because the Treasurer promised 26 times before the last election there would be no new or increased taxes. There have been five new taxes since that election. Revenue has never been higher but services have never been worse. The Palaszczuk Labor government does not deliver on its promises for Queenslanders. This is what the *Financial Review* published about this budget—

The Palaszczuk Labor government cannot be trusted to deliver on any of their promises that matter to Queenslanders ... Queenslanders have never been in more debt, Queenslanders have never paid more tax [and] Queenslanders have never seen project overruns of the magnitude that we see today, and yet they have less and less to show for it.

I commend opposition leader David Crisafulli and shadow Treasurer David Janetzki on their budget reply speeches. They have exposed the budget overruns and the lack of delivery by this government and have pointed to positive policies from the LNP. They have pointed out how, despite rivers of gold, the state is gripped by a crisis of crime, a crisis of health, a crisis of housing and the lack of service delivery. This government has not addressed the fundamental pressures on the cost of living like driving down the cost of electricity. In particular, the government's failure to maintain its power plants has contributed to the increases in electricity prices hurting Queenslanders now. This Labor government has not dealt with the big underlying problem at the Callide Power Station.

The Treasurer mentioned that the ratio of net debt to revenue is expected to increase to 55 per cent by 2026-27. In 2020 the state government commenced a debt reduction and savings plan to deal with debt. Well, it is not going so well. We now see the total state debt heading towards \$147 billion by the end of the forward estimates. That equals \$25,500 of debt per Queenslanders by the end of the forward estimates—an increase of 62 per cent since Labor were elected in 2015. That reduction plan is not going so well.

Local governments are disappointed by this Labor budget. In fact, local government did not even get a mention in the Treasurer's speech. The Treasurer dislikes local government so much he could not even bring himself to mention Queensland's councils—the third tier of government in this state, but not one mention in the Treasurer's speech. Councils have once again been forgotten by this Labor

government. In fact, the LGAQ wrote that councils have been royally shafted. Despite repeated calls for increased funding for Works for Queensland to protect regional jobs, the government refused to listen. The sacred cow of Works for Queensland has been cut back—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Bush): Pause the clock. Members, I will ask that we drop the volume so that we can hear the member on her feet speak. I will start warning people this evening if it continues.

**Ms LEAHY:** Despite repeated calls for increased Works for Queensland funding to protect regional jobs, the government refused to listen. The sacred cow of Works for Queensland has been cut back to \$42 million to be divided amongst 65 councils. Councils will not be able to support the 21,000 jobs given this funding cut. This cut is at a time when the Auditor-General is saying that 45 councils, approximately 60 per cent of the sector, are either at a moderate or high risk of being financially unsustainable. If only the Labor government had not wasted that \$230 million on a quarantine camp at Wellcamp, it would have the funds to put towards the Works for Queensland program. The cost of the white elephant at Wellcamp would have more than topped up the Works for Queensland program.

Betterment funding for Queensland local governments has slowed under Labor for the past eight years. The average annual funding has been cut by 75 per cent—from \$80 million per year under the LNP to barely \$20 million a year under Labor. At the same time, Queenslanders have borne the brunt of disasters, roads that are closed for longer, bridges that are not raised, seawalls that are further eroded and water and sewerage supplies that are impacted during and after disasters. When investment is not done in betterment, the cost of living increases, insurance costs rise and consumers have to pay the price or go without. This is just another example of the service delivery failure of the Labor government driving up the cost of living on Queenslanders.

Another important funding program for the safety of all those who drive on our state's roads and for local government is the Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme. I note that \$76 million has been allocated towards TIDS for local governments in this budget; however, in real terms this program is struggling to keep pace with the escalating construction costs. Building roads is expensive and \$76 million this year does not buy as much bitumen as it did in 2015.

Another problem is that the Labor government is using the TIDS funding to fund their state controlled roads because of their more than \$5 billion road maintenance backlog, rather than enabling councils to use the TIDS money on council roads. When there are rivers of gold in revenue coming into this government's coffers, Labor dip into local government funding streams and spend that funding on state roads, rather than finding funding in their own sources.

It is not only the state Labor government who are not meeting the expectations of Queensland's local governments. The Labor Albanese government fell short in the federal budget. In Labor's federal budget, financial assistance grants reduced again to councils from 0.52 per cent to 0.5 per cent of national taxation. Twenty years ago the financial assistance grants were one per cent of national taxation. Queensland councils want the FA grants returned to one per cent of national taxation. Local governments in Queensland are being squeezed by federal Labor and then squeezed again by state Labor. Labor just do not care about local government

**Mr Lister:** Why does Labor hate local government?

**Ms LEAHY:** I take that interjection. They just hate local government. I do not know why that is.

**Mrs Gerber** interjected.

**Ms LEAHY:** It was not once mentioned in the Treasurer's speech.

I do welcome the government's recent announcement regarding the Bundaberg flood levee. What we do not welcome is the 120 per cent cost blowout exposed in this year's budget. In 2020, the Palaszczuk Labor government committed \$40 million for 50 per cent of the levee. That is a total project cost of \$80 million. In this year's budget, we now learn that the project will cost \$175 million—a 120 per cent blowout.

The residents of Bundaberg have been let down again by the chaos and crisis in the Palaszczuk Labor government. Whilst the LNP support the levee, we need to see the government's plan for North Bundaberg. We need to see the evacuation plan, as well as the option for buyback, home raising and retrofitting. If it is good enough for the people of South-East Queensland to have this type of scheme, it is good enough for the people of North Bundaberg.

There are thousands of not-for-profit community volunteer and sporting organisations across Queensland. Many of these have a hall, a clubhouse or a shed with an electricity connection. Some have already seen their electricity bills double due to the tariffs becoming obsolete. These volunteer groups will not be immune from the rising costs of electricity brought about by this Palaszczuk Labor government. These venues and facilities provide social interaction and meeting places for volunteers who contribute so much to our communities. These volunteers contribute more than \$84 billion in replacement labour costs and gross state product in Queensland, yet they will pay the increasing electricity costs brought about by this Palaszczuk Labor government.

I want to talk about roads in my electorate because they are particularly important for the transport of agricultural produce to market and the return of goods to the region's residents and also for tourism and the tourism industry. It is disappointing that there are no new significant projects in QTRIP. It is disappointing that in Queensland the government does not care about road users because, if you are on an outback road, you are five times more likely to die in an accident than what you would if you were on a metropolitan road.

**Mr Lister:** Disgraceful.

**Ms LEAHY:** It is disgraceful. If the government cared about the deaths on their roads, they would make a significant investment and they would have significant new projects in QTRIP.

**Mr Lister:** And they wouldn't close driver revivers.

**Ms LEAHY:** I take that interjection: they would not close driver revivers. If the government cared, they would fix the roads which are worse now than when they came to office. Roads like the Roma Condamine Road are narrower than the bike tracks in Brisbane, yet the oversize, overmass vehicles that cannot travel on the Dogwood Creek Bridge at Miles are diverted onto this crumbling road. I am fearful that we will have a fatality on that road.

Then there is the Mitchell St George Road south of Mitchell. It has a high traffic volume of tourists and road trains, and bitumen again that is narrower than a bike track. There are plenty more of these roads in disrepair. Tonight I do not have enough time to go through them and talk about all of them. It is disappointing that there is a \$5.7 billion road maintenance backlog in Queensland and we have heard not a plan from this government to address this backlog through this budget.


I note that the government after 12 years have moved to increase the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme. The last increase in this scheme was by the former health minister Lawrence Springborg under an LNP government. With the lack of doctors in regional Queensland, Queenslanders will need every bit of this subsidy scheme. Sadly, this Labor government is more interested in spin doctors in the Premier's department than doctors in regional hospitals. If only they worked as hard to find full-time medical doctors for the communities of Augathella, Cunnamulla, Dirranbandi, Injune, Mitchell, Mungindi, Quilpie and Surat as they do to find spin doctors for the Premier's department. Some of these communities have been up to three months with no doctor presence at their local hospital.

The lack of doctor coverage has placed enormous pressure on frontline nursing staff and enormous pressure on emergency retrieval services such as the RFDS and LifeFlight. People have died prematurely because they could not get admitted to a hospital when there is no doctor present. The medical services are suffering under this Labor government because it fails to properly resource the hospital and health services. Under this government these communities' medical services have deteriorated and in this budget there is no plan to restore those full-time medical services.

I want to talk of Peter from Mitchell who was in a car accident on a Friday night. He needed X-rays. Despite his doctor requesting this on the weekend from the Roma Hospital, his family were told that it would cost \$5,000 to call the people in, so he can just wait till Monday. This is not the first time that people with broken bones have been told, 'You are going to have to wait till Monday for your X-rays.' When Peter was finally X-rayed at the Roma Hospital, he was found to have a broken sternum and broken ribs. So, when the health minister said this morning that every patient who needs care gets care, that is not true. This Labor government only deliver care on weekdays and, when it comes to X-rays on the weekends, they just do not happen. Roma is a major regional hospital and they should be able to provide care and X-rays 24/7. However, this Labor government does not deliver those services.

This Palaszczuk Labor budget fails to deliver for Queenslanders on long-term cost-of-living relief; the youth crime crisis, which is gripping not only the community of Goondiwindi but also my communities in Roma and Dalby; and the health crisis. We are hearing, for instance, that people cannot get into the Dalby Hospital because it is full. They simply cannot get admitted. Then we have the housing crisis. I do welcome the announcement of more police for Dalby, but we cannot get those police because we

do not have any houses for them to live in. We cannot house those extra police in Dalby. It is proving very difficult to get those extra police into that community. Unfortunately, this Palaszczuk Labor government fails to deliver vital services to regional communities.

 **Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (Minister for Child Safety and Minister for Seniors and Disability Services) (10.17 pm): I am proud to stand tonight as a minister in the Palaszczuk government this week as we deliver this budget. I want to acknowledge the hard work of our Treasurer, who is with us in the chamber tonight, as well as my cabinet colleagues.

I am honoured as the member for Barron River to acknowledge the wins in this budget for my home electorate and also for the Far North Queensland region. I welcome the headline figures of \$1.6 billion in new cost-of-living relief and a record \$8.2 billion in total concessions. I embrace our plan to tackle cost-of-living pressures with free kindy, school breakfast programs and a power bill rebate of \$550 for every home in Queensland. I celebrate the fact that we are on the cusp of Queensland's Big Build—the biggest infrastructure build ever undertaken in the history of this state.

I am proud to announce a record child safety budget of \$2.14 billion—the first time the child safety budget has topped \$2 billion. This budget will see 123 new child safety officers and support staff employed on the front line to help Queensland's most vulnerable children and families.

While visiting child safety offices across Queensland I have been proud to meet with so many passionate, caring and hardworking child safety workers. I met people like Nicola in Roma who often makes an 1,100-kilometre round trip to visit children and young people in surrounding towns. In Townsville I spoke with Shandel, a young woman working for the department as an admin officer while completing her social work degree. Shandel has the full support of my department as she works towards her goal of becoming a child safety officer. In Roma I met with Jessie-Lea, a university student from Brisbane and one of 32 young people statewide who took part in paid university placement as part of her social work degree. In Mackay and Cairns I witnessed a promising trial to appoint paralegals to work in child safety offices to help process court documents and other paperwork. This helps our CSOs to spend less time in the office and more time with children and families who need their support.


We are leaving no stone unturned in addressing the workforce challenges we face in child protection. The 123 extra positions, at an estimated cost of \$11.4 million in the next financial year, will help continue to drive down our caseloads, with priority given to locations with high workloads. It is also fantastic to see a record investment of an extra \$167.2 million over four years and \$20 million in ongoing funding from 2027-28 to reduce the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families known to child protection. In this regard we are working towards expanding delegated authority beyond the two trial sites in Rockhampton and the Sunshine Coast. We will also expand Family Wellbeing Services which have proved so effective at diverting First Nations families from further contact with the child protection system.

In disability services the budget invests \$7.8 million to support at-risk children and young people to access the NDIS until December 2024. The Access and Referral Team, or ART, supports vulnerable children and helps young people with disability to access the NDIS. Since 2020 ART has assisted more than 3,600 people to gain access to NDIS supports, including 530 children and young people last year alone.

I am happy to advise the House that the Palaszczuk government has committed to continue to deliver accommodation support and respite services, or AS&RS, until June 2025. We believe this budget celebrates the contributions that seniors make to Queensland through their roles as carers, workers, volunteers and community leaders. We will invest \$15.3 million over the next four years to support Queensland seniors. This budget will enable seniors to feel cared for, safe and supported by Queensland's world-class frontline services.

In my home electorate of Barron River this budget tackles the hot button issues: cost of living, health, housing and roads. I welcome ongoing work on site selection for a new youth detention centre near Cairns and the expansion of the youth co-responder model to deal with or divert high-risk young people.

For our roads there is \$6 million to kickstart the \$359 million total spend towards the upgrade of the Captain Cook Highway between Smithfield and Cairns in partnership with the Australian government, and there is \$30.9 million towards the \$300 million duplication commencement of the Cairns Western Arterial Road between Redlynch Connector Road and the Captain Cook Highway, also in partnership with the federal government. I commend the Palaszczuk government's 2023-24 budget to the House.

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (10.23 pm): Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the 2023-24 budget. Before heading into specifics, it is appreciated that the cost of living has been a focus of this budget, and for many the electricity rebates and free kindy are very welcome; however, there is a question of how this is funded. I realise that the surplus and royalties have been mentioned, but with a reported \$1.721 billion increase in tax revenue, is this a case of taking on one hand from those who can ill afford it and then providing it back on the other hand in the form of support?

With a record net operating surplus of more than \$12 billion, I appreciate efforts to pay down debt; however, given what it is costing in support and health services to tackle increased poor mental and physical health due to the housing crisis and ongoing fallout from COVID, why is more not being injected into housing from this surplus? Studies of homelessness have shown that the provision of housing costs governments and taxpayers less than the ramifications of homelessness.

In amongst the many non-location-specific announcements that are welcome are incentives for GPs and healthcare workers to relocate to Queensland, high-visibility police patrols and improved access to emergency departments, surgery and mental health support, which we desperately need. However, the devil is in the detail—namely, where these will be funded from. In the coming weeks we hope to find out.

Another plus is additional funding in areas we have been advocating for in relation to capability and competency building across the public sector as envisaged in the Coaldrake report. Of importance is the increased role of the Queensland Public Sector Commission as a system leader to ensure those capabilities are developed. There are much needed inquiries into the responses of government in relation to COVID—as governments around Australia and the world have done—as well as the reasons for the housing crisis that were many years in the making. We have to assess these to avoid replicating any failings in the future.

I now move to Noosa-specific items. Our wish list was quite small, as many of our major projects have been completed, commenced or are in the study or recommendation stages. From the Department of Transport and Main Roads this includes: the completion of the first stage of the Beckmans Road Tewantin bypass; a new roundabout at the intersection of Cooroy and Beckmans Road—which everyone loves, it is fantastic; and the commencement of the replacement of the Six Mile Creek No. 7 bridge—and again it is really impressive. A lot of work has gone on there. In addition, there are enormous volumes of both capital and maintenance funding for the Pomona Kin Kin Road in response to the totally inappropriate volumes of heavy haulage the road was never built for. We continue to wait for a determination—it has been a year now that we have been waiting for that to be handed down by the courts—to see an end to this nightmare, and I thank all who continue to assist.

For those in progress, we have in QTRIP \$1.4 million for the planning of stage 2 of the Tewantin bypass, which is currently in the final design phase between Noosa council and TMR, and \$9.2 million from a total of \$22.5 million for the Six Mile Bridge, with completion predicted for mid-2024. Even though not in the Noosa electorate, the lack of movement on the Cooroy intersections is of concern. It is right on my border. My constituents and those in Nicklin are daily at risk from these two notorious intersections and clarification needs to be given as to why these remain unaddressed.

Back to happy announcements, we had the sod turning for the construction of the new \$13 million state-of-the-art school hall for our Noosa District State High School, Pomona campus, which is due to be completed in readiness for the start of the 2024 school year. This is a great addition, and I thank Minister Grace and the department.

The Sunshine Beach State School is also seeing a refurbishment of block HA. However, a devastating disappointment was the omission of the advanced manufacturing unit for Sunshine Beach State High School. With the master plan for this bursting-at-the-seams school completed, to not get started does not make sense. They are turning students away because they cannot take them for studies in that particular manufacturing space. As we have no TAFE, it is especially important to ensure alternatives for training and job pathways are provided, which this unit does. It may be there is funding hidden somewhere for that detailed design and there may be a reconsideration of its urgency. We continue to wait for an announcement in relation to the future of the decommissioned TAFE site—it has been the longest journey; I have been tracking this for nine years so it is very frustrating—and the results from the feasibility study into a Noosa Learning Hub. The importance of ensuring funds are available for this in the next budget cannot be underestimated. Noosa lost its TAFE as well as our uni campus. We need a hub. Pleasingly, it is wonderful that the Lake McDonald project is now back on track, with nearly a million dollars in this budget to get started out of a total of \$127 million to meet safety requirements.



Turning to health, I attended the official opening of the transportable units at Noosa Private Hospital, which operates under an agreement with the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service. This is to triage patients coming into the emergency department, which has limited capacity resulting in bypass mode or, should I say, load share 1 being activated 20 hours a day. Given that this adds to the ramping at SCUH and Nambour Hospital, I just do not understand why the government will not provide the requested longer lease to Ramsay so they can invest in expanding the facility permanently to avoid all of this. If that happened it would be a win-win for government, the community and the millions of visitors we receive who suffer from delayed ambulance times due to bypassing to other hospitals. Then they cannot afford to get back home to Noosa. With the budget stating improved ambulance responsiveness and access to emergency departments, here is a simple, no-cost solution. So, Minister, please, simply extend the Noosa Hospital lease.

Even though there are funding allocations in a number of realms to Noosa for mental health, alcohol and other drug psychosocial services, as well as residential rehabilitation, the amounts do not appear to be anywhere close to what is required. In addition, the fact that only \$28,000 is allocated for our electorate this year for palliative care state programs to service our needs is deeply concerning. Our communities continue to fundraise services, such as for our much loved Katie Rose Cottage, which each year requires \$2 million to provide essential end-of-life care. Again, there is no move to develop a fair and equitable model for the seven hospices across Queensland from the \$55 million allocated to invest in community-based services for palliative care until 2026. The question remains: why? Community funded models deliver these services much more economically than a hospital. This is another grassroots question that needs answering.

Then we move to the never-ending issue of housing, which I think I have spoken about in every budget now for five years. My community appreciates the purchase of Doonella Street last year for an affordable housing project and the successful funding applications put forward. We look forward to when these can be announced, including the RISE by Bendigo project to build four units for families impacted by domestic violence. However, this is only a small part of what is needed.

This budget outlined commitments across Queensland of 5,600 social and affordable home commencements via the HIF and 3,265 by June 2025 via an additional \$1.1 billion. However, as we know and as we have heard, this falls far short of what is required. QCROSS research stated a need for 11,000 new social and affordable homes each year for 20 years. In their March 2023 report, they said that there are 150,000 households across Queensland with unmet housing needs. This includes 100,000 households that would typically be eligible for social housing.

Where is the long-term housing strategy for Queensland that we have been requesting? Why, when we have a record surplus, are we not dedicating more to address this crisis right now? This has never been more important, especially with the 2032 Olympics only nine years away, which will create further accommodation hardships, as well as the extra 250,000 people who are predicted to move within 45 minutes of Noosa in the next decade. If there is not a solid strategy released quickly, we will see a catastrophe of proportions even worse than what is happening now.

Given current urgencies, there is only \$500,000 for specialist homelessness services for our area. There is nothing about needed emergency accommodation. The Department of Resources handed over a suitable site to the Sunshine Coast Council four years ago. This still sits unused and about to go out for tender, so what is really happening here?

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** I apologise, member for Noosa. Can we pause the clock. Members, there is far too much noise in the chamber. If you would like to have a conversation, please take it outside.

**Ms BOLTON:** When we add in the dire position regarding interest rate pressures, land tax and policy proposals driving mortgages and housing costs up, which also impact those renting, why is the government not putting in place a freeze on land tax to the 2021 valuations as we have requested? There are so many whys in this budget.

I turn to our environment. Noosa is waiting for action in response to government studies and surveys as a result of years of advocacy. Many of these issues—such as the unsustainable volume of visitors to Noosa North Shore and protecting our turtle habitats—do not require vast sums to resolve; they just require action. Our community are really angry. Others, such as the better management of our Noosa River, do require increases for the QPS, MSQ and DAF to police changes to laws; otherwise there is no point.


Our national parks continue to bear the brunt of underfunding. The Values-Based Management Framework is welcomed. However, what does it translate to on the ground? QPWS staff and volunteers continue to do an incredible job battling the impacts from the large volumes of visitors to our national parks. It is wonderful that these parks continue to be increased; however, we need the resources and legislation to manage appropriately. This includes a much needed discussion as to whether the current parameters for ecotourism ventures are appropriate. With the volume of destruction we are seeing, it is vital that a Queensland independent EPA gets operational, as it has been 18 months since the first consultations. In addition, the recommendations from the review of powers and penalties under the EP Act need to translate into a tabling of new legislation into the House as soon as possible.

I now turn to transport. Given that congestion and lack of access to public transport has escalated for Noosa—and, as I mentioned before, a predicted 250,000 people will come to live within 45 minutes of Noosa—the importance of reducing the current and future loads on the M1 and surrounding networks cannot be understated. The North Coast rail study is long overdue, and increases in rail and other forms of public transport are vital before the 2032 Olympic Games.

I move to crime. As we have seen in our many inquiries, the contributors are complex and many. We have seen the results from inquiries when recommendations are not actioned. The funding required is enormous, and it is good to see that there is \$132 million over four years dedicated to crime prevention and victim support. However, we need to see where these increased patrols and programs take place, as we do not want to keep funding 'specials' in Noosa.

Glaringly, there has been no mention of needed increases to support for our small to medium businesses. Given the ongoing hardships from lack of staff, increased rentals, inflation and monetary policy responses on interest rates, this is deeply concerning as they are our backbone. However, as part of the Tourism Experience Development Fund, monies have been awarded to RACV Noosa Resort to construct an eco precinct and to Kin Kin's Mayan Farm. Noosa council will also benefit from further funding as part of the Community Stimulus Program for the McKinnon Drive sports facility, for investigations into transit hubs and to assist with litter and illegal dumping.

In conclusion, as always, there are winners and losers in budgets—and a lot of noise in this chamber. Ultimately, the glaring issue with this one is that we should have celebrated the surplus delivered from mining royalties with announcements that address our most urgent needs, including housing. I acknowledge the complexity of putting a budget together and I congratulate the Treasurer and all of the very hardworking staff. It is not easy; however I ask that the serious shortfalls that have been identified be remedied, because as we know it is never too late.

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (10.36 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Appropriation Bill 2023. What a day to be a Queenslander. I know that the State of Origin is usually our day of solidarity and state pride, but this year's budget week has got to be right up there. I certainly do not want to trivialise the importance of this budget, because we know right now right across Queensland—across the country in fact—everyone is feeling the cost-of-living impacts at home. Every time we buy groceries, pay an electricity bill or renew our driver's licence, we have the tangible evidence that it is getting harder to make our income spread across everything we need and want.

This year's state budget is a cost-of-living budget. There is free kindy for all Queenslanders. People in my community are loving this announcement. Not only does it speak to our government's commitment to easing the cost-of-living pressures, but it speaks to the value we place on ensuring all Queensland children can start their learning journey together. There are \$550 rebates on electricity prices for all Queensland homes, with over \$1,000 in electricity rebates for eligible concession card holders. There is over \$8 billion in concessions and rebates, including reduced fees on drivers' licences and subsidising public transport.

However, it is more than that. This is a budget that provides for now in helping our working families, our young people and our seniors in easing some of those daily pressures. It is also a budget for our future—with a heavy focus on investing in infrastructure to manage Queensland's growing demand pressures and the services we need to ensure every Queenslander is cared for.

It is a budget that returns a surplus—the greatest surplus on record across all Australian states and territories. As we have heard, that has been secured because of our firm position on progressive coal royalties—royalties that we know the mining lobby are pushing back against. While people in my electorate have mixed views about coal and the use of that, we all stand united in our position that our resources sector should be major contributors to Queensland's economy through coal royalties. We still have not heard from the opposition today on whether they would retain these coal royalties if they win government or how they would otherwise fund the \$7 billion shortfall.

I want to touch briefly on our local highlights. This year's budget includes \$3.3 million in local school infrastructure. I know that the students, the parents and all of the teaching and school staff at Petrie Terrace State School are going to welcome the news that funding is provided to commence the work on the renewal of the school's entry and walkway corridors. I have spoken with principal Ben Reed, who is doing a fantastic job of coordinating these works.

The students at Ithaca Creek State School are going to love their new outdoor learning areas and multipurpose sports court that have been fully costed and funded in this year's budget—almost half a million dollars of investment there.

The Gap State High School will again receive state government investment this year. I have spoken with principal Anne McLauchlan who is thrilled to know that we are providing over half a million dollars to install their access ramp to the home economics block H. This will ensure that their students who face mobility challenges can pursue their dreams in hospitality now and into the future. While I am speaking about principal Anne McLauchlan, I take the opportunity to congratulate her as she has been short-listed for Principal of the Year in the Australian Education Awards. Well done to Anne.

It gives me great pleasure to speak in here about Payne Road State School. They are a wonderful school community. I have spoken with their principal, Nicky Brazzale, who was over the moon to learn that we have allocated \$1.2 million to completely refurbish and modernise their block A which is long overdue for some work, and I am glad it is getting a complete renovation. We just now need to sort out the senior amenities block and I will be happy.

Before I incorporate my speech, I congratulate the Treasurer and his team and his department and the various departments and the ministers involved in pulling this budget together. Coming up with policies and ideas is one thing, but fully costing them and securing the funding and making those difficult decisions around prioritisation is not an easy task, and it is not a function that every political party actually ever gets tested on, so I commend the Treasurer and his collective team's achievement on that.

I also want to acknowledge a special person in my community, David Williams. David is a proud Wakka Wakka man. For the past 20 years, David has worked as a cultural performer producing great work locally and overseas. He is the Executive Director of Gilimbaa, which means 'today' in the language of the Wakka Wakka. Gilimbaa is a creative agency, specialising in storytelling and connection. David and his team at Gilimbaa are actually responsible for the artwork on this year's Queensland state budget. I have spoken to David who is just so proud of what his team has produced. He is a wonderful human, he is an incredible performer and he does a lot in our local community, so congratulations and thank you to David Williams.

The Acting Speaker has reviewed and approved my budget speech for incorporation and, as such, I ask that the remainder of the speech be incorporated into the *Record of Proceedings*.

*The speech read as follows—*

I am going to have to show a lot of restraint here because there is a lot to talk about and I will certainly be getting out in my community and making sure people are aware of what benefits they stand to gain, but I will concentrate my contribution on some key areas that are of most relevance to my community: cost of living, health and housing and the environment.

Cost of Living

The announcement that so many people in my community are excited for free kindy for all Queensland children. This is not just a direct saving for families at \$4,600 per child, this is about removing any financial barrier for children to start their education as early as they can, and to start that journey together as one cohort. We do not want two cohorts of kids entering prep. We want to make that level playing field and set them up for success from the start. This will deliver on that, and it will make it easier for parents to return to work, if that is their choice or something they need to do.

We have expanded our electricity rebate scheme, widening that net so that all Queenslanders are eligible for a \$550 electricity rebate for the year, which is huge. What excites me about this announcement is not only that all Queenslanders are saving substantially on one of the highest household bills but also that it offers confidence in our transition towards renewable energy. There are people in my electorate who are concerned about the pace at which we are transitioning to renewable energy, I want to offer those people assurance.

Health and Housing

Our government will always prioritise the health needs of Queenslanders, and this year's budget invests a record \$25.8 billion into that. Additional funding to help manage the pressures that paramedics are facing at the moment, including funding for 200 more paramedics, \$28 million for new and replacement ambulances and financial incentives for nursing and midwifery students to undertake their placement in regional locations because we know that once they spend some time in our regions they will find it difficult to leave.

On housing, every jurisdiction across the planet right now is experiencing issues with housing. This is not something unique to Queensland but it is something that we have to prioritise, and I have advocated for additional housing measures and will continue to do that. The composition of Queensland homes has changed. Fewer people are living under one roof now. In 2015, the average

Queensland home had 2.6 people in it, today it is 2.5. It might seem insignificant but that one demographic change creates an incredibly high demand for housing in Queensland. Couple that with the supply chain challenges we are facing, anyone trying to build or renovate right now would know it is almost impossible to find a company with capacity to take on new work. I absolutely understand that people are finding it hard to find suitable housing in their area, or to build, or to stay in rentals. There is no one solution to this. It is not just about building additional social housing—although, of course, that is one of the measures I will talk about—it is about supply, it is having more apartments built, it is about communities becoming comfortable with gentle densification, it is about adjusting the rental settings so that renters can feel at home in their rental, and that they have some security of tenure.

An additional \$1.1 billion will be invested in this year's budget into the housing portfolio. This will help pay for those additional construction costs in the industry. It will ensure that the houses we have committed to will be built despite the inflationary pressures. Additionally, it will see an additional 500 social homes built, on top of our current commitments.

Just this week the federal parliament is debating the Housing Australia Future Fund Bill, a bill that will establish a \$10 billion fund to support the construction of new social and affordable homes every year on an ongoing basis. This fund will recommit the federal government to social housing in a big way after 27 years of inaction, and get all levels of government working together on one of our country's biggest challenges again. Importantly, it is set up so that a future conservative government will not be able to axe it. It is not going to solve everything—no one suggests it will—but it will put another 30,000 social and affordable homes into the market within five years and get vulnerable people including domestic violence survivors and veterans into a home, which is why the Community Housing Industry Association, National Shelter, Homelessness Australia and the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Association have all publicly called on elected members to support it.

We have two Federal Members elected across the Cooper seat, in the seats of Ryan and Brisbane, and I am unimpressed that neither turned up when the vote for this social housing bill occurred in the House of Representatives. Once the fund is set up, there is nothing stopping us from pushing for it to be increased in upcoming budgets. But we need to set the foundation and I am calling on our federal members to get it done.

#### Environment

Constituents in my electorate regularly congratulate me on our government's Energy and Jobs Plan, and the difference this mapped, planned and funded transition to renewables will make in our contribution towards climate change and emissions reduction. I know they will be excited to hear of our continued commitment to that plan. This year's budget predictably includes another big investment in our environment, including: \$234 million invested for waste and resource recovery—as part of our \$2.1 billion, 10-year plan for a zero-waste Queensland, something to celebrate for our children and grandchildren; \$94.4 million on projects to reduce waste, towards things like circular Economy Initiatives and Statewide Behaviour Change Programs.

Another \$30.6 million to expand our protected area network, an area that is currently twice the size of Tasmania and growing.

\$51.9 million to improve visitor experiences and revitalise infrastructure in our national parks, driving tourism and allowing Queenslanders to enjoy our beautiful natural assets including D'Aguilar Forest which is right on our doorstep.

A combined \$70.5 million to strengthen our ongoing work and partnerships with First Nations Peoples, who we walk alongside to care for our precious protected areas.

\$49.9 million to continue our successful Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger Program.

This budget sets Queensland up for the future, while recognising the very real pressures and impacts faced by our people today. I commend it to the House.



**Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (10.41 pm): It gives me a great deal of pleasure to rise here tonight to respond to the Palaszczuk government's 2023-24 budget. Talk about a wasted opportunity. The Treasurer has pocketed an extra \$60 billion than he forecast in his first budget, but there is absolutely little to show for it. It is indeed a squandered opportunity. I have previously commented that throwing ever increasing 'record budget' amounts of money into key areas such as transport and main roads, health and education is not in itself a real measure of success. Every minister spruiks about this year being a record budget. So what is new? Every year they spruik about a record budget spend. Labor seems to simplistically equate that success is defined by how much money you throw at an area of public policy rather than what it delivers for Queenslanders. Simply put, it is what you do with resources rather than just throwing borrowed money continually at an issue. Given our total state debt will now blow out to \$147 billion by the end of the forward estimates, this is indeed a budget which again continues to fail future generations.

I will now comment on the budget in my capacity as the shadow minister for customer service and shadow minister for transport and main roads. As I reiterate in most budget reply speeches, the *raison d'être* of the main roads and transport portfolio is all about delivering an efficient and responsive statewide transport system that will connect people right across our vast state, both now and into the future. Yet again, Labor's incompetent approach to the 2023-24 budget, particularly for this key portfolio, means, as I said last year and the year before, that this worthy goal is still a long way off. Is it any wonder under the watch of the Minister for Transport and Main Roads that we have, as I always say, the hashtags #budgetblowouts and #railfail?

The Minister for Transport and Main Roads wants to talk up the transport and main roads budget and tell us, as he always does, with his favourite word from high school drama days, that it is 'awesome'. Like previous years, in effect it is more a smoke-and-mirrors exercise—

**Mr BAILEY:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I find the comments made by the member for Chatsworth in relation to high school are inaccurate and wrong and he ought to withdraw them. I find them personally offensive. I never did drama in high school.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Lister): Minister, you have been here long enough to know that a point of order is only concerned with whether or not you are offended. It is not an opportunity to prosecute the argument.

**Mr BAILEY:** I am personally offended by the inaccuracy of the comments and I ask him to withdraw.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Please take your seat, Minister. Member for Chatsworth—

**Mr MINNIKIN:** I withdraw. It is in effect a smoke-and-mirrors exercise, member for Miller, rather than a credible financial document for the future. So—

**Mr BAILEY:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member is an experienced member. He is addressing me directly across the chamber and not speaking through the chair, as he should under the standing orders.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Yes, you are correct. Member for Chatsworth, you will direct your comments through the chair.

**Mr MINNIKIN:** Certainly, Mr Deputy Speaker. Let's have a look at Labor's record. The minister will again talk about a record QTRIP, but like last year, the year before and the year before, really it is about recycling old announcements—old documents run through the photocopier, this time with a better colour toner. It is the same old announcement. It was strange that his announcements did not include—and I found this incredible—anything on railroad level crossings. This is the genius statement.

Let's follow the logic here: Cross River Rail is going to produce more trains running more regularly. Big tick—great! Fantastic! What is it going to mean at either end of the Cross River Rail north and south bound routes when it comes to open level crossings? They will be down longer, as I proved by going out there last week. I actually timed how long I was stuck at open level crossings. It is getting more and more ridiculous. Of course, the Minister for Transport and Main Roads is more fixated on active transport than he is on open level crossings. It is an absolute amazement to me. It was strange the announcement did not include any open railway level crossings in major capital works. There is the token little amounts that appear, and I will speak a bit more about that.

What really is Labor's track record? It is one, as we absolutely know, of project delays and cost blowouts. Of course, as usual, the starting point is the Palaszczuk Labor government's signature infrastructure project, Cross River Rail. Minister Bailey used to perpetuate the myth that the project will only cost the taxpayer initially \$5.4 billion.

**An opposition member:** \$5.9 billion.

**Mr MINNIKIN:** I will take the interjection. We know that there are extra project costs being hidden in other parts of the budget—it is all here in QTRIP—and that is before the \$960 million blowout he admitted to on media weeks ago. I challenge, through the chair, yet again the Minister for Transport and Main Roads to dispute this figure by providing the extra cost breakdown areas of the budget which are inextricably part of the overall Cross River Rail project. For example, add in the realignment of the Breakfast Creek track—\$55.28 million—and construction of the stabling yard at Clapham Yard Stabling at Moorooka—\$532 million; last year it was \$301 million. I guess that is the pesky Russians at work. Fairfield train station to Salisbury train station upgrades, various locations—\$105.3 million; last year it was \$52.5 million. Another blowout: relocation of the Mayne Yard facility—\$33.7 million; last year, \$22.4 million. It all adds up, paid for by the taxpayer of Queensland. To upgrade the vehicle and pedestrian access at Mayne Yard—\$152.7 million; last year it was \$96.8 million. To upgrade the power supply at Moolabin Power—\$18 million. Congratulations, Minister for Transport and Main Roads; that stayed the same as last year. The actual cost of Cross River Rail is likely to be around the \$9.37 billion mark, and stay tuned. It goes up every single year.

The actual completion date for the project was raised at estimates last year, and we know the project is well over a year late compared to the glossy brochure that the former Labor member for South Brisbane first announced years ago. As I previously stated, Labor had been caught trying to rewrite history to cover up a project delay. I know the minister likes to wax lyrical about things being 'awesome' but maybe he should concentrate on actually getting some things done.

But wait, we have more. Boundary Road rail crossing was in last year's budget at \$206 million, but now it has increased to \$352.5 million. Townsville Ring Road stage 5 was \$230 million but is now \$280 million. The Banyo train station upgrades have increased from \$28 million to \$54 million. It is just unbelievable. Every single project that this minister is in charge of does not just go up by inflation but in many cases it is three times the cost; it is incredible.

Other examples include the not yet finished Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 3, which started at \$709 million—let's call it \$710 million. Then the project costs went to \$1.04 billion—kerching—but guess what? Wait for it—play along with me, Minister for Transport and Main Roads. As he well knows, it is now at \$1.219 billion. To be fair, that is only a 72 per cent cost blowout; that is all, 72 per cent: kerching! We all know the Coomera Connector went from six lanes to four lanes, but the project has increased in cost from \$1.53 billion to—wait for it—\$2.163 billion. So you pay more money for less road; that is Labor economics and project management for you.

I cannot make a contribution in this budget reply without commenting on the latest and greatest failure under the watch of the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. He is the gift that keeps on giving! I specifically refer to the new Gold Coast train stations. Follow this logic: the original cost for three stations—Pimpama, Hope Island and Merrimac—was \$120 million. Are there any guesses as to what that may have gone up to? Play along with me, Minister for Transport and Main Roads.

**An opposition member** interjected.

**Mr MINNIKIN:** I hear \$200 million. I will go an increase on \$200 million. One more guess?

**Mr Stevens:** Was it \$340 million?

**Mr MINNIKIN:** No, not \$450 million, but \$500 million. We have a winner, winner, chicken dinner—\$500 million, again on the transport minister's watch. It is just absolutely hopeless.

Let's move on from the Gold Coast to the other signature project. For a start, we know that the Bruce Highway Trust started off with much fanfare. They actually took forever to have a meeting and there have been very few at that. Then, of course, the genius Minister for Transport and Main Roads initially forgot to actually put people north of—

**Mr BAILEY:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. There is no reference in the budget for this financial year that we are debating to the Bruce Highway Trust. I ask him to come back to the budget.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Lister): Minister, a succession of speakers in this chair have afforded wide latitude, as is customary with budget bills. While I am in the chair, we will proceed on that basis.

**Mr MINNIKIN:** I will continue on the Bruce Highway because that was another failure under the watch of the transport and main roads minister. Let's talk specifically about the latest and greatest iteration. That was the much heralded inland freight route, a very important piece of kit. The creation of the inland freight route was a key—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order, members. I do not presume that the member for Chatsworth needs assistance—the interjections seem to bounce off—but I am struggling to hear him. Would members please restrain themselves?

**Mr MINNIKIN:** Only \$4 million of the \$1 billion budget has been spent to date but almost—wait for it; this is the rub—\$800 million will not be spent until after 2026-27. When the government committed to the project last election they did not tell the people it would only be delivered after the next election or even the one after that. It is just too incredible for words.


I would like to make a comment on the Brisbane North tunnel. I absolutely missed the fact that we used to have 20 minutes and now have only 15, but I will continue. After all these failures—I could keep going here for two days—Labor expect us to believe that they have the capabilities to deliver a multibillion dollar tunnel project on time and on budget, or is this project being run by QIC instead of TMR because the Treasurer from the right faction has no confidence that Minister Bailey from the left faction can deliver anything on time and on budget? I cannot believe I am stating this, but on this point I actually agree with the former member for Greenslopes—that is right, he jumped seats and is now the member for Woodridge. Yes, it is true that he struggles with the notion of discount rates in order to capitalise income streams, but he is right to doubt the member for Miller's ability, the transport and main roads minister's ability, to deliver anything on time and on budget. It almost becomes synonymous; when anyone on this side of the chamber or, for that matter, civil contractors mentions the words 'Minister Mark Bailey, the Minister for Transport and Main Roads'—

**Mr BAILEY:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member is a very experienced parliamentarian. He is referring to me by my personal name, not by my title. He is deliberately ignoring standing orders. I ask that he be brought back to standing orders.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Allow me to take some advice please. I did not hear the references myself, but I understand that the reference was 'Minister Mark Bailey'. I ask members to be conscious of the fact that we must use correct titles. On that basis would you please continue, member for Chatsworth.

**Mr MINNIKIN:** I wish to finish my contribution with something which is actually very sad and serious. The number of fatalities on Queensland roads is currently four above the five-year average. Revenue from the Camera Detected Offence Program is expected to be over half a billion dollars going forward. There is something that is not in this budget and I cannot believe it, and that is funding for the Driver Reviver centres. It is just absolutely incredulous that despite the money that is absolutely flowing in—and I have always said I support any measures to detect people being fools or being foolish on their mobile phones, I absolutely support that. Sadly, that means there are rivers of gold coming in from that program. However, given the fact that the excuse for shutting down Driver Reviver centres throughout the 33,000 kilometres of state controlled roads was a cost of \$1 million—to me that is a lot of money. However, in a multibillion dollar budget and a line program where the government is picking up \$500 million, it is absolutely incredulous that it cannot find \$1 million to maintain and bring up to speed Driver Reviver centres. I cannot for the life of me understand why this amount of money cannot be found.

This is just one of the worst decisions that the Minister for Transport and Main Roads has ever made. His lack of project management nous and experience and deliverables is absolutely shocking, but this is a decision that I hope he will find within his heart to reverse. If the transport and main roads minister was able to rectify that, I would be the first to congratulate him.

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (10.59 pm): I rise to speak in the debate on the Appropriation Bill 2023 and the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2023, but I will focus my contribution on the Appropriation Bill 2023.

I thank Treasurer Cameron Dick, Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk, and all of the other Queensland cabinet ministers for a great budget. The Acting Speaker has reviewed and approved my budget speech for incorporation and, as such, I ask that the remainder of my speech be incorporated into the *Record of Proceedings*.

*The speech read as follows—*

But as the Treasurer said in his first reading speech, all over this country, Australians are feeling cost-of-living pressures in ways they have never felt them before. Whether it be increased housing costs, supermarket costs, health costs or vehicle expenses, cost-of-living expenses just keeping going up.

But as Queensland continues its remarkable transition out of the Covid Pandemic, for all those Queenslanders facing cost-of-living pressures, this budget means relief is on the way.

With the 2023 budget, the Queensland government will deliver greater cost-of-living relief than any other government in Australia, state or federal. No matter where householders live in Queensland, they will receive cost-of-living relief through a variety of measures.

This budget also commits our government to the biggest building program in our state's history, which we call The Big Build. This will deliver more hospitals, more public housing, more roads, more trains and more schools, with the cost will not be met from the revenue stream and not from borrowing.

This is a Budget that will be very much in the black and will deliver a surplus of \$12.3 billion, the largest budget surplus ever recorded by any Australian state or territory government. It is a surplus that will be used to retire state debt, thereby substantially reducing our state's annual interest bill.

The number one priority of this budget is to provide cost-of-living relief for Queenslanders.

So, I was pleased to see that every one of the approximately 2.2 million Queensland households will receive an Electricity Cost of Living Rebate of \$550, jointly funded by the Queensland and Federal governments, while Seniors and Concession Card Holders will receive a higher Cost of Living Rebate of \$700.

This \$700 is in addition to the \$372 rebate under the Queensland Electricity Rebate Scheme, which means Queensland's Seniors and Concession Card Holders will receive total annual electricity rebate of \$1,072.

This means that many low-income Queensland households, such as pensioners, may pay nothing for electricity bill next financial year.

The budget also provides for free kindergarten for Queensland children with the program commencing in January 2024.

An amount of \$645 million over four years is provided in the budget to fund 15 hours each week of free kindergarten for all four-year-old Queensland children. Over the course of a year, this means an average saving of \$4,600 for Queensland families.

Another aspect of the budget that provides financial relief to Queensland families is the \$4.8 million SwimStart program that will run over two years. The program will provide 30,000 vouchers valued at up to \$150 for eligible children under the age of five to learn to swim.

Small business owners will also receive relief in the budget by way of a \$650 rebate on electricity bills for the approximate 205,000 eligible Queensland small businesses, cutting their cost of doing business in Queensland.

I know that Health Services is a major concern for the residents of my Electorate of Ipswich West, so I was pleased to see that the budget will provide \$25.8 billion in funding for the Health Department in 2023-24, which is a 9.6 per cent increase in the health operating budget from 2022-23, the largest annual increase in the health budget in Queensland's history.

We learnt from the Covid Pandemic that we need a health service ready to react to unforeseen health emergencies such as the Covid Pandemic.

The government's record \$9.8 billion Hospital Construction Program, will see new or expanded hospitals right across the state including in Cairns, Townsville, Mackay, Bundaberg, Hervey Bay, Toowoomba and in South-East Queensland.

In Ipswich, the new \$92.4 million Acute Mental Health Unit will be completed later this year after which work will begin on the \$710 million Ipswich Hospital Expansion Stage 2 expansion, which is part of the Queensland Government's Health Department Capacity Expansion Program.

The Ipswich Hospital's redevelopment includes a new Emergency Department Building, on the site of the current Acute Mental Health Unit located at the corner of Churchill Street, Warwick Road and Chelmsford Avenue.

The redevelopment will specifically address ambulance ramping and the hospital's emergency department wait times.

I would like to thank the Chair of the West Moreton Health Board, Michael Willis, and the Chief Executive Officer of West Moreton Health, Hannah Bloc, for their relentless advocacy in securing the funding for this redevelopment.

The Budget provides funding of \$72 million for 200 more paramedics across Queensland, \$28 million for new and replacement ambulances and \$22 million in a cost-of-living allowance for nursing and midwifery students living in regional, rural and remote Queensland.

Our government also recognises the distances that some Queenslanders must travel in a state as large as ours to get to the medical care they require. That is why this budget provides \$70 million over four years to increase accommodation and fuel subsidies for the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme.

Like the rest of Queensland, the Electorate of Ipswich West is facing a housing shortage. This shortage has mainly been caused by a shortage of tradesmen and disruption to the building materials supply chain caused by the Covid Pandemic. But it is estimated that interstate migration into Queensland is approximately 100,000 significantly adding to the housing crisis. It is estimated that we need to build and an extra 77,000 homes just to keep pace with demand.

To address this issue the Queensland Government has created the Housing Investment Fund, providing housing both in south east Queensland and in regional Queensland. This year's budget provides an additional investment of \$1.1 billion into the Fund.

This budget provides \$322 million to build 500 more social homes, which builds on the previous record \$3.9 billion investment for social and affordable housing that will help to deliver 13,000 homes.

As with other Queenslanders, the residents of the Electorate of Ipswich West expect to feel safe in our homes and when we go about our business in our communities. This is something many Queenslanders take for granted, but the state government recognises increasing community concerns about youth crime. So, the budget delivers an additional investment of over \$440 million over five years to help boost police resources and tackle the complex causes of youth crime.

Managing youth crime involves a range of government agencies and not just the Queensland Police Service, Correctional Services Queensland and the Court system. Our government is taking a whole of government approach to the problem of youth crime so that we meet community expectations.

We are introducing Youth Responder Teams and the budget provides \$96 million for this program that aims to engage with young people to break the cycle of youth crime.

We also want seniors and pensioners to feel safer in their homes, so the budget provides \$30 million in funding to make their homes more secure.

For the Queensland Police Service, the budget will deliver a record operating budget of \$3.281 billion in 2023-24. This includes \$101.6 million to boost police resources and combat youth crime, \$87.5 million for police recruitment initiatives, and \$56 million for PCYC initiatives and infrastructure.

In Ipswich, the budget will provide funding of \$4 million for the new Rosewood Police Station as well as \$25 million for new Ipswich Police District Headquarters at Ripley.

I would like to acknowledge the dedication to policing shown by the Superintendent of the Ipswich Police District, Dave Cuskelly, the Officer in Charge at Rosewood Police Station, Sgt Travis Ehrich, Officer in Charge at Marburg Station, Officer in Charge at Karana Downs Police Station, Lee Fortune, Officer in Charge at Yamanto Police Station, Senior Sergeant Michael Collett and Sgt Anthony Garland, Officer in Charge at the Marburg Police Station, who was recently awarded the Commissioner's Certificate of Notable Service after rescuing a woman from flood waters at Minden during the February 2022 floods.

The budget also provides funding for other first responders.

A new Ambulance Station will be built at Ripley with the budget providing funding of \$10,899,830.

I would like to acknowledge the exemplary service of the Officer in Charge at the Rosewood Ambulance Station, Matt Varney, the Officer in Charge at the Ipswich Ambulance Station, Alyssa Woodford and the Support Officer in Charge at the Ipswich Ambulance Station, Ross Hodges.



The budget provides for an astounding \$50 billion for an Infrastructure Guarantee over the four years 2023-27, The Big Build.

The Big Build will accelerate works for the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan, the Queensland Health and Hospitals Plan and also takes into account anticipated higher costs for construction wages and building materials.

The Budget also provides funding for planning for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, with \$1.9 billion over the next four years to commence delivery of venue infrastructure.

With the Queensland Rail Network, the budget provides an ongoing pipeline of rail infrastructure investment to continue delivering its vision for more frequent, reliable, and accessible rail journeys for Queenslanders.

The investment in the Queensland Rail Network is part of the Palaszczuk Government's \$32.1 billion Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program (QTRIP) 2023-24 to 2026-27 which will continue to support an average of 25,200 jobs across the state.

QTRIP 2023-24 to 2026-27 will provide \$9.6 billion towards rail infrastructure.

The state government's investment in the Queensland Rail Network continues to deliver on key priorities set out in South East Queensland Rail Connect—the Queensland Government's blueprint for preparing the South East Queensland rail network for the future.

This investment will deliver new trains and improved rail infrastructure. It will lay the foundations for a modernised network, including critical track upgrades, signalling improvements, and station upgrades.

The investment in rail will continue to drive our economic recovery, supporting jobs and delivering on previous project commitments while promoting economic confidence and responsible project delivery.

Water infrastructure is vital to the Queensland economy and the budget includes more than \$150 million to complete construction of Rookwood Weir, as well as planning and early works for upgrades to the Burdekin Falls Dam, to Paradise Dam near Bundaberg and to the Awoonga Dam near Gladstone.

\$13 million is provided in the budget for the Toowoomba to Warwick water pipeline and over \$548 million for the Fitzroy to Gladstone water pipeline.

The budget provides a record \$17.8 billion for education and early childhood (8.8% increase from 2022-23 budget), which includes \$17.3 billion for school education and \$529.3 million for early childhood education

In my Electorate of Ipswich West, the Budget provides funding of \$16.2 million for major education infrastructure projects at Rosewood State High School, Leichhardt State School, Walloon State School, Amberley District State School and Ipswich State High School.

I am continually impressed by the hard work, compassion and dedication of the State School Principals in the Electorate of Ipswich West. They include Kelli Harvey—Amberley District State School, Dallas Schmidt—Ashwell State School, Bruce Robertson—Brassall State School, Emily Robinson—Haigslea State School, Kim Brewitt—Ipswich North State School, Simon Riley—Ipswich State High School, Megan Hill—Karalee State School, Maja Bogicevic—Leichhardt State School, Russell Napier—Marburg State School, Emma McBain—Mount Marrow State School, Georgia O'Shea—Rosewood State School, Nicole Sherlock—Rosewood State High School, Kylie Wells—Tivoli State School and Lisa Noonan—Walloon State School. All wonderful State School Principals.

Like previous State budgets, with this budget the proportion of spending directed to Regional Queensland will exceed 60%. With this budget it rises to a record 65.5% (\$13.3 billion) outside of South East Queensland.

As well, an additional \$6 billion in funding will be provided to our government owned corporations for priority infrastructure projects including energy, water and ports.

The budget will also provide \$6 billion over the next four years for the \$14 billion Borumba pumped hydro project.

As well, the budget will provide \$594 million for the CopperString 2032 project, \$213 million for CleanCo Queensland to develop solar and wind farms, \$673 million for Stanwell Corporation to develop the Wambo and Tarong West Wind farms and \$312 million for CS Energy to develop Central Queensland wind farms and large-scale batteries.

The budget includes spending of \$152 million in funding to enhance Queensland's disaster recovery and resilience. This initiative is jointly funded with the Australian government, from efficiencies in Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.

The budget also provides \$8 million to enable the Rural Fire Service to improve its capability and ensure a sustainable volunteer model across Queensland.

We're backing our State Emergency Service (SES) with record funding of almost \$60 million. This will fund more staff, more training, more equipment, more resources so our Orange Angels can continue to be there for us in times of disaster.

We are also providing funding of \$3 million in 2023-24 to enable the State Emergency Service to enhance its volunteer capability.

The budget will provide \$39 million over four years to ensure that we progress agreements and relationships that promote respect, culture, rights and active co-stewardship of country as provided for in the Path to Treaty Bill, passed by the Queensland Parliament during its recent sitting in Cairns.

As well, the government is providing increased funding of \$50 million over four years for the continuation of the expanded Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger Program, which has doubled ranger numbers to 200.

While we have magnificent National Parks in Queensland, they must be accessible. Which is why the budget provides increased funding of \$38 million over four years to build new visitor trails in national parks and to revitalise existing ones.

As well, the budget is also providing an additional \$5.8 million over three years for investment into infrastructure improvements in Queensland's precious World Heritage areas.

I have been listening intently to the speeches by the members of the Opposition and it concerns me greatly that none of these members have said that they support the progressive the coal royalties introduced by the Palaszczuk government, which are currently delivering \$7 billion in revenue to the State budget. This raises the question as to how do they intend to make up this \$7 billion shortfall in State revenue without significant cuts to frontline public servants?


In closing, I note that over the last decade our State of Queensland has faced significant challenges that included natural disasters of all kinds, droughts and the Covid Pandemic.

But now we face the economy nightmare of inflation, both domestically and internationally, the War in Europe and the uncertainty of international relations in Asia.

Despite all this, through good management by the Queensland Government the status of the Queensland economy is so healthy, that this year's State Budget will deliver a surplus of \$12.3 billion.

Once again, I thank the Treasurer, Cameron Dick, the Premier, Annastacia Palaszczuk, and all of the other Queensland Cabinet Ministers for a great budget for all Queenslanders.

I commend the Appropriation Bill 2023 and the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2023 to the House.

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (11.00 pm): I rise tonight to make a brief contribution in the cognate debate on the appropriation bills and speak to the budget. It is a budget that leaves Queenslanders behind. As the representative of the Southport electorate—an area diverse in culture, rich in history and home to a community that radiates resilience and adaptability—I express their concerns tonight about urgent, critical issues that seem to have fallen on deaf ears under the current government. Labor have lost their way. I am going to do something that I never thought I would do in the House. I would like to quote from the state Labor Party's rules because it seems to me that members of the government may have forgotten some of the values that they espouse. I quote section A2, which states—

... the Australian Labor Party stands for:

- a. The use of public power at all times with integrity and honesty—

Interesting concept.

**Mrs Frecklington:** Well how are they going with that?

**Mr MOLHOEK:** I take the interjection from the member for Nanango. I do not think they are going too well with that at all. It continues—

and always in the best interests of the community.

It states further that the Labor Party stands for—

- k. The abolition of poverty, and the achievement of greater equity in the distribution of income, wealth and opportunity.
- l. Social justice and equality for individuals, the family and all social units, and the elimination of exploitation in the home.
- m. Equal access and rights to employment, education, information, technology, housing.

In the midst of a housing crisis, I remind the House that Labor have absolutely lost their way. Obviously many of the members here in the House failed to read their conference papers when that version of the rules was ratified at last year's state convention, but that is not unlike how most of them deal with legislation that comes to the House. They just rubberstamp the bills as they come in. They blindly follow the whims of their masters and the unions. I am not that sure that they review their own values and what they actually stand for all that often.

By contrast, the LNP values the family as an indisputable form where children are raised and nurtured and recognises that they are the foundation of resilient communities and a cohesive society. As a party, we desire to see an Australian nation which is dedicated to political liberty and freedom; the dignity of our citizens and residents; and a nation in which social provision is made for those who are unable to provide for themselves.

We have a budget that is full of excuses. I was quite excited when I heard that there would be a \$12 billion surplus because I thought that maybe Labor would do something to address some of the critical issues in our state—like the housing crisis—instead of squandering the opportunity. I thought that Labor always claimed to be the party for the battlers and the disadvantaged. I thought they always said that they were the party that left no-one behind. I take you back a few years to when the member for Springwood, Minister de Brenni, announced the Queensland Housing Strategy 2017-2027. They announced \$1.1 billion in funding over five years. They announced it as though it was an incredible commitment. In reality, they were simply reannouncing the average \$200 million or so that they were committed to spending each year on capital works and capital grants across the state of Queensland.

I would have thought, with the sort of surpluses that the Treasurer announced, that if they were serious about addressing the housing crisis in Queensland they might have come out with something like, 'Let's double the availability of the social and affordable housing supply across Queensland by 2032.' That would be an Olympics legacy that some of us could get excited about; that there would be a future for our kids and a future for families, and would deal with the housing crisis. We have had many comments in the House this week that we need real nurses, not real funded positions. I would suggest to the minister that we need real houses, not funded houses.

We need to increase the access to supportive accommodation and community care for people who are struggling with disabilities, PTSD and mental health. We need to come up with better plans. I heard in the House earlier the child safety minister almost with delight announce that it was their biggest ever child safety budget—the first time that the budget has ever exceeded \$2 billion. I would have thought the goal of any government would be to spend less, or hope to spend less on something as sad and as heartbreaking as child safety.

I have not seen anywhere in the budget papers for child safety a plan to transition kids out of residential care into more wholesome and more rewarding living circumstances, like the youth foyers that were first established under Tim Mander's leadership as the housing minister back in 2015-16. I am pleased that the government has followed that lead. The youth foyer in Southport is technically in the electorate of Bonney, but just across the street from the mighty electorate of Southport. It was my pleasure to go there last week to meet with some of the young people who were living there but who have transitioned out of residential and foster care and are living in a supported environment where they are being taught to develop leadership and life skills. They are learning to live independently. They are learning to live in a community of people who support and respect one another. They are being helped to complete their education. Might I add, this is at substantially less cost than residential care.

If I had the opportunity to ask the minister a question, I would like to know what the current cost of residential care is, because at the time of the Carmody inquiry in 2014-15 it was estimated to be something like \$600,000 per child in residential care. I believe that the cost of supporting young people into independent living and support services through the youth foyer is perhaps almost a third or maybe even a fifth of that cost, and the outcomes are far greater. I plead with the government to find the capital and the funds to develop youth foyers in every major population centre of this state because they work, and they are a far better alternative to wasting police and child safety resources by picking up kids and delivering them back to residential care homes that they do not particularly want to be in.

I want to touch on the Gold Coast housing crisis. I have tabled this document before, and I updated it yesterday, but over the last 12 years the state has spent something like \$6.7 billion on housing. That is for the construction of housing and the acquisition of land and capital grants to other housing providers. Over the last 12 years, the Gold Coast has received just 6½ per cent of that total—about \$364 million—but the Gold Coast has 12 per cent of the state's population. If you do the simple maths, without even looking at what realistically should have been spent on housing supply, both affordable and public housing, the Gold Coast should have received something like \$789 million on a proportionate basis. The Gold Coast has been short-changed by about \$360 million. One can only imagine how much housing supply that would have created and how many issues that would have assisted with on the Gold Coast—one of the largest regional centres in our state.

While it might seem that I am labouring the issues around housing, I want to draw the attention of the House to the *Shifting minds* report of the Mental Health Commission—a strategy that contains a message from the current Premier of Queensland and is proudly touted as an important document in shaping the future of Queensland and looking after those with mental health issues and addictions. The very first thing they talk about in that strategy as a driver for change is ensuring there is somewhere safe and affordable for people to live. As you look at many of the other reports across government—*Not now, not ever* and the discussion around providing safe and secure housing for women who are victims of domestic violence and their children—you see that one of the first priorities is the need to provide safe and secure housing.


I do not raise these issues in the House lightly. I have been accused of perhaps being a bit too Labor and not Liberal enough on occasions, but it is certainly in our values to look after the poor and the underprivileged and people who cannot defend themselves. I am just so disappointed that the best the Treasurer and this government could come up with in the budget, with a \$12 billion surplus, is an extra \$70 million or \$80 million on top of the average they have committed to for housing over the last decade. To me, that is not a serious commitment to their values. Every member of the other side of the House should hang their head in shame and should be making a beeline for the minister's office to discuss their values and why they should be lifting their game in respect of looking after people.

There are so many other issues I would like to touch on in respect of the budget. I have touched very briefly on the issue of mental health. I would be interested to know just how much revenue this government has collected from the payroll initiative it introduced last year. I had trouble finding that in the budget. I would certainly like to know if the money that is being collected is being spent as it should.

I also would like to address issues around the health system. The Gold Coast University Hospital and Robina Hospital emergency departments are currently operating at about twice their built capacity. That says to me that there simply has been an incredible lack of forward planning. While satellite hospitals or whatever you want to call them have been announced and while there has been discussion around a new hospital in Coomera, the need is there right now. One of the excuses we hear from this government constantly is that there is unprecedented growth and unprecedented demand that we just never expected to happen because of COVID. I have been criticised on this point previously, so I thought I would check the Queensland Treasury's population forecast figures. They are provided to government by Treasury, and they are promoted on the department of state development's website as the guide for all councils and government authorities in their planning. It might surprise members to know that at the median level of growth the population of Queensland as of this year is expected to be 5.4 million. It is currently 5.319 million, so the population is a good 80,000 fewer than the current projection of Treasury. The excuse that we have unexpected population growth or unprecedented demand simply does not wash.

We need the Treasurer and the government to do a better job at planning. We need real police, not funded police. The Southport Police Station, one of the busiest police stations in the state, a few years ago had 144 people assigned. More recently I have been told the allocated number is 89. Then I was told it is 78. We know from whistleblower reports and from having seen some rosters that there are times that station is operating at less than half its allocated staff. That is simply not good enough.

In respect of our local schools I simply say that I am thankful for the \$3 million that has been allocated to Keebra Park, but there are 18 schools in my electorate and I think they deserve more.

 **Mr WALKER** (Mundingburra—ALP) (11.14 pm): I rise to speak on the 2023-24 Queensland state budget, a budget for all Queenslanders. First, I want to thank the Premier and the Treasurer for an amazing budget that really sets up this state for an exceptionally bright and exciting future. I also want to thank all the ministers I have continually met with to advocate for the infrastructure and services that the people of Mundingburra need and want. As a first-term member of the Palaszczuk Labor government I can say that a lot has been achieved for my electorate of Mundingburra, the city of Townsville and the region.

Cost of living has been a deliberate focus in this budget, and rightly so. That is what Labor governments do. In this budget is the biggest electricity bill support package in the nation. There is a \$550 cost-of-living rebate on all Queensland household electricity bills. A \$700 cost-of-living rebate on electricity bills for vulnerable households plus a further \$372 under the Queensland electricity rebate scheme brings total rebates for Queenslanders doing it the toughest to \$1,072 over the next financial year. There is a \$650 rebate on electricity bills in the 2023-24 financial year for around 205,000 eligible small businesses to help cut the cost of doing business here in Queensland. There is another \$70 million for other initiatives to keep costs down for households and enable more choice and greater energy equity.

Free kindy for four-year-olds represents an excellent start to a young person's education and a smart investment in a young person's future and Queensland's future—a saving for Queensland families of \$4,600. Free learn-to-swim vouchers will help improve the safety of young Queenslanders and also improve the health and confidence of our young people. This is another initiative that helps keep young Queenslanders safe.

There is more for my electorate of Mundingburra when it comes to education. Minister Grace Grace has supported my community over the past 2½ years with major works and upgrades right across the electorate. I thank the minister. I will outline some of the infrastructure and resources that will be provided over the coming financial year for the electorate of Mundingburra. The most exciting and a huge win is the start this financial year of a new school hall for William Ross State High School. This is an especially important piece of infrastructure for that school and the community.

I will rattle off some of the schools and what they have received in this budget: Aitkenvale State School, \$450,000 to refurbish H block, \$225,000 through the school infrastructure enhancement program to refurbish amenities block AS and \$50,000 to commence the enhancement of blocks D, B and C; Annandale State School, \$650,000 to refurbish block F; Cranbrook State School, \$400,000 to refurbish block PS; Currajong State School, \$200,000 to commence the refurbishment of block A; and Townsville Community Learning Centre, a state special school doing exceptional work and about to

have the official opening of the school hall and learning space, another \$254,000 for the middle school playground. William Ross State High School also gets a further \$40,000 for an automotive education shed/workshop space. Aitkenvale State School will also get another \$203,000 for a playground and tuckshop upgrade. One of the most in-need schools in the seat of Mundingburra, Vincent State School, gets a playground and tuckshop upgrade at a cost of \$281,000.

With regard to health, I want to publicly thank Minister Yvette D’Ath and the Minister for Health, Shannon Fentiman, for the excellent work and the outcome for Townsville and North Queensland with the \$530 million investment—over half a billion dollars—for the Townsville University Hospital for 143 new hospital beds, new operating theatres, new rooftop helipad and more. This is on top of the recently opened new 33-bed acute admissions unit which supports the emergency department. I want the other side to hear that: we have already opened up another 33 beds and there are another 143 coming. We are not talking about it; we are delivering. Mr Deputy Speaker Lister, the Acting Speaker has reviewed and approved my budget speech for incorporation. As such, I ask that the remainder of my speech be incorporated into the *Record of Proceedings*.

*The speech read as follows—*

Crime

Mr Speaker,

We will continually attack the issue of crime with \$101.6 million Youth Justice Investments to boost police resources to tackle youth crime, as part of the governments total funding package of \$446.4 million over five years.

Mr Speaker,

This also includes extra funding of \$185.5 million over five years to the Department of Youth Justice. Also includes funding for Youth Co-Responder Teams, Intensive Care Management, Specialist Youth Crime Rapid Response Squad and On Country programs.

Mr Speaker, \$87.5 million for police recruitment initiatives, \$56 million for PCYC “Back to Basics” initiatives and for new and improved infrastructure in key locations.

Roads,

Mr Speaker,

The Townsville Connector Road Project, better known as Stuart Drive is well and truly underway with early works commenced and the tender to soon be awarded. This is a game changer for those who use this road on a daily basis. This project also includes upgraded Active Transport.

Housing

Mr Speaker,

The Palaszczuk Labor State government is spending an additional \$322 million to expand the QuickStart’s Queensland social housing construction program by an additional five hundred homes.

Mr Speaker,

An average \$130 million every year will be invested from the \$2 billion Housing Investment Fund to achieve affordable and improved social housing outcomes.


Mr Speaker,

We are seeing social housing is being built across the seat of Mundingburra as we speak. Eighteen units on Ross River Road, sixteen, two bedroom and two, four-bedroom units, another forty, one-bedroom units at the Pimlico Youth Hub, just to name a few.

Mr Speaker,

There is so much in this budget that benefits the people in my seat and across Townsville I could go on for hours.

Like I said earlier Mr Speaker, this is an excellent budget and a budget for every Queenslanders, and I commend the budget to the House.

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (11.20 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the 2023 appropriation bills. If you had told Queenslanders 12 months ago that a massive boon in coal royalties was on the cards, there would be a level of confidence—even an expectation—that the government would use that funding to invest in the things that matter most, the things impacting on their day-to-day lives; that there would be solutions on the table for the issues affecting them like crime, health, cost of living and housing, because that is what good governments do: they listen and they act. They deliver on their promises and they plan for the future. Fast forward 12 months and the rivers of gold are currently flowing, but with inflation topping the nation at 7.4 per cent Queenslanders have become rightly anxious

about this budget. They had high hopes that the budget would deliver not only short-term relief but also long-term solutions to the multiple crises impacting them.

According to the Premier, it is the best budget ever. As we know, like all good stage shows and performances, once the red carpet is put away and the curtain goes down reality sets in. At best it is a bleak and desolate reality because, once the lights are turned back on and the glare of the cameras has faded, Queenslanders are simply no better off. This budget does not deliver on long-term solutions to ease cost-of-living pressures. It does nothing to fix the health crisis and it does nothing to fix the housing crisis. Queenslanders have long memories.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr PURDIE:** There are too many; I have lost track of all the crises. The recent coal royalty windfalls can be likened to a life buoy, propping up this government and temporarily saving it from drowning. Revenue in this state has never been higher but, as every single Queenslander knows, services under this government have never been worse. Cost blowouts under the Palaszczuk government have now surpassed \$10 billion. Fifteen new or increased taxes and \$100 billion of debt has delivered the worst ambulance ramping in the country, the lowest per capita social housing spending and fewer frontline police than two years ago. There is a Housing Investment Fund that has not housed a single Queenslander and a Health and Hospitals Plan that has not delivered one extra bed. It is unfathomable to think that, while the state is in the grips of a crime crisis, instead of delivering more police resources frontline police numbers have reduced by 72.

**Mrs Gerber:** How about the media?

**Mr PURDIE:** In contrast we see the Premier's spin team grow larger, with an extra 98 media and marketing staff whose sole purpose is to control the way things look. In fact, it appears that there is a direct correlation that as the crisis and chaos and dysfunction the Palaszczuk government spreads the number of spin doctors increases. Meanwhile, Queenslanders are held captive in their own homes while repeat offenders terrorise the streets in stolen vehicles, and hardworking police who are understaffed and overstretched are pleading for this government to give them back the strong laws they need to do their job and keep Queenslanders safe.

It is clear the government's priorities are completely wrong. Earlier this week we heard the new health minister—the fourth health minister to hold the portfolio since the Palaszczuk Labor government took office—talk about the record health budget they are delivering this year. Given the Palaszczuk government also delivered a record health budget last year, you could be forgiven for thinking ambulance ramping and waiting times were under control, that maternity services have been restored to all of our hospitals and that the seven satellite hospitals had been constructed and were treating patients.

While the government likes to grandstand and make announcements, the truth is that 95 per cent or \$9.25 billion of the 2023-24 Queensland Health budget is pushed out beyond this financial year. Last year's promise to deliver \$9 billion saw the government spend just one per cent of that promise, and the stats speak for themselves. Ramping rates remain the highest in the nation at 43 per cent and there are 280,000 patients waiting to see a specialist. The health system is on life support and, despite another record health budget, the chaos and crisis in the Palaszczuk government is making it worse. It is all promises and no delivery.

It is a similar story when it comes to the housing crisis. The state is in the grip of a housing crisis, with nearly 50,000 Queenslanders on the social housing waitlist. Despite boasting more than 4,000 homes since it came to office, the Productivity Commission revealed that 1,400 homes have been added to the social housing portfolio. The government has also claimed the largest concentrated investment in social housing. Yet again when you scratch below the surface the truth comes out, with a Productivity Commission report finding that for the past two years the Palaszczuk Labor government has spent the least on social housing per capita of any state or territory. The horrifying reality does not end there. The much touted \$2 billion Housing Investment Fund announced two years ago has not built a single house and a commitment to convert student accommodation at Griffith University to social housing has been shelved and \$2 million has gone down the drain. It is no wonder the Queensland Council of Social Services has called out the government's housing investment in this budget, saying it was woefully inadequate. It never delivers what it promises and Queenslanders are paying the price.

This budget does not concern itself with the real issues impacting the lives of Queenslanders. Not only does it fail to deliver any long-term solutions to the crisis in health, cost of living, housing and crime; in my electorate the budget has also failed to deliver on fundamentals like supporting our local schools to help deliver world-class education—projects that should be a priority like upgrading

asbestos-ridden and flood-prone classrooms at Coolum State School and building a multipurpose hall for Coolum State High School.

As we stare down the runway towards the 2032 Olympics, this budget should also be a time of critical investment as we lay the foundations in order to reap the benefits of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Millions of dollars of investment in vital infrastructure upgrades have yet again been completely overlooked in this budget. Despite record coal royalties, the rivers of gold that should be flowing through all communities in this state appear to have dried up once they have left 1 William Street. This is clearly evident with the government's failure to commit any funding to the Sunshine Coast heavy rail connecting Beerwah to Caloundra to Kawana to Maroochydore. This budget was an opportunity to ensure the Sunshine Coast did not miss out on the benefits of the 2032 Olympics by investing in public transport systems that would connect with the north coast rail line. By not funding this project we now know what we have always feared: the promise of legacy Olympics infrastructure will be either non-existent or just concentrated in Brisbane.

Bli Bli is one of the fastest growing suburbs on the coast, but unfortunately the population growth has long overtaken the ageing substandard road infrastructure. In 2023 when the government is boasting a \$10 billion surplus, how can this be? Earlier this year a school student narrowly avoided serious injury when she was hit by a car on David Low Way and just down the road you will find pedestrians and cyclists holding their breath as they run the gauntlet to cross the 60-year-old Bli Bli Bridge on the narrow pathway that runs beside two lanes of heavy traffic carrying up to 15,000 vehicles daily. This is also one of the main thoroughfares to the new Sunshine Coast international airport.

They are just the start of the road hazards you will face in the Ninderry electorate. It was back in 2008 the then Beattie government first announced plans to duplicate the Sunshine Motorway. Now 15 years later and dozens of lives lost on this dangerous road and staring down the runway to the 2032 Olympics, my community and the wider Sunshine Coast have been left yet again stranded. We all welcomed the initial investment to start planning the duplication of the motorway, but once those plans are ticked off what then? This budget could and should have provided funding to move on to the next stage of this multimillion dollar infrastructure project.

The budget should also have addressed the serious safety issues my community has been raising along Eumundi Noosa Road. This road is the major route into Noosa—one of the brightest jewels in the state's tourism market. Surely that should be enough to prompt action and spending on basic road maintenance to support not only the local population but also the growing drive market that helps sustain our state's tourism industry. Recently I attended a community meeting where dozens of locals flagged serious safety issues about this road. A number of the safety improvements could be achieved simply by addressing overdue maintenance issues along with a reduction in the speed limit on a section through the Doonan trading precinct.

These come at little cost and impact so I am hopeful the transport minister—and I acknowledge his presence here tonight—will listen. We are grateful for some work that has been done, but the government's track record is not instilling us with much confidence. Multimillion dollar maintenance backlogs have become one of the hallmarks of this chaotic and checked-out, third-term Labor government that cannot deliver on time or on budget.


One of the most notorious overdue maintenance issues is the western section of Yandina Coolum Road. A few years ago I took a ride with a local truck driver to film the shocking conditions of the road, which more resembles a bitumen patchwork than a major arterial road. I sent the footage to the minister, but apparently it still did not meet elusive thresholds that would warrant action.

Another sore point for thousands of motorists is the long overdue upgrades to the busiest intersection in one of the busiest industrial precincts on the Sunshine Coast. The intersection of Maroochydore Road and Pike and Killick streets in Kunda Park was on the government's priority list long before I became the local member. Years of advocacy, including petitions and letters to the minister, has seen us finally progress to the detailed design stage, but how much longer must we wait until this priority project is funded and shovels are in the ground? Will it take more accidents or worse before the government starts listening? In the meantime, as the conditions worsen and the chaos and the chorus of motorists who share safety concerns and pay out insurance excesses grows louder, we apparently must take comfort that the state government is managing Queenslanders' hard-earned tax dollars wisely, investing in the things that really matter and ensuring cost-of-living pressures are being addressed.

Excuse me for assuming that none of the hardworking families, pensioners, seniors, students, young people, tradespeople, retail workers, health workers, frontline staff and small business owners

who make up the population in the Ninderry electorate hosted a budget party this week. There will be little celebration among those who are struggling to feed their families, struggling to keep a roof over their head, struggling with soaring electricity prices and struggling to access health services. There will not be any celebrating for the growing number of Queenslanders who have been caught up in the state's crime crisis.

Short-term relief leads to long-term pain when there is no serious reform. Queenslanders are facing the worst cost-of-living pressures in the country and will not be fooled by the government's cash handouts that will do little to ease the pain when the next bill cycle comes around. Despite all their promises and announcements, this government fails to deliver. Time and time again Queenslanders have been failed by a government more concerned with the way things look than how they actually are. While they look for solutions and leadership, all they get are staged performances and empty promises. Queenslanders deserve better and only an LNP government can deliver better outcomes, driven by real performance measures, transparency and accountability, something that the Palaszczuk Labor government has a proven track record in failing to deliver.

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services) (11.32 pm): This is a budget for the times. It is very important for this House to understand what are the times. In the times that we are living these are the things that are key to us making decisions: the escalating climate change crisis; the 2,000 people moving to Queensland because of our successful management of the pandemic; the rippling effects, economically and socially, from the pandemic in a range of areas; full employment, something that is very clear; a shortage of labour; and cost-of-living pressures. Why are there cost-of-living pressures? The simple answer to that is the record inflation left by Scott Morrison and the Liberal National coalition and their economic incompetence in Canberra. In this budget we are acting on climate change and seeking to reduce emissions through our Energy and Jobs Plan.

**Mr Hart** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Walker): Member for Burleigh, you are warned.

**Mr BAILEY:** We are targeting 70 per cent renewable energy by 2032 and 80 per cent by 2035. We are ahead by two years on our 50 per cent target via electric vehicles, through hydrogen, through zero emission buses, through pumped hydro and through the SuperGrid. We have the most thorough plan for energy transition in the nation and the opposition ought to understand that, but they do not. They have no plan for one of the greatest transformations of energy in human history and they come in here and suggest that they are ready for government. It is ridiculous.

With 2,000 people moving to Queensland, there is more than \$250 million going into the housing portfolio to deal with social and affordable housing. I will not have any criticism from the Greens party who are holding up, with the LNP, \$10 billion in the federal Senate—an unholy alliance there if ever there was one. That shows it is all about politics. The Greens party frequently object to housing developments in their own electorates and then complain there is not enough housing. Max Chandler-Mather, the member for Griffith, is one of the worst offenders in that regard. He says one thing in Canberra and says another thing locally. He does not practise what he preaches.

This is a record health budget. It is up nine per cent this year—well above CPI. I acknowledge the Minister for Health in the chamber. There is investment in new hospitals and emergency departments, with seven satellite hospitals to open. We do not cut health, we do not sack nurses, we do not call them duds. We are a pretty standard Labor government that respects the people who look after us when we are ill. There is investment in police and youth justice and mentoring programs.

What we have in this budget is cost-of-living relief: \$550 for every household, more than \$1,100 for those who most need it. Ours is a government with a conscience that is acting on the times. We know how to fund it with progressive royalties. We are not pretending like those opposite who call it rivers of gold but will not commit to keeping it. What a weak, flimsy, shallow, paper-thin opposition leader we have. He promises certain things but does not commit to how to fund them. He needs to clarify that. It is only this government that has a plan that is funded and that makes sense and deals with the issues of the time.

The Leader of the Opposition has no answers to any of these issues. The heart of the deception of the opposition is the fact that they ignore the pandemic and its impacts and they ignore the record inflation left by the Liberal National Party in Canberra still being grappled with. If those opposite want to talk about blowouts and cost increases, it is because there is inflation that we need to deal with. We



are not going to cut projects, we will deliver projects. We are a proud government. We are not going to make the mistakes of the Newman government. How do we know they are going to cut projects? Because the opposition themselves say so. The shadow Treasurer says there will be \$10 billion worth of cuts to Sky TV. The member for Chatsworth says there is billions in cuts and savings—or ‘pruning’ is the new word, apparently.

One only needs to look at their form: there are 34 members of the opposition and 22 are ex members of the Newman government. We heard an extraordinary speech from the member for Clayfield who gave us a treatise on how great the Newman government was. That was incredible. You cannot fix obsession. We know the leadership style of the Leader of the Opposition. We know about the laptop dishonesty and deceptions. We know about him tolerating the member for Burleigh who wants a light rail past his brewery and will not call him out on it and discipline him.

**Mr HART:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at the minister’s comments and I ask him to withdraw.

**Mr BAILEY:** I withdraw unreservedly. We have a Leader of the Opposition who talks about equality but then votes against women having choice. He talks about equality but he votes against voluntary assisted dying. The Leader of the Opposition talks about a fair go but then votes against tree clearing and the birth, deaths and marriages legislation debated yesterday. He says one thing and does another. He is a pretender and his spin is wearing thin. People are starting to work out that he is style—and not even that—over substance.

Now what we see from the opposition is a lot of scrappiness in question time and the media is starting to apply some scrutiny to them. They are going to need a lot more than a policy-free zone, lots of whinging, lots of whining and a lot of lightweight performances. Their front bench is still full of Newman government members of parliament. They are more park bench than front bench.

I will address a couple of the issues raised by the member for Chatsworth. Having had to deal with the record inflation left by the LNP, of all the mega projects, Cross River Rail has an increase in costs of 17 per cent. All the other mega projects have overruns of between 50 per cent and 80 per cent. Inland rail is at 300 per cent. Barnaby’s pet project is over 300 per cent.

The level crossing will be removed at Beams Road. Between Kuraby and Beenleigh there are five level crossings. Funding is getting very close at Coopers Plains. For Gold Coast stations there was an initial allocation. We were always going to top that allocation. Now we are in a high inflation environment but we will not walk away from our commitments. We will build the infrastructure we promised the community.

We hear the usual drivel from the Leader of the Opposition and the shadow transport minister where they count Queensland Rail projects and add them to the Cross River Rail project. Since 2020, budget documents have been clear about what Queensland Rail projects are and what Cross River Rail Delivery Authority projects are. There is some integration. Why would you have Queensland Rail and the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority doing separate accessibility upgrades for stations? That makes no sense at all. Of course the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority should be doing one thing overall. Integration is one of the key things that we have learnt in rail and it is logical. For the member for Chatsworth to then say, ‘We’re going to add billions and billions and billions’ is an inanity. At the heart of the opposition is: ignore inflation, ignore reality, ignore the residual impacts of the pandemic. That is their triumph of style over substance.

The Acting Speaker has reviewed and approved my budget speech for incorporation. As such, I ask that the remainder of my speech be incorporated into the *Record of Proceedings*.

*The speech read as follows—*

This budget delivers across my portfolio.

Whether it is our \$321 million active transport program or more than \$73 million to tackle cyber-crime.

\$90.7 million to target freight disadvantage and reduce the cost of living in remote communities in the far north.

\$60.7 million to boost bus driver safety across the network.


\$6.0 million which is double the current amount for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Transport Investment Development Scheme.

In my own electorate of Miller, I am proud that Yeronga State High School will receive \$500,000 to construct new performing arts classrooms.

Funding will continue for station accessibility upgrades at Dutton Park, Fairfield, Yeerongpilly with Yeronga already completed.

From Cairns to Coolangatta and all stops in between, the Palaszczuk Labor Government is delivering the biggest investment in infrastructure in our state’s history.

It is all part of Queensland's Big Build.

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (11.41 pm): I rise to respond to the budget handed down on Tuesday by the Treasurer. What can I say? I feel like a broken record because I talked about these issues last year, the year before and the year before that.

I will use exit 38 as an example. The business case has been on the minister's desk since 2018 but there is not one dollar in this budget for exit 38. Is it becoming a little bit of a time issue? I can assure the House that it is because last December we were advised that by 2026 the harness racing facility will open at Norwell, which is eight kilometres down the road from exit 38. 2026 is just three years away but there is no funding for exit 38. I am told that it is a \$110 billion project. Some work needs to be done with the federal government on that particular project for no reason other than it is already a high-priority project and now the harness racing facility will open in 2026. There are four meetings a week for that. The Visy project will open in 2026-27 at a cost of \$500 million, meaning more industrial uptake in the area. Exit 38 is already heavily congested. That is a classic example of where we have put in a petition and the minister has come back and said, 'There is some planning to be done and then we will get around to asking the federal government for some money on that.'

What is the difference between the current federal government and the previous federal government? I will tell you. Under the previous federal government, the state would get a commitment from the federal government, through Bert van Manen, the local federal member, for 50 per cent of the funding—

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr CRANDON:** Listen up and you will learn something—before they had to spend the time, resources and so on to do the planning for the exit. I will use a couple of examples.

Exit 41 is nowhere near finished. It is nowhere near efficient. A lot more work has to be done to it. Indeed, the only slip lane off exit 41 is still not open, for no apparent reason. The funding for that exit upgrade came into effect because the federal member for Forde got the 50 per cent funding before these guys even thought about it. It took them about five minutes to come in and say, 'Yes, we are going to throw in the other 50 per cent of funding.' We then went through the planning process and there it is.

It was the same thing with exit 49. Fifty per cent of the funding came from the federal government before we had to worry about trying to do planning with this, that and the other thing. The funding was there. Five minutes later they came in and said, 'Yes, we will tip in the other 50 per cent of funding.' They got stuck in the slow lane on that one, which is fairly typical for this bloke. They got stuck in the slow lane and it has only just started. The funding was made available in 2019 and only in the last several months have they started construction on exit 49.

Now we get letters from the minister telling us that we are going to do things in reverse. We are not going to do it that way. For example, at exit 45 we are going to do some planning with \$1½ million but we are not going to do it now. It is in a hell of a mess and is an absolute quagmire because of the bandaid solution that they put in place. It did correctly resolve the issue of safety around ramping on the M1. It fixed that, but now the problem at exit 45 is that we have worse congestion than before. We ran a petition on it. The minister wrote back to us and said, 'We are going to do some planning, but we are not doing the planning now with that \$1½ million; we are going to do the planning in 2027.' The exit is already heavily congested, but we are not going to do the planning until 2027. After we have done the planning, we will go off to the federal government and ask them for the money. Fingers crossed they will give us some money. However, members will remember that they have cut a few projects lately so what are the chances of us getting the money out of the federal government? We are going to be lucky to see the upgrade at exit 45 before 2030. In fact, under this mob we will be lucky to see the upgrade at exit 45 before the Olympic Games. Those are two examples.

**A government member:** Why didn't you fund it? In your government, why didn't you fund it?

**Mr CRANDON:** Okay, we will fund it. Under our government, after the next election, we will fund it. We will put up the money. We will go off to the federal government and ask them for their half of the money. That is what we will do.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Walker): Pause the clock. Member for Maryborough, you are not in your chair. You will stop or I will warn you. You must stop.

**Mr CRANDON:** We will fund it after October next year. We will do the job that your mob should have been doing years ago on exit 38 and exit 45.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Through the chair.

**Mr CRANDON:** The commercial industrial areas in the northern Gold Coast, in the Yatala precinct—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Coomera, through the chair.

**Mr CRANDON:** I am sorry?

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Coomera, comments come through the chair. You are directing your comments at the Treasurer. I am watching you. Comments come through the chair.

**Mr CRANDON:** I did not say 'you'.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! I will start warning people. It is getting out of control. Member for Coomera, you have the floor—eight minutes.

**Mr CRANDON:** The industrial area on the northern Gold Coast centred on Yatala is logjammed every day—not just five days through the week but seven days a week. This mob think it is funny. They think it is an absolute hilarious joke. The northern Gold Coast is yet again stuck in the slow lane because of lack of funding from this government. That business case has been there since 2018 and there is not one dollar, yet we are staring down the throat of the harness racing facility being moved from Brisbane for the Olympic Games going out to Norwell. They are just two small examples which are huge for the northern Gold Coast—exit 45 and exit 38. Those opposite do not care. They do not understand and they do not realise the impact every day on the people of the northern Gold Coast.

The saddest part of this budget is the same as the saddest part of the budget before: no new money for any projects. I refer to headlines in the *Gold Coast Bulletin*. One was about \$2.1 billion for health. It is not new money; that \$2.1 billion was announced last year. What about the \$1.3 billion for transport? No, that was announced last year. It has just been reannounced. They get the headline. That is what this lot is all about: getting the headline. They are all about saying, 'Look at us, but they do not deliver.'

They are years behind on Cross River Rail. They have trains coming for Cross River Rail two years later than Cross River Rail! They cannot even deliver the rolling stock for Cross River Rail on time. How long have they known about Cross River Rail and when it is going to be completed? They have known about it for years. They finally got around to saying, 'We are going to let some contracts and we are going to build the trains. Oh, but it is going to be two years later that we are actually going to deliver the trains.'


What about the police? I thanked the government for delivering a police station to the northern Gold Coast, the hard-fought-for Pimpama station. It took us years to get it across the line, but we got it across the line. Katarina Carroll came in and told me herself. When she saw what was going on, it was a 'no-brainer'—her words. She delivered the police station for Pimpama. Do members know what happened? They gave us 35 new police and then they took them away. We now have a police station at Pimpama with less than 75 per cent of the police we were promised one year ago. That is what this mob is all about: 'Look at us. We are going to give you 35 coppers.' No, you are not. You are going to pretend to give us 35 coppers, just like you have been pretending to increase the number of police for the whole state. 'We will give you 1,450 police.' No, you are not. You are going to approve 1,450 police but they are not going to be actual. We have gone from 35 back to something like 26 coppers for Pimpama, but it gets worse. We had 81 coppers at Coomera station, but now we are back to around 60.

What is the story? We have less than 75 per cent of the police promised for the northern Gold Coast on the northern Gold Coast, the fastest growing region in Queensland. When those police were committed to the northern Gold Coast, it was acknowledged that they were needed just then to catch up with population growth. Here we are 12 months down the track and they have taken 25 per cent of the coppers away from us. What is that doing for the police on the ground? They are working hard. They are doing the best they can. In fact, they are fighting above their weight. They are doing a fantastic job, but the problem is that they are under huge stress and pressure. We have police officers on stress leave now. Some are on long-term stress leave. What is that doing to the ones who are left on the ground on the northern Gold Coast? It is putting them under more stress. This mob opposite do not get it.

In the fastest growing region in the state—some say the fastest growing region in Australia—they have taken 25 per cent of the coppers away in 12 months. It is not on. That is what we are up against

with members opposite every year: no additional infrastructure investment, stuck in the slow lane on investment. The train station at Pimpama was promised in 2017 before the 2017 election—I know I sound like a broken record, because I have been saying this for the past six years—and we will eventually get it in 2024. They were going to deliver it in 2025 but we kicked up a bit of a stink so they said, 'We will deliver that one in 2024.' Seven years earlier they promised that train station and now hopefully—fingers crossed—we will get it.

Exit 49 completion has now been pushed back to 2024-25 instead of a 2023-24, once again because of incompetence of that minister and the incompetence of this government in delivering the infrastructure that is needed. What about where the second M1 is going to come out, at Foxwell Road? The first stage of the first stage—stage 1 north—is going to deliver traffic from Helensvale and further south onto Foxwell Road at precisely the same moment that the hospital is coming up out of the ground 300 metres off Foxwell Road. At precisely the same moment, two private hospitals are going to be coming up out of the ground and 4,000 additional residential properties are going to start being delivered just north of Costco, which is about to be opened next week. That is the situation that we have. There is no planning for the second M1, the Coomera Connector—whatever you want to call it—from Shipper Drive north. They have \$22 million in the budget and they have no plan to deliver any of it before 2027. Once again, we will be very fortunate if we get that before the Olympic Games.

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (11.57 pm): I rise to speak in support of a fantastic budget. I am proud to be a member of a government that has listened to the community and that uses this budget to make significant investments in the areas that really matter: cost-of-living relief, housing, health and community safety. I thank the Treasurer for this excellent budget that benefits all of Queensland. The Big Build that only a Labor government will deliver provides the infrastructure needed for Queensland today and provides for where we are going as a state into the future. There is record investment in hospitals, schools, housing and roads and the highest value cost-of-living relief in the country—a budget that delivers for all Queenslanders as only a Labor government will.

As Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for Multicultural Affairs, I am also proud of the significant investments made in my portfolios in this budget. My department plays a vital role in protecting, restoring and promoting Queensland's natural environment, its cultural heritage and its cultural diversity. Whether it is through scientific research, policy programs or the management of our national parks, the department makes a significant contribution to our state's current and future prosperity and wellbeing.

Much of what we do is at the heart of the much sought after lifestyle our great state of Queensland is renowned for. We are proudly recognised as a global biodiversity hotspot, with 50 per cent of species who make their home in Queensland found nowhere else on the planet. The decisions we make today matter for what our children inherit tomorrow. From the reef to the rainforest and to the outback, our unique biodiversity and natural beauty underpins our thriving tourism industry, attracting visitors from across the globe and generating tens of thousands of jobs for Queenslanders.

Our national parks are central to our efforts to conserve our environment and recover key species, including those that are listed as threatened. Queensland's entire protected area estate covers an area double the size of Tasmania and includes five World Heritage areas, and we are committed growing that even further. That is why we are continuing to invest in expanding our network of protected areas with a further \$30 million for land acquisitions allocated in this budget. That is on top of the historic commitment of \$262.5 million in last year's budget.

While we are expanding our protected areas, we also need to ensure we manage these areas to protect their high ecological values, enable world-class experiences and support our tourism industry. We are investing \$51.9 million over four years to improve visitor experiences in our national parks which drives tourism and supports regional small businesses and employment for First Nations people.

We are committing \$38.6 million over five years and \$11.9 million ongoing to continue to deliver world-class protected area management to benefit all Queenslanders for years to come. A huge part of how we deliver that management is through our park rangers—a workforce which our government has rebuilt to be 800 rangers strong and one which will grow by an additional 30 positions in QPWS thanks to the funding provided in this budget.

Our government has also committed \$49.9 million over four years and \$16.4 million ongoing for the continuation and growth of the Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger program, a program that will increase the number of Indigenous rangers to 200 by the end of this year. These rangers undertake

culturally appropriate conservation and land management, while gaining accreditation to progress further career pathways in the sector.

Our partnerships with the traditional custodians of this beautiful country are a clear highlight of this year's budget for environment. These partnerships promote respect for culture, honour native title rights and progress active co-stewardship of country, allowing us to walk side by side with one another as we protect and care for our precious lands and waters. That is why we have committed \$38.6 million over four years and \$10.4 million per year ongoing to honour these commitments. We are ensuing true partnerships with the Quandamooka people of the lands and waters of Mulgumpin and Minjerrabah by investing \$31.9 million over four years in world-leading protected area management, including new fire management programs and new ranger posts.

In my electorate of Nudgee, I am pleased to see my schools will benefit from this year's record \$17.8 billion investment in education, with \$300,000 allocated to Nundah State School through the School Infrastructure Enhancement Program, to name just one of those benefiting. There are also fantastic budget outcomes for local sporting clubs in my electorate, with \$250,000 allocated to Zillmere Eagles for much needed upgrades to their change rooms and nearly \$150,000 to North Brisbane Rugby Union Club in Wavell Heights to enhance their lighting. I thank the sports minister for coming out and making the announcement in the electorate of Nudgee in that regard. These are just a few of the wins for my beloved electorate of Nudgee, and I look forward to delivering on these commitments in the coming year.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the remainder of my speech has been reviewed and approved for incorporation. As such, I ask that the remainder of my speech be incorporated into the *Record of Proceedings*.

*The speech read as follows—*

Speaker, ensuring our precious wildlife and people can safely exist side by side is a priority for this Government.

We are committed to effective crocodile management that delivers appropriate public safety while enabling the survival of estuarine crocodiles in the wild.

Likewise, we are committed to working with Local Councils to manage urban flying-fox roosts that can cause significant concern in communities.

That's why we are investing \$6 million over four years and \$300,000 per year ongoing for these two critical public safety programs that are underpinned by collaboration and leading science.

Speaker, protecting our wildlife, and our lands and environment also means moving Queensland to a zero-waste society—and we remain strongly committed to our targets in this regard.

A zero-waste society involves reducing the amount of waste we generate, repairing and reusing items where possible, recycling properly, and only sending what is absolutely necessary to landfill.

Keeping more waste out of landfill creates nearly three times as many jobs, when compared to putting it in the ground as landfill.

A circular economy will drive investment in Queensland's resource recovery and recycling industry, develop new markets and support businesses to grow their bottom line.

That's why we are continuing to invest in the Palaszczuk Government's \$2.1 billion waste plan, to transform Queensland's waste and resource recovery industry.

This Budget includes an additional \$234 million as part of our waste and recovery package, increasing our commitment to support councils in implementing regional waste and resource recovery management plans.

\$94.4 million will be allocated to waste recovery projects, like Circular Economy Initiatives and State-wide Behaviour Change Programs which will help move us forward on our goal to a zero-waste Queensland.

We are also bringing forward \$139.6 million of payments to local councils to support reducing waste through our waste levy, helping to meet resource recovery targets and importantly reduce impacts on households.

This will help councils to partner with industry to build new infrastructure and equipment to improve their waste management and recycling outcomes.

Speaker, just as our waste and resource recovery industry transformation is critical to our State's future economy, our science capability is also critical in positioning us to take advantage of the knowledge-based industries of the future.

The Palaszczuk Government understands the importance of investing in science to grow our State's economy and position us to be competitive on the global stage.

We continue to work with researchers and industry to grow a thriving science sector that allows us to secure strategic international partnerships.

We've committed \$5.2 million over four years and \$1.5 million per year ongoing to continue our investment in science engagement and strategic international partnerships.

There is much Queenslanders can gain from international partnerships as well as cultural diversity, both for our economy and on a more personal level.

Queensland has a vibrant and diverse culture. Our State is home to people from many backgrounds, starting with the rich cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples over the past 60,000 years.

Now people from over 220 countries and territories call Queensland home.

And our cultural diversity is increasing, with over 21 per cent of Queenslanders born overseas.

It's just as important as ever that we invest in a community that values diversity, inclusion, equity and respect.

The Palaszczuk Government is committing increased funding of \$4.7 million over four years and \$1.2 million per year ongoing for multicultural projects and events that engage people from diverse backgrounds and the wider community to contribute to a unified, harmonious and inclusive State.

Speaker, the Department of Environment and Science is committed to ensuring Queensland is celebrated as one of the world's most diverse natural environments, for our world-leading science and our welcoming and inclusive communities.

The budget for the 2023-24 financial year will ensure that the department continues its important work to deliver these outcomes.

I commend this Budget to the House, and I look forward to the benefits it will deliver to the people of my Nudgee electorate, and indeed to all Queenslanders.

Debate, on motion of Ms Linard, adjourned.

## ADJOURNMENT

**Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (12.03 am): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 12.03 am (Friday).

## ATTENDANCE

Bailey, Bates, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Camm, Crandon, Crawford, Crisafulli, D'Ath, Dametto, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Frecklington, Furner, Gerber, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hart, Head, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Janetzki, Kelly, King A, King S, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Lauga, Leahy, Linard, Lister, Lui, MacMahon, Madden, Mander, Martin, McCallum, McDonald, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Mickelberg, Miles, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Mullen, Nicholls, O'Connor, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Perrett, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Richards, Robinson, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Simpson, Skelton, Smith, Stevens, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Watts, Weir, Whiting