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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

Thursday, 13 June 2024

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THURSDAY, 13 JUNE 2024


The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

Mr Speaker (Hon. Curtis Pitt, Mulgrave) read prayers and took the chair.

 **Mr 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.

REPORT


Auditor-General

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have to report that I have received from the Auditor-General Report 14: 2023-24, *Queensland's regions 2023*. I table the report for the information of members.

Tabled paper: Auditor-General Report 14: 2023-24—Queensland's regions 2023 [\[1059\]](#).


SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

Humphris, Ms T

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, longstanding electorate officer Thelma Humphris has advised she will not be returning from the leave she is currently on and will retire at the end of her leave in August 2024. Thelma has had several periods of employment with the Queensland Parliamentary Service: from 1973 to 1989 for Les Yewdale, the former member for Rockhampton North; 1989 to 1992 for Robert Schwarten, the former member for Rockhampton North and former member for Rockhampton; April 2004 to April 2012 for Paul Hoolihan, the former member for Keppel; and June 2015 for Brittany Lauga, the current member for Keppel. All combined, Thelma has approximately 35 years of service with the Queensland parliament. I am sure honourable members will join with me in thanking Thelma for her many years of service and wishing her all the very best for a long and happy retirement.


Honourable members: Hear, hear!

School Group Tours

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, in the gallery today will be students and teachers from Brisbane State High School in the electorate of South Brisbane as well as students and teachers from Albany Creek State High School in the electorate of Everton.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Budget, Community Service Organisations


 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Premier) (9.32 am): When Queenslanders are feeling the pinch, my government is there to lend a helping hand—and so are Queensland's hardworking social service organisations. These are non-government organisations that help people pick up the pieces and get back on track, that provide shelter, advice and support, food, clothing and counselling. They deserve to be supported, too.

Today, as part of my government's first budget, I can announce that we will uplift funding by 3.94 per cent for community service organisations. This is up from the current indexation rate of 3.75 per cent. We acknowledge the growing demand for services right now as cost-of-living pressures bear down on households and families and we recognise the increase in costs associated with delivering these critical services. Housing, homelessness, seniors and domestic, family and sexual

violence services will all benefit so that they can keep doing their good work in Queensland communities. This builds on the 20 per cent increase in funding I have provided to specialist homelessness services through the Homes for Queenslanders plan.

Today we can also announce new measures to protect the sector in their engagement with government. We will ensure social service providers have a default five-year initial term, unless there are specific grounds to justify an alternative, and provide new standard timeframes for contract cessation, renewal and funding changes. These new conditions will ensure workers' rights are protected, they are paid in line with their award and they have the appropriate level of safe working models. That is something I believe should be the bare minimum so we are doing something about it.

Housing

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Premier) (9.34 am): This week my government passed new legislation to deliver more homes faster. It includes new powers for Economic Development Queensland to deliver diverse social and affordable housing and unlock thousands of additional homes where they are needed most. Importantly, the passing of this legislation made Queensland the first state in Australia to support the Australian government's Help to Buy program. Under the scheme, eligible first home buyers will receive support to purchase their home with an equity contribution of up to 40 per cent for new homes and 30 per cent for existing homes. It means Queenslanders would only need a two per cent deposit. The Albanese government's shared equity scheme will help around 8,000 Queenslanders purchase their own home. It is a scheme that the LNP and Greens political parties continue to block to this day—

Honourable members interjected.

A government member: Same party!

Mr MILES: Same party.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, members on all sides. One person has the call. That is the Premier.

Mr MILES: It is a scheme that the LNP and Greens political parties continue to block to this day, because shared equity schemes—

Mr Berkman: Say it again!

Mr MILES: I will take the member for Maiwar's interjection. It is a scheme that the LNP and Greens political parties continue to block to this day, because shared equity schemes are not a new idea. They are a good idea. They are a Labor idea. Our population is growing, our cities are growing—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Deputy Leader of the Opposition and member for Everton.

Mr Brown interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Capalaba, you are warned under the standing orders.


Mr MILES: Shared equity schemes are not a new idea. They are a good idea. They are a Labor idea. Our population is growing, our cities are growing and the economic circumstances of today—

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Everton is warned under the standing orders.

Mr MILES: The economic circumstances of today are vastly different from those of 10, 20 or 30 years ago. That is why we need new and innovative ways for Queenslanders to achieve their dream of home ownership. It is only because of the laws enacted by my government that Queenslanders can get a helping hand to buy a home. At the same time, we will deliver more social and affordable housing for those who need it. It is because of my government and the laws we have passed this week that our state will meet our target of one million new homes by 2046. We are getting on with the job of delivering our Homes for Queenslanders plan, building more homes now and in the years to come.

Best Practice Industry Conditions

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (9.38 am): The Miles Labor government is committed to advancing the rights and conditions of Queensland workers. Our best practice industry conditions have helped ensure that real wage growth in Queensland outpaces the rest of Australia. The consumer price index is growing more slowly in Brisbane than it is across the rest of Australia thanks to our nation-leading cost-of-living relief measures. Higher wage growth and lower CPI growth mean our best practice industry conditions should help Queensland achieve the biggest rise in living standards in Australia across the next year.

Today I am pleased to inform the House that at the annual QCOSS post-budget breakfast I announced that the Miles Labor government will extend best practice industry conditions to the community sector.


An opposition member: Oh, no!

Mr DICK: I take the interjection from the member opposite. Someone yelled out, 'Oh, no!' That is exactly what they would do: cut best practice industry conditions for our hardest workers in the community and social services sector. Shame on the LNP.

Today I am pleased to inform the House that we will extend best practice industry conditions to the mighty Queensland community services sector. This is a protection that Queenslanders who work to help the homeless and victims of domestic and family violence and other Queenslanders working in the community sector truly deserve. These new best practice industry conditions will provide social service providers with the appropriate contractual arrangements to ensure vulnerable Queenslanders continue to get the care and support they need and deserve. The conditions include default five-year initial terms for service agreements except where justified by specific policy or service delivery grounds. They ensure that six months notice will be given when contracts will cease or will not be renewed. These conditions will ensure contract renewals will be offered within three months of the contract end date. In addition, permanent employment conditions will be prioritised.

Given the cost-of-living pressures social service providers are facing, the Miles Labor government will increase indexation funding to 3.94 per cent. This indexation is in line with the recommendation contained in the Fair Work Commission's annual wage review. Workers in the community sector ensure vulnerable Queenslanders do not fall through the cracks when they go through challenging times. These new procurement arrangements give those important community organisations the certainty they need when helping Queenslanders in need. I wish to place on record my acknowledgement and thanks for the advocacy of organisations such as the Queensland Council of Social Service and the Australian Services Union in delivering community support and achieving these important outcomes for their organisations, their members and, very importantly, community service sector workers across Queensland.

Mental Health Services; Fagan, Mr C

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women) (9.41 am): As Queensland's Minister for Mental Health, I am immensely proud of the investments we are making. Our nation-leading mental health levy means that we can deliver our Better Care Together plan, which this year alone will deliver a \$457 million boost to mental health services across Queensland. Today I am proud to table an update on our mental health investments for the next financial year.

Tabled paper: Extract, undated, from the Queensland Government Health Budget 2024-25, titled 'Mental health, alcohol and other drugs' [[1060](#)].

New and existing community- and hospital-based programs will be established or expanded so that we can continue to provide world-class care closer to home for everyone from children and young people to adults and older Queenslanders. We will also work with NGOs and community organisations to deliver three new residential alcohol and other drugs services, including a specialist service in Cairns for young people.

We know that eating disorders continue to be a concern for Queenslanders, particularly given the influence of social media. That is why we are working with community organisations to deliver innovative specialist services across the state. Along with the member for Nicklin and the member for Caloundra, I recently visited Mark Forbes and the team at endED to hear about the important work they do. Mark told me about the support community they have built and their work with the Butterfly Foundation to deliver Australia's first residential eating disorder service, Wandu Nerida. I am pleased that our investment in mental health includes \$1.2 million for their House of Hope, a therapeutic space for people with eating disorders and those who love them. Our investments will also support eating disorder services in Cairns, Townsville, the Darling Downs, West Moreton and on the Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast.

I am pleased to update the House that our mental health levy has generated more revenue than predicted. This revenue, generated over and above our Better Care Together allocations, is solely allocated to expanded and emergent mental health, alcohol and other drugs projects and initiatives,

which allows us the flexibility to address issues when they arise to ensure we are supporting communities when they need it most. An example of this is our recent announcement of \$39 million to deliver 30 new mother and baby beds across six locations, which will mean that a mum and bub can stay together whilst mum receives the care she needs.

I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the individuals, their families, friends and support networks with lived and living experience of mental ill health. Their insights are invaluable in driving improvements across our mental health, alcohol and other drugs services.

I also take this opportunity to offer my heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Cleveland Fagan. I am deeply saddened by his sudden passing. I was fortunate to work closely with Cleveland in his role as CEO of the Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council. Cleveland played an instrumental role in championing the cause of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, not just here in Queensland but right across the nation. His greatest influence was always inclusive of the local community's rights as decision-makers and his contributions will be felt for decades to come. My thoughts are with his wife, Ruth; his daughters, Clevanna and Sara; and his family and colleagues across the health sector who have lost a great man too soon.

Mr SPEAKER: He was a great mind, a terrific community advocate and a great friend. Vale, Cleveland Fagan.

Budget, Police and Community Safety



Hon. MT RYAN (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Community Safety) (9.44 am): The Miles Labor government is doing what matters for Queensland. We are delivering yet another record budget with a record \$4.379 billion for the police and community safety portfolio budget area. This record budget supports historic investments underpinning the Community Safety Plan for Queensland. It is a record budget that supports an investment in 3,000 extra police personnel.


The total Queensland Police Service and community safety portfolio budget of \$4.379 billion is an increase of \$700 million or 15 per cent over last year. I repeat: an increase of \$700 million or 15 per cent over last financial year. This includes an operating budget of \$3.695 billion and a capital budget of \$684 million. This record police and community safety portfolio budget also supports the government's additional \$1.27 billion investment in the Community Safety Plan for Queensland. In particular, the budget will extend police aerial capability to places such as Cairns and the far north and the Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay areas. The plan is focused on five key pillars backed by evidence, including supporting victims, delivering for our front line, detaining offenders to protect the community, intervening early and preventing crime before it occurs.

In this year's budget, the Queensland government is providing funding to support 900 additional police personnel, including 500 police officers; an additional 3,000 metal detecting wands and 1,000 state-of-the-art new tasers; an extension of the youth co-responder team model on the Gold Coast, South Brisbane and Cairns; and the expansion of the youth co-responder teams for the first time to the Sunshine Coast and the south-west regions. Funding is also provided for upgraded police facilities in Hervey Bay and Bundaberg; a new PCYC at Caloundra South and upgrades to the PCYC at Redcliffe; \$60 million per annum ongoing for the State Emergency Service in an historic record investment; \$27 million per annum for the newly established Marine Rescue Queensland, to significantly uplift services provided by marine rescue volunteers; and \$5.5 million to modernise and upgrade the Queensland Police Service network of watch houses in an initial investment to improve safety and security for all detainees.

The 2024-25 Queensland Police Service capital budget of \$684 million will support the delivery of quality frontline services for Queensland. The program funds police facilities, motor vehicles, aviation assets, vessels and other essential equipment. A highlight—and I know it is a highlight for the members for Thuringowa, Townsville and Mundingburra—is \$45 million invested in stage 1 of the Kirwan police precinct and funding held centrally of \$100 million locked in for stage 2. In good news, I am advised that the tender process for stage 2 will commence this year.

The Miles government is delivering more police and more police resources because that is what matters for Queenslanders. It further enhances the Miles government's commitment to giving police the capability and support they need to keep us all safe.

Budget, Energy and Jobs Plan

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Energy and Clean Economy Jobs) (9.48 am): The budget handed down this week puts Queensland on a positive pathway for the future, with \$26 billion of investment in our Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan, delivering new industries and jobs in the regions. It is a big step forward from the \$19 billion in last year's budget. It includes: \$16.5 billion to progress renewable energy and storage projects across Queensland; \$8.5 billion to build the Queensland SuperGrid, including the CopperString high-voltage transmission line and renewable energy zones; and \$500 million for network batteries and support of local grid solutions. More than \$8.68 billion in capital investment will be delivered in the 2024-25 financial year alone. That is investment flowing into jobs in regional Queensland.

We understand that today the LNP will announce the start of its cuts list. In typical fashion, it will undermine the foundation of public ownership of Queensland's energy system. This matter has recently been debated in this House. In fact, the Department of Energy and Climate provided me with specific advice about the position the opposition took in attempting to amend the recent energy bill. The department said—

The amendments circulated by the Member for Nanango remove the requirement for the strategy to set the generation target at 54 per cent ... there would be no obligation under the strategy for Queensland to continue to invest in renewable energy projects. It would mean that over time, Queenslanders would own less and less of the State's generation assets.

It has been brought to my attention that, in response to a question without notice from the member for Hinchinbrook on 30 April 2024, I responded based on the advice of my department but in a way that may have been considered misleading. I should have said that the opposition on three occasions voted against the Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill, which was substantively about the issue of public ownership of state electricity assets. I had no intention of misleading the House and I will seek to be more precise in the future.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members to my left!

Mr de BRENNI: Today those opposite will announce to the community of Mackay, in North Queensland, an effective cut to 3,000 good construction jobs for locals. It is effectively an announcement to cut 145,000 jobs—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Bonney! Member for Nanango!


Mr de BRENNI: It is effectively a cut to 145,000 jobs for Queenslanders by 2050, made possible by the clean energy delivered by Pioneer-Burdekin. The Pioneer-Burdekin Pumped Hydro energy scheme will generate 120,000 megawatt hours, enough to almost replace Queensland's entire coal-fired fleet. It delivers energy reliability, energy security, cleaner energy and lower power bills, but instead the LNP will either put the transition on hold while Peter Dutton builds his nuclear reactors or privatise energy storage, which would lead to escalating power prices for all Queensland households. Let me make this clear: there is not another site like Pioneer-Burdekin. Even its former leader, then premier Joh Bjelke-Petersen, knew that pumped hydro was the way of the future. He opened the first large-scale pumped hydro in Queensland almost 40 years ago. Without Pioneer-Burdekin, the LNP cannot stop burning coal. They cannot cut emissions. They would risk \$430 billion in investment and 145,000 jobs across Queensland.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Nanango, you are warned under the standing orders.

Mr de BRENNI: On this side of the House we remain steadfast in our commitment to deliver the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan because we stand for jobs, not cuts.

Work Health and Safety

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Infrastructure, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.53 am): The Miles government is proud to have led the nation when it comes to keeping workers safe. We will always back Queensland workers. Alongside our nation-leading laws, that means investing in health and safety regulators. Queensland has added an extra 111,600 jobs over the past 12 months alone, the most of any state. As the unemployment rate remains low, at 4.1 per cent, down 1.5 per cent on the pre-COVID level, and industries like construction continue to boom, we must ensure we have enough frontline staff to regulate industries and support

Queensland workers. That is why I am proud that this budget is yet again delivering what matters for Queensland and is providing a boost of around \$97 million for 140 new staff to deliver critical frontline regulatory services.

The Office of Industrial Relations is a key regulatory body which regulates workplace health and safety, electrical safety, workers compensation and industrial relations. A visible, effective and responsive inspectorate is essential to maintaining the confidence of industry, workers and the community. That is why we are investing in an additional 40 work health and safety inspectors. Our inspectors go to work every day to ensure that health and safety standards are met and sustained. They are on the front line of health and safety for Queensland workers. We are also providing additional customer contact officers to ensure that when workers and businesses contact Workplace Health and Safety Queensland and the Electrical Safety Office they get the information they need faster.

We are backing our nation-leading psychological code of practice and regulations by employing additional specialist advisers to respond to psychological issues and inquiries. We are also investing in additional staff for the Electrical Safety Office—the Electrical Safety Regulator—including nine new inspectors, to ensure electrical work is done safely in Queensland workplaces and homes. We are also boosting frontline staff in workers compensation regulatory services to ensure timeliness throughout the whole claim and, if necessary, any review process. These new staff will support Queensland's nine medical assessment tribunals, which provide an independent medical assessment of injury or impairment for workers compensation claims. We know that if a worker seeks a review of a workers compensation decision the timeframe for that review is incredibly important to them. That is why we are providing additional review unit staff, to ensure reviews are delivered in a timely fashion.

Workers and their families impacted by serious injuries or fatalities at work deserve justice. We are supporting the work of the independent workplace health and safety prosecutor with additional staff, including two new prosecutors. Everyone deserves to go to work and come home safely to their loved ones. The Miles government will always do everything we can to ensure that is exactly what happens.


Mr Stevens: Hey, Stradbroke is on this Saturday.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Mermaid Beach, you give me somewhat of a conundrum. Do I warn you or do I take your tips?

An honourable member: Double or nothing?

Mr SPEAKER: Apparently! Member for Mermaid Beach, you are warned under the standing orders. More tips!

Fagan, Mr C; Budget, Cost of Living


 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Treaty, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister for Communities and Minister for the Arts) (9.57 am): I begin by associating myself with the words of the Minister for Health and you, Mr Speaker, on the sudden passing of Cleveland Fagan and pass on my condolences and deep sympathies to his family and friends. Of course, his loss will be felt right across the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community in Queensland and right across the whole health services community.

The first Miles Labor budget is focused on what matters to Queenslanders. This budget is designed to take the pressure off Queensland households, with \$3.7 billion in new and expanded cost-of-living measures. As we have heard throughout this week, our government is taking action and helping relieve the pressure on electricity bills, reducing transport costs, boosting sport and active recreation for Queensland children, and providing emergency and financial relief to help families in need.

We know as we continue to speak with Queenslanders that not only is it power bills and transport costs on their mind but also many Queenslanders are grappling with the cost of putting food on the table. We know that when people are under pressure facing food insecurity, it means more Queenslanders are going without. As members in this House would know, Meals on Wheels Queensland delivers a vital service across our state, providing around 2.6 million meals to more than 19,000 seniors and people with disability. Earlier this year the Premier and I met with Queensland Meals on Wheels representatives and heard firsthand about the increased demand for their service across the state. The chief executive of Queensland Meals on Wheels, Evan Hill, recently said that Meals on Wheels across Queensland has seen meal numbers grow from two million to 2.7 million over the past three financial years. Meals on Wheels providers are also reporting that they are receiving more inquiries from people outside of aged care.

I am pleased today to say that the Miles Labor government has listened and in this budget we have doubled funding to Queensland Meals on Wheels. The Miles Labor government is investing \$1.2 million over four years to provide ongoing support for the Queensland Meals on Wheels peak body. Not only does Queensland Meals on Wheels provide a vital food service, but they also provide a vital social service, helping to tackle social isolation and loneliness in our communities. Meals on Wheels providers have said that it is not uncommon for a delivery driver dropping off a meal to be sometimes the only person the client sees for that whole entire day. The doubling of funding to the Meals on Wheels peak body means more support to Meals on Wheels services in to our communities who every day touch the lives of so many Queenslanders. Only the Miles Labor government can be trusted to do what matters for Queenslanders.

Transport, Accessibility

 **Hon. BJ MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services) (9.59 am): Access to reliable and accessible transport services for every Queensland is a priority for the Miles Labor government. Being able to catch a taxi when using a wheelchair can make a huge difference in the day-to-day lives of Queenslanders. It means better access to appointments, hanging out with friends and getting to the shops. As an MP and a minister, I have met with many people who rely on a wheelchair to get around. No matter how you get around, all Queenslanders should have access to reliable and safe transport.


Our government's Taxi Subsidy Scheme provides an affordable and accessible transport option for people with a disability who experience profound difficulties using other modes of public passenger transport. Our government increased our share of the taxi trip fee from \$25 to \$30 per trip in 2022 for all Taxi Subsidy Scheme members. We also understand the importance of providing reliable wheelchair accessible taxis right across the state. That is why in this year's budget we committed more than \$7.5 million to make it easier for Queenslanders with a disability to travel in taxis. This investment will increase the Lift Payment from \$20 to \$25, which is paid directly to taxidrivers who complete wheelchair jobs for members of the Taxi Subsidy Scheme. We are also doubling the Lift Payment on Christmas Day to \$50 to help people connect with their loved ones.

The Miles government's \$21 million Wheelchair Accessible Taxi Grant Scheme will also be extended for another year until the end of June 2025. The grant scheme funds half the cost of a new vehicle to make it easier for operators across the state to provide accessible taxi services. Applications for the grant scheme have also received a boost, with the maximum funding amount per application being lifted from \$45,000 to \$55,000.

Other initiatives include: continuing funding of the Taxi Subsidy Scheme, with almost 1.25 million TSS trips taken in 2022-23 by almost 50,000 TSS members; a regulatory requirement that the incentive payment for drivers to deliver trips to TSS passengers in wheelchairs must be paid in full to the driver; and a new webpage regarding requirements and helpful information for industry and passengers about travelling with support animals.

Recent taxi industry related measures include compliance activities, resetting maximum fares and legislative changes to strengthen requirements for use of taxi meters to prevent overcharging of customers—but it does not stop there. As part of our Big Build, we are making train stations more accessible via our Station Accessibility Upgrade Program. These upgrades provide a single access path to the assisted boarding points, achieved through the installation of lift accessible footbridges, platform raising, and upgrading accessible parking and customer facilities. Let us not forget our ongoing program to make our NGR trains disability compliant after those opposite forgot about one in three Queenslanders across the state. We will always prioritise accessible transport because it is the right thing to do.

School Infrastructure

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Youth Justice) (10.02 am): The Miles government's commitment to giving Queensland's kids the best possible future is indisputable. Our successive record education budgets speak directly to that. This year is no different—a 7.7 per cent increase on last year's education budget, to an investment of \$20.9 billion for the 2024-25 financial year.

Our education budget is not just about what children learn in and around our classrooms or about the infrastructure we need to support that learning; it is also about the health and wellbeing of our students which of course we all want for our kids. We know also that if our children are well and healthy

then they are more likely to learn more effectively and therefore are more likely to have a positive life trajectory. That is why our Playgrounds and Tuckshops Upgrade Program initiative is so important—a program which is directly aimed at helping our kids to be active and to eat healthy foods.

This year's budget allocates \$35 million to the second round, bringing to the number of upgrades we have funded under the program since 2022 at 427, at 418 Queensland schools, with a total allocation to the program of over \$150 million. The interest in the school Playgrounds and Tuckshops Upgrade Program has been overwhelming since the very beginning, clearly illustrating just how important these facilities are in our schools. Through the program, schools have been able to apply for funding of up to \$500,000 to upgrade playgrounds, including to replace soft fall surfacing and install shade cover structures, and for tuckshops to purchase items such as catering appliances and equipment, install stainless steel benches and upgrade facilities.


In the first round, 150 schools were announced as receiving funding to improve and upgrade playgrounds and tuckshops across those areas that need it most. On 30 May 2024, I was thrilled to announce a further 277 successful projects. I have heard from so many MPs how delighted their schools were to receive the news.

We know tuckshops are often the centre of the universe for a school, and they are critical to ensuring our kids are not only fed but fed in a healthy and nutritious way. Two weeks ago the Premier, the Treasurer, the Minister for Communities and I visited the Balmoral State High School tuckshop to announce the recipients of the new funding round. As an aside, I commend the Premier and Treasurer on their performance. They took turns serving on the counter. I have to say I have always admired how well they perform under pressure, but I do not think there is a more high pressure situation than serving hundreds of hungry teenagers who want their lunch immediately and who do not care who the people are serving them or whether they have any prior tuckshop experience. These two were absolutely performing at their peak.

Like many of the recipients across Queensland of the tuckshop upgrade funding, Balmoral High will now have capacity to cater for the increasing numbers of students needing to access tuckshop because their parents are leading such busy lives and to have the appropriate preparation facilities to turn out healthy options.

Other programs that go to the heart of the wellbeing and health of Queensland kids at school are: our \$15 million School and Community Food Relief Program; our \$21 million commitment to continue the GPs in Schools program; our \$106.7 million investment in the Student Wellbeing Package; and over half a billion dollars into Putting Queensland Kids First. We are going the extra mile to look after Queensland kids and their future. We are doing the things that matter.

Great Artesian Basin

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (10.06 am): The Miles Labor government is listening and delivering for all Queenslanders. We have heard this week how this state budget delivers big time when it comes to cost-of-living support and delivering the infrastructure that our growing state needs in Queensland. I am proud to say it delivers big time for the Great Artesian Basin too—up to \$32 million for vital capping and piping projects to save more water and to support the health of the Great Artesian Basin. There is money in the federal budget too, and I expect most of that to flow to Queensland given that 65 per cent of the Great Artesian Basin sits within Queensland.


The funding in our budget builds on our strong nation-leading action to ban carbon capture and storage in the Great Artesian Basin. I want to thank everyone from the mayors and the councillors who have spoken to me to peak bodies like Jo from the QFF and Mayor 'Zoro' from Murweh Shire Council and of course farmers and other stakeholders who have written to me in support of banning carbon capture in the GAB. I know this is an important issue for all Queenslanders. Regional communities rely on the GAB as a water source—80 or so communities and thousands of Queenslanders, businesses and the environment. The GAB is one of the world's largest and deepest underground freshwater resources, holding around 65 million gigalitres of groundwater.

The \$32 million investment in funding means that we will continue the successful bore capping and piping programs that are already underway. Nearly 770 bores have already been rehabilitated and 450 drains have been piped. Around 15,000 kilometres of open drains have been decommissioned. All this work is extremely important in the Great Artesian Basin. This work that we have done as a government has saved more than 226,000 megalitres of water over the program. We are not just saving

water. Groundwater pressure is increasing thanks to this capping and piping work. I have been out to the GAB and I know how important the capping and piping work is to those regions. It is also good for regional water users but it is also good for the environment.

More water pressure means natural springs and wetland ecosystems are re-emerging, providing important habitats for natural wildlife and flora. Unlike the LNP, it gives millions of dollars to mining companies to experiment with pumping waste into the GAB. The Miles Labor government in Queensland is listening and taking strong action to protect the Great Artesian Basin for our future generations.


Budget, Small Business

 **Hon. LR McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (10.09 am): The Miles Labor government's first budget delivers more relief for the owners and operators of more than 480,000 Queensland small businesses and helps protect the jobs of more than one million Queenslanders. We are delivering a range of short- and long-term measures through a \$250 million war chest of support funded in our new Queensland Small Business Strategy. It helps to lower costs and fight inflation.

Today I am very pleased to announce that we are going to open the next round of Business Boost for grants of up to \$20,000. These grants will support activities such as future planning, specialised and automated software, and workforce development. More than \$3 million is on the table, and the details are available online on our business website right now. Registration is from 24 June to 5 July this year. Businesses can register their interest in the latest funding round, which will continue until 5 July.

This Labor budget is delivering on what matters for both small businesses and their customers by providing the nation's biggest cost-of-living relief package. Only Labor has that nation-leading program that will put more money back into the pockets of Queenslanders and more revenue back into the bank accounts of our hardworking small businesses.

Housing

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Public Works) (10.11 am): Our new Miles Labor government is doing what matters for Queensland. One of the first things our Premier did was deliver his Homes for Queenslanders plan. We committed to delivering one million new homes, including 53,500 social and affordable homes, by 2046. Our new Miles government is hard at work delivering on our commitment. We have been pulling all levers, working with local councils and the private sector to make sure all Queenslanders have a place to call home.

This week we announced that we would raise the stamp duty exemption threshold for first home buyers, supporting thousands more Queenslanders to buy their first home. This is on top of what we are already doing for first home buyers, including doubling the first home owner's grant to \$30,000—the most generous in the country. We are also unlocking more housing by getting the planning system right. We are fast-tracking approvals through our state facilitated development process and incentivising the development of new homes close to public transport and where people work. We are also supporting councils with billions of dollars, including funding for trunk infrastructure that will unlock new housing and dedicated funding for updating local planning schemes, and we are using traditional builds and innovative methods of construction to build these homes faster. We are rebuilding our government builder QBuild, and we are investing in free TAFE and apprenticeships to build our skills pipeline. On average, every quarter our Labor government has already approved, commenced and delivered more homes than under those opposite.

We are also working with the Commonwealth government. This week the new Miles Labor government passed legislation to make Queensland the first state in Australia to access the Commonwealth Help to Buy shared equity scheme. That means Queenslanders will get first dibs on funds from the Commonwealth which could deliver homes for more than 8,000 Queenslanders. We are also supporting renters, delivering \$160 million through our rental relief package with interest- and fee-free bond loans and emergency rent help for people in crisis.


On top of all of this, the new Miles government is doing what matters for vulnerable Queenslanders because we believe that all Queenslanders deserve a home. We are boosting support for specialist homelessness services by 20 per cent. It is what they have asked for and it is what we

have delivered. We are providing more temporary accommodation and expanding the immediate housing response fund. Our government is doing what matters for Queensland. We are delivering more homes for Queenslanders and we have a funded, costed plan to back it up.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Question time will conclude today at 11.14 am.

Residential Lot Approvals

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (10.14 am): My question is to the Premier. Between November 2020 and December 2023 almost 2,500 fewer residential lots were approved in the three years after the election of the decade-old Labor government. What responsibility does the Premier take for the fall in residential lot approvals as planning minister?

Mr MILES: I thank the member for the question. The member refers to housing approvals. As the minister just outlined, we have seen an increase in those approvals. In fact, on average each year we have delivered over 5,700 more registered lots for homes than at any time under the LNP, so that is more, not less. The latest ABS data confirms that, on average, we have approved, commenced and delivered more homes than under the LNP. We have approved over 300 more homes each and every month. We have commenced building over 1,000 more homes each quarter and delivered over 1,900 more homes each quarter. In fact, ABS data shows that the Labor government has delivered over 330,000 new homes for Queenslanders since 2015.

What the Leader of the Opposition has just done in his question is what they do so often—that is, cherrypick data points. It might seem smart to take the COVID year and suggest there was a dramatic decline in government action to approve lots when in fact the COVID year saw a drop-off in a whole heap of activities.

Ms Grace: It was very atypical.

Mr MILES: That is right; it was an atypical year. If you took a much more sensible measure, which is the average number each year, you would know that we have: delivered more than 5,700 more lots for homes than the LNP could ever deliver; approved over 300 more homes every month; built 1,000 more homes every quarter; and delivered 1,900 more homes each quarter. That is the result of action under our Homes for Queenslanders plan—

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, you will put that booklet down or table it.

Mr MILES:—a comprehensive, funded, costed plan to deliver more homes faster. We know the opposition have seen our Homes for Queenslanders plan because all of the ideas they have announced today are in this plan. Every single one of them is in this plan. They have no new ideas and when they pretend to, they have to steal them from us.

Housing

Mr CRISAFULLI: I have a further question to the Premier. Almost two years ago the Premier fronted the Housing Summit as planning minister and promised Queenslanders solutions to the Queensland housing crisis. Has the housing crisis got better or worse for Queenslanders since Labor's Housing Summit?

Mr MILES: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question. He is right: a lot has happened since that Housing Summit. We have implemented a wide range of policies that came out of that Housing Summit, including the associated round tables. Since I became Premier we have released this comprehensive, fully costed Homes for Queenslanders plan—

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, I am going to ask you to cease continually holding the document up as a prop. You will table it or refer to the document.

Mr MILES: Yes, Mr Speaker. This is the very plan from which the Leader of the Opposition stole the ideas he intended to announce today because—

Mr Bleijie: Where is abolishing the tax in that plan?

Mr MILES: We announced that Sunday, actually.

Mr Bleijie: Abolishing the tax? You didn't!

Mr MILES: I think you will find that we did. Every single one of their ideas that were leaked by a fellow frontbencher to Channel 9 news last night is in our Homes for Queenslanders plan. Can I say how glad I was when the opposition called a division at six o'clock last night because it meant that we all got to see the blood drain from the face of the Leader of the Opposition when he realised what they had done to him. When he realised that one of his colleagues had leaked his big announcement and ruined his big reveal by giving it all to Channel 9 news he was so forlorn. He looked so sad. I almost felt for him—a little bit. I also noticed a shadow minister who was smiling. As the Leader of the Opposition was glued to his Twitter trying to work out how much they had given Channel 9, I saw which one was smiling, but I am not going to give them up. All we learned on Channel 9 news last night and then again in the paper this morning is that the Leader of the Opposition thinks he can get away with recycling just a few of the great Labor ideas that sit in our Homes for Queenslanders plan.

Mr Stewart: Our homework.

Mr MILES: Stealing our homework; I take that interjection from the resources minister. If you want to make a difference, you need a fully costed and funded plan, not a couple of stolen ideas.

Budget, First Home Buyers

Mr MARTIN: My question is of the Premier. Can the Premier outline how the first Miles Labor government budget is backing first home buyers and doing what matters for Queensland, and is the Premier aware of any risky alternative approaches?

Mr MILES: I thank the member for the question. This government—my government—is doing what matters for Queensland. If we look at our budget, it is all about doing what matters for Queensland. It is fundamentally a cost-of-living budget, but it is also a giant health budget and it embeds and delivers on the commitments in our Homes for Queenslanders plan, so it is also a housing budget. We know that the best thing that we can do for Queenslanders when it comes to the cost of living is to get them into the property market. We know that once people have entered the property market it will make a measurable difference to their life, to their wellbeing and to their cost of living for the rest of their lives. That is why that is a key focus of our Homes for Queenslanders plan, and it is why on the weekend we announced that we will abolish stamp duty for first home buyers buying a home worth up to \$700,000. That is just one of the Labor policies those opposite have lifted from our Homes for Queenslanders plan.

We learned all about it last night thanks to that leak from a fellow frontbencher. Those opposite are not even in government and they are leaking information against each other—that is how much they hate him. However, we did not need to tune into Channel 9 news. They did not even need to leak it to the Channel 9 news because it is all in our Homes for Queenslanders plan. Every single thing that they have suggested is in our Homes for Queenslanders plan, and there is even more. Everything is in there—the same target for the number of houses and the same church land audit. The strangest one is the announcement that they will support a shared equity scheme—the very same shared equity scheme we would have right now if it were not for the LNP and the Greens political party, and it would be funded by the Commonwealth. Queenslanders would be buying homes now funded by the Commonwealth if the Leader of the Opposition had the guts to stand up to Peter Dutton and tell him to pass the scheme, but he does not. Instead of telling his party that it should support a shared equity scheme, he is now saying that Queensland taxpayers should fund a much smaller scheme.

Mr POWELL: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, I will ask you to withdraw that unparliamentary language.

Mr MILES: I withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you. Did you have a point of order? That was the point of order?

Mr POWELL: Yes.

Industrial Relations

Mr BLEIJIE: My question is to the Premier. The latest ABS data for the March quarter reveals the number of days lost to industrial disputes in Queensland is the worst in the country and made up three-quarters of total hours lost nationwide. Is the Premier concerned about the growing militancy of the CFMEU and its impact on productivity in Queensland?

Mr MILES: I thank the member for Kawana for his question. One thing that will always separate the parties in this place is that we support the rights of workers in their workplace, and we always will. We respect the rights of workers in their workplace and their right to campaign for improved rights and conditions in their workplace. Days lost to industrial disputes are cyclical and vary from state to state and quarter to quarter.

Mr Bleijie: That you buried!

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Kawana.

Mr MILES: It is misleading to cherry-pick one quarter and suggest that that amounts to a trend. In fact, the ABS noted—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr MILES: I am answering the question, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: Yes. Members to my left, the Premier is being responsive to the question. I would ask that we hear the answer.

Mr MILES: Thank you, Mr Speaker. The ABS notes in its report that the primary cause of industrial disputes is enterprise bargaining related, with the majority of businesses and employees in Queensland negotiating under the federal Fair Work jurisdiction. The data released confirms that there are no lost working hours attributable to the Queensland public sector, with the negotiation of enterprise agreements for public sector workers being overwhelmingly endorsed by workers.

While those opposite might want to take away the rights of workers to campaign for improved conditions, we on this side of the House support them. We support them with their wages because, at the end of the day, the best thing we can do for the cost of living is make sure someone has a job with a decent wage. There are two sides to the cost-of-living discussion—how much things cost and how much people earn. We will always support the rights of workers to campaign for a fair wage increase for themselves and their colleagues. We will support their right to be members of a union and to support their trade union. Implicit in the member for Kawana's question is that those rights should be taken away. Implicit in the question from the member for Kawana is that those rights should be taken away, and I will never stand for that because we support workers while those opposite never, ever will.

First Home Buyers

Mrs GILBERT: My question is of the Deputy Premier and Treasurer. Can the Deputy Premier advise how the new Miles Labor government's plan is helping first home buyers, and is the Deputy Premier aware of any risky alternatives?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Mackay for her question. Together with everyone in the government, she knows that the No. 1 priority of the Miles Labor government is providing cost-of-living relief to hardworking Queenslanders and Queensland families. What matters to Queenslanders right now is us providing that relief as quickly as we can to help them as they face the cost-of-living challenges. That is what our first home owner concession policy does. Our duty concessions for first home buyers are designed so that they will not simply drive up the price of all homes. Our stamp duty concessions are targeted to help all young people get into a home of their own at the price range they will be looking at. They are not designed to drive up selling prices for million-dollar dream homes. That is not our policy.

When we deliver our targeted support through the tax system, we ensure that the revenue impacts are fully costed and fully offset. That means not sacrificing the money that pays for the doctors, the nurses, the teachers and the police officers in Mackay and across Queensland. That is why we paid for our first home owner policy by increasing tax on foreign investors, and we make absolutely no apology for doing that because if you do not do that you have to cut.

We have seen in the media what the Leader of the Opposition plans to do. It was leaked to Channel 9 news; they got it first. Someone on the front bench tipped it out and leaked to Channel 9. There is crisis and chaos in the shadow front bench across the board. Weren't they smiling! There was one person smiling. There was one person who could not wipe the grin off their face. There was one shadow minister who had a great night last night because they leaked it out and they tipped it out to Channel 9 to attack their own leader, the LNP leader.

What has not been leaked is how the Leader of the Opposition will pay for his policy. He has promised to support everything in our budget. He has promised lower debt through a debt reduction plan, and now the LNP leader promises more expenditure. Where is the LNP leader going to get that

money from? The LNP leader cannot cut debt, he cannot cut taxes and he cannot promise more spending without also secretly planning to cut government spending and services. How many Queenslanders will lose their jobs this time under the member for Broadwater? How many community services sectors will lose funding under the LNP leader? What is the value of the assets the LNP leader intends to sell? It is only the Miles Labor government that will protect Queenslanders from David Crisafulli's cuts.

Mr SPEAKER: A reminder to all members to ensure that correct titles in this place are used.

Minister for State Development and Infrastructure, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing, Right to Information

Ms SIMPSON: My question is to the Premier. I refer to media reports today revealing text messages exchanged between state development minister Grace and former Labor minister Kate Jones about a proposal from an unnamed company in negotiations with the Miles government. Will the Premier advise what the proposal is about?

Mr MILES: I thank the member for Maroochydore for her question. Minister Grace and I work very closely together but I do not monitor all of her text messages. I have not been through all of her text messages. As I understand it, all appropriate RTI processes have been followed and all information that should be released under those RTI processes has now been released. I am not privy to any further information than what has been released and reported publicly. Of course we stand by those right to information processes. They are designed to ensure transparency, but there are exemptions and I do not intend to undermine those exemptions. It has all been through a very thorough process.

Mr POWELL: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The question was not about an RTI process. The question was about a proposal.

Mr SPEAKER: I have heard the question. The question seems to be related to text messages, which I have an assumption does relate to RTI. I also heard the Premier suggest he does not know anything more than what has been reported publicly. I believe that is his answer. Premier, do you have anything further to add?

Mr MILES: No.

Housing

Mr SKELTON: My question is of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Public Works. Can the minister update the House on how the Miles Labor government is doing what matters for Queensland through shared equity and Homes for Queenslanders, and is the minister aware of any risky alternative approaches?

Ms SCANLON: I thank the member for Nicklin for the question. I know he is really passionate about helping first home owners break into the market. Our Miles government is doing what matters by delivering our Homes for Queenslanders plan. We have slashed stamp duty for first home owners. We have doubled the first home owners grant to \$30,000—the most generous in the country. These changes are already in place. This week we became the first state in the country to pass legislation to deliver the Help to Buy shared equity scheme. We are ready to go. The only people standing in the way of the shared equity scheme—

Mr O'Connor: Is the Labor Party.

Ms SCANLON:—are the LNP and the Greens. I take the member for Bonney's interjection. The only people standing in the way of the shared equity scheme are the LNP and the Greens.

Mr Ryan: It's a Labor election commitment.

Ms SCANLON: It is a Labor election commitment; I take the interjection from the minister.

Mr Janetzki interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The Member for Toowoomba South is warned under the standing orders.

Ms SCANLON: The Help to Buy scheme will help 2,000 Queenslanders per year and 8,000 in total over the life of the program. Canberra is willing to pay and the LNP are standing in the way. Peter Dutton, David Littleproud and the federal LNP are actively blocking the Help to Buy scheme. If the Leader of the Opposition is too weak to stand up to Peter Dutton then he is too weak to lead Queensland.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Minister, I have given guidance to the House about personal characterisations using terms such as 'weak'. I will ask you to cease.

Ms SCANLON: Thank you. If he is not going to publicly rebuke his hand-picked candidate for Oodgeroo, who is publicly railing against this very scheme and who described it as 'really dangerous', then he is not fit to lead this state. Shared equity is a good idea. It is a Labor idea, and the LNP are railing against it. You do not need to just take my word for it. Take the word of Andrew Willcox, the LNP member for Dawson, who said—

A coalition government does not want a stake in your family home.

Michelle Landry, the member for Capricornia, said—

The symbolism of having government officials involved in the homeowner's personal affairs, especially in financial matters, raises genuine reservations.

We then had the member for Herbert in Townsville, Phillip Thompson, who said the bill 'should be scrapped'. He went on to say about the shared equity scheme—

The coalition wants a smaller government ... They don't want to force people to go into partnership with the government to buy their home.

Instead of getting on the phone and leaking it to Channel 9, the LNP should get on the phone to Peter Dutton and tell him to stop blocking the Help to Buy scheme. We could have the federal Help to Buy scheme, funded by the federal government, passed in the federal parliament right now if those opposite would stand up to their mates.

(Time expired)

Minister for State Development and Infrastructure, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing, Right to Information

Mr NICHOLLS: Talking about getting on the phone or the text, my question is to the Minister for State Development and Infrastructure. What was the name of the company former minister Kate Jones provided a proposal to the minister about, which is the subject of media reports today?

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, before you answer, I will ask the member for Clayfield and other members asking questions today to not editorialise into a question.

Ms Grace: Yes, exactly.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member for McConnel. I call the minister.

Ms GRACE: Honestly!

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members to my left!

Ms GRACE: Honestly, the hypocrisy from those opposite is breathtaking, absolutely breathtaking. There is an RTI process that is independent and people have rights. They are put out and they are there for everyone to digest. I stand by that process honestly and truly 100 per cent. If that RTI process, going independently, wants to protect the name of someone who is a subject of that RTI, then respect the process. Those opposite have a shadow minister for integrity coming in here asking questions. It is a pity that integrity does not apply to them. If you want integrity and transparency to apply, make those diary entries of those shadow ministers public. Go on. Do it off your own bat.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr Bleijie: They are. Our diaries are public.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Ms GRACE: No, no, no.

Mr SPEAKER: Members, if I call the House to order, I expect it to come to order. This is a disorderly display.

Ms GRACE: I know that that shadow minister has very little to do in that portfolio, but maybe a bit of work could be to go back to all the times they have hid lobbyists' meetings that they have had, put them on a list and put them out. You put them out.

Mr POWELL: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Mr SPEAKER: Before dealing with the point of order, Minister, you will direct your comments through the chair. What is your point of order?

Mr POWELL: Relevance under standing order 118(b). The question was: what is the name of the company? It is a very simple question.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member. The minister still has one minute and 21 seconds to respond to the question. Minister, do you have anything further to add?

Ms GRACE: I say to them that if they really believe in what they say and they are not coming into this House with hypocrisy, then they should publish that document. I stand by the RTI process. I will always stand by the RTI process and respect that process. If the RTI process decides that that should not happen, I support that process.

Workers

Mr HARPER: My question is of the Minister for State Development and Infrastructure, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing. Can the minister update the House on how the new Miles Labor government budget is helping Queensland workers, and is the minister aware of any risky alternatives?

Ms GRACE: I thank the member for Thuringowa for his question, because I know how excited he is about all those ambo's who are about to be employed throughout Queensland. When it comes to supporting workers in this state, you can guarantee a Labor government will do exactly that. As a former ambo, he knows what a difference it makes to have more—

An honourable member: Oh, was he?

Ms GRACE: I know it is a surprise to everyone, but the member for Thuringowa was an ambo. What we do is provide additional public servants, not sack them. I know that he is a strong advocate for his community. In 2020 we made changes in relation to PTSD for first responders. We are improving workers compensation for those well-deserving first responders. The budget provides an additional \$268 million over four years for QAS, including \$130 million for 268 additional QAS positions with 188 new starters expected to hit the road before the end of the year. This is fantastic news—boosting those numbers in regional and remote Queensland. As I said in my ministerial statement, we have \$97 million for the industrial relations department. There has been a huge growth in population and great activity in the construction industry, and we need to keep our Public Service numbers up to service those areas.

The member for Thuringowa asked me a question in relation to alternatives. If I recall correctly, when there was a leak ahead of the first budget put out by the previous premier, a member—I am not sure exactly which member it was, but I think it might have been the member for Kawana—complained loudly, calling it backstabbing by public servants. On Tuesday the member for Kawana asked our Premier what it says about the government that there were leaks. I say straight back to the Leader of the Opposition and the member for Kawana: what does it say about the opposition that a shadow ministry cannot even keep their own budget reply secret and confidential and are leaking it already? In relation to any alternative policies, I say: are they going to go and search for the backstabbers over there—all of the backstabbing members who may have done that? That is what they call the public servants. That is what they thought of public servants at the time. Of course, they managed to sack 14,000 of them. They must have thought all of them were backstabbers at the time when the budget was leaked.

I give lessons to the member for Kawana on industrial relations. When it comes to disputation, bargaining and rounds is the cause of it and—

(Time expired)

Minister for State Development and Infrastructure, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing, Right to Information

Mr MICKELBERG: My question is to the Minister for State Development and Infrastructure. In the interests of openness and transparency, will the minister today release all messages between herself and former Labor minister Kate Jones unredacted and advise in what capacity Kate Jones contacted the minister?

Ms GRACE: No. I respect the RTI process.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, members.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I will wait for silence, members.

Ms GRACE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I thought I heard someone say something about breaking the law.

Mr Miles interjected.

Ms GRACE: ‘You broke the law.’ I do not know who said that, but I take offence and, whoever said it, I ask that it be withdrawn.

Mr SPEAKER: The member has taken offence to a comment. I will ask that member to withdraw.

Mr MICKELBERG: Mr Speaker, I rise on that point of order. I said, ‘Who broke the law?’ not that the minister broke the law. I am happy to withdraw to aid the House, but, to be clear, I did not say the minister broke the law. I said, ‘Who broke the law?’

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you for withdrawing for the benefit of the House.

Job Creation

Ms HOWARD: My question is of the Minister for Energy and Clean Economy Jobs. Can the minister update the House on what the new Miles Labor government is doing to ensure jobs for Queenslanders, and is the minister aware of any risky alternative approaches?

Mr de BRENNI: The member for Ipswich understands just how important cost of living is to her community, so I thank her for the question. She is delivering, from 1 July, \$1,300 through this government to every household in her community. We have heard those opposite call it an election manoeuvre. Seriously, where have they been? Since 2017, the member for Ipswich has been returning revenues and royalties to Queenslanders through their electricity bills. It is not new policy. It is not election policy. This sort of support for households is Labor policy. It is the sort of policy delivered by every member on this side of the House.

There have been seven years of asset ownership dividends and cost-of-living rebates through energy bills, and the LNP has only just noticed in the last week or so that Queenslanders need some support to meet the rising cost of living. Today the LNP have taken an axe to Queensland’s future as well. More than that, they have announced that they will take an axe to the planet’s future. We know that those opposite are the party of cutting, sacking and selling, but they have just proven it by announcing that they will cut pumped hydro. They are cutting what has been described as the nation’s most significant contribution to the clean energy future. I will say that again. This is a project that has been widely described as the single most significant contribution to the nation’s clean energy future. Either they are opposed to a clean energy transition or, when it comes to major infrastructure projects, the LNP are just not up to building them. They do not have it in them. They do not have the courage to take on projects like this. It is a project so significant that it will aid in the construction of 145,000 jobs across the Queensland economy, a project that already has contracts with 52 companies—real Queenslanders delivering work and progress on the Pioneer project.

After the Leader of the Opposition gets up in this House and confirms this in his budget reply speech, I wonder if he will go out and answer questions from the Queensland media. Will he front the media and answer questions about the cuts to jobs—workers on the ground—right now, today? Will he go out and answer questions about cuts to regional Queensland supply chains—the 52 companies that are working on this project? What will he say about cuts to those contracts and what will he say about cuts to public ownership? Right now the Leader of the Opposition must submit to answering questions about cuts to jobs, to workers on the ground in regional Queensland—right now.

Queensland Treasury Corporation, Bonds

Mr JANETZKI: My question is to the Treasurer. For QTC—

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members to my right, this will be the last time I remind you that questions will be heard in silence.

Mr JANETZKI: My question is to the Treasurer. For QTC bonds reaching maturity next financial year, can the Treasurer outline what advice he has received on the likely yields on new bond issuance?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for the question. It has been a big week for the shadow Treasurer. I normally expect one post-budget question each year, and I have had two. I want to address some things about QTC bonds so I can inform the member for Toowoomba South and all members. I will go through this in some detail. I was anticipating, I must say, a question on something that mattered to Queenslanders in the budget. I was even expecting something on the brand new housing policy that they have run away from straightaway. I was expecting something on that but, no, we are back to bonds, so I am happy to say a range of things in relation to our bond program. I hope I have time to do it! The increase in our capital program means that general government borrowings are expected to reach about \$103.2 billion in 2026-27. That figure is \$6.5 billion higher than was forecast in the budget update I did in the middle of the year. As I have said repeatedly, in response to your question, our general government sector borrowings propel investment in Queensland—

Mr O'Connor interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Bonney is warned under the standing orders.

Mr DICK:—because they compare very well to our interstate peers. You want the answer and I am trying to give you an answer because it is important for Queenslanders. Our borrowings are estimated to be \$103 billion in 2026-27. I am pleased to say that this is far lower than New South Wales who are at \$189 billion and Victoria, who have more than twice as much, at \$216 billion. That means managing debt requires a very careful—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members! Pause the clock. Treasurer, sorry, I know it is hard sometimes to hear over the noise. I believe that the Treasurer is being responsive to the question that was asked. I would like to hear the answer.

Mr DICK: Thank you, Speaker. You need to carefully manage those impacts. We are investing in infrastructure. Our infrastructure is growing and we are borrowing to do that, while in other states they are borrowing more and delivering less. We have done that and maintained our stable credit rating. That is important because we are borrowing money at about the same rate as some of our comparator states, including Western Australia, which has a AAA credit rating.

(Time expired)

Budget, Mental Health

Mr SAUNDERS: My question is to the Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women. Can the minister update the House on how the new Miles Labor government's record health budget is supporting Queenslanders' mental health, and is the minister aware of any risky alternative approaches?

Ms FENTIMAN: I thank the member for Maryborough for the question. In recent weeks, he and I have been discussing just how well the Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service is doing, particularly in the work they are doing to support locals with their mental health in Maryborough and across the Wide Bay. Our government is making huge investments. Those record investments in mental health I have outlined today are only possible because of our government's nation-leading mental health levy. That levy has meant we are able to, over the life of Better Care Together, have a \$1.6 billion investment in more beds and more services to support Queenslanders when they need it most.

But, of course, those opposite have always opposed our mental health levy. The Leader of the Opposition has been on the warpath against the mental health levy since the day it was announced. On the day it was announced, we had a *Courier-Mail* headline 'David Crisafulli hits out at Palaszczuk government's new mental health levy'. They have never supported this life-changing levy that is delivering life-saving services. What is the LNP's plan if they are elected? The LNP needs to rule out any cuts to that mental health levy today because Queenslanders absolutely rely on those services.

We know that the Leader of the Opposition had some top-secret meetings yesterday. They did not want to reveal what would be in the leader's speech today—certainly not much about mental health, I can pretty much guarantee that. Lo and behold, their new housing policy—it was very familiar, I think I have read it in our housing policy—somehow made its way to Channel 9. What was it that the member for Kawana tweeted the other day? I will remind you all because it is a cracker! 'There is a difference between a drop and a leak. Your reality is your team does not trust you, hence they are leaking against you.'

Government members interjected.

Ms FENTIMAN: The member for Kawana, the Deputy Leader, perhaps it is that they do not trust you? I think those words have come back to haunt you, like your words so often come back to haunt you. We all remember when you were the worst attorney-general in Queensland's history.

Mr SPEAKER: Comments will be directed through the chair.

Ms FENTIMAN: They are so proud of their new housing policy that the Leader of the Opposition will not stand up today and talk to Queenslanders about their policy. Is that because he is so scared of being asked questions about why they are stealing Labor's policy; about why he will not pick up the phone to Peter Dutton; about why he won't pick up the phone to Amanda Stoker and say, 'Sorry, we have changed our mind about that policy'? He does not want to answer any of these questions. No phone calls, no policies, stealing our policies—it is absolutely pathetic. He should stand up today and answer those questions.

Mr Watts interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Toowoomba North, you are warned under the standing orders.

Social Housing

Dr MacMAHON: My question is to the Premier. The average wait time for people with very high or high needs to access government owned and managed social housing is over 21 months—the longest in recorded history. Why is this government making people wait so long?

Mr MILES: I thank the member for South Brisbane for her question. As everyone in this House would be aware, there has been a dramatic population increase in Queensland and that has placed additional pressure on all parts of our housing and accommodation market. It has made private purchases and rentals more expensive. It has pushed more people onto our social and public housing waiting lists and, unfortunately, it has forced some people into housing stress and homelessness. That is why earlier this year, not long after I became Premier, I released a comprehensive Homes for Queenslanders plan. It includes a big increase in funding for the homelessness services that do such important work with those who are at the fringes of the housing market to get them into secure accommodation.

There is a range of other measures that are designed to deliver social, public and affordable housing stock. We are delivering more temporary supported accommodation; we have expanded our immediate housing relief program for emergency accommodation; and we will continue to fund our renter's relief package to avoid people entering homelessness. It is a significant part of our Homes for Queenslanders plan which, as I have noted, is funded in our budget. A range of measures from that have since been lifted by the opposition, although I note none address the concerns raised by the member for South Brisbane. We will continue to work hard to deliver the housing that Queensland needs. That is what our budget is designed to do because we know how important that is for Queenslanders.

Miles Labor Government

Mr BAILEY: My question is to the Minister for Education and Minister for Youth Justice. Can the minister update the House on how the new Miles Labor government is supporting Queenslanders, including young Queenslanders, and is the minister aware of any leaky—sorry, risky—alternative approaches?

Ms FARMER: I thank the member for his question. I know the member would be especially concerned about risks, because the Nyanda state school was in the previous boundaries of his electorate—one of the six schools the LNP closed in their first term of government. We know they were planning on closing more. I know that the member is a big champion for education, so he will be thrilled about our \$20.9 billion budget. There is more support for students with disability; our Putting Queensland Kids First initiative; subsidised housing options for rural and remote locations; upgrades to infrastructure and new schools; and more teachers and teacher aides. This education budget is so critical because there is nothing more important than someone handing over their child and asking to help make sure that child has a good and happy life, and that is what we ask of our teachers and our schools every single day. That is why a government's commitment to education is so critical. It is why if the LNP gets into government it needs to be crystal clear about what its education policy is. Sometimes I have a bit of hope and sometimes I do not.

I am going to speak to the Premier to see if I can find out who the smiley one over there was because I am desperate to know what their education policy is going to be. In that little book of theirs they have about three-quarters of a page on education. There are only 570,000 kids and over 90,000 teachers in state schools, so it is only a small policy taking up three-quarters of a page in their little book! If the smiley one over there whispers it to me, I promise I will not leak it. I am a bit worried about this funding thing because we know they are going to fund everything we have in the budget. Of course after the opposition leader said that, he kind of pulled back on the Pioneer-Burdekin hydro project.

We know, as Campbell Newman says, there is cynicism that Crisafulli might say, 'We won't do anything when we get there' or 'we'll overturn it'. He also said that on all that 'treaty and truth-telling stuff'. We know he is going to commit to this education budget, but if he comes in and does not like it, he can just turn it around. I think it is time he tells us if he is going to close some of those 50 schools he had on the list to close last time. Is he going to sack those 500 teachers he sacked the last time? Is he going to have an early childhood education policy? Is he going to have an enterprise bargaining agreement? Leak it to me and I promise I will not tell anybody. I just need to put almost half a million children's minds at rest.

(Time expired)

Noosa Golf Club, Car Parking

Ms BOLTON: My question is to the Minister for Resources and Critical Minerals. Given the ongoing safety concerns from the Noosa Golf Club and residents about the longstanding situation on Cooroy-Noosa Road due to the lack of car park capacity, will the minister provide an update on the expansion and extension of their lease area to address this safety issue?

Mr STEWART: I thank the member for the question. I know how fervent she is about her community and making sure it can continue to grow now and well into the future, and this is certainly an important issue for her. I know the Tewantin golf club is in such a beautiful spot. Mr Speaker, if you ever have the opportunity to go and hit a golf ball out there, you will remember it for the rest of your life. It is a beautiful spot. I understand car parking is a big issue for the member, who is very passionate about this particular golf club and what it means for her. We know a big part of the tourism industry is based around golf and a number of people who go to Noosa quite often will go to the golf club to play, but parking is an issue.

I can advise the member that there are a number of complex issues around this. I know that she worked hard and secured federal funding for this particular car park, but there are some complex matters with regard to the lease and some other issues surrounding the land of that golf course. I have asked my Department of Resources for advice on the issues that the member has brought forward and they are continuing to work on that. We are happy to provide a full briefing to make sure that the member is up to date with all of those issues and the ways we can work together.

We will continue to work with all stakeholders, including the member for Noosa, government departments and the Tewantin golf course, to make sure we can continue this action moving forward and resolve it as quickly as possible. Our \$200 FairPlay vouchers for our kids and the action we are taking to address the cost of living in our budget will mean more kids will be able to get out on the golf course and play golf. It will mean more visitors will be able to get out as well. We know it is really important to get kids off the couch—rather than them sitting in front of their laptops and gaming—and to get them out onto this beautiful golf course. However, those additional car parks are required so that parents can drop them off or even stay and play golf with them. I advise the member for Noosa that we would love to sit down with her and give her a full briefing with the most up-to-date information possible to help her achieve what she worked so hard for with the federal government—to get that funding.

Community Safety

Mr KING: My question is of the Minister for Police and Community Safety. Can the minister outline how the new Miles Labor government is supporting community safety in Queensland, and is the minister aware of any risky alternative approaches?

Mr RYAN: I thank the member for the question. I have known quite a few members for Kurwongbah, and I would like to say that this member for Kurwongbah is the best member for Kurwongbah the Queensland parliament has ever seen. I send my sincere apologies to Linda Lavarch, but this member for Kurwongbah is an outstanding member. I did think the member was going to ask

me if I could hear that noise—the drip, drip, drip. It is the leaks coming from those opposite. However, he did not ask that question; he asked a more important question about investment from the Miles Labor government with our new Premier in the front line.

I want to start off by saying congratulations to the 51 outstanding Queenslanders with previous police experience who today have graduated from the Police Academy as part of our record investment. These new constables of the Queensland Police Service have come from other jurisdictions, representing over 400 years of previous policing experience. They have come to Queensland not only to help serve the Queensland community but as part of an incentive package to assist the Queensland Police Service with recruiting the largest number of police officers in Queensland history. Within a month we are going to have over 700 recruits at the academy and we have over 2,000 applicants in the recruit pipeline. I am told by the Queensland Police Service that right now the combined number of police officers and police recruits is the highest on record, the highest in Queensland history.

Mr Speaker, I know you have been waiting for this moment. This is the first time. We do have a new Premier and I thought with a new Premier we need a new calculator.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you. Member—

Mr RYAN: The new calculator for the new Premier is the Labor calculator: there are a lot of plus signs on the calculator. I have found out what our new Premier's favourite number is. It is 80057 because it spells 'boost'. The new Premier has a new calculator with a lot of plus signs because that is what this Premier and this government are committed to: boosting the front line and investing in the Queensland Police Service—historic investment and historic numbers at the academy right now. It is representative of our government's commitment to community safety and it is quite the opposite to those opposite.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Sorry, member. I appreciate that you are not holding the prop, but it is still being used as one. Right now you are not pushing buttons on the calculator; you are pushing mine.

Mr RYAN: It is mine to keep, Mr Speaker. You are not going to get it. This government is committed to continuing to boost the front line and to being positive. We remember the LNP calculator. Their favourite number was 7735 because when you turn it upside down it says 'sell' and it was all negative from those opposite. We will boost, we will be positive and we will deliver for Queensland.

Wilmar Sugar

Mr LAST: My question is of the Premier. Given that another stalemate involving sugar miller Wilmar is threatening the crushing of the 2024 crop and the ability of workers to put food on the table and farmers to harvest the bumper crop, what action has the government taken to resolve this time-critical issue?

Mr MILES: I thank the member for Burdekin for his question. While I have some awareness of the dispute between Wilmar and their workforce as they seek to negotiate a new enterprise bargaining agreement, I understand it is a dispute governed by the Australian government's Fair Work Act. The state government does not have any role at all in those negotiations. I have though, when asked publicly, encouraged the parties to reach an agreement and I have encouraged Wilmar to put an offer on the table that their workforce can accept, and I stand by those remarks.

Community Services

Mr BROWN: My question is to the Minister for Communities. Can the minister outline how the new Miles Labor government is investing in our community services sector to support Queenslanders, and is the minister aware of any risky alternate approaches?

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for Capalaba for his question and for his absolutely outstanding advocacy for what is fair and equitable service delivery in his electorate. He very much lives by his hashtag, #DonDelivers.

The Miles government is doing what matters for Queensland: delivering record cost-of-living supports and vital funding to community services. This year's budget is delivering for Queensland communities, providing vital food and emergency relief and funding for social prescribing models and financial resilience services. This is on top of our record investment in our neighbourhood centres. We

have seen the biggest ever increase in neighbourhood centre funding, almost doubling the base funding for those centres across the state. We have secured five-year contracts with providers and we are supporting initiatives like the Community Connect workers program in our neighbourhood centres alone.

Today we heard the Treasurer and Deputy Premier announce best practice industry conditions for community services. This locks in five-year contracts and gives security so that we can prioritise permanent employment in that sector and, of course, give the absolute certainty we need. On top of that, this year's budget also continues our investment in building and refurbishing new neighbourhood centres. We have over 128 funded neighbourhood centres across the state. We are delivering \$21.8 million to progress the establishment of new and replacement neighbourhood centres throughout Queensland, including Manunda, Agnes Water, Kowanyama, Emerald, Manoora and Labrador, and we are continuing builds and rebuilds, investing \$3.2 million to progress the construction of a new neighbourhood centre in Rockhampton and \$2.4 million to complete the redevelopment of the Bribie Island Neighbourhood Centre.

All of this work means that these neighbourhood centres do not need to worry about leaky roofs or any other kind of leakage—unlike the Leader of the Opposition and the LNP having to deal with the terrible leaking that is happening on that side. Honestly, it was not even worth it. The policy that has been leaked is really just our policy. It is literally the Labor policy with a different front page. I am looking forward to seeing what else gets leaked out of the LNP. Will it be our Communities 2032 policy rebadged with a LNP sign on the front of it? Will it be our Creative Together 10-year road map for arts and creative industries rebadged? We are the ones delivering for Queensland.

Hospitals, Infrastructure

Mr BOOTHMAN: My question is to the Premier. This Labor government's 10th budget reveals the hospital building program has blown out by another \$1.4 billion. Can the Premier confirm how many more beds than the promised 2,200 this will deliver?

Mr MILES: I thank the member for his question. On this side of the House we are proud to be building three new hospitals—one on the northern Gold Coast, one in Toowoomba and one in Bundaberg. We are also proud to be delivering major expansions at 11 other hospitals right across this state. We are proud of the six satellite hospitals that are open and the one we will open very soon.

The member may be aware that in recent years all sectors of construction have experienced some degree of cost escalation. Our projects are not immune to those cost escalations. What I can tell the House is that when the cost of delivering those projects to their scope goes up, we will fund them to build them. Implied in the member's question is that where costs have gone up they will cut projects back to meet the original budget. They are the only two choices, really. If the cost of a thing goes up, either you have to fund it to build it to scope or you have to cut back the scope.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Moggill is warned under the standing orders

Mr MILES: The member should come in here and say what services he does not want to see at the northern Gold Coast hospital. What services does he think should not be delivered at the new Toowoomba hospital? What wards should we not build at the new Bundaberg hospital? The fact of the matter is: if you want to deliver projects to their scope, you have to fund what they cost. If you do not fund what they cost then you have to cut them. You have to either cut the project or cut the scope. That is what the member is advocating for here.


Those opposite should be more honest with Queenslanders when they talk about cost escalations. If they are not going to fund them then they will have to tell Queenslanders which projects they will cut. We know that will be billions of dollars worth of projects that are needed by our growing state. We know that we are experiencing record levels of population growth. In order to address that population growth we need to build houses, we need to build roads, we need to build schools and we need to expand our hospitals. When the costs of those projects go up, you need to either fund them, like we are, or cut them, like they will.

Mr SPEAKER: The period for question time has expired.


APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL**APPROPRIATION BILL****REVENUE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL****STATE FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND METWAY MERGER AMENDMENT BILL**

Appropriation (Parliament) Bill resumed from 11 June (see p. 1968), Appropriation Bill resumed from 11 June (see p. 1978), Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill resumed from 11 June (see p. 1980) and State Financial Institutions and Metway Merger Amendment Bill resumed from 16 April (see p. 972).

Second Reading (Cognate Debate)

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (11.16 am): I move—

That the bills be now read a second time.

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.16 am): There are few greater honours than to rise in this place and provide an alternative path for our state to follow. As my team and I have developed this path, we have done so in a calm and methodical way. We promised at the start of this term that we would focus on the priorities of Queenslanders and we have been relentless in this focus. We have travelled across Queensland and we have listened to people at the front line, those at the coalface of the big four crises gripping this state: cost of living, youth crime, health and housing.

The government's slogan for this budget is 'Doing what matters', yet they are now telling Queenslanders that what they have done in the past no longer matters. The record shows that this government did not do what mattered when it mattered, and Queenslanders are paying for that fact today. Let me remind the government of their record, because Queenslanders are living it today—that is why it matters: the Queensland housing crisis, the Queensland youth crime crisis, the Queensland health crisis, the Queensland cost-of-living crisis. With a past like this, it is little wonder a government would attempt to run miles from its record. With a past like this, Queenslanders will not want to forget.

Queenslanders have lived this government's failures and they are living it today. The victims of these crises cannot forget. To this Labor government I say: victims of the housing crisis matter; victims of the cost-of-living crisis matter; victims of the health crisis matter; and victims of the youth crime crisis matter. People affected by the failures of this government matter. People matter. We believe that the crises facing Queenslanders are about people. It is only when we talk to these people that we develop our policies. To me, the solutions to these crises do not lie in George Street; they lie in the communities suffering through them. These are not trivial issues where a government spits out five different plans in four years. These crises are not a laughing matter. Certainly, the youth crime crisis is not a laughing matter.

Over the last four years I have watched this government rush to meet political cycles, lurching from one position to the next and blaming different groups for different problems that have been of their own making. That is not my style of leadership. It is why I have spent my four years as opposition leader meeting people, not just in boardrooms but also in the community through public events like our 39 health crisis town hall meetings. I have done that because I want our team out listening to the issues that matter and putting forward ways to solve them. This approach has given our team early insight into the problems facing Queensland. When we first started raising these issues with Queensland Health, we were accused by the government of making up stories. When we started raising youth crime as an issue, the government said it was a beat-up. When we started to warn about the impending cost-of-living issues, the government said we were doomsayers. When we started talking about the increasing number of people living in tents, we were mocked. These issues were not as front and centre when we started talking about them but, through the strength of the victims of these crises and their stories that we had the privilege to share, we dragged the issues into the spotlight. That is the formula for leadership I have tried to follow.

If you want to know about the issues affecting Queenslanders, then you have to listen to them. You need to understand what matters to them. Throughout my discussions with Queenslanders I have found them to be thoughtful and practical people. They are willing to share their ideas. They also understand these crises have been created over the past nine years and the solutions will not happen overnight. They understand their leaders will make mistakes and they will forgive those errors if their leaders are focused on the interests of Queenslanders rather than their own political interests. They will not forgive a government that runs miles from its record. They will not forgive a government whose definition of doing what matters means the experiences of the Queenslanders they govern do not matter.

Cost of living is a priority for the LNP because it is a priority for Queenslanders. Queenslanders have endured price rise after price rise under this government: electricity, water, rent, food, insurance, and the list goes on. We are living through the steepest cost-of-living pressures in the country because of the failures of this government, but according to the government this does not matter. Never have Queenslanders faced such major impacts to the hip pocket, threatening their way of life. No matter where I visit across our state, I spend time listening to people and the message is always the same: families are struggling. They are having to decide which bill to pay and which bill will fall past the due date. It is a devastating choice and they should not have to make it. It is not the Queensland I know and it is not the Queensland I want to see in the future.

As I travel across the state I have not found one family that tells me they have been better off in the last 10 years under this government when it comes to cost of living. Because this Labor government is consumed by chaos and crisis and has the wrong priorities, Queenslanders are paying the price. From last year's CPI data we know Queensland household electricity bills increased by 19.9 per cent, which is almost three times the national average. The CPI figures also reveal the following: a 6.7 per cent increase in health costs, which is the highest in the country; a 4.2 per cent increase in transport costs, which is the highest in the nation; an 8.4 per cent increase in rent; an 18.5 per cent increase in insurance costs; and a 7.4 per cent increase in the cost of sport participation.

The government's initial response to the early signs of this emerging crisis was hampered by its insistence that everything was okay. To its credit, the government is now rolling out some short-term assistance, and we welcome that. What is needed is a long-term plan to address the issues that they have embedded in Queensland. The LNP supports the cost-of-living measures in this budget as an inevitable cost of nine years of planning failures. The difference is that we will also embark on a new plan—a plan that seeks to address the long-term causes of Queensland's cost-of-living crisis.

Our first step is a commitment to a maintenance guarantee on our power plants. A major driver in high power prices has been the failure of the power plant at Callide. It has been below capacity for almost three years and that has driven up the cost of power. The maintenance guarantee will ensure the necessary work required to keep our power plants up and running, and that will deliver cost-of-living relief.

Where we differ with the government is a focus on driving real reform to lower the underlying cost of government services—things like electricity and water. Real reform to lower prices is something that the LNP has committed to, including through our supercharged solar for renters policy which will save renters over \$700 on their bills. We will do this by incentivising the owners of residential properties to install solar so their tenants can reap the benefit of clean energy. The LNP will also deliver cheaper learner licences after we led the campaign to reduce the cost of getting a learner driver's licence.

Sadly, more and more Queenslanders are becoming victims of crime because of a government that prioritises offenders' rights over the rights of victims. There is a cost associated with this. Through our Making Queensland Safer laws, which will pass by the end of the year if we are elected in October, Queenslanders will be able to again feel safe in their homes and local communities.

The cost of insurance is a massive driver in the cost-of-living crisis. The dual failures of not properly planning for disasters and watering down the youth justice laws have led to a perfect storm for insurance premiums. Home insurance, car insurance and business insurance have all been pushed up by avoidable pressures. By removing threats from our community and through tougher laws, we will lower those pressures. We will invest in traffic congestion busting infrastructure such as the Sunshine Coast heavy passenger rail, delivered all the way to Maroochydore, and progress projects such as the Barron River bridge and a north side tunnel for Brisbane that for 10 years have been put in the too-hard basket by this government. We will invest in community resilience infrastructure to minimise the risk of natural disasters and drive down the cost of water through better water security.

Queenslanders want solutions that last longer than an election period. There are opportunities for cost-of-living relief in the transition, but only if it is done right and with a genuine plan. The government does not have a credible plan. They have a multibillion dollar fantasy based on the Pioneer-Burdekin Pumped Hydro project—a project that energy experts and environmentalists believe will not happen. Massive cost blowouts on the project will unavoidably drive up the price of power. This is a project without direct funding, no approvals and no social licence from the local community. It will inevitably lead to higher prices for consumers.

There is a difference between responsibly supporting budget supply and honouring fully funded programs that are underway and backing exorbitant thought bubbles. For these reasons, today I announce that an LNP government will not proceed with the Pioneer-Burdekin Pumped Hydro scheme. In its place we will embark on a long-term plan that will provide alternative storage options to this unachievable project. The LNP will investigate opportunities for smaller, more manageable pumped hydro projects. We will bring in new laws to ensure all projects are treated equally.

While to this government regional Queensland is just a media backdrop for announcements that eventually join a growing list of unkept promises, regional Queenslanders will know that a government I lead will have their backs as we work together to preserve the jobs we have and create more jobs in the future in our regional communities. No special treatment will be given in relation to planning and environmental approvals. That process will start during estimates with a thorough examination of the costings and planning for the government's pumped hydro project at Borumba. Whether it is a farming project, a residential project or a renewable project, the same standards have to apply.

Let me be clear: the Pioneer-Burdekin project is not feasible. It will never be built and the government knows it. This is why there is a \$1 billion equity investment in the company but no actual capital investment in the project. This is why there is nothing in the forwards and this is why there is no backing from the federal government. The Pioneer-Burdekin project is reported to cost around \$20 billion, yet the government cannot even be honest with this. If, as the Treasurer claims, the project is fully funded under Labor, then Labor must explain ahead of the election what it will cut to fill the \$20 billion hydro hole or admit the LNP now has an additional \$20 billion for roads, rail and infrastructure projects for the next decade. You choose. The LNP will deliver a solution that will make energy affordable, reliable and sustainable.

Fixing Queensland's youth crime crisis is a priority for me because it is a priority for Queenslanders. The impact on Queenslanders has been immense. We are all aware of the tragedies of the past nine years. This government might believe that victims of crime do not matter, but we do. What has happened to Queenslanders matters. Their stories matter.

On Australia Day three years ago, a young couple preparing to become parents were out doing one of the most ordinary acts, walking their dogs on a clear afternoon, when a stolen four-wheel drive driven by a 17-year-old ploughed into them. Three lives were lost and so many more have been impacted forever. The next year, on Boxing Day, a family went to bed like it was any other holiday season. What they went through that night has been etched in the mind of every Queenslander. A mum was struck down by the teen who broke into their house, a father was injured and he and their teen daughters have been left distraught. What happened inside their home changed our lives forever.

This year we found that even the shopping centre on a weekend afternoon is not always safe. The fundamental shift has come because it has shaken the ground of normality for us. We could all picture Kate and Matt walking down the road on Australia Day—there is a calm on a public holiday like no other—chatting about the week ahead. We could all imagine the house of the Lovells with the fridge full of leftovers, the tree still up and presents strewn around the floor. We can all imagine a grandmother taking a young child to the shops. The loss of Kate, Matt and baby Miles still matters. The loss of Emma Lovell still matters. The loss of Vyleen White still matters. All of these acts are what we hold as the normality of Queensland life, and we have been shaken.

The conversation about where to leave your keys at night is not normal. The conversation about whether a road is dangerous because it is a known hotspot for stolen cars or hooning is not normal. The conversation about which car park is safer at a shopping centre is not normal. Yet it is what Queensland has become because this government did not do what mattered when it mattered. That is not because of Australia Day 2021; it is because of what those opposite did in 2015—this same government. The shift has been felt profoundly by Queenslanders in the last few years, but the fate was sealed when this government came in and took away consequences in 2015. Detention as a last resort

was reinstated. The Childrens Court was closed to scrutiny. Early intervention programs that were working were shut down. Consequences for action were taken away, sending a clear message to young crims: do whatever you want as there are no consequences under this government.

Since then there has been a 115 per cent increase in unlawful use of a car, a 54 per cent increase in unlawful entry, a 50 per cent increase in other theft and a 220 per cent increase in assault. Even taking away property crime victims—because this government does not count them as victims—there has been a 213 per cent increase in victims since 2015. To put that into reality, in 2014 there were 25,734 victims of an offence against a person; in 2023 there were 81,166 victims. I have sat down with victim after victim who has felt abandoned. The Queensland youth crisis was started by this government. The Premier might try to say that he is new, but he sat around the table for every single decision that led us to where we are today. Things must change. Queenslanders want them to change.

If elected in October, we will introduce the Making Queensland Safer laws. We will remove detention as a last resort for young offenders. We will open the Childrens Court to victims, their families and the media. We will put the rights of victims ahead of the rights of offenders in sentencing provisions. We will send a clear message that actions have consequences, because they do. I never thought we would get to the point where instead of running from the police young offenders would run directly at them, endangering lives with no thought of the impact. The men and women of the Queensland Police Service deserve our respect and gratitude for what they do. It is a hard, tough job, and they should be proud to do the job. A recruitment pipeline is great, but if police are walking out the door faster than they can be replaced then their hands are tied. It is little wonder that the government's 2020 election commitment is in tatters. There are over 1,500 fewer police today than Labor promised at the 2020 election there would be now. We will give police the laws and resources they need to stop the thin blue line getting thinner.

I turn to health and the problems gripping our state's public health system. It is now a well-established fact that Queensland Health is in crisis. That is no reflection on the dedicated staff working in and supporting the system—I shudder to think what it would be like without their grit holding the system together—and it is no reflection on the ill and injured patients; it is a reflection on the government, which has been responsible for planning, resourcing and running it for the last decade. I want to talk about how we arrived at this point and make this observation: four years ago the words 'ambulance ramping' barely registered in the lexicon of the Queensland public. There was a time when those on the government benches tried to shut down and even deny the term or refer to it as something that was just an LNP word. That is not the case. Paramedics tell us that some patients will actively ask them whether or not they will be ramped at the hospital they are being taken to. It has gone beyond a simple awareness of the issue to a fundamental understanding. Queenslanders understand what it means to them or their loved ones to be ramped.

Tragically, as we all in this chamber know, the consequences can be fatal. For those families and individuals who have spoken up and out, desperate for change in a system groaning under pressure, I want you to know: you have been heard. For those staff—paramedics, doctors, nurses and allied health professionals—in those hospitals who are crying out, wanting the system to do better for their patients, I want you to know: we have listened. Health care is about people and it is about patient care. Dollars fund bricks and mortar—that is important—but health care is about people and patient care.

When the budget rolls around we hear that it is a record health budget and there is record investment with record funding, but what has that record health funding actually delivered for Queensland and the staff working in those hospitals? It has delivered record ambulance ramping of 45.5 per cent. That is the worst ever recorded. It has delivered an elective surgery waiting list which for the first time has passed 60,000 patients. It has delivered a waiting list to see a specialist now nudging 300,000 Queenslanders—unprecedented. The government does not think that matters to Queenslanders. Spending money is not an outcome. Record funding is not an outcome. Record ramping and record waiting lists are outcomes—just not the right ones.

Unbelievably, the record health spend this year has also seen Labor's Health and Hospitals Plan blow out by over a billion dollars. Last year's Capital Statement showed that the redevelopment of 15 hospitals would cost \$9.785 billion and deliver an additional 2,200 beds. This year the same program will cost taxpayers \$11.215 billion—nearly \$1.5 billion, or 15 per cent, more in one year. The problem is that, according to the budget papers, the blowout will not fund a single extra bed. I shudder at the thought of how many frontline health staff or elective surgeries could have been funded with that money.

I note that this week the government has released its Health Workforce Strategy for Queensland to 2032. I make this point: it was in my budget reply last year that I gave the commitment that an LNP government would deliver a contemporary Queensland Health workforce plan. It is why we made that commitment. While it hardly came as a surprise, my colleagues and I were humbled that we heard those opposite had embarked on one. It is but one more an example of an LNP policy commitment undertaken by the government. I am happy to give credit where it is due. To see investments, albeit slight, in programs to grow nurse practitioner pipelines or prevent occupational violence in hospitals is welcome. What we now need is transformative strategy. There is nothing that truly charts a course to develop the clinicians we need in 10, 15 or 20 years.

The LNP knows that workforce is the No. 1 issue impacting the sustainability of our state's public healthcare system into the future. I will have more to say on this in the weeks and months to come, but growing a health workforce in Queensland is a priority for us. It is no secret that a key focus of mine has been the health portfolio. The reason is simple: our health system touches the lives of so many across the state. Queenslanders rely on it. That includes mental health. As we have for the last two budgets, we will back the levy. We ask the government to deliver the transparency about where it is being spent. Its management is something that must be done well and right. It is about accountability, ownership, transparency and compassion. I want Queenslanders to know that it is how an LNP government will run our health system. Within 100 days of the election, Queenslanders will see in real time what is happening in their hospitals. Delivering the best possible patient care will be our relentless focus, because that is the single most important outcome we can strive for.

Housing is a priority for me because it is a priority for Queenslanders. Last year I revealed that Queensland had the lowest home ownership rates in the country. New rental properties have also flatlined, while predicted population growth has come to fruition. I already have spoken of our commitment to taking Queensland to the top of the home ownership table and lowering the pressure on rents. We are all acutely aware of the depths of the Queensland health crisis. Under Labor, the Queensland housing crisis has seen: a sharp decline in the number of new housing lots approved; development application processes that take longer than any other state; a lack of investment in infrastructure to unlock housing; a significant increase in construction costs; a lack of investment in social housing; and a reluctance to partner with the community housing sector.

Today I announce our plan to address the Queensland housing crisis, not just in the here and now but for the next 20 years. Today we are releasing the LNP's Securing our Housing Foundations plan. It is bold, it is big picture but, most importantly, it is a detailed plan that clearly outlines how we will achieve our targets and get more Queenslanders into more homes.

The LNP Securing our Housing Foundations plan consists of six policy areas: A Big Boost into Homeownership, Boost to Buy, Unlock the Homes for Queensland's Future, Open the Door, Homes with Purpose, and Breaking Down the Barriers to Building. Our plan is unashamedly designed to increase housing supply and get more Queenslanders into more homes. Whether you are renting or buying a home, the economics are simple: an increase in housing supply will put downward pressure on prices. A government I lead will do that with the LNP's Securing our Housing Foundations plan.

Our first goal of this plan is clear: I commit to one million extra homes by 2044. Our plan uses a number of levers to achieve this goal. Too often we see a lack of ministerial leadership leading to different departments working at cross-purposes. We will end this. The LNP will establish a Cabinet Housing Taskforce to ensure any policy that impacts supply is strategically aligned with one goal, and that is increasing supply and putting Queenslanders into homes.

When it comes to putting Queenslanders into homes, the LNP will put our money where our mouth is. If elected, we will create a new \$2 billion infrastructure fund. That is money over four years to accelerate the delivery of infrastructure that is preventing new housing lots from getting to the market. The new fund will be administered through partnerships with local government, industry and local communities with flexibility to cater for the individual needs of each. This fund will include grants, co-contributions, loans and offsetting of charges. Every part of our state will be eligible. Priority will be given to local governments and developments which are able to deliver the greatest number of lots in the quickest possible time. We will reward those who step forward first, ready to go to get the houses out of the ground.

There is also a need to further reform and bolster Economic Development Queensland. We will embed in legislation a schedule of priorities that focus the EDQ on what we see as their top priority, and that is housing Queenslanders. EDQ will be an exemplar with approval timeframes and results that are the envy of the country. When faced with competing interests, the interests of Queenslanders looking for a home will win out under an LNP government. These reforms will continue right across government.

The blame games must end. We must give industry and councils confidence by setting timeframes and sticking with them. Whether they are for simple approvals or complicated infrastructure agreements, industry must be able to rely on the timeframes set—and they will. These reforms must include our partners in local government—and I do mean partners. The war with councils will end. Comments like those of the Treasurer setting up councils to take the blame for the cost pressures they are facing will end. Reforms must be delivered in concert with local government, not dictated to them.

Finally, we must streamline the approvals process for planning scheme amendments while preserving a rigorous community consultation process. The process is long and arduous for local government and industry and is a deadweight on housing growth. The LNP will reset the planning partnerships with local government.

This brings me to the regional plans—an important planning tool that for too long have been treated as an afterthought. Today I commit to ensuring that our regional plans are current, fit for purpose and provide for infrastructure that keeps up with population growth and maintains regional identity and protects lifestyle. The failure around regional plan delivery has seen areas impacted by high population growth miss out on the infrastructure needed to make life bearable. These areas will be prioritised in the development of future regional plans, which will then have a regular update cycle.

The LNP will also publish alongside each regional plan a regional infrastructure plan that will set a framework for the government's future infrastructure investments. This will include all social infrastructure such as schools and hospitals. The publishing of a regional infrastructure plan will not only aid in the government's forward planning but also provide comfort to existing residents. An LNP government will not allow population growth without additional infrastructure investments by government.

Another drag on supply that falls at the feet of government is a lack of timely provision of utility services in new developments. I have been made aware of reports of temporary generators being installed to allow families to move in or, even worse, homes lying dormant while waiting for a utility connection. While currently EDQ can direct utility providers to accept, provide and maintain services within PDAs, most development occurs outside of these. The LNP in government would combine shareholder directions to government owned utility providers and legislation to institute the enforceable KPIs needed to address these issues.

No matter whom you speak to, a universally accepted fact is the cost to construct housing is skyrocketing and is a major factor in the Queensland housing crisis. I have always supported a well-paying and safe construction industry. As a result, contracts must be honoured and productivity must improve. Anyone who disagrees with this is not serious about getting Queenslanders into homes.

I have previously announced an LNP government would re-establish the Productivity Commission. Today I can reveal its first order of business will be to conduct a regulatory review of the building industry. The review will seek to identify ways to strengthen the building industry, making it easier to build a house in Queensland. We will call for public submissions in relation to the terms of reference and ensure we hear from consumers, industry and unions.

When it comes to housing the vulnerable, it is all hands on deck. I believe the social housing target should be a shared goal. Today I commit the LNP to the delivery of 53,500 social homes by 2044 and will outline a credible plan to get there.

The LNP will work with faith-based and charity organisations and amend planning regulations to allow them to build social and community housing on their surplus land. Currently this is not easily permitted. An initial review by the Catholic Archdiocese of Brisbane and the Salvation Army has identified surplus sites that could accommodate 2,000 new dwellings. Including other organisations, it has been estimated that up to 10,000 homes could be created. I am hopeful this will inspire other organisations to come forward with more sites.

Organisations that have helping others in their DNA will help house vulnerable Queenslanders. They will have to enter into a planning and development process, as all developments do, to ensure housing solutions meet community expectations. We envisage a partnership between these organisations and the community housing sector. I did, however, say all hands on deck. The LNP will use the Housing Investment Fund to address the critical lack of supply. That is why I commit an LNP government will ensure every single dollar from the Housing Investment Fund will deliver new housing supply.

The community housing sector in Queensland has been forgotten. These wonderful, dedicated, not-for-profit organisations are ready made to help house the vulnerable. The LNP will give this sector more responsibility to do what they do best, and that is looking after vulnerable Queenslanders. That means a commitment to giving community housing providers long-term management leases. This will allow these not-for-profit groups to leverage the stock they care for to build and grow their own supply. As new social housing stock is built, an LNP government will engage increasingly with community housing providers to help us manage it.

For nearly a decade, the community housing sector has been calling for a master agreement with the government. We will deliver one. A priority for the LNP government will be to sign a master agreement with the sector to deliver certainty and stability for this segment of the housing market to grow. We will unleash and empower the community housing sector, an untapped powerhouse, to deliver homes for Queenslanders.

The cracks in our housing system are getting wider and, consequently, more people are falling through them. In these times the heroes that support our homeless require certainty. All funding committed to in the budget for the next four financial years for housing support and homeless services will be guaranteed under an LNP government. That means the LNP will commit to delivering, among other things: eight new supported accommodation services for young Queenslanders; bolstering after-hours outreach homeless services for those sleeping rough; and 10 new and replaced domestic and family violence shelters for vulnerable women and children. In addition, the government has committed to an uplift in specialist homelessness funding until the end of 2024-25. We will extend contracts with these key organisations until 2027-28. I want to assure the people involved in providing homeless services that we understand the importance of long-term agreements and the confidence needed to attract and retain staff. We will work hand in hand with you.

This government's failure on housing supply has created a rental crisis. With the population growing and new housing stock slumping, vacancy rates are now at record lows. This has driven rents through the roof, which means more Queenslanders cannot get a roof over their head. The LNP's Securing our Housing Foundations plan has a relentless focus on increasing supply, because more homes for more Queenslanders will ease vacancy rate pressures and help make rent more affordable for Queenslanders. An LNP government will have a 10-year target to put Queensland at the top of the nation when it comes to home ownership. Queensland has the lowest rate of home ownership of any state at 63.5 per cent, and just 35 per cent of Queenslanders aged 25 to 29 own their own home. The measures I have already announced will go a long way to addressing housing affordability for all people looking to buy or rent a home. I now want to outline some more detail about the program the LNP would roll out to assist first home buyers specifically, giving first home buyers hope.

As this House knows, the LNP has long foreshadowed an increase in the stamp duty threshold for first home buyers. The government has maintained a \$500,000 threshold for nine years as the younger generation's dream of home ownership disappeared further over the horizon. In the shadows of an election I welcome their about-face. I can confirm that the LNP will raise the threshold for existing homes to \$700,000, gradually phasing out up to \$800,000, which will save a first home buyer around \$17,350. We anticipate that an extra 10,000 homebuyers a year will benefit from the new threshold. This change lifts the threshold beyond the median unit price in every local government area and beyond the median house price for every local government area except Brisbane, the Sunshine Coast, Gold Coast and Redlands.

We have made a conscious decision to tackle supply with our housing policy, and that is what we must do with stamp duty policy too. Today I announce that an LNP government will completely abolish stamp duty for first home buyers on new homes. If you want to build your first home, then you will not pay a single cent in stamp duty under an LNP government. We are abolishing a tax. When did you last hear that in this place? We are not just reducing tax for first home buyers chasing the great Australian dream; we are removing it forever. We want to get more Queenslanders into more homes, and it is a plan to increase supply. We are taking action. We anticipate this will come at an investment

by government of around \$400 million across the forwards. This is the clearest reflection of our commitment to bring Queensland's home ownership rate to the top of the table—the best in the nation. We will make the great Australian dream more of a reality for more Queenslanders. That includes Queenslanders living in Indigenous communities. We want Indigenous Queenslanders to be able to own their own home in these Indigenous communities, and I reaffirm my commitment to make that happen.

A government I lead will look at all ideas to give first home buyers a leg-up. Unnecessary regulation and red tape cannot be allowed to cruel the ambition of our next generation of home owners. Right now there are restrictions on the recipients of stamp duty concessions and the first home owner's grant that mean you cannot rent out a room or a granny flat within the first 12 months of buying a home. These are rooms that could be used to house Queenslanders who rent, rooms that could help assist a Queenslanders paying a mortgage. It is untapped supply. Today I announce that we will open up these rooms. Under a government I lead, first home owners who continue to live in their home will no longer have any restrictions when it comes to earning a little income from renting out a room to help them make ends meet, to meet those mortgage repayments. We are bringing down barriers to home ownership and opening up more rental options. That is good news for everyone. I am confident that an agreement with a friend to rent a room might also mean the difference between actually getting the loan in the first place or not.

The sad facts of the current housing crisis are that people are losing hope they will ever be able to bridge the rent/ownership divide. On this side, we are willing to try all options. That is why today I announce an LNP government will institute a shared equity scheme for up to 1,000 property buyers—a Queensland scheme exclusively for Queenslanders. An LNP government will take a 25 per cent equity stake for existing properties and 30 per cent for new builds. The scheme will be restricted to properties valued up to \$750,000 with a two per cent deposit required. I am constantly told stories about people who need the support of their parents to save for a deposit. Not everyone has this option. I want young people who do not to still be able to aspire to own their own home. We want to give as many people as possible a shot at home ownership, and we are stepping in and taking action to make sure Queenslanders can. It is modelled that the trial will cost around \$165 million.

It is always important to be respectful of the resources that Queenslanders entrust to government to administer. This is even more important when Queenslanders are doing it tough. A government I lead will be respectful in dealing with Queenslanders, responsive in dealing with business, and resourceful with our finances. A priority for Queenslanders is for the state government to rein in cost blowouts on infrastructure projects. Queenslanders know that every dollar overspend takes a dollar out of the community. This is why a government must make every dollar count. There are a number of steps that a government I lead will take to make this a reality.

First, I will implement my plan to create the best homegrown public service in the nation by: establishing an independent public sector commission; setting clear goals and KPIs so ministers and directors-general can be held accountable; reviewing internal complaints procedures to restore integrity, independence and fairness to the process; enhancing graduate opportunities and programs; requiring all contracts and consultancies to include a substantial training and professional development component to strengthen public service capability; provide training and professional development to better suit public servants' individual needs; embrace new approaches to deliver better infrastructure and services; and committing to no forced redundancies.

I want to reiterate that when it comes to reductions in the Public Service two things stand out: Queenslanders have said unequivocally that they do not want them; and, equally importantly, they just do not work. A public service that is secure in its employment, empowered in its decision-making and free to give fearless and frank advice will help a government drive more efficient projects and help rein in the billions of dollars of waste that is rife under this government. Why is this important? When we build the capacity of the public service, when we empower the public service, when we take responsibility for managing projects out of the hands of expensive consultants, we will then start to rein in the billions of dollars of cost blowouts being inflicted on Queensland projects every year.

The LNP will also reinstate the Productivity Commission. Along with a regulatory review of the building industry, the commission will assist the government to reduce red tape and provide business with a more friendly business operating environment. The LNP is the party of small and family business. Supporting them is at the core of who we are because, along with nearly one million employees, they are the backbone of economies and communities. When I travel the state, small and family business

tell me they feel like they are always an afterthought of the Labor government. The pain I see in their eyes when they tell me about their increasing costs is stark. It is bad. The last few weeks have been rock bottom, and businesses need hope. The Labor Party has abandoned this space, and last-minute announcements will not change that. A Brisbane tradie recently remarked, 'It seems like the state government's Small Business Strategy is to give us the scraps that fall off the table of the big boys.'

A government I lead will put small and family business first when delivering government products and services while ensuring value for money for taxpayers. I announce today that an LNP state government will prioritise putting Queensland small and family businesses first so they can genuinely compete for government tenders and procurement opportunities. The feedback from small business is that they need smaller tender sizes so they can tender for them directly rather than operating as a subcontractor for big business. They need simplified tender processes and improved resources to make it easier and less costly to compete for government contracts.

We will implement a Buy Local Small and Family Business Procurement Policy to ensure that local small and family businesses are prioritised for local tenders. Labor's Buy Queensland policy too often results in regional businesses missing out to larger Brisbane-based companies. We will make fixing that a priority. An LNP government will implement a Small and Family Business Innovation Pathway to directly engage a Queensland small and family business on short-term contracts of up to \$1 million for the purpose of proof-of-concept based trials. The program is to be used to assess or demonstrate the feasibility to solve a specific problem or improve service delivery of state government services.

Alongside our small and family business procurement initiatives, an LNP government will ensure Queensland's small and family businesses that do business with the state government will be paid on time every time. Small and family businesses that do business with the Queensland government will register to be eligible for the payment terms to ensure fast and easy payments within five business days. We will also implement a payment system whereby small business payments under \$10,000 can be paid immediately. Right now the state government frequently fails to pay small business within the terms of its own inadequate 20-day payment terms. State governments should be leading the way, not a laggard. The LNP is the party of small and family business and today we are proving we are serious about backing the backbone of small regional communities.

Queensland is in the middle of a skilled worker shortage of the government's making. For the last nine years the apprenticeship completion targets have not been met, meaning there are 17,600 fewer qualified tradies and skilled workers across Queensland. We are serious about tackling the skilled worker shortage and we need both TAFE and the independent training providers to deliver the skilled workforce that Queensland needs. We commit to a well-resourced TAFE sector and stable contracts with training providers to ensure more people finish what they start. The education budget includes some new and much needed initiatives to support vulnerable students in the early years.

We have not heard from the education minister how the government will fix the broken student behavioural management framework and restore standards. We have not heard how the government will support teachers and take a zero-tolerance approach to violence in our schools. We know the teacher workforce shortage is having an impact on teachers' wellbeing and on students' literacy and numeracy outcomes. At the last election, Labor promised to deliver 6,190 new teachers and 1,139 new teacher aides over four years. The latest public workforce profile shows this commitment is in tatters. There are asbestos materials in hundreds of schools, buildings and facilities in desperate need of refurbishment works. This year's budget includes \$1.274 billion in capital works, but we know that the government has not been keeping up because of an underspend in the capital investment program in the last year.

When it comes to this government's failure to take responsibility and produce outcomes, you need look no further than the child safety department. Under this government, the number of children in residential care has almost tripled and, worse still, the government continues to neglect this growing population of children, exporting the care to third parties to which it shows neither respect nor a desire to partner with. There are over 11,000 lives in the care of this government, yet it has cycled through minister after minister and does not seem to see the potential for the future for these young people. The LNP wants to provide hope and opportunities for these young children. We will provide the stability, support and security needed to allow them to thrive. This will give them the best chance in life and protect our communities.

If the LNP forms government in October we will take practical measures to break down the barriers of women entering the workforce. We will offer \$5,000 grants to women who have become disconnected from the workforce, whether that is because of taking time out to care for their kids, caring for family members or battling illness. These grants will allow women to buy the necessary devices, to get some new work wear, to put money towards a car or other transport options or even to pay for some of the initial child care. The LNP is about actions, not announcements, and this measure can knock down one more barrier to women's participation in the workforce. To have the strongest state possible we need both men and women in every sector, and we will be a government that does everything in our power to support that.

In 2015 the then environment minister and now Premier committed to protect 17 per cent of Queensland. A decade later, what progress has the government made? Labor's record is not even protecting one per cent more. That is barely a rounding error. This third-term government's failures are scattered throughout Labor's time in office and their environmental strategy was clear—set the target, make the announcement, job done. Our environment must matter more than just being an announcement. We must be driven by outcomes to make sure everything we love about Queensland—what makes our state special—is protected for generations to come. The LNP will be driven by results. We will improve our recycling rates. We will partner with landholders to voluntarily protect more of Queensland and ensure it is properly managed. We will make sure the state government is no longer the worst neighbour you can have by having better bushfire and biosecurity management. We will deliver sustainable ecotourism opportunities by creating more world-class experiences to drive conservation through education.

Our prosperity relies on ensuring the products and resources we generate in Queensland can get to market. I am concerned about the government's lack of interest in ensuring we have high-capacity links to our ports. Planning for the connection to the Port of Brisbane is on a perennial go-slow. Projects to improve access to the ports of Gladstone and Mackay have also had reductions in the 2024-25 spend.

Queensland is a state built on the back of agriculture. Primary producers across this state tell me how they are struggling with sky-high input costs like water and electricity. They are also struggling to find on-farm labour and, in many cases, crops are not being harvested because of this. We have a vision for Queensland to be at the cutting edge when it comes to on-farm productivity. We want Queensland to be seen as a state of envy once again when it comes to agriculture. Lower input costs to see better yields for our growers; trusted advice from a government that growers see as a partner, not an inhibitor; and new opportunities through agtech or new training opportunities will be the hallmark of what we do.

Water is essential not only for agriculture but also for other industry and manufacturing—huge pillars of the economy. This budget is a missed opportunity when it comes to new water security. For farmers, the lack of certainty on future water allocations means an unwillingness to invest in more crops, which reduces supply and increases grocery prices for Queenslanders. The other challenge is with urban water supply. Population growth has been in line with government forecasts since 2015, but no new dams have been built and there is absolutely no planning from this decade-old Labor government to build one. Where will future Queenslanders get their drinking water from?

The Olympics and Paralympics were initially pursued as a chance to provide Queensland with lasting transport infrastructure legacy and a chance to market Queensland to the world. A lot of time has been wasted, but I believe we can deliver a games Queenslanders can be proud of. While over a thousand days have been squandered, I am asking Queenslanders for 100 days to sort out the mess. We must salvage our reputation on the world stage.

If elected in October, the LNP will immediately appoint a truly independent Olympic coordination authority to conduct an exhaustive review of the Olympics and the Paralympics. The authority will be required to deliver options within 100 days on the following: prioritise roads and rail infrastructure necessary for the games; use existing venues and achieve this with the funding envelope that is no greater than what is currently on the table; and present legacy options for regional Queensland. We must ensure there are legacies for grassroots sports, especially in the regions. I want to ensure the Olympic and Paralympic Games grow sport right across our state.

While we all have statewide interests and other roles in this place, our first duty in this chamber is as a local voice for the communities that we represent. I would not be doing my job as the member for Broadwater if I did not point out that another year has gone by without a mention of the duplication

of the Jabiru Island bridge. Residents understand that a project like this will not be built overnight, but, with the huge population increase at Hope Island, to have it absent from QTRIP's long-term forecast remains a huge disappointment, as is the lack of certainty for a plan to replace demountables at Biggera Waters and build additional classrooms at Coombabah state schools to give our kids the best facilities for their learning environments.


I was pleased to see the investment in boat ramp replacement at Santa Barbara. The Broadwater is the environmental and recreational haven of my community and, with increasing use, this is very much needed. I note, too, the funding for a community battery at Hollywell and will be writing to the minister for a briefing on the timing and implications for our local community from this project.

Today we have focused on the big four crises facing Queenslanders: the Queensland housing crisis, the Queensland cost-of-living crisis, the Queensland health crisis and the Queensland youth crime crisis. We have focused on these four crises because they are the priorities Queenslanders want us to deal with. As much as Labor does not want Queenslanders to judge it on its record, there is no other way to judge someone after 10 years. It has been in power for almost a decade and its past actions have led to the position we are in today. For all of this time it has blamed all of its issues on everyone else. It has continually blamed previous governments for its failings but now does not want Queenslanders to judge it on its own failings. It makes no sense. It is embarrassing to watch.

Today I outlined the LNP's Securing our Housing Foundations plan which will address the housing crisis. In the lead-up to the election the LNP will continue to roll out plans to address the crises impacting Queenslanders. This October Queenslanders will have a clear choice. It is a choice between a fresh, united LNP with detailed plans to address the major issues facing Queensland, or a tired, decade-old government looking for a fourth term. It is a choice between an LNP who have spent the past four years methodically holding the government to account and developing plans for Queensland, or a government which is ashamed of its past. It is a choice between the LNP with the right plan for Queensland's future, or a decaying Labor Party which thinks doing what matters means running a mile from its record.

In October there is only one question for Queenslanders to answer. It is the question that matters. After 10 years of this government, are things better or worse when it comes to health, housing, youth crime and cost of living and who has got the right plan for Queensland's future?

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, before calling the next speaker on the bill, I wish to remind members who are on warnings that these will extend through until 1 pm. These are the members for Capalaba, Everton, Nanango, Mermaid Beach, Toowoomba South, Bonney, Toowoomba North and Moggill.

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Infrastructure, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (12.11 pm): I am proud to be part of the first Miles Labor government budget. If you want to ask the question of who has the right plan for Queensland's future, a Miles Labor government will always be the answer. We are delivering a record-breaking budget, putting money back in the pockets of families and doing what matters for Queensland jobs.

My dear Italian mother had a saying: *ca bocca facciamo tutto*. This means 'with words we do everything', and that is exactly what we heard from those opposite. They think words are going to deliver change. They think slogans are going to address the issues facing not only Queensland, may I say, but also every state and territory in this country. Can I say that words alone, slogans alone, *ca bocca facciamo nienti*: with words we do nothing. You need plans. You need exactly what our government has outlined in this budget. Our nation-leading, cost-of-living measures package is worth over \$11 billion.

This is gripping every state and territory in the nation. To be blaming the Queensland government alone for all of the issues that we face at the moment is misleading at its best. Post COVID we had three very atypical years. The world and Australia are coming out of a worldwide pandemic and post-COVID issues. There are challenges and we are well aware of those challenges. To suggest that those challenges have been around in the last 10 years or since 2015 is misleading at its best.

We are providing what Australia and Queensland need. The federal government has been in for just on two years. Prior to that, we had 10 years of a Liberal coalition government which sat on their hands in relation to many of the issues that we are facing in Australia and Queensland today. Those opposite come in here as if that never occurred.

What we have in this budget is addressing those issues. There has been an inflation crisis in this country. Our interest rates started to increase when the previous government were still in government. We had 13 rate rises in a row. In effect, interest rates were held too low for too long, and now unfortunately Australia and Queenslanders are being affected by those rate increases. Any suggestion that that is not the case is misleading this House.

We know that cost of living is an issue. That is why we are addressing this by providing \$1,000 in electricity rebates, plus \$300 from the federal government, making a total of \$1,672 for vulnerable households. We can do this because we own our assets; we did not sell them. We are also providing: 20 per cent off rego; 50-cent fares for public transport and half-price Airtrain tickets; \$200 FairPlay vouchers for every kid; and first-time buyers who buy a house under \$700,000 will not pay a cent in stamp duty. We have also frozen all fees and charges. We know families are struggling, and that is why we have this front and centre.

It is interesting what the opposition are doing in here in regards to housing. The LNP has announced a policy which is already underway under a Miles Labor government. We only passed Help to Buy legislation yesterday, and we are the first Australian state to do that. Shared equity is a good idea. Those opposite have to have a lot of front, as I said yesterday, to come in here on a policy of shared equity when 2,000 Queenslanders could have a shared equity to buy their first home and they are blocking it federally. The coalition government has to have a lot of front to do that.

Mr Power: It's unreal.

Ms GRACE: It is unreal. I take the interjection from the member for Logan. It is unreal to come in here and say, 'We've got a great idea. The Albanese Labor government has this in the Senate at the moment and we are blocking it with the Greens, but we're going to introduce this in Queensland.' You honestly cannot write this. If I was dreaming last night and I heard that or read about it—I might add that the full speech was leaked; I was reading it at the same time as the Leader of the Opposition—I would have thought, 'It can't be. I'm dreaming. I'm asleep. It's a nightmare.' They are blocking this policy in the federal Senate after the Albanese Labor government passed it, and that is their key housing policy. They can do better than that. They can pick up the phone to Peter Beattie, who ain't going to support it, I might add—

Opposition members interjected.

Ms GRACE: Sorry, to Peter Dutton. I apologise to Peter Beattie. Fancy putting him in the same sentence as Peter Dutton. I really do apologise. They should ring up Peter Dutton and tell him, 'Hey, have we got a great idea. The Albanese Labor government is the idea for us.' As I said, you cannot dream this up. I am actually lost for words, and people who know me know that is really hard to happen. There is nothing new in this reply speech. They are words, they are slogans and I question the ability of them to come to fruition.

On this side of the House we know the best way to address cost of living is to have good, secure, well-paid jobs. We have our Big Build which will provide 72,000 jobs just in 2024-25, with 50,000 of those in regional and remote Queensland. We are building new and upgraded hospitals.

Tell me one state, tell me one Premier, or tell me one territory leader who does not say there are issues with health. Tell me one of them who does not say there are issues with health and getting in to see a GP. In two years, the Albanese government has started to address 10 years of neglect by the previous coalition government; there is no doubt about that.

We are building new and upgraded hospitals, healthcare facilities, transport infrastructure and houses, and schools have never had more infrastructure built in them—we have built 29 new schools and air-conditioned every single school in Queensland. They have never had an infrastructure investment like it in the history of Queensland. It is unbelievable what we have been able to deliver, yet all we hear from those opposite is whingeing and whining all the way. They know what their electorates have received because I give them that information every time. They have been transformed. I see the member for Hill nodding. He knows exactly what we have delivered in all of these electorates around Queensland. To suggest otherwise is a gross misleading of this House.

We have a fantastic renewable energy plan, our Energy and Jobs Plan, and today they have trashed it. They have cut already the pumped hydro. I do not know what they are going to replace it with. We need clean energy to go forward. We have a fantastic scheme going forward. They have no business case, no funding, no anything. They do not even have Peter Dutton's support because we know where he is going; he is going nuclear energy. The opposition leader needs to stand up in here

and tell us where he will get the money for this. Their own federal coalition want to put nuclear energy in older power plants—that is what they want to do. Tell us where they are going to be built. More importantly, in whose backyard are they going to build them and what are they going to do with the waste? That is the alternative with the coalition government. Let me tell Queensland: in this, Peter Dutton holds the purse strings and those opposite will bow to those purse strings. Have no doubt about it: nuclear energy is coming.

With regard to the state development portfolio, almost \$860 million is allocated to help develop the economy by attracting and facilitating investment. When it comes to the jobs of the future, we are leading the way by providing strategic support and funding to industries like batteries, hydrogen, sustainable aviation fuel and other renewable energy projects, putting Queensland on the map nationally and internationally.

When I talk to this industry, they cannot believe what is happening here in Queensland. Fortescue could have decided to go anywhere in the world to build the hydrogen manufacturing plants, but do you know where they came? They came to Gladstone in Queensland. They could have gone anywhere in the world. That is because of the support they receive directly from, and the manner in which they engage with, this Miles Labor government.


For the Olympics, we will deliver a fantastic games. It was fantastic last night to see two Queensland great swimmers in Ariarne Titmus and Mollie Grace O'Callaghan, who broke the world record in the 200-metre freestyle. These are the exciting events we will see right here in Brisbane. We will build the infrastructure to see venues delivered by the new Games Venue and Legacy Delivery Authority under the promises the Premier made. We have allocated \$1.7 billion as part of the Big Build. We do not need to have a Victoria Park 100-day review because this government will not build a new stadium in Victoria Park. It will destroy that park. It will not happen. We will use existing facilities and offer services through the Brisbane Arena, the brand new facility in Roma Street. We will deliver the best Olympic Games in living memory.

In relation to EDQ, new laws have been passed which will assist to build new homes and boost our social housing big build. They will deliver 1,300 additional homes, increasing the forecast to 3,700, and approve a further 15,000 homes in PDAs, doubling what is forecast to 29,000. In this budget there is almost \$410 million for EDQ to carry on their work.

With respect to industrial relations, the hairs on the back of my neck nearly stood up when I heard in the opposition leader's speech that those opposite will have no forced redundancies. That is exactly what they said last time. In fact, they came into this House and said, 'No public servant was made redundant. They all left of their own accord.' They made it absolutely impossible for them to remain in their jobs. That is what they said last time—no forced redundancies—but let me tell you: they will find a way to not use that term. I say to public servants that that will never happen under the Labor government. It will never happen under a Miles Labor government because we will never make it impossible for you to stay in your job; in fact, we will support you. I am very proud of the \$97 million that we will inject into the department of industrial relations to boost 140 new staff to make sure we have healthy and safe workplaces.

In McConnel, I know that my constituents will greatly appreciate the 50-cent public transport fares and the \$1,300 electricity bill rebates. The war widow pensioners who live in my electorate are really going to benefit from the \$1,672 rebate. I do not think one of them will pay an electricity bill for many months to come. Constituents in my electorate are also very grateful for what we have injected into the community with the first new high school built in the inner city for 50 years. There is \$880,000 for maintenance and minor works. I was very proud yesterday to ring Brisbane Central State School, which got an incredible injection of new buildings, to say that there are funds for a \$250,000 playground as well. Let's not forget Cross River Rail and all of the Big Build we are doing—Queens Park, Cross River Rail, and all of those projects that will make life living in the inner city so much better.

When it comes to who will deliver the right budget for Queensland, the answer is a Miles Labor government. Our budget outlines a plan which is fully costed and delivers on the things that matter for Queenslanders, and we will do that every single day.

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (12.26 pm): The fundamental test of this budget was whether it would be an election budget for the next four months or a budget for Queensland's future for the next four years and beyond. It is an obvious question, and this decade-old government has answered it clearly: it is all about the election. Phrases from respected commentators from across the nation have summed it up: 'Ekka stuffing vote-grabbing show bags', 'gaudy maroon sign, spruiking

massive discounts' and simply 'clown show'. Queenslanders need cost-of-living support because of the Miles government's failure to plan for the long term—to address the housing, crime, health, power and infrastructure challenges that have pushed up cost-of-living pressures in Queensland for the last decade.

Never has a Queensland government taxed more, borrowed more or spent more, but everywhere we look—every service delivery arm and every household—there is less, sometimes nothing, to show for it. This decade-old government has taxed more than any government in Queensland history—a Treasurer personally responsible for new taxes when he promised 26 times there would be none. He has damaged our national and international standing as an investment safe harbour. He has shown contempt for an industry that underpins our economy and our trading partners who have stood with us for decades. He has casually delivered unpredictable and inconsistent decisions impacting the property industry and worsening our housing crisis, in particular pushing up the cost of rent.

This decade-old government has borrowed more than any government in Queensland history. The debt bomb has not just landed in this budget; it has been a decade in the making. The Miles government inherited the treasury benches with \$72 billion debt and now, a decade later, it is \$172 billion. Ten budgets and \$100 billion more—and most of that debt is not even COVID related.

At the same time, they were blessed with revenue rivers of gold. It is scarcely believable that this Treasurer has collected nearly \$70 billion more revenue than he forecast in his first budget less than four years ago. Where has it all gone? There is record debt, record taxes and record spending, but all we have is record numbers of Queensland patients on the ramp, record numbers of Queenslanders sleeping in their tents or in cars, and record numbers of victims of crime living with the psychological and physical scars of our crime crisis.

To add insult to injury, Queensland's interest bill by the end of the forwards will be \$7.73 billion per annum. That is the bill that has to be paid before the year even begins—before anything can even be funded. That is \$21 million per day in interest alone. The interest bill by the end of the forwards is equivalent to funding six new hospitals today. It is equivalent to fully funding the Queensland Police Service today, twice over, every year and it is equivalent to funding the Department of Housing, Local Government, Planning and Public Works three times over, right now, this year.

This decade-old government has spent more than any other government in Queensland history. Sir Leo Hielscher, the most respected public servant Queensland has ever produced—the man whose hands figuratively built Queensland—has often said to me that the task of any treasurer is to control the spending of his or her colleagues around the cabinet table. We will return that control if we are given the gift of government at the end of the year. Infrastructure projects will be delivered on time and on budget. If there are cost overruns, there will be transparency as to why and how much. If there are delays, there will be transparency as to why and when they will be completed. The Cabinet Budget Review Committee will mean something. Look at the Wellcamp quarantine facility—\$223 million down the gurgler for a political tantrum; \$126,000 on a minister travelling to art galleries; and tens of thousands of dollars spent by the Premier and minister to fly two separate aeroplanes to the same location 15 minutes apart. That has all been signed off by the Treasurer—every last dollar.

Spending must deliver tangible outcomes and that is why we are setting targets across portfolios to improve service delivery and to ensure ministers can be held to account. State investment in the private sector must produce an economic dividend that is in the best interests of all Queenslanders. Even PsiQuantum must meet that test. We have promised scrutiny of the budget, and we have delivered. We have committed to savings from consultants and contractors. As the Leader of the Opposition has just announced, we will not be proceeding with the Pioneer-Burdekin Pumped Hydro project.

For nearly four years, I have travelled the state listening to Queenslanders. From these thousands of conversations, I have announced a reshaping of Queensland's economic architecture. As the leader has discussed, the restoration of a Queensland Productivity Commission is a key plank of our economic platform. Governments play a fundamental role in the productivity challenge as they tax, regulate and spend. Earlier this year, the federal Productivity Commission released its five-year review of Australia's productivity. It was a nine-volume 1,000-page document crying out for public policy improvements. Federal Treasurer Jim Chalmers has talked about an opportunity to renew the federal Productivity Commission and past Labor luminaries Hawke and Keating shaped their agendas on Productivity Commission recommendations.

Meanwhile, in Queensland, this Labor Treasurer abolished our Productivity Commission. It must be restored and, if fortunate to form government, it will be the first piece of legislation I bring into the parliament, but there is more: Queensland has been left with generational debt, without a generational outcome. It is one of the reasons we have announced Queensland's first intergenerational equity report. We have announced Queensland's first parliamentary budget office to return integrity and transparency to the budget process and we have announced the creation of an office of social impact within Treasury that will administer our social entrepreneur's fund every year to the tune of \$20 million. Social entrepreneurs, not-for-profits and community organisations are embedded in the Queensland community and they are ready to deliver for Queensland. They have the knowledge, the heart and the drive to help change the world around them. I have seen this with my own eyes as a founding director of Vanguard Laundry, a large-scale jobs-focused social enterprise for people who face long-term barriers to rejoining the workforce.

Today we have announced a significant housing package that has been carefully calibrated towards boosting supply. It is time to raise Queensland's rate of home ownership—currently the lowest in the nation—offer hope to young people and start to build intergenerational prosperity. For the Labor government, changing stamp duty for home owners was a political ploy for the papers. For us, it is in our DNA—aspiration, a piece of the dream, opportunity, hope and self-empowerment. When I became Australia's first shadow minister for home ownership, we outlined three priority areas—supply, tax relief and incentives.

Today we announce that an LNP government will completely abolish first buyer stamp duty on new dwellings and on vacant land to build a home for owner occupation. This will be the biggest boost ever to young Queenslanders' home ownership dreams. The threshold for \$700,000 will apply for existing properties, but for new homes it will be completely stamp duty free. These initiatives mean that under an LNP government, 14,000 more young Queenslanders will achieve home ownership every year. An LNP government will also make it easier for Queenslanders to access both the stamp duty concession and the first home owner grant. Currently there are restrictions on both of these when it comes to renting out one or more spare rooms in the first 12 months of ownership. Under an LNP government, these restrictions on first home buyers will be abolished. Not only will this provide greater opportunity for first home buyers but also it will instantly increase the supply of rental accommodation.

An LNP government will introduce our own standalone shared equity program for Queenslanders. Other states like Western Australia have run theirs successfully for a long time, whereas this Labor government has only done it when forced by the federal Labor government to adopt their plan. Put simply, the federal scheme is a start, but our program will be fit for the current market environment and we look forward to reducing the deposit gap for 1,000 applicants without access to the bank of mum and dad or other means. The government has only focused on demand-side policies, but we will bring strategic, supply-side solutions in a consistent and appropriate manner by: working with councils to ensure they have the infrastructure funds to meet local council demands; working with the private sector to unlock land to market; and working with organisations that have available land to provide affordable housing. These are all supply-side solutions.


I confirm that the opposition will not oppose the State Financial Institutions and Metway Merger Amendment Bill 2024 that is part of this cognate debate. Financial institutions rise and fall, brands change and companies merge. None of it grabs much public attention outside of the financial services ecosystem, except when it comes to Suncorp. Suncorp has been Queensland's financial services flagship. It is as Queensland as mangoes and macadamias. Even its brand is a blazing Queensland sun, and that is what makes the \$4.9 billion ANZ buyout of the Suncorp bank politically significant. The State Financial Institutions and Metway Merger Act 1996 laid down strict technical requirements. The act has glued Queensland residents, function and headquarter requirements to the Suncorp Metway banking entity and its holding company, Suncorp Group Ltd. Labor opposed the merger which former premier, Rob Borbidge, and treasurer, Joan Sheldon, have both personally said to me is their greatest political achievement in government. Ironically, the then opposition leader, Peter Beattie, opposed the merger, railing about the day when the head office is based in New York or Melbourne. Quite prescient, really, given ANZ's location. It is often forgotten that at the height of the global financial crisis, ANZ nearly bought Suncorp. Suncorp had substantial bad debts in its bank and was still swallowing its \$7.9 billion insurance buy, Promina, which owned AAMI and several other brands.

On Friday, 10 October 2008, ANZ put a \$3.4 billion takeover offer on the table for Suncorp's banking and wealth management business. The offer would lapse on the Sunday night. That same Friday, 10 October, I sat in Heritage Bank's boardroom with my CEO and key executives. We were a

\$7 billion business at the time and were customer owned and community focused. We had driven our asset growth primarily through securitisation and were seeing rising pressure from the international providers of our warehouse facilities.

That pressure, together with significant deposit outflows as worried customers withdraw their funds, brought us together around the boardroom table that Friday afternoon. Forget politics: that was real, professional heat in the firestorm of the global financial crisis and I have never, ever forgotten the lessons learnt there during that time. Meanwhile, Suncorp was considering the \$3.4 billion ANZ offer all that weekend. With the looming Sunday night deadline approaching, then prime minister Rudd and treasurer Swan announced a government guarantee on retail deposits and wholesale debt at 2 pm on the Sunday. Suncorp had a bank guarantee from the federal government that no amount of money could have bought.

It is time for Queensland to have a government that is laser focused on the right priorities. If we are fortunate to form government, we will provide opportunity, certainty and stability. This Treasurer treats taxpayer dollars as a political wedge rather than with respect. We will bring accountability back for taxpayers and end the waste—no more opaque or speculative investments. Earlier in this term the Treasurer introduced the Debt Reduction and Savings Bill. It was laughable at that time—we on this side of the House knew it—and it is even more so today. It is time for Queenslanders to have the very best because they deserve it—the best health care, the best schools, the most engaged police force, the safest communities and the highest rate of home ownership. All that is nothing short of what Queenslanders deserve as citizens of the greatest state in the greatest country of all.

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Energy and Clean Economy Jobs) (12.41 pm): The Miles government's first budget does what matters for Queenslanders. I want to talk first of all about the clear and distinct contrast between the Miles Labor government and what we heard from the Leader of the Opposition today. Because Queenslanders own their energy assets and our budget makes sure they get a fair share from progressive coal royalties, we can deliver what is important for Queenslanders. Our budget helps ease cost-of-living pressures whilst investing in clean energy, health care, housing and the infrastructure our growing state needs. I point specifically to the \$1,000 with \$300 on top of that and then an extra \$372 up to \$1,672 going to Queensland households to help them meet the rising cost of living through our energy rebates—nation-leading rebates.

Our budget delivers a \$26 billion investment to drive forward the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan, setting Queensland on a positive pathway, delivering new industries and supporting and protecting jobs in the regions. It delivers \$8.5 billion for clean energy transmission via the Queensland SuperGrid, renewable energy zone connection works and funding for CopperString 2032. It delivers \$500 million for distribution through local network batteries. It supports the next generation of tradies to build the SuperGrid through \$192 million for transmission and training hubs. It delivers \$16.5 billion for generation and storage, with more than \$10 billion of this earmarked for the all-important pumped hydro energy storage. That means investment in Queensland's Borumba and Pioneer-Burdekin energy systems.

All of the arguments put forward by the Leader of the Opposition on energy show this: they show that the LNP does not understand how costs for energy generation and storage projects are recovered. Everything the Leader of the Opposition said today demonstrated that the LNP still does not understand how infrastructure projects are planned, funded, designed or provisioned. If it is not naivety, it can only be deception. Before today Queenslanders knew the LNP had a \$10 billion cuts list, but today the Leader of the Opposition is again taking an axe to the future of Queensland and the planet. We already knew that those opposite were the party that cuts, sacks and sells, but today they reinforced it—they proved it—by announcing that they will cut the single most significant contribution to the nation's clean energy future. Today they have repeatedly announced that they will cut the Pioneer-Burdekin Pumped Hydro project. The LNP cuts list just got bigger and bigger.

That is a project that will create a direct 3,000 construction jobs in the community around Mackay. It will lead to 145,000 jobs in a clean economy, but what is most extraordinary—and I draw this to the attention of the House—is that the LNP has announced it will cut this project even before it has seen the business case. That is extraordinary—absolutely extraordinary. They have rejected this project not on the financials, not on the economics, not on the approvals; they have rejected this project on a principle that they are against action on climate change, on a principle that they are against clean energy. That is why they have rejected this project—a project that today has contracts on foot with 52

companies. What signal does that send to businesses in Queensland that they will reject projects based on a principle that they do not believe in climate change and they do not want to see action to deliver clean energy? Already Queenslanders are seeing what a potential LNP government would deliver.

I am advised that under the LNP's policy on energy projects 11,245 clean energy jobs would go effectively immediately.

Mr Skelton interjected.

Ms Boyd interjected.

Mr de BRENNI: They are the projects that are progressing today that employ Queenslanders that do not have their so-called suite of complete project approval. If the member for Everton wants to laugh about the jobs of 11,000 Queenslanders, let him go right ahead.

Mr MANDER: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I would like to bring to your attention that the member for Pine Rivers is not sitting in her correct seat and is interjecting, as is the member for Nicklin.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): Members, if you want to make a contribution, you have to be in your correct seats.

Mr de BRENNI: The member for Everton likes to talk about right priorities. His leader has come into this House today and announced cuts to jobs, local supply chains and cuts to public ownership, and all he cares about is where people are sitting.

Mr Head interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Callide, order!

Mr de BRENNI: They are pathetic. How pathetic! These cuts are cuts that will affect the lives and livelihoods of hardworking Queenslanders and the communities they live in.

Mr Head interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Callide, you are now warned under the standing orders.

Mr de BRENNI: They are hardworking Queenslanders like Stephen Burt, whose local business Twin Hills Engineering and Drilling is already on the ground delivering the Pioneer-Burdekin project. Stephen's business injects \$10,000 into the Mackay region every week and over half his fleet is now working to deliver the clean energy transition. Under the member for Broadwater's plan, under the Leader of the Opposition's plan, under the LNP plan, those jobs would be axed. Stephen said he would be forced to sack 15 of his workforce right away. That is the policy that those opposite are proposing for Queenslanders: cuts to jobs in regional Queensland. They are real jobs lost, real economic benefits destroyed and real Queensland families impacted because they do not like the idea of taking action on climate.

That is just the tip of the iceberg. There is also this: the worst day for the Great Barrier Reef, which is already subject to significant bleaching from climate change, would be the day that the LNP ever gets to come into this place and make its own budget. Talk about kicking a natural wonder while it is down! The LNP's anti-clean energy agenda would be a disaster for Queensland's environment. The Pioneer-Burdekin project is based on the expert advice of public servants. It is based on the expert advice of researchers from Queensland and interstate universities. The LNP has made it clear today to the Public Service that it will ignore its advice and instead it will rely on the advice of overseas corporations and overseas private companies over Queenslanders.


They are saying that they will put politics above good policy; they are saying that they will put cuts over confidence in the Public Service—all so that they can keep burning coal. Those opposite are prepared to do that to this state. They came in here and told Queenslanders that they supported emissions reductions. Yesterday they had an opportunity to show up and defend their supposed climate commitments—the 75 per cent target. Not a single one of them bothered to turn up in this House last night and defend their commitment. That is an extraordinary sign of weakness in a political party. They have no conviction.

Today they have also talked about solar for renters. There are 630,000 households in Queensland that rent. I hope that at some stage the Leader of the Opposition turns up to front the press. We know that he probably will not. He does not want to squirm in front of the cameras because he cannot answer questions such as how he will pay for it when he will not support ongoing progressive

coal royalties. How will he respond when it is put to him that his program is, in fact, aimed at benefiting landlords, not at benefiting renters? We know that the fast, fair and deliverable way to support Queensland households right now is to take those progressive coal royalties and put them into the pockets of every single Queenslanders, every single renter. They are fast, they are fair and they are deliverable.

I want to take a moment to address this budget in respect of the community that I represent in Springwood. Helping local families make ends meet is at the heart of the Miles government's first budget, but it also puts more nurses, teachers, police, ambos, buses and more affordable homes into the neighbourhood I represent and neighbourhoods right around Queensland. I have just spoken about the clean energy transition, delivering the lowest power bills by a country mile to the citizens of Springwood. We have expansions at Redland and Logan hospitals—I thank the health minister for that; the state-of-the-art ambulance station announced in this budget; expansions to the M1 and extension of the busway to continue—I thank the transport minister; the \$1.28 billion Community Safety Plan; the \$502 million plan to put Queensland kids first; the 50-cent bus fares; the 20 per cent off rego; the stamp duty relief for first home buyers; and the \$200 voucher for every kid playing sport in the electorate of Springwood.

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition must come clean about why he does not back these initiatives—why he does not back Queenslanders. He must explain why last week he said that he supported our budget measures but today came into this House and said that he does not support our budget measures. He must explain why he does not back our budget bill. He must explain why he does not back our Big Build. Is it because, in fact, he is just like Donald Trump, who has taken significant fossil fuel donations in exchange for walking away from emissions targets and action on climate? Is it because he has, in fact, just backed down to big business? Queenslanders know that they can count on us, that they can count on the Miles government to have their backs and do what matters to them.

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (12.53 pm): I rise to give my contribution to the budget. There are some positives and there are also some negatives. I welcome the \$9.7 million in funding to schools across my electorate for various facility upgrades and projects. This includes state schools in Malanda, Goondi, Babinda, Atherton, Tully, Mirriwinni, Innisfail, Mount Garnet, Tolga, Feluga, Walkamin, Mission Beach, Dimbulah, Mourilyan, Mutchilba, Yungaburra, Flying Fish Point, Millaa Millaa and Herberton. This is good dollars well spent.

Tourism has also received an injection, with \$10.3 million provided to upgrade the visitor infrastructure at Crater Lakes National Park. There is also ongoing funding towards the Mission Beach Town Centre Revitalisation Project. This has been pursued for years and is kicking off. There is also further funding of \$3 million towards the Kennedy Highway from Mareeba to Ravenshoe and funding to purchase the land to relocate the Babinda Fire Station.

In other funding areas, the positives are the increase in the FairPlay vouchers from \$150 to \$200. In regional Queensland, we would have loved to see it at \$300. However, I believe that this is good dollars well spent as many of our students and athletes have to travel a long way to compete. This is good news. The motor vehicle registration fee reduction gets a tick, along with the transfer duty concessions on up to \$700,000 for first home buyers.

While we welcome the electricity rebate, which is welcomed by every Queenslanders, there is a huge difference in household electricity bills in regional Queensland compared to Brisbane. Despite the government's rhetoric that electricity is coming down, the reality is that household and business bills in regional Queensland have skyrocketed and continue to increase. This rebate will only cover the increase in household and business electricity bills, which are still incredibly high and continue to rise in the regions. When the rebate ceases, there will be even more regional Queenslanders struggling to pay their massive bills.


What I also find disingenuous is the government's continued push towards renewables and net zero emissions which is driving power prices up in regional Queensland and hurting manufacturing, mining and agriculture, which are three of the biggest drivers of our region and the state's economy. As the member for Traeger rightfully pointed out, Queenslanders contribute less than 0.4 per cent of global emissions, yet \$8.6 billion has been committed to renewables in this budget. This will attack our mining, agriculture and manufacturing industries. The KAP supports renewable products such as biofuels because they complement industry, not destroy it. It is more sensible to pursue these types of renewable technologies than wind farms, for example.

We saw the recent example of the Chalumbin wind farm project being knocked on the head after the local community rallied to stop it. This would have seen significant land cleared right next door to a World Heritage listed area. It is incredible to me that the government is pumping billions into this technology yet is ignoring the significant clearing of natural forest and habitats these projects need. I struggle to understand how this would provide a positive net emissions outcome. Most in regional Queensland are asking the same question. I highlight again that we only produce 0.4 per cent of the world's total global emissions, so why are we plunging headlong into renewables and net zero emissions oblivion?

A huge disappointment for me is the lack of additional funding towards community centres. Community centres are under siege in my electorate, as they would be in every electorate across the state. These centres are the first and last resort for Queenslanders who are homeless, cannot afford to put food on their table or are suffering from mental ill health or domestic violence. These centres offer a massive range of basic to more urgent services that are constantly increasing. It is even worse in small and regional towns, where residents do not have access to services enjoyed by those living in major cities. Community centres have reported a drastic increase in demand and cannot cope with the existing funding. They are at breaking point. I understand there are 40 centres across the state waiting to be recognised as community centres and receive funding. Two of these are in my electorate. I recently called on the state government to include an additional minimum of \$20 million in the budget to go directly towards bringing new community centres online and increasing funding to current centres struggling to cope.

Last night I spoke about the Barron River bridge, but it is worth repeating because there is nothing in the budget for it and it needs to be addressed. The Barron River bridge has been down to one lane periodically since October last year, when it was found there were cracks in the steel structure and significant deterioration. This has severely disrupted travel from the Tablelands to Cairns. I understand there are two options being considered. Option 1 is to put some sticky tape and gum on the bridge. Option 2 is spending \$450 million on a new bridge. Option 3, a new fast-tracked inland highway from the Tablelands to Cairns, has still not been considered, despite it being the most logical long-term solution. This has been constantly pushed for by the KAP over the past decade. Former leaders, visionaries and the Tablelands community have been pushing this for over 40 years.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.

 **Mr KNUTH:** The good news is that the Atherton community centre has been completed. That is a great project. I mentioned the \$3 million allocated to the Kennedy Highway, but it really needs \$30 million. It has potholes throughout, particularly in the areas around Ravenshoe where the windmills are. The whole area is potholed. It is an absolute disgrace. Something needs to be done about the stretch of the Kennedy Highway from Mareeba to Mount Garnet.

They need to sort out the issue of the congestion at the intersection of Golf Links Road and Grove Street. It is a catastrophe every afternoon. The Tumoulin Road is in a shocking state. Good dollars need to be well spent in that area. I am aware that the Palmerston Highway will benefit from ongoing funding, which is good news. The whole highway is in my electorate. As members would be aware, it was shut for two months following the recent floods.

I bring to the attention of the House the state of the Tully Mission Beach Road, which runs from Tully to Mission Beach. The turning lane off the highway is very short given the number of cars that use that road every afternoon. It is a deathtrap waiting to happen. The road comes off the Bruce Highway. In the afternoon peak hour, the cars build up and passing trucks only narrowly miss them. I have brought that issue to the minister's attention. That needs to be addressed. Funds need to be allocated to the project right away.

The Silkwood Japoon Road needs an urgent upgrade. This issue has been ongoing for years. The road is full of potholes. They have to continually fix the road. The road leads to one of the leading tourist attractions in Queensland, Paronella Park. It is an absolute disgrace that the road has not been upgraded given the number of people who visit the park.

Last night we spoke about the Barron River bridge, and it is worth repeating what I said. There is nothing in the budget for the bridge, but it needs to be addressed. The Barron River bridge has been periodically down to one lane since October last year when it was found that there are cracks in the steel structure and significant deterioration. This has severely disrupted travel from the Tablelands to Cairns. I understand two options are being considered. Option 1 is to put some sticky tape and gum on the bridge and option 2 is to spend \$450 million on a new bridge. Option 3 would be to fast-track a new

inland highway from the Tablelands to Cairns. That has not been considered despite it being the most logical long-term solution. The KAP has constantly pushed for this for over 10 years and former leaders, visionaries and the Tablelands community have been pushing for it for over 40 years. An article in this week's *Cairns Post* also supports it. I table that article.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Cairns Post*, dated 12 June 2024, titled 'Growth negligence: Development expert highlights bottlenecks to prosperity' [1061].


The article references the CQ University's Centre for Regional Economics and Supply Chain. The article states—

The lack of transport options between the Tablelands and Cairns is a critical bottleneck on growth that must be addressed if the region is to use its agricultural and mineral assets to transform itself into an economic powerhouse of the Pacific.

The article mentions options including what is known as the Bridle Track, a \$1.5 billion alternative inland route. The Minister for Tourism asked about that and I am giving him the figures.

Gumming up the old bridge or building a new one will not solve the Kuranda Range issues. Each year the Kuranda Range is closed up to 44 times for nearly seven hours per closure, causing massive anger and frustration to 10,000 road users every day. An inland highway would bypass the Barron River bridge meaning that we would not have to waste \$450 million on building a new bridge. I will repeat that: an inland highway, which has been pushed for for 40 years, would bypass the Barron River bridge, meaning that we do not have to waste \$450 million on building a new bridge. It makes sense to spend a bit more to build a fast-track inland highway and in return generate billions in additional gross revenue. The government can lavishly spend \$6 billion on Cross River Rail and new tunnels but cannot seem to find \$1.5 billion for a nation-building project that would open up the entire Tablelands and Cape York region and generate billions of dollars in revenue to the state.

In closing, it is great to see that finally the LNP supports fixing the Barron River bridge as evidenced by the motion that it moved yesterday, just in time for the election. However, I ask: will they, along with the government, instead commit publicly to funding a new fast-track inland highway from Cairns to the Tablelands to solve the Kuranda Range's problems once and for all? I bring that to the attention of the House.

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women) (2.06 pm): I rise to speak in support of our great Labor budget that was handed down by the Treasurer on Tuesday. The Miles government is doing what matters for Queenslanders and that is why there is such incredible relief for Queensland families and households with our cost-of-living measures. That is what Labor governments do: we step in and we help people when they need it most. That is all at risk from those opposite.

I was listening keenly to the Leader of the Opposition's budget reply speech. I was waiting to hear just one idea about health and to see just one dollar committed. In fact, I was listening so closely that I was taking notes. I took notes on what the Leader of the Opposition said he would do on health. These are my notes.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Member, read from it or table it.

Ms FENTIMAN: There is nothing on the piece of paper, Mr Deputy Speaker. I am happy to table it for the benefit of all members in the House because there is—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Then table it, please.

Ms FENTIMAN:—not one idea, not one policy and not one dollar for health.

Tabled paper: Document, dated 13 June 2024, titled 'LNP Budget Reply Speech—Health' [1062].

As we can see, once again, the Leader of the Opposition has come up short—very short. There was not one new idea or dollar for our health system. The fact that we have a record budget for health, with \$28.9 billion and a \$1.7 billion workforce strategy, seemed completely lost on the Leader of the Opposition who did not make one mention of what they would do to support our hardworking frontline staff and alleviate the pressures our hospitals are under.

The Leader of the Opposition had no policy announcements for Queensland women but just rehashed his undercooked policy to get new mums back into the workforce. He claims he is going to give those mums who have taken time out of the workforce \$5,000, but he has only allocated enough money to give those mums \$1.50 a week. If the Leader of the Opposition thinks that you can buy a laptop for \$1.50 a week, then I say he is absolutely dreaming. That is how much he values women's economic security.

We did not hear one word about domestic, family and sexual violence—not one. That should not come as a surprise because the shadow spokesperson for the prevention of domestic, family and sexual violence did not mention domestic, family and sexual violence on her social media even once during the month of May, which is Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month. Can you believe it?

It is clear that the Miles government is focused on doing what matters for Queensland. In my electorate of Waterford there are so many wins: \$1,000 off power bills; 50-cent fares; and 20 per cent off rego. We are delivering the biggest ever cost-of-living relief for Queenslanders, and locals in my community love it. I recently caught up with Irma and Camillo from Underwood. They are pensioners who are absolutely over the moon about the fact that they will not have to pay a power bill at all next year. While doorknocking and holding mobile offices I have heard from countless locals about what a difference the 50-cent fares will make.

I am also so proud of our government's support for women. We have a massive Queensland health budget again this year. The Women and Girls' Health Strategy is a billion dollars over five years. Did we hear women's health mentioned at all by the Leader of the Opposition? Absolutely not. We know that our state is stronger when women fully participate in the economy and their health needs are met.

We are investing in women's safety with a permanent 20 per cent uplift to our hardworking domestic, family and sexual violence support services. We always will remain focused on eliminating the scourge of domestic and family violence. It is also why we are delivering a \$56 million boost to our hospitals, to provide timely and compassionate care when victims show up to our hospitals needing forensic medical examinations. Again, we hear crickets from members opposite on women's safety. With this funding we are setting up a forensic medicine body that will provide expert clinical and organisational leadership, statewide clinical training and mentoring. This is also bolstered by our \$1 billion Women and Girls' Health Strategy. Only a Labor government will deliver for women and girls and their health.

I am so proud of our record investment in health. It is a more than 10 per cent increase on last year. We know that we are delivering for the hardworking frontline staff. We are building the thousands of extra beds that we need. We have all of our ideas in our \$1.1 billion Putting Patients First Strategy, designed to take the pressure off our hospitals and reduce ambulance ramping. Again, there was not one idea from those opposite.

Mr Deputy Speaker, you have reviewed and approved my 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—

It is a transformational budget that helps address the burgeoning pressures the health system is experiencing now, while laying the groundwork to meet the challenges of tomorrow.

This is a Budget that's been informed directly by frontline health workers, health service staff, and stakeholders—because they are the experts, and we will always listen to them.

Over 77 years ago, Queensland became the first state in Australia to provide free healthcare to all.

I am proud to be part of Labor Government that recognises public healthcare is a lifeline for people in their time of need, and will always fight to protect that.

Putting Patients First

I am proud of the \$1.14 billion investment in the Budget to expand our successful Putting Patients First strategy in 2024-25.

It builds on the initial investment of \$764 million to target pinch points in our health system, develop our workforce and enhance the level of care to the community.

No-one wants to be in hospital if they can avoid it but unfortunately more people are presenting for care than ever before.

There will always be times when people need to be present to hospital for care and, in some cases, be admitted.

The additional \$190.8 million under Putting Patients First will help operationalise than 400 new beds to help meet demand.

I know how important receiving care close to home is to patients and their loved ones, which can be challenging at times in a state as geographically vast as Queensland.

Bringing healthcare closer to home reduces demand on our hospitals while improving access to services.

We have seen the results of this from our successful satellite hospitals, which to date have cared for almost 80,000 Queenslanders and reduced pressures on the emergency departments of some of our busiest hospitals.

Workforce

But we know that these measures would not be possible without our healthcare workers, who are the backbone of our system.

They are the ones who support us in our most vulnerable moments.

And we must support them, which is why our \$1.7 billion Health Workforce Strategy for Queensland 2032 is a cornerstone of this year's Budget.

It includes an investment of \$1.065 billion that will go to growing our workforce by 700 doctors, 2,600 nurses and midwives and 1,000 allied health staff.

This Strategy is focused on training, retaining and gaining the health workforce that Queensland will need.

It's a plan that will deliver \$40,000 incentive payments to trainee GPs, and more places for our junior doctors to train in anaesthetics.

We'll also support our nurses to work at the top of their scope with new Nurse Practitioner Candidate roles, and make training more accessible for student nurses with our Free TAFE program.

We'll also expand our \$5,000 cost of living placement payments for our nursing and midwifery students, making it available for all regional locals without the need to travel.

And we'll invest \$32 million to boost security staffing across Queensland, to make sure that each and every health worker is safe at work.

We'll also invest over \$23 million to secure Queensland's future Nuclear Medicine, Diabetes and Imaging workforces—all of which are critical to providing lifesaving healthcare to regional Queensland.

QAS

We are also investing almost \$130 million to hire 268 new ambos.

It will go a long way toward ensuring our ambulance service continues to provide an exceptional level of care despite growing demand.

Our hospitals will also benefit from an injection of 80 specialist positions, including an expansion of dedicated emergency department clinicians, allied health practitioners and mental health clinicians.

These roles have been critical in improving the flow of patients through our hospitals and providing timely care.

First Nations

This year's Budget also commits \$145.6 million to strengthen our First Nations workforce as part of our \$324.7 million to address health inequities among First Nations Queenslanders.

A modern healthcare system must be equipped to provide culturally appropriate and safe care to our First Nations people, who are some of our most disadvantaged.

This investment will increase the number of First Nations healthcare professionals and is in addition to \$20 million to improve heart health in remote communities and expand the Healthy Housing Initiative to more areas.

It is part of this government's commitment to ensuring equitable access to healthcare because we know the importance of people receiving the right care at the right time.

Mental Health

This year's Budget will also deliver an additional \$457 million under our Better Care Together program.

It means 74 new beds for adult residential alcohol and other drug treatment services in Ipswich and Bundaberg and a specialised hub offering a 10-bed residential alcohol and other drug rehabilitation program for youth in Cairns.

Women and Girls Health

As Queensland's largest employer, our government is leading by example when it comes to pay equity and women's economic security, through measures like 10 days reproductive leave and superannuation on both paid and unpaid maternity leave.


I'm also pleased to say the Queensland's gender pay gap continues to fall, at 11.5% down from 14.8% in November 2022.

Separately, we are also allocating \$275.9 million to specifically address women and girls' mental health, chronic conditions, maternity care, and sexual and reproductive health.

This includes \$56 million to establish a dedicated sexual assault response service and strengthen Queensland Health's capacity to deliver timely and best-practice sexual assault care.

It is no secret the pressures on our health system continue to grow. While we are not immune to them, we are not powerless to address them.

Queensland is in a strong position among global healthcare systems to meet these challenges thanks to this record-breaking \$28.9 billion health budget.

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (2.11 pm): I rise to give my speech in response to the budget. Yesterday's speech by the Treasurer was—there is only one word for it—disturbing.

Ms Boyd: It wasn't yesterday.

Mr MANDER: I take the only sensible interjection the member for Pine Rivers has ever made. Yes, it was two days ago. It is a budget that treats the people of Queensland with absolute contempt. In his third-last sentence the Treasurer said—

Queenslanders will be asked to make a choice about their future, not to express an opinion about the past.

Is it any wonder the Treasurer made that statement? With this government's record, the last thing it would want to do is talk about the past. In answer to a question yesterday the Minister for Education said—

... past behaviour is always the best predictor of future behaviour.

Not a truer word could be spoken when we look at the record of the past 10 years of this government and it expecting Queenslanders to give it another four years. There is no greater example of that than in the housing space. This government will do and say absolutely anything to get re-elected.

Mr Lister: Except build a house.

Mr MANDER: I take that interjection. Let us look at some examples of service delivery that are in the past that the government does not want anybody to remember. There are currently 43,000 Queenslanders on the social housing waiting list, and that figure increases year on year. On Labor's watch, building approvals are 25 per cent below the 10-year average and new housing lot approvals have fallen by around 30 per cent. We wonder why we have a supply problem! Queensland's rental increases are the worst in the nation. According to the ABS, Brisbane's annual increase in rental prices is 8.4 per cent while the national average is 7.3 per cent. The budget papers reveal that the average wait time for the most vulnerable Queenslanders to access social housing has exploded to nearly two years, effectively double the government's own target and the worst on record. Despite the housing crisis gripping this state, 15 per cent of Queensland's social housing stock remains underoccupied as families sleep rough in cars, in tents and on the streets.

Let us look at the broken promises. Originally, it was promised that the Housing Investment Fund would be able to supply up to 3,600 new social housing dwellings across Queensland by 2025—next year. The budget has revealed that there are not even 300 homes under construction through the Housing Investment Fund. Three years on, not one additional home has been built. The government's target lies in tatters. Labor's other failures—the litany of failures that we repeat many times—include the failed Griffith University emergency accommodation project; the Help to Home program, which promised a thousand homes and has delivered only 64; and overseeing the community housing sector going backwards—the only state that has gone backwards—between 2015 and 2022.

Let us look at some of the initiatives in the budget. Under Homes for Queenslanders, funding for housing and homelessness services falls off a cliff, shrinking more than 80 per cent by 2027-28. This means that vital services will be wound back severely under Labor's plan. In terms of Homes for Queenslanders capital funding, Labor needs to start building new homes now. The vast majority—67.7 per cent—of the spend for the state's social housing build is lumped in the 2027-28 financial year. The government simply does not understand the urgency of the crisis at hand.

The Treasurer was half right in his encouragement to look ahead and not look behind, but we need to look behind to know the Labor Party's record and to remind Queenslanders of that. We do need to look ahead. There was no greater example of visionary planning than the opposition leader's budget reply speech today, particularly his emphasis on housing. It was so good that those in the government had to claim that his ideas were theirs. With some of these initiatives, I want to know on which page they appear in the government's little homes booklet—what page number?

Where is the establishment of a cabinet housing ministerial taskforce—a group of powerful ministers such as the Treasurer, the planning minister, the housing minister and the local government minister—to ensure we cut through the red tape, get action and start building houses? At what page number in the government's housing document is there an investment of \$2 billion over four years in infrastructure to unlock new lots in partnership with local councils? This is a good one: where in its policy document is the partnership with local churches and not-for-profits that approached the government time and time again saying, 'We have land'? The government has ignored them, right from the Housing Summit. The Catholic Church offered 90 sites. It has heard zip, zero, nothing. The faith organisations got together with Q Shelter and the Property Council and said, 'We have the land; we just

need help to unlock it. All we need are some planning law changes and we can have 2,000 over the next five years and 10,000 into the future.' This minister refuses to deal with them. It can only be on philosophical grounds. The land of faith organisations is not good enough for Queenslanders! It is sitting in front of the government and it has not taken advantage of it. We will. What page number is that?

Let us also look at the Productivity Commission. We will reactivate the Productivity Commission to make sure we do a proper review of the building industry. What is the No. 1 thing we want? We want increased productivity. We do not want less than three days a week being the accepted standard of productivity in this state where projects go on and on and on, delay after delay, costing millions and millions of dollars and obviously delaying people getting into houses.

Where in their policy document—what page number—does it talk about abolishing a state tax? Under our housing policy, Queenslanders, particularly younger Queenslanders, who want to get into a home, who want to construct a new home, as encouragement to increase supply, will not pay one brass razoo when it comes to stamp duty. That is one of the most exciting housing policies that has been announced by any government in decades. Of course the thresholds have been raised with regard to existing properties as well.

What about the minister yesterday going on about a shared equity scheme: 'The LNP never support a shared equity scheme.' We support a Queensland shared equity scheme like every other state has! It is no use coming in here and bragging about the Commonwealth scheme. We have a state scheme that is run by Queenslanders for Queenslanders. That is exactly what we will do and we will do it proudly. We will do whatever it takes to get people into home ownership to make sure that we are not at the bottom of the pile—which we are at the moment when it comes to home ownership—but in 10 years time we are at the top of the pile. What a great initiative.

Another great little niche policy with regard to first home buyers and the little incentive that they get—\$15,000 or \$30,000, whatever it may be at the time—is that there have been restrictions on them being able to rent a room out. We are in a housing crisis.

Mr Stevens: Perfect for young people.

Mr MANDER: It would be perfect for young people. That was a great interjection from the member for Mermaid Beach. It would be a bit of an earner on the side, if you like, and at the same time put somebody in a room—put somebody who is currently couch surfing into a room. Again, what page number was that policy on? I am not sure because it does not exist.

We will also ensure every dollar of the Housing Investment Fund is used on new housing. After it was already known that not only do we support the 20 per cent uplift in homelessness services funding, which this government only committed to 30 June 2025 so there is no certainty for the future, but also we have committed to extending that funding for another three years and, surprise, surprise, they have come out today—it was not in the budget—and said that they are going to do the same thing. Isn't it funny how things change overnight? Isn't it funny how things change when they know that there are better policy positions put before them?

The Leader of the Opposition's speech was one of the best budget reply speeches ever given in this House. It is just a little of what is to come. We are going to take great pride in announcing comprehensive policies with regard to youth crime, with regard to health, with regard to cost of living. These policies, as I said the other day, will blow them out of the water because they will not do what we will do. This was a visionary budget reply speech that talks about where we want to go in the future.

It would be remiss of me not to talk about the things that I have not received in Everton once again. I could just get out last year's speech on the budget and the year before that and the year before that and the year before that. When are we going to have an upgrade of the intersection at South Pine Road and Stafford Road? When is that going to happen? Senator Murray Watt was the man who put the plans together 11 years ago. I will give them credit for that, but it has been 11 years and not one thing has been done with regard to the upgrade of that intersection.

When are we going to have Old Northern Road repaved? It is one of the major arterial roads because there is no other way to get into the city other than that road and Gympie Road. When is that road going to be repaved? When are we going to see some of our community organisations like The Nest receive funding from this government? They talk about neighbourhood centres and that they do a great job but, unless you fit in the box of a neighbourhood centre or another community organisation that does unbelievable work, this mob will not fund them or give them any assistance. This particular group has hundreds of volunteers.


When are some of my sporting clubs going to get the upgrades that they deserve? What about the Mitchelton Football Club that was flooded? When are we going to get a clubhouse there?

Mr Stevens: I think you played for them, didn't you?

Mr MANDER: No. I never played for Mitchie. I played for Budapest Grovely, believe it not—now Westside. Then I saw the light and went over to Rugby League.

There is so much that my electorate deserves and that this government has refused to acknowledge, whether it is roads or whether it is my community groups that are desperately looking for funding to expand sporting fields and the like because we want more kids playing sports. Those things have been neglected in my electorate. I will keep banging on about those things until we get them. I look forward to being in a position in the future, if we are fortunate enough to be in government, to have more influence in delivering those items.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Before I call the next speaker, I would like to remind all members of the House that if you want to interject you have to be in your own seat, and I will start warning people.

 **Hon. N BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (Minister for Fire and Disaster Recovery and Minister for Corrective Services) (2.25 pm): Mr Deputy Speaker, I implore you or another honourable member to help the member for Everton to download Google Translate. He is having awful difficulty understanding what is actually going on in this place. What we will never forget when we reflect on the past is the crisis that the member for Everton contributed to as a former housing minister in this state of Queensland. It is audacious of him to come in here and talk about supply when he was the very minister who sold off public housing. Northsiders will never forget.

Mr Mander: Which house was sold?

Ms BOYD: Northsiders will never forget that you tried to put Everton Park State High School on the chopping block.

Mr Mander: I have a statue there because I saved it!

Ms BOYD: Selling off local schools was your plan, member for Everton, for the local community.

The Miles government is delivering on cost-of-living relief for Queenslanders. We are doing what matters for Queenslanders. That includes providing much needed relief by reducing the cost of public transport, discounting rego prices and providing energy bill relief and financial assistance for families to support kids in sport. This is a government that is looking out for Queenslanders where they need it. Because we own our energy assets, we are able to provide at least \$1,000 off power bills, with a \$1,372 rebate for pensioners and concession card holders. That is a huge relief for the household budget. That is what this budget is all about.

Speaking with local residents, I know just how much of a difference the 50-cent public transport fares will make to everyone travelling in my community by bus or by train. We can reduce those everyday costs and encourage more Queenslanders to use public transport. That is really important for a community like mine in outer suburbia so that we can cut down on the congestion—we can cut down the number of cars that are on our roads. This is a real cost-of-living relief package that will see government charges such as renewing your driver's licence, hospital charges and the emergency management levy completely frozen. Car registration will not just be frozen; it will be reduced—slashed—by 20 per cent.

We know the housing market has become increasingly difficult for young Queenslanders. That is why we are scrapping stamp duty for first home buyers and we are also raising the threshold, meaning more people can get into their first home sooner. For families, we are expanding the FairPlay vouchers to all kids and raising the value as well so that we can get kids involved in sport, as well as helping around the kitchen table. Reducing the cost of club memberships will help local clubs get more kids active and reduce financial barriers for families.

I am proud of these initiatives that help everyday Queenslanders reduce their cost of living because that is what they are telling me is their No. 1 issue right now. We can fund these initiatives and we can help ease the cost-of-living pressures because we have made tough decisions such as implementing progressive coal royalties—decisions that those opposite would never, ever take. The LNP are a threat to our progressive coal royalties. The Leader of the Opposition said making mining

multinationals pay their fair share was 'a bad plan. It was a dishonest plan. It broke the trust of the industry.' He promised the coal lobby, 'What we take to the election at the end of the year you'll be able to take to the bank.'

LNP shadow ministers have been meeting with the Queensland Resources Council and its lobbyists, and now the QRC is funding a huge ad campaign against progressive coal royalties, which give money back to Queenslanders and fund the cost-of-living relief initiatives in our budget as well as build hospitals, schools and roads. All of that is at risk under the LNP. The Leader of the Opposition must come clean. What has he promised the Queensland Resources Council? We have already heard the leader of the LNP say that the LNP backs the budget before even seeing it, but they are already criticising it, only a couple of speakers in. The actions of the Leader of the Opposition are like putting a noose around your neck and then kicking the chair out from under yourself. Queenslanders know that the LNP cannot be trusted. Queenslanders cannot risk an LNP government. Everyone knows that the LNP would stop progressive coal royalties, and that would mean a direct cut to cost-of-living relief.

My own community is going to benefit so much from this budget: Linkfield Road, the Eatons Crossing Road upgrade and the Gympie Road bypass tunnel. We fought for those projects in the community, and I am so pleased to deliver them in this budget. There are upgrades to Bray Park State High School, Pine Rivers State High School and Bray Park State School. There also are sporting upgrades for the Pine Rivers Rapids Baseball Club and the Pine Rivers Netball Association. This is a good budget for Pine Rivers and a good budget to address cost-of-living pressures.

The Speaker has reviewed and approved the remainder of 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—

Speaker, improving community safety is at the forefront of the Queensland Correctional Services budget.

The Miles Government has committed \$1.88 billion to the combined 2024-25 capital and operational budget.

That will deliver more prison capacity, improve access to rehabilitation including vital domestic and family violence programs, and support victims.

In this budget, the Miles Government is delivering \$333.6 million over the next four years, and \$22.6 million ongoing for the improvement of assets to support the safe and effective operation of Queensland correctional centres.

\$111.9 million will be provided over the next four years, and \$10.5 million ongoing to construct and operate additional prison capacity to sustainably manage Queensland's growing prisoner population.

Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre is expected to start commissioning at the end of this year.

With a total budget of \$885 million, the new centre will be a modern, purpose-built facility with over 1,500 beds.

This state-of-the-art facility will provide correctional officers with safe, fit-for-purpose facilities where rehabilitation programs to reduce the risk of further offending and assist prisoners in their safe re-entry into the community can be delivered.

Once fully operational, Lockyer Valley Correction Centre will continue to provide economic benefits through secure, ongoing employment and service opportunities.

In anticipation of Lockyer Valley opening, QCS has been recruiting and training correctional officers, with more than 600 staff recruited since June, 2023.

This uplift in staffing numbers will support correctional officers to manage the ongoing demand for services across Queensland correctional centres.

In delivering the Queensland Government's Community Safety Plan, support for victims will also be boosted, with \$2.3 million over the next four years and \$624,000 per year ongoing to enhance the capacity of Queensland's Victims Register.

This funding will directly assist victims of crime and ensures that they are kept informed and that their voices are heard in sentencing and parole decisions.

\$37.7 million will be delivered over the next four years to deliver end-to-end case management across our correctional centres.

Between December 2019 and October 2023, close to 5,000 people were supported through end-to-end case management to address specific needs and risks, reducing reoffending and improve prison and community safety.

Recognising the prevalence of domestic violence perpetrators within correctional centres, \$14.8 million will be delivered over the next two years to deliver domestic and family violence perpetrator programs that support rehabilitation and re-entry to the community.

Mr Speaker, the Miles Government is committed to keeping our communities safe.

We are investing in our frontline firefighters across the state, with more fire stations, fire trucks, and safety equipment to ensure they have the resources they need to protect Queenslanders.

Whether it is new facilities, vehicles or equipment, Queensland firefighters will be well resourced and equipped to respond to the needs of their communities.

\$11 million will be delivered to complete the delivery of new Fire Rescue stations at Airlie Beach, Caloundra South and Mitchell.

\$2.5 million has been allocated to begin construction on the new fire station at Beerwah, after land was acquired in the previous budget for a replacement station.

Communities across the Far North will benefit from a \$4.5 million investment to replace the Fire Communications Centre in Cairns.

Fire Communications Officers play a vital role in ensuring that our firefighters are able to respond quickly when call upon.

This investment is about ensuring that locals can call Triple O in an emergency and know that their call is being received by people who know their local area.

The Rural Fire Service will receive \$13.1 million for new and upgraded facilities.

This will include new rural stations for Abbot Point, Biggenden and Mount Ossa brigades—as well as replacement stations for volunteers in Swan and Emu Creek, Delaneys Creek, Biddaddaba, and Bell Town brigades.

Fleet delivery will also be boosted with \$23.8 million allocated to Fire Rescue and \$19.5 million to Rural Fire Service for new and replacement trucks.

A further \$17 million will deliver new operational and training equipment across both fire services.

We back our frontline firefighters and volunteers, who work every day to protect their communities from danger.


When it comes to the valuable work of the QRA, we are seeing \$1.822 billion for Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements paid to councils, Queensland Government departments and agencies for reconstruction, betterment and other projects relating to natural disaster events between 2020 and 2024.

This program is jointly funded by the Queensland Government and the Australian Government.

We are seeing \$38.2 million as part of \$95.4 million towards high priority disaster resilience and mitigation infrastructure projects jointly funded by the Queensland and Australian Governments from DRFA Efficiencies.

And we are seeing \$13.1 million towards the \$65.5 million Queensland Resilience and Risk Reduction Fund, part of a National Partnership Agreement.

Speaker, the new Miles Government is serious about addressing community safety and providing cost-of living relief and that's what this budget proves.

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (2.31 pm): During all of the years of crises—the youth crime crisis, the health crisis, the housing crisis and the cost-of-living crisis—there is one constant. They all tie back to one thing: they are all the direct result of a government that has been so consumed by itself that it has not kept an eye on what is happening to Queenslanders. After a decade of failures, Queenslanders know it. They know it when they go out in the morning and the vehicle they need to make a living is gone. They know it when they pick up the phone to call an ambulance and that hardworking paramedic is probably stuck at the end of a ramp. They know it when their kids' dream of owning a home disappears before their eyes.

The battlelines for the next election are drawn. After nearly a decade, have things got better or worse when it comes to the youth crime crisis, the housing crisis, the health crisis and the cost-of-living crisis? Who has the right priorities for Queensland's future? The choice at the next election is a government that is rotting before the eyes of Queenslanders or a united, focused opposition that has the right priorities for Queensland's future. This is an opposition that has listened and reflected and understands that Queenslanders are living through the chaos and crisis of a very bad government. How good was the Leader of the Opposition's budget reply speech before lunchtime?

I often get asked, 'If renewable energy is cheap, why does it have to be subsidised?' The government's official line is that renewable energy is cheap. If it is so cheap, why is the Treasurer giving households a \$1,000 subsidy so we can afford to pay for it? Labor boasts that the amount of cheap wind and solar energy has increased by 25 per cent, yet electricity bills have risen by 18 per cent on average according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics. If renewable energy is as cheap as the government claims, Labor would surely risk being trampled underfoot by an influx of investors, yet investment in renewable energy is at its lowest level for eight years and investors struggle to see how they can make money on wind and solar without government support.

Having failed to deliver cheap energy, the government has been forced to resort to cheap politics. Money that could have been given in tax cuts or paying down public debt will instead be spent to disguise the truth: energy has become more expensive under a government that came to power promising the opposite. Rather than expressing its disappointment and embarking on plan B, the government is doubling down, promising to spend more of our money on an expanded list of subsidies. The latest multibillion dollar addition to the government's renewable energy budget uncovers an unpleasant truth: energy users in my electorate will pay more for power for a long time to come, so reflect on the \$1,000 that will go toward your power bill this year which has cost another \$3 billion. Someone—that is you, Queenslanders—has to pay for this \$26 billion investment in renewable energy.

I am often asked why we have accepted a bar that is set so low on so many things. What is disturbing is a government celebrating a budget that continues to lower the bar in Queensland, with crises now embedded in our everyday lives. We should not have to accept diminished health services or celebrate long waiting lists and elective surgery blowouts. After a decade of neglect, the bar is very low. If I had said 10 years ago that modular tiny homes would be rolled out to deal with Labor's housing crisis, most people would have scoffed and said, 'You're dreaming.' Instead of fixing roads in my electorate, all we do now is lower speed limits. When we do achieve something, we pat ourselves on the back and tell ourselves that everything is great.

I note that the Camera Detected Offence Program has been given another \$80 million over four years. It does nothing to save lives. It is a revenue earner, but the government refuses to provide any details of the amount of revenue. Questions on notice go unanswered. What this has done to my community over a long period of time has been devastating. It is unfair; it is unreasonable. This program really needs to be looked at. No-one wants to take responsibility and no-one cares about taking the time to answer constituents' queries about this program. It is a rort.

It is important that the people of Queensland recognise the trajectory of debt. We are getting up around \$170 billion, with interest costs of nearly \$21 million a day. There will be a lot of commentary over the next couple of days about what that \$21 million a day could pay for.

Locally in my electorate, I want to touch on areas that did not receive attention again: Agnes Water health infrastructure or partnerships; Rosedale Road overtaking lanes; the Bargara and Hughes roads intersection upgrade; Moneys Creek Lagoon rehabilitation; Essendean Bridge and Tablelands Road flood mitigation; the Bundaberg to Bargara multimodal pathway; Round Hill Creek rehabilitation; Paperbark Walk upgrade and protection; Walkers Point boat ramp upgrade; and Elliott Heads State School's new prep building. This school has been dealing with this terrible building over a long period of time and our hearts go out to the parents, teachers and particularly students who continue to be ignored.

We want to see real support for the Rural Fire Service and VMR and SES volunteers, and there is still no acknowledgement of the value of volunteer dress uniforms for rural fires. It might sound minor, but we have been pushing for this for many years. We want to make sure those volunteers feel valued in their job. There is no new fire station for Bundaberg and nothing in the budget for Bargara sporting infrastructure. Travel subsidies for people trying to get to TAFE and vocational training from more remote areas have been ignored.

I will address the ongoing scare campaign and fake commentary on what the LNP will or will not do in the Bundaberg region. Let me be clear. We have fought against Labor's destruction of Paradise Dam over a long period of time. We have maintained our advocacy to reinstate water security for the region. The LNP will fix Paradise Dam. So that we can stop the nonsense, can I be clear that we are not going to cut funding to the new Bundaberg Hospital. There is a scare campaign being run through the community that somehow a backbencher in the LNP has some sort of control over what will be built when it is already underway.


Queenslanders still have no idea what is going on with Paradise Dam and there is no clear timeline. I point out that I think nearly a billion dollars has already been spent and there is another \$110 million in this budget for planning and enabling works. From tearing down the wall at \$600 million to the hundreds of millions that go every year on consultants, imagine what could have been done if something more sensible had been started a long time ago. Maybe they should not have torn down the wall in the first place.

I say to Queenslanders that in four months time there is a choice: a fear campaign, or the hope that is being offered by the opposition; more cuts, chaos and crisis from those opposite, or an opposition that is focused on the right priorities. Queenslanders have a real choice. Queensland is a state of

opportunity, but we see Queenslanders being held back by a dysfunctional government veering into a state of chaos and crisis. Restoring Queensland's opportunity is what drives us on this side every day. Opportunity is also what drives Queenslanders. Queenslanders see a collapsing health system, a lack of affordable housing options, a youth crime crisis and a government that has given up honestly working for them. They are frustrated. The current government is no longer listening to Queenslanders' priorities. The government is focused on itself rather than our state's future, yet Queenslanders remain confident in the underlying fact that we live in a state with unmatched resources, a great environment and endless possibilities. They just want a government that will help Queensland reach its potential.

The LNP is working on charting a new course for our state, restoring confidence and making Queensland the land of opportunity once more. My job is to focus on Bundaberg and the Burnett's priorities, and I will continue to do that until the bitter end. An LNP government will do this by providing stability and governing with integrity. We will provide better services for Queenslanders. Most importantly, we will deliver on the promises we make.

Queenslanders have spoken and we have listened. The LNP is committed to putting the focus back on the needs of Queenslanders. We will make it our mission to restore public faith in those who have the privilege to serve our great state. Queenslanders' aspirations will be our goals, with an LNP government putting ordinary people at the heart of its plans to secure Queensland's future. There will be no more dithering on youth crime, no more excuses on the health crisis, no more paying for Labor's failures and no more queues around the block to secure a home. An LNP government will work harder for Queenslanders. I look forward to working with the good people of my region to deliver the right priorities for Queensland's future.

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (2.39 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Appropriation Bill for 2024-25 introduced by the Hon. Cameron Dick, Deputy Premier and Treasurer. This is another great Labor budget for Central Queensland. We are focused on assisting all Queenslanders with cost-of-living support, and that is what this budget does. We are providing \$1,000 off every householder's power bill from 1 July, rising to \$1,372 for concession card holders. Eligible small businesses will also receive an automatic rebate of \$325.

From 5 August the cost of all Translink public transport services across the state will be slashed to 50 cents, no matter where you live or how far you travel, which will ease congestion. People who live in Emu Park and travel to Rockhampton each day will save about \$43 per week, which will be similar for those coming down from Mount Morgan. This is also an ideal opportunity for the average-sized family to travel to the beach for the day for around \$5 return—much cheaper than driving.

Unlike the LNP, we have a plan for our TAFE that will provide tens of thousands of Queenslanders with free and subsidised training, easing the pressure on the cost of living and helping Queenslanders secure good jobs that are being created by our Big Build and our record investment in frontline jobs. We will continue to provide free kindy, which will save local families up to \$4,600 per year, ensuring everyone can access it. This is a huge change that comes from two great Labor values—fairness and equal access to education. This is something an LNP government would never deliver.

The Miles government is investing an additional \$65.52 million to expand the Sustained Health Home Visiting program. This new investment is part of the \$501 million Putting Queensland Kids First plan. It offers intensive in-home support commencing from pregnancy, helping children experiencing vulnerability reach their full potential. We are also taking 20 per cent off rego costs for light vehicles, including motorcycles and trailers, for all Queenslanders' renewal notices from 5 August for a 12-month period. Again, this is part of the biggest cost-of-living relief package in Queensland's history, and we can do this because we are making multinational mining companies pay their fair share.

We are expanding the FairPlay program. Every Queensland child aged between five and 17 years will be eligible for the FairPlay program as a new direct cost-of-living measure. The FairPlay program, opening on 1 July, will increase in value to \$200 and the number of vouchers will increase from 50,000 to 200,000. Of that 200,000, 50,000 will continue to be set aside for those with an eligible concession and the remaining 150,000 will be for all Queensland families on a first-come, first-served basis.

The stamp duty discount for first home buyers will be boosted in a move that will help 10,000 Queenslanders a year into the property market. The threshold for the concession on transfer duty will lift from \$500,000 to \$700,000. The concession will be phased out on values above \$800,000. We are also freezing all other government fees and charges, so they will not increase with inflation. Labor is leading the nation by delivering this massive cost-of-living support for all Queenslanders.

The Deputy 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—

There is a further \$191.2 million for the financial year for the Rockhampton Ring Road. This is a great project for Central Queensland and will create on going employment for a few years to come.

I'm happy to say there's also ongoing funding for the Catheter Lab at Rocky Hospital and ongoing funding for major projects like the Browne Park Upgrade, the Fitzroy to Gladstone water pipeline, and the Rocky to Mt Morgan water pipeline. There is \$39.8 million out of a total spend of \$91.9 million for the new mental health facility at the Rocky base hospital.

Overall, there's more than \$4b worth of local infrastructure projects that have been delivered or are being delivered in the Rocky area with the support of this Miles Labor Government. Our per capita infrastructure spend in CQ is 69% higher than it is for Brisbane.

The truth is Labor governments have a proud record of delivering for Rocky and Gracemere, walking around town you could barely bowl a cricket ball without the risk of hitting something a Labor government has helped deliver, whether it's Laurie Street duplication, the pump track, upgrades to our sporting facilities, the millions in road infrastructure, the courthouse, the hospital, not to mention the countless upgrades schools over the years. There has been more than \$100 million spent on upgrading our schools in the Rockhampton electorate over the past nine years.

And we'll only ever see this kind of investment under a Labor government in Central Queensland. What did we get under the Newman LNP government? Nothing but cuts to our schools, hospitals and services like QBuild.

That's what we can expect if the LNP gets in again. Locally we've heard the LNP like Michelle Landry and Matthew Canavan opposing our progressive coal royalties scheme. Let me repeat that—they apparently oppose a scheme that ensures Queenslanders receive their fair share of the profits being made by multinational miners benefiting from high coal prices.

Queenslanders own those resources, and those progressive royalties are one of the reasons we can deliver our cost of living support, and why we can deliver huge investment around Rockhampton.

The LNP, it seems, would rather that money go to shareholders overseas or to multi-millionaire CEOs. I am looking forward to watching them try to explain that to voters in Rockhampton next election. Just confirms in my mind that if we have a LNP government that it will be back to the Newman days of Cuts, Sack and Sell.

As usual, this budget also includes plenty of support for the Rocky Regional Council, including, as I said, funding to build the Rocky to Mt Morgan Water pipeline.

The Miles Labor Government has provided funding to the Rockhampton Regional Council to the value of approximate \$43 million over the years through the Works for Queensland program and numerous other grants programs. Under the Newman LNP government, I am told the Council only received \$1 million in funding over the three years.

Again, this Health budget we see record funding of \$870 million up \$61 million on last year. The staff at the Central Queensland Hospital and Health Services do an amazing job and I thank them for the work they do each and every day.

There is \$603,000 out of a total spend of \$3.1 million to provide a Mental Wellbeing Safe Haven for Rockhampton which you would expect to be completed in the next few months.

There is a further \$13.5 million out of a total \$47.7 million for the Rockhampton Rail Yards, rail maintenance, manufacturing and logistics centre.

The Miles Government is serious about training opportunities and increased workforce participation for residents in Rockhampton electorate through Skilling Queenslanders for Work program with \$6.9 million in funding.

I have enjoyed attending the graduations where participants have graduated with new skills, experience and qualifications that have help them break into jobs like Individual Support (Aged and Disability) care, horticulture, construction workforces or launch their own small business.

Each of these Certificate Courses build the participants' self-esteem and motivation as well as the general everyday skills that are needed in any workplace. It is great to hear these courses are fostering new small businesses, green thumbs and builders who are looking to contribute to the local economy.

We all know how important education is to securing better life outcomes. This investment is \$90 million across Central Qld and supports the government's commitment to good jobs and better services.

It is essential that our schools are maintained and there will be \$1.1 million for school maintenance. There are 12 projects across the Rockhampton schools totally \$6 to \$7 million.

Across Rockhampton and Central Queensland we will continue to see an investment in our road infrastructure projects like the Bruce Highway intersections and bridge upgrades supporting local jobs and let's not forget the Rockhampton Ring Road in partnership with the federal government supporting hundreds of jobs.


We will see an infrastructure and upgrade spend on Glenmore electricity substation and Rockhampton South Substation with a total cost \$24 million.

In this budget across Central Queensland is \$2.3 billion in funding for Qld's Big Build for infrastructure and capital works supporting 6,200 jobs.

There is so much more in this budget across other portfolios like Child Safety and our Police, Fire and Emergency services and Corrective Services portfolios and very importantly community organisations that provide support for the residents of Rockhampton and Central Queensland. I am pleased to be delivering a great budget for the people of the Rockhampton Electorate. This budget is all about good jobs, better services, and doing what matters for all Queenslanders.

I congratulate the Deputy Premier and Treasurer the Hon Cameron Dick on a budget for all Queenslanders.

I commend the Bill to the House.

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (2.44 pm): This is a desperate budget by a desperate Treasurer hoping a deliberate pork-barrelling cash splash will drag a flailing, on-the-nose government from the abyss of an election defeat on 26 October. The Treasurer effectively apologised for his government's behaviour over the last nine years and begged for another four years, which I am extremely hopeful Queenslanders will not fall for. Do not fall for Labor's tricks on October 26.

The budget represents everything that is distasteful in Labor's DNA—profligate spending, total ignorance and caring about financial repercussions and a desire to put control of the government chequebook on behalf of their union puppet masters above any real and readily identifiable problems many Queenslanders are facing. Over the last nine years their failure to plan properly and implement more housing supply to accommodate the nearly one million people who have come to Queensland, creating a surge in demand for property, has left rental prices unaffordable for many Queenslanders and the ability to purchase a house for young Queenslanders hopelessly out of reach. This planning failure has made many people homeless and forced people to live in cars and tent cities around the state, forcing community services and government agencies to breaking point as they try their best to provide accommodation for the many people in need.

The Labor government has greedily swallowed the enormous \$17 billion generated in stamp duty yet has failed to reinvest that money into more public housing and affordable housing developments. Instead it has wasted it on white elephants such as the Wellcamp quarantine centre and major union cost blowouts on infrastructure projects such as light rail Stage 3, Cross River Rail and the Coomera Connector.

Over the last nine years our health system—the famously free Queensland Health—has itself become a sick and broken service, with hardworking nurses, doctors and ancillary staff bogged down with bureaucracy, union requirements and a bed shortage that has led to an ambulance ramping rate of 43 per cent at hospitals. When ambulances are ramped with sick patients, other Queenslanders who urgently need an ambulance because of emergency occurrences are left in desperate and life-threatening situations because of this Labor government's lack of proper health planning because it has instead focused on closing regional services to cut costs rather than spending the increased health funding on growing health facilities. Every year in Queensland is a record spend on health because our rapidly growing population has added nearly one million people over the last nine years, yet the massive extra GST revenue generated by this explosion of population growth in Queensland has been squandered by this Labor government on social engineering projects at a substantial cost to the provision of appropriate health infrastructure across our rapidly growing state.

Over the last nine years crime has gone out of control in Queensland due entirely to this Labor government's soft-on-crime approach, particularly in relation to youth crime. It is fact that Labor watered down the legislation for youth criminals, making it almost impossible for judges and magistrates to give serious consequences to those repeat youth criminals who are laughing at the judicial system in Queensland. No wonder experienced police officers are leaving in droves. They do a great job in catching these kids, only to see them back on the streets the next day. No amount of funding for new police recruits will address the low morale in the force at this frustrating revolving door of youth offenders, so again it is Labor spending up big to get no result on youth crime. Every night on the television we see another major incident involving youth criminals and the fiddling at the edges of the problem over the last nine years by this Labor government has produced nothing but an increase in youth crime and youth criminals.

This Labor government's waste and white elephant projects such as cost-of-living blowouts, the failure to fix the Callide coal-fired energy generator—which has been broken for nearly three years and which would have provided cheaper energy if it were working—and the Labor government's fixation on populist renewable energy have led to a cost-of-living crisis which this Labor government failed to prepare for over the past nine years with then deputy premier Steven Miles.

Yes, there were rivers of gold from coal royalties. Yes, there have been rivers of gold from record stamp duty taxes. Yes, there have been rivers of gold from skyrocketing GST taxes driven by enormous population growth. But, no, there has been no planning, no rainy day provision and no cost saving put in place by the Labor government because they have never cared about financial responsibility until now, just four months from a state election campaign. Do they now care about financial responsibility with a financially prudent 2024-25 budget? No. They have dived into the biggest cash splash pool that I can remember in my 16 years of budgets, trying to buy their way out of their dismal performance over the last nine years.

Mr Power interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order, member for Logan.

Mr STEVENS: Mr Deputy Speaker, thank you for your protection from the member for Logan! As the Treasurer begged the Queensland public to forget about their performance over the last nine years when they vote on 26 October, while asking for another four years, the reality is they have shifted the deck chairs on the *Titanic* with the same incompetent ministers and the same union puppets looking after their own financial interests at the expense of the Queensland public.

Queenslanders will not be fooled by this five-minutes-to-midnight pork barrel. Whilst they will gladly accept any cash relief they can get, they will not let the behaviour of these incompetent puppets over the last nine years go unpunished, and rightly so. It is a referendum on the Labor government's performance on health, cost of living, crime and housing over their last nine years of power, and the old adage of governments losing over their performance I hope will certainly come to fruition on 26 October.

The Treasurer has said that he would greatly—

Mr Minnikin: What? There's more?

Mr STEVENS: There is more, and some steak knives! The Treasurer has said that he would greatly sacrifice a credit ratings agency downgrade to give his super cash splash out to Queenslanders before the 26 October election. The sad reality of a credit ratings downgrade is it will cost Queenslanders billions of dollars more—I am advised it is perhaps \$2½ billion over the four-year forward estimates—in added interest rate payments on the massive borrowings that this Labor government have racked up. Again, Queenslanders will cop more financial pain from this government who have no idea or care about the financial repercussions of their actions.

I look at the Gold Coast's glossy brochure of offerings, which is a collection of drip-feed payments, recycled announcements on existing projects and no funding—I repeat: no funding—for light rail stage 4. I am reliably told by the construction agents on light rail stage 3 that if funding is not provided before the completion of light rail stage 3, which is scheduled for the end of 2025, light rail stage 4 has no possible chance of being built by the Olympic Games date of 2032. This tells me that this state Labor government are waiting for their federal party colleagues in Canberra to announce they are not funding the 55 per cent of the estimated \$7.6 billion for light rail stage 4, which will see Burleigh as the light rail's final destination. If this is not the case, the Albanese federal government need to announce their funding for the project now to take all the state conjecture out of the 26 October election and give certainty to whether the project is happening or not.

Further on the Gold Coast glossy brochure, I note several highlight projects for 2024-25 are recycled budgets from my 2023-24 glossy brochure that obviously have not been done. In 2023-24 expenditure on youth co-responder teams working with high-risk young people budgeted \$30.1 million out of a statewide expenditure of \$96 million. However, in this year's budget, those same teams are receiving only \$6.7 million from a \$20.4 million total spend. Does this mean the youth co-responder teams are not working and not worth the \$30 million they were allocated in 2023-24? Why would we spend less this year on at-risk children than we did last year? Surely the program needed more funding, not less.

I note also that Binna Burra was due for a \$16.6 million spend in the 2023-24 budget out of an \$18 million allocation. However, in this year's budget there is still \$12.7 million to be spent on Binna Burra out of the \$18 million which means last year the government only spent \$3.9 million on Binna Burra, which is consistent with their drip-feed approach to infrastructure projects across the state because they are basically out of money.

I will now make some comments in relation to the Suncorp-ANZ merger cognate bill that this parliamentary debate has enabled by government direction. The bill allows for the banking business of Suncorp to be taken over by the ANZ bank subject to further federal government considerations. It


leaves Suncorp to concentrate on its insurance business and ANZ to expand its banking activities with an increased portfolio. From a Queensland point of view, we have been given assurances that staffing, headquarters and branch activities will remain in place for three years. With the focus on the big banks closing branches for cost savings, forcing people to do all of their banking online right across the state currently, the longer term threat of this outcome to regional communities relying on Suncorp branches is real.

ANZ have promised a technology hub employing up to 700 people over the years ahead, but this is small comfort to those folk in regional areas who will be short-changed again in the provision of community facilities. The committee was assured that the financial viability of the Suncorp Insurance company would not be compromised by the loss of its banking arm, as they have been running financially independently in their business model.

There are concerns that this may be another step by the banking and federal tax collectors towards the utopia for them of a cashless society, with bank charges and labourless provision of banking services to banks to bolster the already obscene profits the banks make every year in some people's eyes. I cannot believe the moves to ban cash as a commodity to further serve the interests of the banking industry. What happens when the IT world breaks down, as happened to me just the other day when buying my coffee? I had to pay cash. What happens when we are attacked by cybersecurity warriors breaking down our communication systems? Cash is king around the world and I for one will always keep my cash available for that rainy day. However, I see no intention to ban cash through the merger of these two banking entities. If it is good financially to protect the ongoing interests of Suncorp customers, then we in the LNP will not be standing in the way of this federally approved outcome.

Finally, I am hoping that this will be the last budget in reply speech I have to deliver from the opposition benches. The LNP leader, David Crisafulli, today has outlined a brilliant housing strategy to address the chronic shortage of homes in Queensland. This is a real workable policy to put the Australian dream of people owning their own home back on the agenda, particularly for young Queenslanders who would otherwise under Labor be consigned to renting for the rest of their lives. This is just the first of major policy directions the LNP will give before the 26 October election. These policies will not inflict the financial pain on Queenslanders that the Labor Party has become an Olympic-class expert at doing.

There is one chance for Queenslanders to get the good ship Queensland back on course, and that is on 26 October 2024. The choice is clear. Four more years of Labor inaction on youth crime, a broken health system, a housing crisis out of control and cost-of-living financial strain growing exponentially on Labor's watch, or a brand new premier, David Crisafulli, and his LNP team who will fix Queensland's problems and will make Queensland great again. The Treasurer is telling Queenslanders on his glossy brochure 'doing what matters'. What matters is incredibly important. Queenslanders need to show Labor what matters by showing Labor the door in 2024.

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (2.58 pm): Wow! I think the member for Mermaid Beach would be better sticking with the chicken dance, to tell you the truth. We are absolutely doing what matters for Queenslanders. We are doing what matters for Queenslanders right now, and that is providing cost-of-living relief. When interest rates and mortgages are high and you go to Coles or Woolies and come out with a bag of groceries that cost over \$100, there has never been a more important time to pull every lever possible to put money back into the pockets and family budgets of all Queenslanders. That is exactly what our Miles Labor government is doing.

I cannot tell you what 50-cent public transport fares mean for my Southern Moreton Bay Islands residents. It will cost them 50 cents to travel. At the moment, if they were to take a ferry from Russell Island, jump on a bus at the marina and head to Redland Hospital, Victoria Point or wherever, they would be looking at \$11.46 at full freight. By bringing that down to 50 cents, a return trip will cost a dollar instead of over \$22.

Mary, a constituent from our islands, chased me down and said, 'You have just put \$180 a fortnight back into my pocket. It means a lot.' At the bus station I spoke to Tristan, who goes to Griffith University. He said that, when you do not have a lot of income coming in and you have the expenses of university, that 50-cent fare will make a huge difference to his back pocket. That is incredible. That is on top of the nation-leading energy rebates. I was talking to my aunty down in Melbourne. She cannot believe we are getting \$1,000 off our energy bills. For seniors there is an extra \$372.

We are absolutely doing what matters for Queenslanders right now. The 20 per cent off car rego is huge as well. There is not a lever we have not pulled, whether it is for our little ones with free kindy or our young people in terms of skills and training with free TAFE and apprenticeships, or whether it is discounts off car rego, energy rebates or seniors rebates and concessions. They are absolutely massive. In terms of cost of living, there is not one stone we have left unturned as a government to try to put money back into Queenslanders' pockets.

With regard to the contributions I have heard from the other side, you would imagine, from the way they have spoken about the budget, this is not something they would be doing for Queenslanders right now. This is not something they will be doing to support Queenslanders. When we talk about right priorities and doing what matters, that is exactly what we are doing right now.

I want to talk about my seven years as a member of parliament and what I have been able to deliver in those seven years. Shortly, I will table a document that lists some of the things. In terms of health, we have built a brand new satellite hospital in the Redlands. We have the intensive care unit and new wards under construction with ADCO. We have the \$150 million mental health facility being designed at the moment, and last week I had the opportunity to open a new Redlands crisis centre, a mental health drop-in space. These things are what transform communities.


In education, there is \$9 million worth of new classrooms that are being finished over on Russell Island and a new Scenic Shores State School. When we talk about track record and what we have delivered, it is absolutely massive in this space.

In domestic and family violence, a new HR team has been deployed. Thank you very much, Attorney-General. It was fantastic to go out with them. We are investing to ensure we put community safety at the forefront. That is amazing work. We are supporting our seniors with the Donald Simpson Centre. That, again, is fantastic.

In terms of sport and young people, we have the \$200 FairPlay vouchers on top of our infrastructure investments with the likes of the Charlie Buckler Sportsfield. The Russell Island Bowls Club is getting investment. Our Isle of Coochie Golf Club is getting investment. There is so much happening in the sporting space with our Miles Labor government.

In the community space, I cannot tell you what the Gambling Community Benefit Fund grants deliver for our community. There is the uplift in neighbourhood centre funding and the doubling of Meals on Wheels funding. That is what matters to Queenslanders; that is what matters to Redlanders. I am extraordinarily proud to be in my seventh year in this place delivering another amazing budget for all Redlanders. I table my track record for the benefit of the House.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'Delivering for Redlands' [[1063](#)].

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (3.03 pm): The member for Mermaid Beach is quite a hard act to follow. It was a rousing speech from him. However, I want to highlight the great deception that is continuing with this Labor government budget. Queenslanders need to know that this budget is all about trying to buy votes. It is for the next four months—nothing more, nothing less. Labor will do and say anything to stay in power, and now they are plunging Queensland into deficit and ramping up the debt even more, from \$72 billion nine years ago to \$172 billion now—and most of that first \$72 billion was Beattie, Bligh and Fraser years debt. The \$7 billion a year in interest to service that debt makes it a very expensive tool. Debt might be a tool, but it is an expensive one; it is a lazy one—it is a very lazy one—instead of having prudent fiscal management and making projects run on time and on budget. However, that is the Labor way over generations and across all levels of government.

Back in December 2020 I spoke on Treasurer Dick's 2020 budget—the one where he deceived Queenslanders—where there was an additional debt of \$28 billion, seven times greater than what was outlined during the campaign. That was all part of a great deception of Queenslanders, too, because, as we know, this disgraceful Labor government did not have the courage to hand down a budget before the 2020 election. Instead it rammed through laws giving itself money to spend without actually telling people where it was going to go. That was an abuse of parliament, an abuse of Queenslanders and an example of Labor taking everybody for mugs.

Those opposite have been in office for too long. They are too arrogant and think they can get away with anything. Representing the hardworking men and women of the Scenic Rim electorate, I am here to say that the mob have figured out the government and they are going to show Labor the door in October 2024. I could end the speech there because that pretty much sums it up, but I have a few other things to say as well.

An opposition member: Keep going.

Mr KRAUSE: I will keep going. The Scenic Rim electorate has so much opportunity, but it requires investment in infrastructure and services to capitalise on opportunity. We need better roads, we need improved hospital services and we need dedicated social services and lower costs for businesses. We need affordable, reliable energy above all else, yet electricity costs for farmers and other businesses are continuing to rise. There is no cushioning for small businesses and farmers. Local cafe owners, like Mark from Flavours in Boonah and Tony and Andy from VK Everyday's in Beaudesert, regularly tell me about their soaring electricity bills. This drives up the cost of hospitality, drives up the cost of food, drives up the cost of everything and makes it harder for locals to compete with overseas competitors as well.

We on this side of the House know that businesses create jobs, not government. Every employee, indeed every union, needs an employer. Government cannot employ everyone. Where would the taxes come from? Of course they come from business, so government should get out of the way of business, unless there is a need for enabling growth. If this government was actually real about creating local jobs and local industries, it would create conditions where costs can actually impact, like electricity and water, so they are competitive globally. This government does exactly the opposite, making local industries uncompetitive and in need of subsidies that cost more money because of the failure to get business conditions right.

Unsurprisingly, this budget delivers precious little in the way of new investment in the Scenic Rim electorate. The potential of our region is again left to go untapped for another year. I acknowledge investment in upgrading state school facilities at Beechmont, Kalbar and Rathdowney. At Veresdale Scrub State School the community fought hard to retain a heritage building and to have government support for a refurbishment project. I want to thank former minister for education Grace Grace for the consultation Education Queensland undertook with the community on that front. It brought about a positive outcome.

For 35 years there has been a community at Biddaddaba that has lobbied for part of the Beaudesert Nerang Road to be upgraded. This gravel section and very low culvert have remained frozen in time—in the 1980s, or perhaps even earlier. While houses have popped up all around and increased traffic volumes for tourists and locals alike, they have made the case for an upgrade for many years. I thank the Biddaddaba Action Group for keeping the faith. I have seen the neat, handwritten letters of their secretary for many years, pleading with the government, pleading with Main Roads, for works to take place, to no avail. As a candidate in 2011 I met with this group and heard their case. In 2014-15 the LNP government committed to upgrading the road, but the Labor government scrapped it in 2015. I have kept up the lobbying efforts and have raised this road at almost every meeting with Main Roads since, resulting in a design being done and funding being sought, and there is now a \$5.2 million allocation in QTRIP to bitumen a section of road. I welcome that, but it should not have taken 35 years. I will hold accountable the people who are responsible for delivering this project now that it is finally in QTRIP. Well done to all the locals involved who have helped me to build the case for this action in my 12 years in this place.

I also acknowledge funding for rural fire sheds at Biddaddaba and Mount Alford, the latter of which has been a very long term project for the brigade. It is shocking, however, to hear about the interference that has been run by the officialdom dealing with rural fire brigades when it comes to new sheds. Locals have informed me that they propose to erect a new fire shed for about \$150,000, with fit-out to be done progressively. It has been handed to QBuild to do, of course, at a far higher price.

The new Queensland Fire Department has not even commenced yet, but already local brigades are having their autonomy stripped and the costs to taxpayers are mounting. Why does QBuild need to build a rural fire shed, especially if locals do not want them to? These developments reflect the fears held by many rural fire brigades about how the new fire department will work and the costs it will create for taxpayers for no better outcome. QBuild is notoriously inefficient and having them involved in what has been, until now, proudly autonomous fire brigades is a negative outcome for all—for the brigades and especially for the taxpayers who will pay the highly inflated bills. Never before has a Queensland government taxed more, spent more and borrowed more and yet Queensland has less to show for it.

The cost blowouts on major projects are mind-blowing and they all contribute to this record debt. One of these cost blowouts is on the Mount Lindesay Highway where the South Street to Johanna Street Jimboomba project funded a couple of years ago for \$53 million is now budgeted to cost \$95 million—one of Bailey's blowouts! It is at least a year behind schedule after Labor put it on the go slow when Albanese was elected as Prime Minister in 2022—

Mr BAILEY: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member for Scenic Rim is a very experienced MP. He is deliberately flouting the standing orders.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): What is your point of order? I do not need a speech beforehand.

Mr BAILEY: He is using my personal name, not my title. He knows what the standing orders are.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, I remind you to use correct titles and I ask you to withdraw if you have not done that.

Mr KRAUSE: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. I withdraw. The blowout on the Johanna Street to South Street project was one of former minister Bailey's blowouts. The reality is that, under this Labor government, the Mount Lindesay Highway is in the slow lane and all of the major projects that have been completed in recent years are because of Scott Buchholz and the federal LNP coalition government that has pumped funds into that highway and pushed the state into actually building the Mount Lindesay Highway. They put in the highway on the national highway network and they got the funding on the ground to do those projects. Labor—state and federal—has basically put the Mount Lindesay Highway in the slow lane. The Jimboomba project is in the go-slow lane now because when you look at QTRIP this year, most of the funding for this project is in in this year, it is in 2025-26 and 2026-27. When will construction actually get underway and when will it be finished? This is what people want to know. It is already well overdue from when it should have been built.

Labor's neglect of this road, over their 30 years out of the last 35 in office, continues. They cannot even get on with small projects to continue the process of improvement. This Queensland government cut planning funding in recent years, pushing it off into later years—funding that is essential for the new upgrades that are ready to go heading down towards Beaudesert. Labor has neglected the growing Scenic Rim economy that needs a safer and more efficient travelling route to get in and out of their region. QTRIP shows that this Labor government is holding up \$1 million for planning improvements from Jimboomba to Cedar Vale. Between 2022 and 2024, nothing has been done.

Planning for the North MacLean to Jimboomba improvements, set out in QTRIP, should have been finished by now, but they have been delayed, as have planning works for the Logan Motorway to Park Ridge section. Planning for improvements to Beaudesert—a part of the 10-year plan—have not even made it into QTRIP yet, even though we are eight years into that 10-year plan. I will keep on working to get Mount Lindesay Highway moving as my federal colleague will, and as he does so well in the past when the coalition was in power in Canberra. Labor should get on with doing what needs to be done. There have been enough delays.

The amount of traffic through Canungra each day has increased by about 50 per cent in the last decade and locals are paying the price for Labor's failure to plan for this. Development around Jimboomba, Yarrabilba and Beaudesert has caused this congestion, but this government has done nothing to ease that—this budget does nothing. Main Roads needs to get on with the job of planning a better road network around Canungra, as this growth will continue. We know that. Burying heads in the sand will not fix anything and the people of Canungra and its surrounds deserve better for their town. Talking about Canungra: water security needs to be looked at from an Seqwater perspective, as well. I know they have started thinking about it. With the population growth there, there will be a need for action in the future.

Going to the Cunningham Highway—another topic members love hearing me talk about—the Amberley interchange is a dangerous interchange that has been neglected by this Labor government over a generation. Tragically, we saw another fatality since Labor's last budget in this House. There is no plan for fixing this interchange—no plan at all. Federal Labor has no funding for it and, again, it is the LNP federally who led the charge to do something about this road when it placed \$170 million on the table in 2018, only for the then minister Bailey to take the entire project off the table where it remains. It is a disgrace that RAAF Amberley has such a poor access point. It does not bode well for national security that it is such a choke point every single morning peak hour. I have worked to have that upgrade designed, costed and funded by state and federal governments. Shamefully, there is still no long-term solution on the table. Roundabouts or traffic lights in the middle of a national highway are not the solution. They might solve some problems but they will cause others. The lack of action on this interchange is a clear example of Labor always taking Ipswich for granted. Maybe they will not do that now that we have the new member for Ipswich West, Darren Zanow, in the House working to address this longstanding problem on this boundary of our electorates. There is no funding in the budget for

Ipswich Boonah Road but after lobbying Main Roads, I have been told there are plans to repair a section between Milbong and Washpool, along the flats there. This is a busy road, and many people from around Boonah and Fassifern use it daily.


On health, Labor's record on ramping is abysmal. Ipswich Hospital is the epicentre of this and sadly there have been tragic deaths of locals because of ramping. There is funding for upgrades to Ipswich Hospital in this budget, but I understand that an upgraded Ipswich Hospital will be at capacity the day it opens. This is a failure of planning by the government. What have they been doing for the last nine years if the upgrade they are funding now will be at capacity when it opens?

Last year I was informed there would be \$45 million spent to improve the Boonah and Laidley hospitals. To date, there are no details on this. Boonah Hospital does need additional services and investment, and I have called for that over many years. Is this \$45 million still in the budget, or has it been cut? Population growth in the Scenic Rim Regional Council area is largely around Beaudesert and the Beaudesert Hospital—where I am proud to say the LNP recommenced maternity services back in 2014; a service which continues to this day—desperately needs more services to be offered. We need a CT scanner installed there, and we have for many years. It was on the radar back in 2014 when Lawrence Springborg was the minister, but this government has taken it completely off the agenda. They do not care enough to even fund a small item of equipment like a CT scanner that would enhance Beaudesert Hospital. It is great that my campaign for better doctor coverage there has paid off. We have eight new doctors on the ground for weekends and overnight coverage, but we also need to see the ED expanded so these doctors can safely and efficiently treat the patients who are presenting at the ED and so there is capacity for the future. I note that Beaudesert Hospital does not just serve Beaudesert; it serves Yarrabilba in the member for Logan's electorate and other places near Jimboomba. If we take pressure off Logan Hospital by enhancing Beaudesert Hospital it is a win for the entire corridor, but the Labor government does not see fit to be able to do that.

This government has bizarrely told Queenslanders not to judge them on the record and that their past failures do not matter but Labor's record on crime, health, housing and cost of living does matter to Queenslanders—

Mr Perrett interjected.

Mr KRAUSE: Fire ants as well. I take that interjection from the member for Gympie, the shadow minister for agriculture. He will be a far better minister for agriculture than the member for Ferny Grove. Queenslanders should not be fooled by this government. The \$150 million spend on election hand-outs for public transport for only six months means very little if you have no public transport. Beaudesert has a bus service, Calvert and Grandchester have a bus service, but the rest of the Scenic Rim electorate? Nothing. The community of Tamborine Mountain around Boonah have tried several times but Translink says 'no'. Throwing \$150 million into pre-election subsidies is an insult to those communities that have no public transport options because 'it costs too much'. Labor will do and say anything to stay in office, and that is what this budget is all about. It is not about the long-term future of Queensland. It certainly is not about the long-term future of the Scenic Rim electorate.

 **Mr SULLIVAN** (Stafford—ALP) (3.19 pm): I am very proud to rise to support this budget. It speaks to the values of the Labor Party. It speaks to the values of this government. I am really proud to associate myself with it. I want to thank the Premier and the Deputy Premier and Treasurer as well as their teams for delivering really important things for Queenslanders. This budget delivers for education. It delivers for health care. It gives people a chance in life and it goes to support every household across the state in dealing with their daily cost-of-living issues. It is economically efficient and effective. I think it finds the right balance and I am very proud to associate myself with it.

I want to talk about a couple of local issues. The budget is delivering on local election commitments that I made. There is the Somerset Hills project and the Wilston State School expansion that is well and truly coming out of the ground now. It is great to see that. Local people know that when we make a commitment we come through with it.


There is significant investment in the Prince Charles Hospital—as I have said before, an icon on the north side. There are 93 new beds, a specialist clinical care centre and an expansion of the emergency departments, both the adult and paediatric emergency departments, and a specialist care centre. It will be fantastic. At the RBWH there is significant investment, particularly in the specialist cancer centre that will serve not just the north side but also the state. I am really proud of that investment.

There is the Wilston State School, as I said. I want to thank the school and the school community, both staff and parents, for getting us to where we are today. I cannot wait for it. I really hope I will get to be at their trivia night next year in the new hall. It will be great.

The Chermside bus station is being improved and there is the investment at Somerset Hills, as I said. For the very first time an organisation close to my heart, Precious Wings, which supports bereaved parents at the worst time in their lives, has been provided in the health budget ongoing and forward funding with \$1 million over four years. I say congratulations to Kerry and the team. She is a local, but they service 18 hospitals across the state. They are really deserving recipients of funding and I am really proud that that is included in the health budget today.

I also want to point out that this budget is not just about Stafford. People across the state, including of course the locals of Stafford, will benefit from the \$1,300 electricity rebate between the Miles government and the Albanese government. The 50-cent public transport fares will help so many people. The 20 per cent rego cut is going to be a massive game changer for us. The \$200 FairPlay vouchers are going to help families, whether they play netball at Bradbury Park or football at City or Newmarket or Grange Thistle or they play league at Gibson Park or Valleys Rugby at Shaw Road or baseball or softball or hockey at Kedron-Wavell and Commercial or AFL with the Kedron Wolves or the Wilston Grange Gorillas. All of those families are going to benefit. I am so proud that we can do that to encourage teamwork and an active lifestyle and to help parents get a little bit ahead when it comes to their cost of living.

There is also the first home owner concession that is so important to people in my area. They do struggle to get into the local area that they know and love. I think the concession for first home owners is going to be really important for people in my inner-city area. I thank the Treasurer and the Premier for their hard work. I commend the bills to the House.

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (3.23 pm): I rise to give my last speech on the budget in this House—No. 13, I think it is. Hopefully it is a lucky 13 and not an unlucky 13. It is my 13th budget response and nothing much has changed over the last few years with Labor budgets. Unfortunately, they have again missed their opportunity to actually do something with this budget to fix the underlying issues of previous budgets and previous decisions this government has made. This could have been a budget for the next four years. Instead, it is only for the next four months.

Mr Power interjected.

Mr HART: Does the member know what they say about repetition? It eventually becomes the truth, and it is the truth. The reality is this is a budget for the next four months to try to con the people of Queensland into voting for Labor once again.

Initially, I will talk about the Burleigh electorate and what is in the budget for it because I would run out of time if I talked about how bad this government is and how bad this budget is. When we look at doing what matters for the Gold Coast, this glossy brochure that comes with the budget documents includes a map with five dot points. There are 10 state seats on the Gold Coast but there are only five dot points. There is a little barcode that says that if you want to see more you can zoom in. It takes me to another page, which is a very similar page, with 17 items. There are 17 items on the Gold Coast for the 650,000 people who live there and 10 state seats. That is how serious the Labor Party takes the Gold Coast. I guess that is because Labor holds only one state seat on the Gold Coast with the seat of Gaven. That is not going to last very long because Bianca Stone is coming to that seat. We are going to see two new members on the Gold Coast. When I retire Hermann Vorster is going to take over. The Labor Party will have two shiny new Gold Coast members to have a go at and those members will be in government.

What we are seeing in this budget is subsidies of \$11.218 billion, including \$3.739 billion for electricity. I am supportive of people receiving these subsidies because this government has put them in a place where they need them to survive. That is one of the biggest problems we have here. Instead of fixing the underlying issues—the real cost-of-living issues that people are faced with—all we are doing is subsidising them for the next six months just to get through the next election.

Let us look at electricity, for instance. The members on the other side are very keen to talk about the 43 per cent increase in electricity that they blame us for, but the reality is that the same thing that is happening now happened back in 2010, 2011 and 2012. The Labor Party is spending a lot of money on a cost recovery system like electricity and that is flowing through to people's bills. The other day I

heard the Treasurer or the Premier say that no-one is ever going to say that electricity should cost more. Obviously they have forgotten about that infamous letter that Andrew Fraser sent to Martin Ferguson, and I will table that for the benefit of the House.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 5 February 2009, from the former treasurer of Queensland, Hon. Andrew Fraser MP, to the then federal Minister for Resources and Energy and Minister for Tourism, Hon. Martin Ferguson MP, regarding a review of weighted average cost of capital for regulated transmission and distribution businesses [1064].

In that letter he said that the regulated asset base recovery was not enough and he wanted it to be higher. He wanted electricity prices for the people of Queensland to be higher, and that is what we inherited in 2012 when we were elected. We basically saw increases of 15 per cent a year locked in for that term. That is where that 43 per cent came in and now we are seeing it again. Why is this happening? For years and years we had cheap electricity in Queensland. The only real thing that has changed is the attempt to put in place a carbon tax and the ideological rush to renewables. That is what has led to higher electricity prices. Members opposite can smirk at that, but if renewables are as cheap as they say they are why are our electricity bills going up? Why? The reality is that all of the renewable energy that has been put in place is privately owned. This government does not own any renewable energy projects yet. They have not built anything.

They are using subsidies. They are using power offtake agreements at inflated rates that have pushed our electricity prices up in order to reach this renewable energy target. I was quite happy today to hear the Leader of the Opposition say that the Pioneer-Burdekin scheme would be scrapped because that was another 20, 30, 40, \$50 billion that would have added to the price of people's electricity bills. For the benefit of members opposite, the reality is there is no business case for this pumped hydro scheme, there is no environmental study done yet for this project and it cannot be built in the timeframe that they are talking about. The people up there do not want it. It has no social licence. The government is hanging its hat on this because it knows that when the sun does not shine the solar panels do not work and when the wind does not blow the turbines do not produce electricity and it has to have thermal power generation to supply the people of Queensland or otherwise the lights will go out. They are the facts. If you do not have some form of storage this whole system does not work. The government is hanging its hat on one big storage and even that project at that size would not be enough. It is very sensible for the Leader of the Opposition to say that we should have a number of these around the place. Pumped hydro does work. We do need it. Batteries work. We do need them, but we have to do in it a sensible fashion. This government was putting all of its eggs in one basket and it was just not going to work.

In the last 10 years that I have been watching Labor Party budgets I have seen this government spend more and more money in every budget and the outcomes have been less and less over that time. We are seeing money spent on crime and we are seeing crime increase. We are seeing more and more money spent on health and yet there are ambulances parked at our hospitals and the outcomes for people in the health system are not what they should be. The price of electricity has gone up—I have already talked about that—and we have a massive problem in housing. The government put in place a \$2 billion Housing Investment Fund and over three years they have built zero houses. It is not all about money; it is about outcomes. It does not matter how much money you spend on something if you do not achieve an outcome. This government has put in place best practice industrial conditions which mean that every project it builds costs more and more money with less and less outcomes. We saw that with the Queensland Train Manufacturing Program blowing out by \$2.4 billion because of problems that the minister put in place. We have seen every transport project blow out. We are yet to see how much Cross River Rail blows out to. When the facts come out about that, I think it will be a shock to everyone. We have 43,000 people on the social housing waiting list at the moment. New housing approvals are down 30 per cent.


One has to wonder why the Premier would think that the people of Queensland would forget what has happened in the last nine years. In his speech the Treasurer said it is about what is going to happen in the future and not about what happened in the past and that people should not be expressing their opinion about what happened in the past. I would say that that is exactly what elections are about. They are about people expressing their opinion about how bad this government has been and throwing it out the door. I can see that well and truly coming. This morning it was great to listen to the Leader of the Opposition, David Crisafulli. He gave a cracking speech—one of the best speeches I have heard in my 12 years in this place. For some reason the Labor Party are surprised that the policies are starting to roll out now. They are pretty dramatic policies that they have not even thought about. The members over there can say we copied some of those things, but that is not the truth. We have been working on these things for quite a while.

Mr Sullivan interjected.

Mr HART: There is lots more to come, member for Stafford. Watch this space. Removing the stamp duty tax from first home buyers when they build a new house is a fantastic idea. It is scrapping a tax. When have we heard about anybody scrapping a tax before? It has been a long time since I have heard of a tax being scrapped. I think it happened once when somebody stood on a hill and said, 'There will be no carbon tax under a government I lead', and then that tax was scrapped. I think it has been quite a while since that.

A policy that impressed me was the change to allow people to rent out one of their rooms and still allow them to be eligible for the first home buyers and stamp duty concessions. We are in a housing crisis, a crime crisis, a health crisis. We are in crisis after crisis after crisis. This is important to allow young people who are trying to buy their first house to earn some form of income in that first year and not have to suffer by not having access to the first home buyers grant or those tax concessions. Raising the threshold to \$700,000 and partial concessions to \$800,000 are all good things that will help people get into housing. That is something that should worry every member in the House. I am concerned about whether some of my children and grandchildren will be able to afford houses moving forward. These are the sorts of policies that we need in place to encourage that.

The members of the Labor Party should be prepared for more policies to come. Policies will be released at a time when they cannot be pinched and copied. The Labor Party is pretty good at copying and pasting. There is talk about this being a new Miles government which is not responsible for anything that has happened in the past. I thought I would have a quick browse through the job history of Premier Miles in this place. He was the minister for the environment; he was the minister for health and ambulance services—so maybe he has some responsibility for what has happened in the health services; he was the minister for regional development and manufacturing and minister for water—so maybe he has something to do with the increase in water bills that we are seeing around the place; he was in charge of planning, infrastructure and local government—so maybe he has got something to do with the problems we have in the housing area; and he was the Deputy Premier. He has had responsibility for pretty much everything that has gone wrong in this place. Is it any wonder that he is trying to hide from his history and create some sort of smokescreen so that the people of Queensland cannot see what sort of person he is and what sort of government this is. The people of Queensland can see straight through this. We are going to have a new government in October. I will be watching from the sidelines. I wish those new members all the best for the future, along with everybody else in this House.

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (3.38 pm): There is just so much good stuff in this budget. We have the \$1,000 energy rebates for every Queensland household and the 20 per cent car rego discount, but let us start with the kids, because the children are our future, and that future starts with free kindy. Free kindy kicked off this year and the new Miles government is committed to ensuring our four-year-olds can access this 15-hour-a-week program at a quality early education service. Free kindy ensures that all preppies start school with the building blocks they need to get the best start in life. I am so proud of that program because it ensures that every child has access to a quality education, which is so important.

When families are grappling with the rising cost of living, sports and active recreation can be the first thing that gets cut from the family budget. That is where FairPlay vouchers can be crucial. Previously, fairly strict criteria have applied to get FairPlay vouchers but now our new Miles government is offering 200,000 Queensland children \$200 vouchers, which is up from the previous amount. As always, we know that these will go quickly so I encourage Mount Ommaney locals to apply and not miss out when they become available.


In my community you do not have to go far, probably just down to the local bus stop, to find someone who is going to benefit from the game-changing 50-cent public transport fares trial. I speak to parents of high school children, like mine, whose children catch the bus. They stand to save hundreds of dollars per year. City employed commuters such as Riverhills local Adam, who catches the train from Wacol most days, could save thousands of dollars per year when the trial starts. That is a significant sum for families looking to save money while interest rates are at an all-time high. It is also really exciting to note that people may start to catch more public transport instead of paying for petrol, also reducing congestion on our roads.

That leads me to the always exciting Centenary Motorway upgrade and the Jindalee bridge. When they drive through, people will see that major works are well and truly underway on the Jindalee bridge on the Centenary Motorway. It looks absolutely incredible coming up out of the ground. New

things are happening every week. I have never seen so many cranes in my life. We know that the Jindalee on-ramp will be much longer and much safer once it is complete. There was another nasty bingle there this week. It is a well-known black spot. The upgrade is much needed by our community. Over the next few years, over \$159 million has been allocated to this fantastic and very important project for our community.

I now turn to the reason that we can fund many of these cost-of-living programs. A few budgets ago we made the decision to implement progressive coal royalties to make multinational mining companies pay their fair share. The previously existing coal royalty tiers were designed primarily for lower coal prices with a top tier sitting at \$150 per tonne and royalties charged at 15 per cent. I think it is only fair that if mining companies are making super profits then their royalty rate reflects that. These resources belong to every single Queensland and I believe that every single Queensland deserves to get the benefits. That is what our cost-of-living measures are delivering. Over the first six years of their implementation, it is forecast that new progressive coal royalty tiers will deliver an extra \$12.2 billion to Queensland coffers. Every government has to make choices and the new Miles government has chosen to help everyday Queenslanders while their cost of living is at an all-time high by making mining multinationals pay their fair share.

While I am on my feet I thank the co-treasurer of my household, my wonderful husband, Talbot. Today is our four-year wedding anniversary and I am thrilled to be spending it with you all. Happy anniversary, darling. This year I outsourced gift purchasing to the Queensland Treasurer who came up with a really fantastic package that is not limited just to my household; it is for everybody in Queensland. Thank you, Treasurer, for this fantastic budget week gift. It is a record-breaking budget for Queensland. I commend the budget to the House.

 **Mr ANDREW** (Mirani—PHON) (3.43 pm): I rise to contribute to the annual debate on the budget papers. I start by thanking the government for the many funding allocations made in the budget that I know will directly benefit the people of Mirani. I start with the funding allocation of \$6.5 million for refurbishments at the Sarina State High School. Like many other schools in the region, Sarina State High School is in dire need of upgrades, improvements and teachers. This modest injection of cash will be welcomed by the school's teachers and students as well as the whole community.

I also thank the government for its commitment to providing 118 extra teachers for the Central Queensland region and 79 extra teachers for the Mackay region, which is great. However, there is no point boosting numbers if there is no way to house people when they arrive. That is an issue that we have. I am disappointed about my appeals for urgent action on the worsening teacher shortage crisis at Sarina State High School. Such shortages have devastating impacts on student learning outcomes. Last year, 11 candidates rejected the school's offer of employment expressly citing the area's lack of accommodation and day care facilities. Mount Morgan is also impacted. I am hopeful the minister will divert funding towards the construction or purchase of dedicated teacher accommodation near Sarina State High School.

I am sorry to see nothing in the budget papers by way of funding or support for the people of Finch Hatton. Recently, a temporary planning instrument and flooding overlay was imposed on the township and its surrounding areas. Last year I wrote to the minister asking for funding so the community could work with Reef Catchments to carry out flood management and mitigation work and for the old river management trust to be restored. All of the material that is taken from the river systems can be repurposed to build roads. River maintenance is crucial when it comes to mitigating the impacts from heavy rainfall events at Finch Hatton. Virtually all of the damage those events cause is because no maintenance or management works have been carried out on Eungella waterways for decades. I beg the minister to reconsider this request.

By my calculations, this year's budget allocates some \$1.147 billion to projects and programs within the electorate of Mirani. Of course, most of that \$1.147 billion relates specifically to the government's massive green energy infrastructure program. I am glad to hear the opposition say today that they would scrap that idea. We do not want that in the electorate of Mirani. The budget includes hundreds of millions of dollars in funding allocations for the construction of habitat destroying wind factories within my electorate. Lotus Creek and Boulder Creek boast thriving koala populations as well as many other endangered or threatened species and their habitat will be smashed by those developments. No doubt those projects will create many job and business opportunities for local communities so I will make no further comment about them for now as most people know my view on the matter.

However, I do want to comment on the other big renewable allocation in my electorate, the Pioneer-Burdekin Pumped Hydro project. I have spoken at length about the environmentally destructive impact of this project. The opposition also understands its destructive nature, which is great. I will make just a few comments on the economic aspects of the project.

Getting any kind of pumped hydro project up and running is a notoriously difficult, time-consuming and expensive exercise at the best of times. We need only look at what has happened with Snowy 2.0 to understand the scale of the problems we would be taking on with such a project. Added to that is the fact that pumped hydro is a net consumer of electricity. Across the whole spectrum, pumped storage projects consume roughly 30 per cent more electricity pumping water uphill than they generate by running the water back downhill. It will drain our electricity grid by consuming electricity, most of which comes from burning fossil fuels, making the whole thing utterly absurd. Like other pumped hydro operations, it will struggle to meet its debt repayments and operating costs, let alone turn a profit. The government has pinned its hopes for shutting down Queensland's coal-fired power stations by 2035 on the construction of two mega pumped hydro projects at a cost of around \$30 billion—that we know of. They have bet the state of Queensland on a single project before a single soil study, geotechnical or seismic test has been done and before a detailed and fully costed business case has been done.

There are two projects that I am pleased to see have received generous allocations: the Mount Morgan and Fitzroy to Gladstone water pipelines. Sadly, neither of those pipelines will have water offtakes for the Fitzroy agricultural corridor. I do not know why it is called an 'agricultural corridor' because there is hardly any water there and most people do not have an allocation. Both projects represent substantial investments in the region's water security, which is something that I have lobbied for long and hard and we do need to expand that to most of the regions. I am disappointed that no water from the Fitzroy to Gladstone pipeline will be diverted to the lower Fitzroy agricultural corridor, but I will continue to push for that. I will talk with the mayor about allocations and how we can split that up. In the meantime, both pipelines will deliver many dividends in the way of plentiful jobs and economic gains that will benefit the whole region.

In other good news, Stanwell Power Station has been allocated \$52 million for refurbishment and upgrade works, for which I thank the minister. Keeping Stanwell in good working order is vital for maintaining the efficiency and reliability of our electricity supply in Queensland. While there are many misguided calls to close the state's coal-fired power stations, Stanwell is still a relatively young plant and has decades of life remaining in it. Central Queenslanders understand that the coal sector means economic growth and well-paid, productive jobs for the regions. They also know that coal-fired power stations are key to providing the reliable power generation which drives growth and development in the regions. At any given time in Queensland, up to 80 per cent of the state's electricity is powered by fossil fuels, a considerable amount of which comes from our coal.

The people of Mirani will also benefit from the generous allocations made in the budget for hospitals and health services. Both the Rockhampton HHS and the Mackay Base HHS do an outstanding job. I know a lot of the people who work there personally. I have had a lot of dealings with them over the past couple of months because my father has been there for quite some time with a broken hip. I thank them for their service and for what they have done. I would particularly like to thank the government for delivering a major upgrade and 128 extra beds for Mackay Base Hospital to meet the region's growing demand for quality health care.

I had hoped there might be something in the budget enabling the Mackay Base Hospital's helipad to remain operational during the hospital's redevelopment period. The helipad provides a critical service for the people of the Mackay region. It is imperative that CQ Rescue choppers are able to land within close proximity to the hospital's emergency care, and I implore the minister to work with Mackay hospital and the local community to find a solution to this problem. We have discussed it. In a region where we have many road, farming and mine accidents, lives will be put at risk if the helicopter is forced to land away from that area.

This year's budget dishes out a staggering \$11.2 billion in concessions and rebates to struggling Queenslanders. While I am happy that struggling households are getting something put in their pockets during the current cost-of-living crisis, it is hard not to see the government's cash splash as a blatant vote-buying exercise which risks driving up inflation and house prices yet again—something that will only be made much worse by the government's massive infrastructure on green energy projects.

The Miles government has doubled down on new investment in capital works across hospitals, energy, rail, roads and schools in the 2024-25 Queensland budget. Where other state governments have been disciplined in their spending and debt management in the current environment, Queensland has thrown caution to the wind, I believe, and pushed public debt to record levels.


Infrastructure funding in Queensland is forecast to shoot up by 22.8 per cent, or \$10.3 billion, over the next four years, bringing general government infrastructure funding to \$55.6 billion. Much of this investment will be directed towards billion dollar construction cost overruns such as the Coomera Connector, Rockhampton Ring Road and the Logan and Gold Coast Faster Rail. The budget's massive infrastructure spending is disturbing for a state once known for its fiscal responsibility.

In addition, the government's bloated public sector workforce has reached farcical proportions. According to the Auditor-General, Labor has added more than 34,000 workers to the public sector since 2015, with an annual wages bill of more than \$67 billion. The creation of so many public sector jobs removes workers from the private sector, where they could be more profitably and productively employed. More importantly, it shifts vital resources away from the true wealth creators to those who are dependent on the public purse.

The budget papers show deficits returning next financial year while gross general government debt combined with the borrowings of government owned corporations is forecast to take the total of Queensland's borrowings to \$188 billion by 2027-28. The annual interest on this debt will cripple the economy. In the meantime, real wages in Queensland have fallen by around five per cent since 2022. National account figures show that real household disposable income, a measure of living standards, fell 5.6 per cent over 2023 and 8.3 per cent over the last two years.

Across Queensland, working-class households are suffering enormous financial and personal stress, with visibly rising levels of poverty and homelessness, which is a disgrace especially in our beautiful and rich state. Foodbank queues are growing and more people are living in cars and tents. Added to all this are Queensland's skyrocketing prices of electricity, insurance, rates and land values which just keep pushing interest rates, rents and other costs higher.

The green energy transition has barely begun and already AEMO is warning of widespread energy shortages, blackouts and price hikes towards the end of the year. This means cold showers in the dark for Queenslanders. Hardest hit will be those on low incomes, especially in the regions.

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Alger—ALP) (Minister for Treaty, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister for Communities and Minister for the Arts) (3.53 pm): I rise to support the Appropriation Bill 2024 and to offer my congratulations to the Premier and the Deputy Premier on the first Miles Labor budget, aimed squarely at taking the pressure off Queenslanders who are feeling the impacts of the rising cost of living.

This budget is about doing what matters for Queensland. Queenslanders have overwhelmingly told us that addressing immediate cost-of-living pressures is what matters to them. That is why the new Miles government is delivering a record cost-of-living budget—the biggest, I am advised, of any state in the country. Our \$1,000 energy rebate plus the federal government's energy rebate means we are taking \$1,300 off electricity bills for Queenslanders in the next financial year. This will be even more for concession holders. For a pensioner living in Parkinson, a concession card holder in Acacia Ridge or the many families living in Browns Plains, Pallara and suburbs right across the Alger electorate, this will mean huge reductions in electricity costs or, for some, nothing to pay until 2025. The budget is also reducing car registration by 20 per cent, which will make a huge difference to people right across the Alger electorate including Lynn and Dave from Forestdale, who said that the energy rebates and the reduction of their car rego means they will be able to save more money from their pension.

Another cost-of-living measure in this budget that will make a huge difference to so many people in the Alger electorate and across the state is the 50-cent fares on all Translink public transport. Whether it is taking the 460 bus from Heathwood to the city or a short trip on the 126 from Acacia Ridge to Sunnybank Plaza, every trip will cost only 50 cents. For the many people I spoke to recently as they were about to take the 142 from the brand new park-and-ride facility near Greenbank RSL at Hillcrest, funded by this government, this will mean a massive weekly saving that will make a huge difference to their weekly budget. One young mum said that she will save hundreds of dollars on public transport as a result of this announcement and, along with the upcoming electricity rebate, that it already feels like there is some relief in sight from rising living expenses. All of these cost-of-living measures and many more can only happen because we have made multinational mining companies pay their fair share and we have kept electricity assets in public hands.

On top of this record investment, we are also delivering \$20 million for cost-of-living relief and support for vulnerable Queensland families through my department of communities. The Miles government is providing \$3.3 million for emergency relief providers and \$2.2 million for the continuation of financial resilience support services, delivered in partnership with community-based organisations.

The Miles Labor government delivers more than \$23 million in critical funding to support First Nations Queenslanders through Closing the Gap initiatives, wellbeing and community safety programs, and reconciliation and truth-telling and healing. This includes: \$6.4 million for continuing locally led wellbeing and community safety programs for First Nations communities; \$3.1 million over four years to strengthen the sector, including funding to the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Coalition; and \$1.7 million over two years to continue the Doomadgee Place-based Partnership and related programs. These initiatives will continue to deliver and support community-led, place-based programs to help close the gap in life outcomes for First Nations Queenslanders.

It is extremely difficult to address the complex issues represented in the national Closing the Gap Agreement without a true understanding of why the gap exists in the first place. This parliament voted, with bipartisan support from those opposite, to establish the Path to Treaty Act in May last year. I acknowledge the member for Barron River for his incredible work in shepherding that legislation through. That legislation was to establish the Truth-telling and Healing Inquiry and to prepare a framework for treaty negotiations with First Nations Queenslanders.

It is hard to say where the Leader of the Opposition stands on Queensland's Path to Treaty this week. After wholeheartedly supporting the treaty legislation last year and voting for it in this House—he said that treaty is 'an opportunity I believe Queensland should embrace wholeheartedly'—we know that, after a little bit of pressure from the far right of his party, he capitulated and backflipped on his commitment. Just last week, ahead of this budget, the Leader of the Opposition backflipped again and fully endorsed our budget—our plan for the next four years. He endorsed \$40 million that has been allocated over four years for the First Nations Treaty Institute. He endorsed the \$56 million over four years for the Truth-telling and Healing Inquiry, which will commence on 1 July 2024. He endorsed nearly \$18 million over four years to help community members share their stories with the inquiry through additional resources and access to extra specialist research and archival officers and additional resources for community and personal histories. When it comes down to it, we know that, despite the Leader of the Opposition claiming to support this budget, only Labor can be trusted to deliver it.

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

The speech read as follows—

Speaker, we know that another key concern for Queensland communities is an increase in the cost of food, leading to food insecurity.

Increased food insecurity means more Queensland children are starting their school day on an empty stomach.

That's why the Miles Government has boosted the School and Community Food Relief Program by \$15 million in this year's budget—because no child should go to school hungry.

This is all in addition to the commitment of \$2.7 million, announced in last year's State Budget, to extend and expand the Miles Government's school breakfast programs, particularly in communities experiencing hardship across Queensland.

In addition to this important boost in funding, Minister Farmer and I are co-chairing the School and Community Food Taskforce, a cross-sector group which will provide expert advice on options to support access to healthy food and drink for Queensland families.

This budget also delivers \$200 FairPlay vouchers for all Queensland kids and I can tell you Mr speaker this announcement has many families and all our sports clubs in Algester very excited.

Removing the eligibility restrictions so that all Queensland kids can benefit along with the increased number of vouchers is a great opportunity for our clubs to grow and for our kids to engage in group sports.

Mr Speaker, we know the devastating effects isolation and loneliness can have on Queenslanders, which is why we initiated the Parliamentary Inquiry into social isolation and loneliness in Queensland in 2021.

We are continuing to deliver important outcomes and responses to this inquiry, including through the Communities Innovation Fund.

Our cost-of-living Budget continues our investment in Neighbourhood Centres with \$21.8 million allocated to the construction of new centres and upgrades to existing centres.

Our government is also investing in our future through Free TAFE and Free Kindy and building new schools as well as investing in our current schools with new infrastructure.

We are continuing our nation-leading Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan, creating over 100,000 new jobs and putting downward pressure on power prices.

Delivering stronger frontline services with record investments in our health and education systems and creating 70,000 jobs through our infrastructure Big Build

As we continue to develop Queensland's first LGBTQIA+ Strategy, we are investing \$1.035M over two years to establish the inaugural LGBTQIA+ Alliance, which will support continued engagement between government and LGBTQIA+ communities.

We will continue to support Queensland's veterans and their families with \$4.920 million over 4 years and \$1.23 million per annum ongoing for the Queensland Veterans' Council.

Mr Speaker children and youth will also benefit from this Labor State Budget, through the Queensland Government's \$501.98 million Putting Queensland Kids First initiative.

Through this initiative, we will invest \$15 million in partnerships with community organisations, to deliver much needed additional support services for Queensland children, young people, families and communities.

Mr Speaker, the Queensland Government is committed to continuing to protect and conserve Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage.

That's why we've allocated \$500,000 over 2 years for the management of discovered ancestral remains.

We also know that small businesses, including live music venues and arts businesses, are doing it tough as a result of cost-of-living pressures and changes in consumer buying patterns.

The new Queensland Night Life Economy Commissioner will work alongside the Queensland Small Business Commissioner and industry to support, promote and advocate for key aspects of the night life economy.

Central to the role will be focus on partnerships that promote the growth, sustainability and vibrancy of the diverse businesses that underpin this important sector.

Mr Speaker, it is critical that we invest in the heritage listed Queensland Cultural Centre, which is home to the state's cultural and collecting institutions, particularly as we look to the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games and delivering legacy outcomes for future generations.

Through this year's State Budget, we have committed \$25.3 million over two years to support critical asset maintenance work including \$1.5 million to complete a feasibility study for flood resilience improvements across the Queensland Cultural Centre, a further \$12 million for asset renewal and \$11.8 million to enhance important safety measures around the Cultural Centre.

An injection of \$5 million over 3 years will deliver critical asset renewal work at Queensland Museum's Cobb + Co in Toowoomba and the Queensland Museum Rail Workshops in Ipswich, recognising their important role housing valuable collections and delivering cultural experiences to locals and visitors.

Speaker, new investment of \$3.1 million will also support inclusive and diverse arts and cultural services and experiences.

This will see State Library of Queensland provide more than \$600,000 to enhance library services delivered through Vision Australia Queensland Library and Braille House, while \$2 million will support QPAC's First Nations Programming Initiatives, including its signature cultural festival—Clancestry.

And our leading art museum, QAGOMA will present compelling local and global stories with investment of \$500,000 to support programming at its Australian Cinémathèque and deliver exhibitions and activities for our youngest Queenslanders at its Children's Arts Centre.

Screen Queensland investment

Queensland is the place to be for the Australian and international screen industry.

Our investment in screen industry development is set to continue to deliver a pipeline of productions and projects for Queensland and will cement Queensland as a destination of choice for screen production.

An injection of \$38 million in this budget will boost the state's screen industry and support Screen Queensland's critical incentives; Production Attract Strategy; Post and Digital Effects; and Digital Games Program.

In 2022-23 Queensland's screen investment resulted in an estimated \$582 million in production and digital games expenditure and supported the creation of more than 4000 local jobs.

This new investment in Queensland's screen industry will ensure the state continues to build momentum through competitive incentives, coupled with first-rate studio facilities, highly skilled local crews and diverse locations.

Coen Art Centre


Building on a two-year investment to consider an emerging Indigenous Art Centre in Coen through our Backing Indigenous Arts initiative in 2022, the community has shaped its ambition to create a place for community and storytelling, where skills can be developed, and cultural maintenance is supported.

Mr Speaker, I am pleased to advise that through the State Budget, our Government has committed almost \$8.2 million over two years to construct an Arts Centre in Coen.

This investment will strengthen the local community and enable the development and sharing of arts and cultural practice and underpin the creation of experiences that will grow Coen's reputation as a tourism destination.

Conclusion

This is a budget that delivers what matters for Queensland, and I commend it to the House.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (3.59 pm): I rise to address the cognate debate on the appropriation bills 2024-25. This is the 10th consecutive state budget delivered by the Labor government. This year's Labor budget is one focused on the next four months, not the next four years and beyond. It is abundantly clear that this state budget is only for Labor's re-election, not for Queensland's future. Whilst the cost-of-living relief measures contained in this budget are needed and certainly welcomed by Queenslanders, they have become necessary because of Labor's service delivery failures and Labor's public policy failures. Never before has a Queensland government taxed more, spent more and borrowed more with less to show for it.

When the Labor state government was first elected in 2015, debt was \$72 billion. A decade later and this latest state budget reveals that debt will hit \$172 billion over the forward estimates. That is \$100 billion more debt after 10 state Labor budgets.

The attempts by the Labor state government to erase its abysmal track record and tell Queenslanders to simply ignore the last decade of Labor failures is nothing short of farcical and absurd. Queenslanders will not forget the last decade of this Labor government's 'Labornomics', featuring economic mismanagement, broken promises, project management failures and multibillion dollar blowouts that this Labor Premier and Labor Treasurer have signed off on each and every year, not only in their current roles but in previous ministerial portfolios.

We have previously seen important fiscal principles abandoned when Labor implemented its shameful smoke-and-mirrors budget exercise including when Labor shifted general government debt on to Queensland's government owned corporations, including our electricity and energy companies, not to mention Labor's cheap cash grab by raiding \$4 billion from the long service leave and superannuation entitlements of public servants. In 2021, Labor suddenly accepted a valuation of the titles registry of \$8 billion—more than double what it was just a year earlier.

We have also seen the state Labor government break its core promise to Queenslanders—made 26 times during the 2020 state election campaign—that there would be no new or increased taxes or charges. Since the last state election, this Labor state government has overseen six new taxes in a cost-of-living crisis, including a patient's tax and a renter's tax. The fact is that each state budget that Labor has delivered over the last decade has been one that has been more focused on the political survival of the Labor Party, rather than delivering a sustainable economic plan for the future of Queensland.

As the Liberal National Party's shadow minister for education, I now wish to turn to the \$20.9 billion in funding that has been allocated in the 2024-25 state budget for the education portfolio in Queensland. I note that this year funding has been allocated for various measures, including Labor's Putting Queensland Kids First package. The fact is that this significant allocation must be delivered because it is what is required to clean up the mess that has been created by the Labor state government over the last decade.

Whilst this Labor state government might want to pretend that it is putting Queensland kids first, the fact is that over the last decade they have been putting students and children last. Despite what the Labor state government says it will do for students and teachers over the next four years, Labor's broken promises and litany of failures mean that Labor simply cannot be trusted.

At the 2020 state election, the Labor government made an unequivocal election promise to Queenslanders that Labor would hire 6,190 new teachers and 1,139 new teacher aides. As the latest public sector workforce profile reveals, there has only been a net increase of 1,054 new teachers and teacher aides since 2020, representing an increase of just 1.81 per cent.

Given such an abysmal track record, Labor's additional promises in this state budget for hundreds more teachers and teacher aides cannot be taken seriously. As the Liberal National Party has uncovered this year, Labor's teacher exodus has seen more than 12,300 teachers and teacher aides leave the profession between 2020 and 2023, with teacher resignations up 55 per cent since 2020.

I also want to address the statement issued by the Labor Minister for Education this week saying that important work has only now begun by this Labor government on 'developing a long-term, sector-wide workforce strategy to look at how Queensland can attract, recruit and retain school staff'. Our teachers are suffering under a Labor state government that has failed to properly resource our schools and manage teacher workloads. Labor has also overseen a broken behavioural management system whilst also failing to deliver a safe working environment for our teachers.

Annual WorkCover payments to teachers and staff for physical and psychological injuries have risen 135 per cent since the start of the state Labor government. We are also seeing in our primary and secondary schools more than 43 students being suspended or excluded each and every school day for drugs and weapons incidents. These are the facts that truly show how Labor has put Queensland kids last for the past decade, allowing at-risk students to fall through the cracks and further exacerbate Queensland's youth crime crisis.

Government members interjected.

Dr ROWAN: I know they do not like hearing the facts, but they need to hear the facts. Under this state Labor government, from 2015 to 2023 total student disciplinary absences have risen by over 17 per cent; short suspensions are up by 18.5 per cent; long suspensions are up by over 16 per cent; and, shockingly, exclusions have skyrocketed by 20 per cent. Labor has failed our kids and hardworking teachers for far too long. In contrast, it is only the Liberal National Party that has the right priorities for Queensland's future. The Liberal National Party will fix Labor's broken student behavioural management framework, provide better teacher resources, restore standards and accountability, and implement a zero tolerance approach to violence in our schools.

As the Liberal National Party's shadow minister for the arts, I must note that, despite repeated commitments made by this Labor state government that the new performing arts venue at QPAC would be delivered on time and on budget, this year's state budget has revealed an extraordinary blowout of \$9 million, with reports that the new Queensland Theatre now will not be open until the end of 2025.

Despite record health budgets announced each and every year under this decade-old Labor government, what Queenslanders are experiencing each and every day is record ambulance ramping at over 45 per cent, a record surgical waiting list of over 60,000 Queenslanders who are waiting for life-saving and life-changing procedures, and a record waitlist of over 290,000 Queenslanders just to see a medical specialist.

The Labor government still has no credible plan for improving patient flow and implementing clinical re-design and no capacity to build the health workforce that is needed for Queensland's future. If Labor were serious about doing what matters, Labor would make a proper and informed diagnosis before offering a substandard second opinion.

We have seen all of this before during the Beattie, Bligh and Palaszczuk Labor governments and now under the Miles Labor government—poorer clinical outcomes and, in many instances, resultant patient harm which is occurring in a number of Queensland hospitals. That is the legacy of Labor here in Queensland.

As the state member for Moggill, I fight each and every day on behalf of local residents for the services and infrastructure that they deserve. The electorate of Moggill is where I grew up. It is where I am raising my family. It is where my children attended primary school and where they continue to play sport. It is a place that I am proud to call home.

I know what the priorities of local residents are for the electorate of Moggill because each and every day I am working collaboratively with our local community organisations, schools, sporting clubs, small businesses and local residents on the infrastructure and services that they want implemented as a part of a future David Crisafulli led Liberal National Party state government—an LNP state government which has a vision and a comprehensive plan to deliver for the western suburbs of Brisbane.

Through this work and my consistent 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, I have ensured that the state Labor government has been kept comprehensively and extensively informed as to what specifically must be funded and delivered for local residents of the electorate of Moggill.

I am pleased that, as result of my continued strong advocacy as the local state member for Moggill, I have secured in this budget \$7.7 million to be spent in the coming 2024-25 financial year for additional specialist classrooms at Kenmore South State School, as well as \$960,000 for amenities upgrades at our local Upper Brookfield State School.

I note that \$10 million has been allocated for upgrades for the Moggill Ferry Road—the river road to the Brisbane River—benefiting local Moggill Ferry users, by improving drainage, pavement stabilisation and strengthening. There is also \$26.1 million to be spent in this financial year for projects under Seqwater’s Mount Crosby flood resilience program. Despite the inclusion of the \$277 million for the Mount Crosby-Warrego Highway interchange project in this state budget, just \$2.7 million will be spent this coming financial year, meaning local residents will have to wait even longer before a comprehensive and safe solution can be delivered.

Similarly, whilst the Moggill Road cycleway project is included in the budget, there remains no practical action taken by this Labor state government to progress important cyclist safety initiatives for local residents. It must also be noted that the funding that has been allocated for this project in the state budget is less than the \$12.5 million in state funding that was redirected by the Labor government from the Kenmore roundabout upgrade project when Labor cut this entire upgrade.

It is clear that this Labor state government has again failed to listen to local residents of the electorate of Moggill and western suburbs of Brisbane and ignored the critical infrastructure and additional services that must be delivered. 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 still not been delivered by this state Labor government, and it clearly never will be delivered by the Labor-Greens coalition of chaos.

Labor has absolutely failed to provide local residents with the openness and transparency that they deserve on government funding, including the state Labor government’s specific plans to reduce congestion and improve cyclist and pedestrian safety on Moggill Road. This Labor government stands condemned for its continued failure to prioritise and address genuine safety concerns at the Our Lady of the Rosary intersection of Almay Street, Kenmore Road and Moggill Road through to Kilkivan Avenue. I have also repeatedly called for 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, and extending other public transport routes, including to Karana Downs. Further, enhanced footpath and pedestrian infrastructure along Moggill Road and Mount Crosby Road, including key pedestrian travel points through Pullenvale, Pinjarra Hills and Mount Crosby and a dedicated footpath to the Moggill District Sports Park still must be delivered.

I have also repeatedly called on this state Labor government to fully fund a new high school to service families in the electorate of Moggill. The refusal of Labor to provide this vital additional school infrastructure for desperate families shows that neither Labor nor the Greens political party can be taken seriously in terms of supporting families and the educational needs of students in the electorate of Moggill and the western suburbs of Brisbane. The state Labor government should also fully fund school infrastructure for every local state school in accordance with various school strategic infrastructure plans.


An allocation of funding to support the important work being undertaken by the Brisbane City Council in designing, developing and delivering a new community and neighbourhood facility at 98 Brookfield Road to better support the vital work of local community and not-for-profit organisations has again not been prioritised by the state Labor government. I also again take this opportunity to call on the Queensland state government to allocate specific additional and dedicated funding for local environment and creek catchment groups in the electorate of Moggill to support ongoing and vitally important efforts to preserve, maintain and rehabilitate our local environment and creek catchments. I wish to again reiterate my calls for enhanced police, ambulance, fire and emergency service resourcing for all residents in the electorate of Moggill, including the delivery of a dedicated ambulance station in Karana Downs.

It is an abject failure that the Greens political party intends to re-elect the Labor state government. The Greens political party is jeopardising community safety, threatening our economic prosperity and ultimately posing a serious threat to our national security and sovereignty. The last thing that Queensland needs is a Labor-Greens coalition of chaos that jeopardises the future prosperity and security of Queensland.

Budgets are all about priorities and, whilst cost-of-living relief is needed and welcomed, it cannot be ignored that for the last 10 consecutive state budgets this decade-old Labor government has failed to prioritise the vital and comprehensive infrastructure and services that residents of the electorate of Moggill deserve. The Liberal National Party has the right priorities for the electorate of Moggill and Queensland. We have already announced that we will introduce the Making Queensland Safer laws if elected to government in October of 2024 in order to deal with Labor's youth crime crisis. These laws will put the rights of victims of crime first, remove detention as a last resort, ensure consequences for actions by rewriting the Youth Justice Act, and deliver gold standard early intervention to turn young lives around.

The LNP has already announced a number of policies, including cheaper learner licences and the solar power policy for renters. Today the LNP has announced a comprehensive housing strategy to grow home ownership that includes: abolishing stamp duty for home buyers building their first home; a \$165 million shared equity scheme to help people with savings of at least two per cent to close the deposit gap and buy a home; and keeping the updated stamp duty concession threshold of \$700,000 for first home buyers purchasing existing properties.

The Liberal National Party has a range of other policies and funded announcements to be further released over the next four months prior to the 2024 state election. There is a better way with hope and opportunity for the future. Only the Liberal National Party has the right plan for Queensland's future.

 **Hon. BJ MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services) (4.13 pm): I am proud to be part of a government that is taking action on the cost of living. We know that every dollar counts, and the Miles government is helping to put more money back in the pockets of Queenslanders. In this budget we have a raft of initiatives in my portfolio, including 50-cent fares, half-price Airtrain tickets and our 20 per cent rego reduction. Our 50-cent fares initiative is a six-month initiative across the state's Translink network. We are looking to increase public transport patronage and reduce congestion on our busy roads, all while delivering cost-of-living relief. We want more Queenslanders to get on public transport. It has been great to see the positive reception to this initiative in my local area and right across the state.

The savings keep coming. Last weekend I was proud to join the Premier and Deputy Premier to announce 20 per cent off car rego for 12 months. This reduction will start appearing on rego notices sent from 5 August and apply to all light vehicles. The reduction will see benefits for owners of trailers, caravans, motorbikes and light commercial vehicles. It might be challenging for some of those opposite to understand, but most Queenslanders care more about day-to-day living costs than whether a train line is named after a royal.

As we have seen, the Leader of the Opposition's budget response was all over the shop. First he was saying how important it is to honour the budget for the stability of the Public Service. The next day it is just for projects that are fully funded and underway. What did we get today for transport? There were no new roads mentioned—in fact, there were no roads mentioned except maybe one in his own electorate. There was no mention of rail except the LNP's mad, unfunded plan to get the line to Maroochydore for \$6 billion more, but it is not costed. Then there was vague wording around ports that sounded massively undercooked. The LNP has had 3½ years to come up with a transport plan and they have clearly failed Queenslanders. I would like to reiterate that even today those opposite are still promising to deliver Direct Sunshine Coast Rail to Maroochydore. This would be an extra cost to taxpayers of \$6 billion. Where is this money coming from? They also want to cut royalties—the same royalties that are helping to deliver our cost-of-living initiatives like 50-cent fares.

What is the LNP's plan? Is it a magic black hole or, as the former LNP leader Campbell Newman suggested, a magic wand? While the LNP and the member for Broadwater try to find ways to short-change Queenslanders, we are getting on with the job. This includes building roads and rail for Queensland's future with a four-year QTRIP investment of more than \$37 billion. We are investing \$50 million to maximise the state's cyber capabilities, including cybersecurity. We are committing to delivering for the needs of Queenslanders in the 21st century.

Public transport is a vital piece of this puzzle, especially as we combat congestion in our growing state. That is why we are investing \$437 million in bus infrastructure. This budget is also backing Queensland bus manufacturers, with a commitment to build 200 rail replacement buses in the Sunshine State. We are committed to building more than 400 locally manufactured zero-emissions buses also through the Zero Emission Bus Program.

I am proud to be part of a government that is delivering the state's largest ever investment in rail—over \$14 billion worth of projects. We have three very big, revolutionary rail projects. Cross River Rail, of course, is building us a critical second river crossing that will be crucial to increasing the number, frequency and reliability of trains to get through the heart of our network. Then there is the \$5.5 billion Direct Sunshine Coast Rail, one of the largest infrastructure projects to ever be built in that region—if not the biggest. It will shave at least 45 minutes off a peak hour trip each way between the Sunshine Coast and Brisbane. Then there is the Logan and Gold Coast Faster Rail project, which will turn two tracks into four from Kuraby to Beenleigh and remove five level crossings. We are not just revolutionising rail, we are delivering generational infrastructure, keeping Queenslanders connected and moving people through to the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. I congratulate the Premier and the Deputy Premier on a fantastic budget for Queensland, a fantastic budget for transport and main roads and a fantastic budget for the people of Aspley.

The Deputy Speaker has reviewed and approved the remainder of 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—

Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program 2024-25 to 2027-28

- Our future investment plans are outlined in the 2024-25 to 2027-28 Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program, or QTRIP.
- QTRIP is our annual, four-year rolling investment plan for transport infrastructure across the state.
- From community driven improvements through to the largest, multi-billion infrastructure builds that will define our state for generations to come.
- Queensland is one of the fastest growing states in Australia—by many measures.
- Our population is exploding, tipped to grow 40 per cent from 5.22 million in 2021 to 7.3 million by 2046.
- With this growth, it's critical that we continue to invest in a way that prioritises safety, reliability, resilience, accessibility and regional connectivity.
- To support jobs—an average 28,000 of them across the four years of this cycle of the program.
- To unlock economic opportunity across our state—from the far North, to West Queensland, to metropolitan areas.
- To help you get there safer.
- Get there sooner.
- To help you move—your way.
- It's crucial that we invest in a sustainable, responsible investment program that delivers value-for-money for the people of Queensland.

Investing to get you there safer

- I'm proud that this Budget, and this iteration of QTRIP, strikes that balance between delivering for Queenslanders today, and building for the Queenslanders of tomorrow.
- This year's Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program for 2024-25 to 2027-28 includes \$37.4 billion in investment over the next four years.
- We're investing to get you there safer.
- This includes \$1.892 billion in road safety infrastructure and \$5.23 billion in maintenance, preservation and operations to support a transport network that is safer for all Queenslanders.
- This is in addition to the work with the Australian Government and local representatives to deliver training and education programs such as StreetSmarts Road Safety Education Program, Community Road Safety Grants for community and school-based programs and drink driving education campaigns.

We're investing to get you there sooner.

- While we continue to focus on public transport, all modes of transport are key to helping Queensland move.
- This includes:
 - \$22.362 billion in roads
 - \$14.017 billion in railways
 - \$437 million in bus infrastructure
 - \$315 million active transport
 - \$201 million in maritime
 - \$106 million in multi modal and other infrastructure
- Rail continues to be a primary focus, to reduce congestion on our roads and build a more accessible, inclusive and sustainable network.

- Cross River Rail—not part of the QTRIP program but an essential component of our infrastructure strategy—is a key enabler of our public transport network.
- This is alongside improved rail services generally, notably our landmark Logan and Gold Coast Faster Rail (jointly funded with the Australian Government), Direct Sunshine Coast Rail (jointly funded with the Australian Government), and our Queensland Train Manufacturing Program.

We're investing to keep you moving

- We're focused on busting congestion with \$200 million allocated for the Local Congestion Busting Program and the Productivity Enhancement Program (\$100 million for each).
- Additionally, we are backing our Bruce Highway increasing our annual funding commitment to \$250 million per annum from 2027-28.
- This investment builds on record investment made over the past nine years.
- The funding will target critical safety and capacity upgrades including the \$470 million Goorganga Floodplain immunity upgrade.
- To improve safety along the Bruce Highway, we developed a whole-of-corridor strategy.

We're delivering for regional and rural Queensland

- Safe and reliable roads are the lifeblood of rural and regional communities.
- We need to keep goods and services moving, in an efficient, affordable and reliable way for communities, businesses and people.
- Highlights include:
 - \$1 billion funding commitment for the Inland Freight Route (jointly funded with the Australian Government)
 - \$500 million for Queensland Beef Corridors (jointly funded with the Australian Government)
 - \$182 million for the Outback Way Queensland Future Priorities (jointly funded with the Australian Government)

Summary

- There is much to be proud of in this Budget, and in this cycle of our annually-refreshed QTRIP program.
- Today, we're in a position to give back to the people of Queensland with some welcome cost-of-living measures that we hope will make things easier.
- And beyond my remarks today, there is so much more to look forward to as our great state continues to grow.
- Investments that will support jobs and unlock economic opportunity.
- That will make our roads safer. More efficient. More reliable. More resilient. More accessible.
- And better connected across all modes of transport—here in South East Queensland and in communities all over the state.
- I encourage all Queenslanders to visit Transport and Main Roads website QTRIP pages to take a look at what's happening and what's planned in your local community.



Mrs GERBER (Currumbin—LNP) (4.17 pm): It could not be clearer: this Labor government will do and say anything to cling on to power. In a desperate bid to buy Queenslanders' votes they are throwing taxpayer money at short-term political sugar hits, hoping it will con Queenslanders into giving them a fourth term in government—when they have been in power for the last decade—but Queenslanders can see through it. Queenslanders know the truth. This is a desperate, decade-old Labor government under whose watch we have the health crisis, we have the youth crime crisis, we have the cost-of-living crisis and we have the housing crisis. They cannot be trusted to fix it. We have record numbers of Queenslanders sleeping in tents, record numbers of victims of crime, record ambulance ramping and record numbers of Queenslanders struggling to make ends meet.

These are not records this government is proud of. In fact, do not take my word for it: the Treasurer himself is telling Queenslanders to forget their record. Do not judge them on their record. Why? Because they know they are responsible for all of the crises that Queenslanders are living through. Over the past decade Premier Miles was the planning minister responsible for the housing crisis, he was the health minister responsible for the health crisis and, as much as they want to forget it, he was Annastacia Palaszczuk's Deputy Premier, her right-hand man, responsible for every bad decision the Palaszczuk government made over the last decade.

For those opposite to now stand in this House and try to say they are 'new' is utterly laughable, but they are actually being serious. Treasurer Dick and this decade-old Labor government are seriously telling Queenslanders, 'No, no, don't judge us on our past. Don't judge us on our record. We're brand spanking new.' They have been in power for almost a decade and their past actions have led to the crises that Queenslanders are facing today. This is not a new government, there is no new leadership and Queenslanders will not be fooled, because guess what? You cannot erase a decade of failures, and the only thing that Queenslanders need to ask themselves to understand is this: are things better

or worse for me right now than they were 10 years ago? Are things better or worse when it comes to youth crime? A decade ago we did not have teens walking the streets with machetes. We did not have teens driving cars towards our police. We did not have over 80,000 victims of crime. We did not have over 20,000 cars stolen, and we did not have almost 50,000 homes and businesses broken into.

Since 2015 under this Labor government we have seen a 213 per cent increase in the number of victims of crime. To put that into perspective, a decade ago that number sat at just above 25,000. Now, under this Labor government, it sits at 81,000 victims of crime, and they are only the victims of personal crime because this Labor government does not count property crime. These are not just numbers; these are real people suffering very real consequences because almost a decade ago this Labor government watered down our laws and created a generation of repeat young offenders and a youth crime crisis that is ripping through our state. However, in delivering this budget, the Treasurer told Queenslanders not to express an opinion about the past. 'No, no, don't look at our record. Don't look at the pain caused by the youth crime crisis.' Telling victims to forget about the pain that has been caused to them as a result of the youth crime perpetrated on them beggars belief. These victims matter, their experiences matter and the reality is real for them.

There are more victims of crime in Queensland right now than ever before, yet this budget revealed few new measures to tackle the youth crime crisis. Victims will be really disappointed to learn that this budget still does not prioritise what they have been calling for. Voice for Victims has called for much better support for victims of crime to navigate through the criminal justice system—in particular, for case workers to connect victims with relevant government agency services, including psychological and pastoral support. A number of victims have come to me and said that the system has let them down, that they did not feel supported through the court process and that they did not know about or get the financial assistance they are entitled to. Victims want a consistent point of contact who can support them and explain how they can exercise their rights, someone who can address their individual needs, including through referrals to services, regardless of whether or not they choose to engage in the criminal justice system. Those who do so choose want a service with a consistent point of reference to help them navigate the criminal justice system.

Russell Field is another victim of crime who has been a really strong advocate in this space. He has consistently called for victims' families to be helped from day one with every aspect related to the impact the crime has had on them, ranging from the smallest to the largest issue, because he did not receive this support. None of the support was explained to him or his family and he was unaware what assistance could be provided to him while he was going through the horror, the trauma and the shock of losing his loved ones. He said that it appeared that more support was available for the perpetrators than for victims. This needs to change, and I could not agree with him more. Victims need care from the beginning, and there are clearly gaps in the system that must be addressed.

What is also absent from this budget is capital funding for the much needed Cairns youth detention centre. Instead, the government has a line item there with no funding, saying that it is subject to commercial negotiations. What this really means is that it is not ready to answer the question of where the Cairns detention centre will go. The Miles Labor government is more worried about the upcoming election than being honest with the people of Cairns about where it is going to put the detention centre. Those opposite are using the cover of commercial-in-confidence to hide the detail of this project and any funding associated with it from the Cairns community. I guess there is another possibility: maybe they are hiding the detail because they have not done the work to get this project up and running on time. Given the appalling watch house crisis where children are being held in watch houses for weeks, this project needs to be a priority. The LNP believes in consequences for actions, but we are also committed to making detention matter. Without facilities that provide the necessary services to young people to rehabilitate them and to get them back on the right track, we will continue to see crime spiral out of control.

The LNP, if given the chance, will introduce the Making Queensland Safer laws. We will rewrite the Youth Justice Act. We will remove detention as a last resort. We will put the rights of victims before the rights of offenders, and we will ensure that consequences for actions are embedded in the Youth Justice Act. However, it is not fair to keep the people of Cairns in the dark on this important project. The government must come clean on where the detention centre will go and must give the people of Cairns the information in relation to this project.

Mr Sullivan interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Member for Stafford, you have had a pretty good go all afternoon. Your interjections are not being taken. Please desist.

Mrs GERBER: I want to address a really important announcement for Queensland but particularly for my community on the Gold Coast—that is, our plan to get Queenslanders into home ownership. The LNP's Securing our Housing Foundations plan will put Queensland at the top of the nation when it comes to home ownership. The threshold for first home buyers to be exempt from stamp duty has not moved in over nine years. Under this Labor government that threshold has sat at \$500,000, so a first home buyer who wants to be exempted from stamp duty has to buy a home for less than \$500,000. With an election on the doorstep, the LNP welcomes the Labor Party's change of heart in this regard. The LNP will also raise the threshold for existing homes to \$700,000, gradually phasing out at \$800,000, which will save a first home buyer \$17,350 on the purchase of an existing home.

Let us face it: people cannot realistically buy a property on the Gold Coast for under \$700,000. The median house price on the Gold Coast is over \$1 million. The LNP recognises this. That is why we will abolish the cap on new builds and new homes. Therefore, a first home buyer who builds or buys a new home will not pay any stamp duty—not a cent. That is not all: we will boost the rental market so that first home buyers can rent a room out in that house straightaway. Right now, under this Labor government, a first home buyer cannot do that. We will open that door by not only making it easier for first home buyers to get into the market but also reducing the rental stress. I know that this will help the people in my electorate realise their dream of owning their own home and will help ease the rental crisis.

We will also close the gap for young Queenslanders who do not have access to the bank of mum and dad with Queensland's very own shared equity scheme for 1,000 homes. We will also unlock the homes needed by delivering one million homes by 2044. It is all part of the LNP's Securing our Housing Foundations plan. For years Queensland has lagged at the bottom of the home ownership ladder but, under the LNP, Queensland will go to the top.

I also want to address what this budget means for us on the southern Gold Coast, and it is not good news. While many of the Labor seats have had money thrown at them, the Gold Coast has been forgotten. The Tallebudgera State School community did not get the parking it needed out of the budget. Our sporting clubs missed out too. While many Labor electorates were pork-barrelled with sporting commitments and announcements, every single one of the sporting clubs in Currumbin missed out. The Currumbin Eagles need a new change room for their girls and our wonderful Tugun Seahawks need a new deck. Neither of them received funding for those things.

Then there is the promised upgrade for the Currumbin Creek Road and Bienvenue Drive intersection. For the last four years, this state government has promised to deliver that. Guess what: it is not in this budget, either. It looks like we will not be getting that. There is another broken promise.

We do know that Labor have committed to continuing to railroad our community when it comes to light rail. They are going to bulldoze our police station and our courthouse in Coolangatta, but guess what is not in this budget. There is no money to find or build a new courthouse or a new police station. The Currumbin Wildlife Hospital missed out as well. There is no money in this budget for their world-leading research and training precinct. As for the Currumbin Eco-Parkland, there is only \$9.4 million in the budget for this—for a project that is meant to cost around \$29 million. It looks like that is not happening under this state Labor government either.

Then there is the M1 upgrade. In 2020 the state Labor government promised it would be completed in 2023. Well, it is 2024 and we are still stuck in traffic on the M1. Not only that, but the cost has blown out to \$1.5 billion. That is a \$500 million increase. It could not be clearer. The Labor government has completely given up on delivering for our community.


Lastly, I want to address the Labor announcement in relation to a cross-border commissioner. It is great to see Labor's change of heart in relation to a cross-border commissioner for Queensland. This is something for which my community has been calling out for years. In fact, it was an LNP commitment in 2020 that we would get a cross-border commissioner.

Mr Nicholls: It was 2017.

Mrs GERBER: 2017! I campaigned on it in 2020, but I take the interjection from the shadow Attorney-General. Throughout the COVID restrictions I pleaded with the Premier to give us a cross-border commissioner, but what did the then premier say when I asked whether they would give us a Queensland cross-border commissioner? The then premier stated that Queensland was 'without the

need for a specific additional officer'. Oh, how their tune has changed on the eve of an election! On the eve of an election, after failing to listen to our community for years and years, they have finally said that they are going to deliver a cross-border commissioner. It is too late for the members of my community who were stuck across the border and who needed the help of a cross-border commissioner during COVID. It is too late for the small businesses who went to the wall during COVID because they did not have a cross-border commissioner. It is too late for all of those people, but on the eve of an election they say, 'Yeah, sure, we'll announce that.'

This is a desperate, decade-old Labor government trying to hold onto power—desperately clinging, saying and doing anything to buy votes so that Queenslanders will give them another four years in power. They have had 10 years—a decade—to do these things and they have not done them. Queenslanders will not be fooled. We need to show Labor the door in 2024.

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (4.32 pm): I rise to commend this budget to the House. It shows that the Miles government is doing the things that matter for Queensland, even if they are hard or complex. The LNP, by contrast, do not have the courage to do the things that matter for Queensland because they are complex and hard to do. When things get difficult, the LNP run away or curl up. We saw that last night when we were debating a simple motion about climate change. They simply did not turn up. They ran away or hid in the toilet. They were so scared. They wanted to be such a small target that they shrank and shrank and then literally disappeared. They turned to nothing. That showed what kind of government they would be.


The policy announcements they have made today have shown that they do not have the courage or the mental fortitude to govern Queensland. They are so scared that they barely go beyond what Labor is already doing—shared equity schemes, a catalyst fund for infrastructure or stamp duty concessions.

There is one thing that is different about the LNP—that is, they remain scared of public servants. The LNP always believe that our hardworking public servants are the problem. They think public sector employees are standing in the way, and that is why they sacked 14,000 of them last time.

Mr Hart: He didn't sack anybody.

Mr WHITING: Can I please take that interjection? Alternate realities. There is nothing unusual about the LNP ruling from a position of fear, because that is how they have been operating as an opposition—enlarging and unlocking the fears of Queenslanders, using the personal tragedy of Queenslanders as their way of gaining attention. I point out that I have not heard one of them yet mention domestic and family violence or gendered violence—not once—which is a disgrace.

Do members know another basic difference between Labor and the LNP? I have seen the Premier and cabinet ministers sitting down and talking with victims of crime. We say to them, 'How can we help you?' The LNP say to victims of crime, 'How can you help us? How can you help us build up fear and political advantage?' That sums up the difference between the Miles government and the LNP: courage versus fear. We have the courage to do the things that matter for Queensland, even though they are hard and complex. The LNP, on the other hand, are dominated by fear—the fear of public servants. They use fear for political advantage. They are so scared of taking a position that they run away and hide. Most of all, they fear another four years in the political wilderness. I commend this budget to the House.

 **Dr MacMAHON** (South Brisbane—Grn) (4.36 pm): Queenslanders are facing a series of interconnected crises. The housing crisis and the cost-of-living crisis are bringing people to their knees. While things are getting tougher and tougher for everyday people, big corporations continue to make huge profits and continue to rip off Queenslanders. While a handful of big companies are allowed to trash our climate more and more every year, our government continues to allow fossil fuel extraction and continues to contribute to overseas conflicts, like Israel's assault on Gaza.

In the midst of all of this, this budget is literally all that Queensland Labor has to offer everyday Queenslanders. In the midst of a housing crisis, the government has no plan to fix social housing wait times or any plan to give renters long-term security in their homes. In the midst of a cost-of-living crisis, the government has unveiled a series of temporary, flashy measures—like cheaper public transport and rego—rather than measures that will actually make people better off in the long term. While our government rolls out the red carpet for developers and big business, it is letting Queensland revenue from royalties stall while our health and education systems are underfunded.

I am standing here today to tell the Treasurer and the Premier that everyday Queenslanders are not going to fall for this. Queenslanders are crying out for the government to step in and deal with these crises in a systemic way, and the government have said that this is all they can do. People's hope for the future is at an all-time low, and these crumbs that Labor are doling out are not going to help.

Queensland's coal royalties have collapsed because this government has squandered the opportunity to share the immense wealth from Queensland's resources boom with regular Queenslanders. Royalties from gas companies will crash by almost 60 per cent over five years and royalties from coal companies will crash by 70 per cent in three years. This means more money stays in the pockets of multinational mining corporations instead of funding our housing, health and education systems.

What the Treasurer announced two years ago as increased coal royalties was always just a temporary bump. Despite the pretend public fight with the Queensland Resources Council, behind closed doors the mining industry has been cheering. The so-called progressive royalties scheme introduced in 2022 was only ever designed to kick in when coal prices remained astronomically high. The government always knew that coal prices would fall and the royalties would fall with them.

The government's only press release said that the new progressive royalty regime will minimise impacts on the coal industry. The coal industry must be pleased to have its political wing, the Labor Party, running government. When the government minimises the impacts on the coal industry, we minimise funding for the services that everyday Queenslanders need. If the government had introduced a 35 per cent royalty rate like the Greens have proposed, we would have raised an extra \$21 billion last year. With that money we could have abolished school fees by fully funding state schools, permanently made public transport free and built hundreds of thousands of new public homes.

The cost-of-living and housing crises are breaking people. Queenslanders are struggling like never before. People are sleeping in tents and cars, and thousands more are just one rent increase away from homelessness. For those who have scraped together just enough to buy their own home, rising interest rates are making it harder and harder to meet mortgage repayments. After Queenslanders pay their rent or mortgage, food, electricity, phone, health care and school costs, there is often very little left. Queensland leads the nation with the highest increases to energy, insurance and health costs over the last year. Queenslanders will enjoy electricity rebates, but there is nothing to stop the privatised electricity retailers from ripping people off once the rebates end. We will get cheaper public transport, but only for six months. There is more money for homelessness services, but still long wait times for social housing. Short-term money here and there is not going to cut it. This budget is like giving Queenslanders an umbrella in a hailstorm.

Let's look at what is in the budget to address the housing crisis. Twenty-one months: that is how long, on average, Queenslanders with high or very high needs are waiting for social housing in our state. The target was 12 months—still unambitiously high—but 21 months is the longest wait time in recorded history. It has been steadily increasing in recent years, despite all of the ways the government has been trying to hide this. Despite the numerous flashy housing strategies released in the past nine years, these basic facts speak for themselves. The number of social homes has barely increased. Labor has been in government for nine years and there are now fewer social homes per Queensland resident than there were in 2015. It is three years since the government announced its Housing Investment Fund, touted as a multibillion dollar investment through some pretty disingenuous accounting, and not a single new dwelling built under that program is housing a single person. The government's housing policies have been a failure. The proof is right here in the budget. Queenslanders are waiting nearly two years for social housing. How many people have been evicted or forced out of their homes by massive rent increases while waiting in Labor's housing purgatory?

We are pleased that, after huge pressure from the community and the housing sector, there is more funding for emergency temporary accommodation while people wait for permanent homes, but the millions of dollars poured into hotels and temporary fixes will never solve the underlying problem, which is the rapidly rising cost of housing thanks to huge rent increases and tax concessions for investors. It is now going to take years to build the scale of public housing that we need to fix this mess. In the meantime, Queenslanders desperately need bold action to bring down the cost of housing like an emergency rent freeze. Labor's refusal to limit rent increases or give renters a guaranteed right to lease renewal is unconscionable when they are making people wait nearly two years for social housing. Where are these people meant to go? We are seeing exactly where—people sleeping in their cars or in tents in parks.

The housing crisis is breaking people. More and more people are sleeping in tents and cars and thousands more are just one rent rise away from homelessness. This is literally all Labor has to offer—the Help to Buy scheme that will drive up the cost of housing. There is hardly any new public money for public housing. The stage 2 rental reforms are done with no rent cap. This budget is all Labor has.

We know that the government can cap rents. In fact, just a few weeks ago we legislated rent caps for people in manufactured homes. The government had rightly recognised the pressure that has been put on people in manufactured homes, particularly people on fixed incomes, facing huge rent increases. The manufactured homes caps are still too lax, capping rent at the increase of the consumer price index or 3.5 per cent, whichever is higher, but the government are content to kick the other 1.7 million Queensland renters under the bus.

The justification the minister gave at the time regarding the manufactured homes rent cap is that rents have risen faster than wages. This is also the case for over 1.7 million renters in Queensland. In the last three years rents have risen three times faster than wages, but Labor and the LNP will not do anything to take on the development industry. Both Labor and the LNP will not do anything that would actually cause property prices to fall, and this means they will not do anything about out-of-control rent increases or the fact that renters can be turfed out of their home every six months. This means that Labor and the LNP are incapable of doing anything about the housing crisis. Labor's budget is tinkering around the edges of a broken system. While Queenslanders are struggling like never before, year after year, the government announces record spending on social housing, but Queenslanders can see right through this when wait times keep blowing out and the rent keeps going up.

Let's look at education funding. After a decade and a half of arguments about needs-based funding, we know what funding our state school system needs to do its job. This means that we know quite accurately how badly Labor is underfunding this system. The education department itself has said that state schools should receive a minimum of 100 per cent of the Schooling Resource Standard, SRS. Because the Commonwealth kicks in 20 per cent of funding at the moment, Queensland should be kicking in 80 per cent, but we are far from that. The Queensland government kicks in just 70.5 per cent of the Schooling Resource Standard. This means that Queensland state schools receive 90.5 per cent of the funding they need. This means more pressure on teachers and staff and increasing pressure on families to pay huge out-of-pocket expenses to cover the funding shortfall. Families are paying hundreds, if not thousands, every year for basics like stationery, textbooks, software, excursions, uniforms, and art and sports programs. Every year, thousands of Queensland families go into debt to cover costs for their kids' state schools. We have even heard from parents who have had no choice but to borrow money from friends and family or even go without basics themselves to have enough to cover the costs at their kids' school.

How can this government think it will fix any of the systemic issues in our state education system—like the teacher shortage, overcrowding or school disciplinary absences—when our state schools are wilfully underfunded by almost 10 per cent? There is a marginal increase in funding for state schools, but the budget notes that negotiations with the federal Labor government for the next National School Reform Agreement are still underway. After nine years of Labor government, we are still nowhere near a fully funded state school system.

There is huge pressure on our health and hospital system, with little plans to change that. We are pleased to see an increase to Queensland Health's operating budget—\$4.3 billion over four years, with funding for priority investment areas like free vaccinations for Queenslanders. Some initiatives, like the Queensland Community Pharmacy Scope of Practice Pilot, are shadier. At any rate, this brings the total health budget from \$24.1 billion in the current financial year to \$26.7 billion in the next. To put that in context, this increase of less than \$2 billion is less than one-tenth of the \$21 billion we could have raised as a state if we had meaningful royalties rates. Imagine how many more doctors and nurses we could employ, or how many free GP clinics we could run, if the government was properly taxing mining corporations. I think about the doctors and nurses who helped me in hospital and think about how additional funding and additional staffing would help them.


What this budget proves is that if you want real, positive change, you are going to have to fight for it and you are going to have to vote for it. It is clear that Labor will never take action because it is the right thing to do; they take action when they are forced into it. It is clear that pressure works. Labor is terrified of what happens when ordinary people get organised to fight for changes that will improve their own lives. Here in Queensland, we have gained a taste of what that collective power looks like. After years of the Greens campaigning for free public transport and pressure from the community paying huge amounts of money for public transport, this budget contains 50-cent public transport fares for six

months. Of course, the government should just make it free, but this change is as a result of pressure from the Greens and pressure from the community, forcing the government to act. After years of campaigning, my community stopped the Gabba stadium redevelopment, saving a park and billions of dollars in public money, thanks to collective action.

All of the good stuff in this budget is Greens policy. Collective community pressure has helped secure cheaper public transport fares, more money for school meals and more money for kids sport—policies lifted directly from our policy portfolio. We would like to see a lot more funding to guarantee meals for all state school kids and sport for all Queensland kids but it is clear that Labor, terrified of losing the election, has realised Greens policies are popular and effective and they have started to implement them. Labor members are under threat from the Greens in seats like McConnel, Greenslopes, Cooper and Miller. It is no wonder that they are pushing the government to pick up even more Greens policies. This is how we will win a rent freeze; this is how we will win fully funded and free state schools; this is how we will win tens of thousands of new public homes; and this is how we will win an increase to royalties in the mining sector—by making the political establishment feel the pressure.

The Greens will be taking this pressure up to Labor and the LNP in the lead-up to the state election. Instead of temporary short-term sugar hits, this government could invest in the things that will genuinely make life better for Queenslanders. Instead of lining the pockets of energy retailers, they could bring the energy system back into public hands. Instead of wasting millions of dollars on a private ticketing system and an exclusive private deal with Airtrain, this government could make public transport permanently free. Instead of bumping up the stamp duty thresholds—as if anyone will be able to keep up with skyrocketing mortgage payments—this government could take on the real estate lobby by freezing rents, taxing vacant land and building a heck of a lot more public housing.

We have seen what the government will do when it feels the pressure. Now it is over to us—the Greens and the community—to exert that pressure. The small gains we have seen on cheaper public transport and more money for meals and sport for schoolkids shows that we can make a difference and force the government to listen to us. If we want a rent freeze, cheaper energy from a system that is back in public hands and a hospital and school system that can actually do its job, it is time to stand up and tell the government that it works for Queenslanders—not the mining industry.

 **Hon. SJ STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources and Critical Minerals) (4.51 pm): What a pleasure it is to speak after a Greens member because we have heard ‘Green-nomics’—everything is free. Let’s close down all the mines, and we will just live on the fresh air to pay for everything. Green-nomics—I cannot believe it. That is why they will never be in government.

I rise today in support of the Miles government’s 2024-25 state budget. This budget is delivering vital cost-of-living relief to Queenslanders. This budget is good news for Townsville and it shows that we are continuing to invest in the largest city in Northern Australia. We know, like everywhere in Queensland, many people in Townsville are dealing with the rising cost of living. Rising interest rates and increasing grocery costs are making life difficult for many people. That is why, as part of the budget, we are delivering more than \$11 billion in concessions and rebates to help Queenslanders, including giving people \$1,000 off their power bills. This rebate grows to \$1,300 with support from the Commonwealth government. In Townsville alone, more than 18,000 households will benefit from this discount. We are also delivering 20 per cent discounts to people on their car rego, as well as increasing the threshold for first home owners concession on transfer duty from \$500,000 to \$700,000 to help more people get into the property market. Through this budget, we are investing in the future of Townsville as it continues to grow—for example, \$35 million into the North Rail Yards site to help bring more housing into the CBD.

I called on local government candidates in the lead-up to the last election to outline their plan for revitalising our CBD. I asked what they would do, and it was an echo chamber. There was absolutely no response. Something needed to happen so I stepped up and advocated strongly for this project. I have had the pleasure of showing our Premier the benefits of this project when he visited just last week. Good housing must be close to the city and close to critical services, and this site ticks all the boxes. This site will not only unlock important housing options for people but also help bring more people into Townsville’s CBD. This is something I brought up earlier this year, and it is incredibly important.

We are investing in this project to help breathe more life into our city centre. We built the Queensland Country Bank Stadium which helped tremendously, but more needs to be done by Townsville City Council. Townsville is a growing city and we know this means there will be more

pressure on our health system. That is why we announced a record \$28.9 billion health budget. This includes \$1.5 billion for the Townsville Hospital and Health Service to fund vital services that are needed for the people of our great city. It has one of the largest health footprints in Northern Australia. There is \$136.1 million for the \$530 million Townsville University Hospital expansion in 2024-25. This expansion will deliver 143 new beds to meet Townsville's growing health needs. The construction itself is expected to generate around 1,454 full-time-equivalent jobs back in the region.

We are investing in what our young people need—education, the gift of life. Being a former principal, education is something very close and dear to my heart. I see millions of dollars in funding in schools to deliver new and upgraded facilities in not only Townsville but also Palm Island. This is fantastic news for that community. Belgian Gardens State School, Garbutt State School, Hermit Park State School—which today celebrates their 100th anniversary; it is a great day and I am missing out, unfortunately—Townsville South State School, Townsville West State School, Townsville Central State School, Bwgcolman Community School along with Pimlico and Townsville State High School are receiving funding. Townsville State High School is celebrating their 100th anniversary this year—very important parts of our community. All of these schools in my electorate are receiving funding in the budget for various projects that will help them.

I would particularly like to highlight the \$800 million out of the \$18.8 million in this budget for Bwgcolman Community School. This is a project that I know is very welcome to that community as a whole. The funding for the school on Palm Island will be used to deliver a new admin block, including visiting specialist space offices and a conference room, and a new home economics building that will support food studies and will also be used for both school and community events. Palm Island is an incredibly unique community in Queensland. I am not only proud that it is part of my electorate but also proud that I am its ministerial champion. As a government, we are always investing in Palm Island's future through projects like this one at Bwgcolman Community School.

Mr Deputy Speaker, you have reviewed and approved my speech on the budget for incorporation. As such, I ask that the remainder of my speech be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*.

The speech read as follows—

This budget is also helping deliver the skills we need as well through fee-free TAFE.

In Townsville there has already been 4,123 fee-free course courses started by people—this is incredibly important as these people are part of our future workforce.

They will be able to work on infrastructure being funded through our Big Build like Copperstring 2032 which will unlock potentially \$500 billion of critical minerals deposits in the North West Minerals Province.

Through the budget we're also investing in other major infrastructure like the new Kirwan Police Complex at the old North Queensland Cowboys home-ground.

The first stage of the project will be completed next year and includes the \$45 million Kirwan Police Station, a new PoliceLink call centre, a Domestic, Family Violence and Vulnerable Persons Unit, and other specialist QPS functions.

Community safety is a top priority for myself and the Miles Government.

This budget ensures we can continue to give the police the facilities and equipment they need to do their job protecting the community.

This is part of a record \$4.379 billion budget for Police and Community Safety and helps underpin the Community Safety Plan for Queensland.

It includes funding for the procurement of a permanent Polair capability based in Townsville which we know the Queensland Police Service have repeatedly said is making a huge difference.

Speaker it is the Miles Government that is continuing to deliver for Townsville—whether that's through new infrastructure, educational facilities or cost of living relief.

That's why I'm proud to be part of this government and proud to stand behind this great budget.

The budget is backed by our strong economy and key drivers like Queensland's mighty resources sector.

A sector that employs almost 77,000 people, a majority of whom live in regional Queensland.

A sector that added \$86.5 billion to the Queensland economy last financial year.

A sector that is Queensland's biggest exporter, accounting for about \$96 billion dollars in the 12 months until March this year.

Importantly the royalties this sector generates pays for the vital infrastructure that Queenslanders need and use, like hospitals and roads.

It means we can give people \$1000 off their power bills and provide other cost of living measures.

These resources belong to the people of Queensland and they deserve their fair share.

It's our strong resources sector and our progressive coal royalties that mean we can provide cost of living relief to Queenslanders.

We know those LNP pose a risk to progressive coal royalties which mean the cost of living relief in this budget is at risk.

Our resources sector backs Queensland and this government in turn continues to support the industry through this budget.

Speaker, we know that we're in a global race towards net zero.

A low-carbon economy will rely on a range of renewable energy sources to power the future, from wind and solar farms to pumped hydro.

It is only right that we explore all the options available to us and here in Queensland we are blessed with an abundance and a variety of renewable energy sources.

We can't just rely on one source to prop up our low-carbon future.

That's why in this year's budget we will invest \$4 million to investigate the viability of natural hydrogen.

Natural hydrogen—or as it's sometimes known, gold or white hydrogen—can often be found in a variety of settings below the ground and can be extracted for energy generation.

Natural hydrogen extraction is an emerging industry and could be a crucial part of the energy mix as Queensland moves to decarbonise.

We will work with research partners to investigate the viability of such an industry here in Queensland.

This is a hallmark of Queensland's resources sector—always exploring, always innovating and always seeking to grow and create more jobs and contribute to our economy.

This investment in a natural hydrogen study builds on our continuing collaboration with the sector to embrace the next global revolution.

We have a global ambition to transform our economy through the responsible use of Queensland's critical minerals.

And we're delivering on that ambition through the \$315 million Queensland Critical Minerals Strategy.

We're doing this by reducing rent for mineral exploration permits to \$0 for five years, making Queensland the lowest cost jurisdiction in Australia to hold mineral exploration tenures.

We're creating Critical Minerals Zones around Julia Creek-Richmond to support the vanadium industry and around Mount Isa to support secondary processing opportunities.

We've delivered eight rounds of our hugely successful Collaborative Exploration Initiative, as part of a \$21.2 million commitment over five years helping companies to fast-track mineral discoveries.

The latest round provided funding of up to \$300,000 to 18 projects across regional Queensland including near Chillagoe, Cloncurry, Mount Isa and Townsville.

Nearly three quarters of all successful projects are involved in the discovery of new copper deposits, an essential resource for many types of clean energy.

Combined with the \$170 million Queensland Critical Minerals and Battery Technology Fund; our investment to build a Queensland Resources Common User Facility in Townsville; as well as the Commonwealth Government's \$22.7 billion Future Made in Australia initiative, it is clear there is unprecedented support and funding for the resources and exploration industry in Queensland.

Speaker, this budget also provides funding for the continuation of our successful Abandoned Mine Lands Program.

In the last couple of years this team in my department have:

- decommissioned legacy wells at the former Linc Energy and Carbon Energy sites;
- and completed a five-year \$9 million remediation at the Collingwood Tin mine near Cooktown, in close consultation with the Kuku Yalanji Traditional Owners and their representatives.

We will now invest nearly \$71 million over four years to continue the vital work of remediating legacy sites across Queensland.

This includes funding of:

- \$7.8 million to secure and support critical care and maintenance at the recently disclaimed Mount Garnet and Surveyor-Balcooma mine sites.
- \$4.3 million for completion of stage two remediation works at the abandoned Goondicum ilmenite site in 2024-25.
- And \$5.7 million for critical care and maintenance, water management, remediation planning, site clean-up and demolition works at the former Thalanga mine west of Charters Towers.

Not only does this program address high-priority public health and safety risks, but it will also benefit regional businesses by creating jobs and we will also support traditional owner groups with capacity to deliver site remediation activities and contribute to the overall sustainability of Queensland's vital resources sector.

Lands

Speaker, as a government we are committed to the responsible development of our island resorts for the jobs and business opportunities they create in regional Queensland.

We have never shied away from taking action where necessary, when lessees fail to meet their obligations.

It was our government that took action to protect the future of Great Keppel Island.

The leases held by Tower Holdings over the Great Keppel Island resort were forfeited and my department has been managing the site.

Speaker, it's fair to say the former island resort site the department inherited is in a state of disrepair.

As part of this year's budget, we will invest \$5 million towards making the area safe and secure.

We are doing this because we believe in GKI's tourism potential and for the jobs and business opportunities it will create for Queensland.

Speaker, my department is steadfast in its commitment to work with our Traditional Owners as part of the Queensland Government's Path to Treaty.

The Path to Treaty is a broader commitment to reframe the relationship between the Queensland Government and Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have ancient and enduring connection to land and waters and as Minister with Queensland's portfolio responsibility for resolving native title claims, compensation claims, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander land transfers, I am proud of the outcomes being delivered across Queensland.

There have been 180 native title claimant applications determined in Queensland and 94 per cent of those have been settled by agreement.

This budget continues to support this government's efforts to reframe the relationship with First Nations peoples with additional investment through an Indigenous Land Use Agreements Support Package.


The funding will be used to help negotiate, authorise and implement tenure resolution agreements with the State of Queensland.

Speaker, this budget recognises the valuable contribution our resources sector makes to Queensland.

This is a sector that supports thousands of jobs across this vast state, while the royalties it generates helps build the infrastructure and is also helping provide the cost-of-living relief measures in this budget.

We recognise how important this sector is and that's why this budget backs the industry with investment in exploring new technologies and reaffirms our continuing support to help the industry develop the next big thing in resources—our critical minerals sector.

We also recognise the importance of our tourism islands and that's why we will invest funds towards making the former island resort on Great Keppel Island safe.

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (4.57 pm): I begin my contribution by saying this: it is now blatantly obvious that this Labor government will do and say anything to be re-elected. It is unlike anything I have ever seen during my time in politics. For Labor, there are no more guiding principles. There are no more core values. There is no more respect for the taxpayer dollar. Those opposite are entirely devoid of all of that now. Their only guiding principle, their only core value, is their own political survival and Queenslanders are absolutely aware of this because Queenslanders are a sharp bunch. They are clued right into what the Labor government are trying to pull.

The Premier, the Treasurer and those who occupy the benches opposite are not worried in the slightest about the future of Queensland. They might pretend that they are and they are trying to say it until they are blue in the face, but it is just so contrived and so shallow that it is becoming embarrassing. They are only worried about making it through the next four months. That has become so obvious not only through their words but through their actions in this budget. I get the strong sense that Queenslanders are becoming more and more embarrassed by the actions of the Premier, the Treasurer and the Labor government.

I think Queenslanders are embarrassed by how Labor is managing our state's affairs and how the Labor government's actions are viewed across our country and internationally. The absolute mess they have managed to make around the Olympics and Paralympic Games is a case in point. Queenslanders do not tend to mind so much if a government has a crack, falls short, acknowledges

their shortcomings, dusts themselves off and gets on with delivering. I think Queenslanders will cop that, but that has not happened in this budget. In fact, that has not happened in Queensland for a very long time.

That was plain to see with this now infamous line in the Treasurer's budget speech when speaking about the upcoming election. He stated—

Queenslanders will be asked to make a choice about their future, not to express an opinion about the past.

I almost fell out of my chair when I heard that. It was so brazen. It was so pathetic. It was an outright embarrassment. That is not having a crack for Queenslanders. That is not acknowledging the errors of the past. It is trying to dismantle and rewrite history. It was not just some poorly thought out comment that slipped into his speech. Unbelievably, the Treasurer went back to the well in his press conference on budget day when he said—

The election on 26 October is a fight about the future of Queensland, it's not a referendum on the last nine years.

You cannot make this up. The very same people who delivered the woeful record of this government over the last nine years are now bizarrely trying to erase the very history they wrote. I wonder what the former premier might think about all of this. She was cast aside by her union masters last year and now she has been completely cut adrift by the most senior members of her cabinet in the most unceremonious fashion. So uncomfortable and so uneasy are they with their own record under her leadership that they are now utterly desperate to erase the history of their own actions. That is, of course, despite the fact that both the Premier and the Treasurer were the two most senior ministers in the previous administration. It is laughable. Like I said at the beginning, Labor and Premier Miles will do and say anything to get themselves elected again. They will do and say anything even if it means personally eroding the actions of their former leader and trying to erase the role they played in her government. It is an utter embarrassment and those opposite ought to be ashamed for even having the gall to try this kind of rubbish on.

When we talk about the history of this Labor Miles administration one would be hard-pressed to find a darker chapter than their record of running Queensland Health. Mired in scandal, chaotic and crisis prone—these are the hallmarks of Labor's record of running Queensland Health over the course of the last decade and I do not see any evidence in this budget which would suggest Queenslanders can expect anything different. When this time of year rolls around we inevitably hear the same tired, worn-out catchcry 'record health budget', and so it is this year too. Those on the other side love to say it, but scratch the surface and the catchcry is just that: a catchcry. I want to unpack those record health budgets in years gone by and what they have actually delivered for Queenslanders.

Record health budgets have delivered Queenslanders record ambulance ramping: 45.5 per cent, the worst on record, the highest ever recorded and it is in every sense of the word unprecedented. Record health budgets have delivered Queenslanders record waiting lists for elective surgery: over 60,000 patients. Data released this year revealed that figure. Never in our state's history have so many patients been waiting for elective surgery. It is yet another unwanted record delivered by Labor's record health budget. Then there is the waiting list to see a specialist. It is creeping up to nearly 300,000 Queenslanders. That figure has never been as high as it has been in the last 12 months. That is what the record health budgets Labor have delivered for Queensland.

What about our state's emergency departments? The number of people spending 24 hours or more in EDs soared by 375 per cent between 2015-16 and 2022-23. That means last financial year it was 18,000 Queenslanders. Again, they are record levels, numbers that have never, ever been seen before. There is definitive, rock-solid, clinical evidence that suggests the longer a patient spends in an ED the longer their length of stay will be in hospital. There is also a higher rate of mortality associated with extended emergency department stays. ED professionals call it a 'never' event because a patient staying that long in an ED should never happen. In Queensland it is happening with alarming regularity. That is Labor's record of delivery with their record health budgets.

Of course, there is an important failure that spans both the health and women's portfolios, which is the Labor government's abysmal record when it comes to rural maternity services. Maternity services in Chinchilla, Cooktown and Biloela remain bypassed for the women of those communities. There is nothing in this budget to suggest those services will reopen any time soon. Recently we learnt that women in communities like Beaudesert, Ingham and Ayr regularly faced the prospect of their local hospital intermittently being bypassed for birthing. Women in Weipa were forced to wait five years from the time the then health minister and now Premier promised their birthing service would reopen until it


actually did. Based on that logic, it will be 2029 before another rural maternity service opens to Queensland women under Labor's rule. How many more might close in that time if Labor are given another term?

Listening to all of that—the litany of failures presided over by Labor—it is so apparent that the die has been cast. Under those opposite there is now a clear and present trend. Labor's promise of record health budgets healing the Queensland health crisis cannot and should not be trusted. It is a complete fallacy. Despite their claims to fix ambulance ramping, slash waiting lists or unclog EDs, it has never happened. In fact, not only do they not achieve their objectives; things have gotten worse. My heart goes out to those dedicated clinicians who are trying their best every minute of every hour of every day. None of this is their fault. The problems they face are not of their own making. They are systemic, cultural and structural issues that the Labor government has never addressed. Paramedics did not sign up to be ramped. Surgeons did not sign up to sit idle. Nurses did not sign up to see their patients spend an entire day in an emergency department. I want to place on record again my unconditional thankyou to every clinician and every person who makes the hospitals and clinics across Queensland tick. They will always have my admiration. My LNP colleagues and I know what their inherent focus is as clinicians, and that is exceptional patient care. That is what they strive to deliver every day, and we have heard their own calls that delivering this under the conditions they are subjected to is becoming increasingly tough.

Should the LNP be given the special privilege to form government at the October 2024 election, that too will be our priority. Record budgets might sound nice, but record budgets are not an outcome. Tangibly improving the lives of people, patients and clinicians is an outcome that counts for something. If those things are the focus, the entire culture of the organisation will shift. If given the opportunity, the LNP will set a culture where accountability, transparency and ownership will be at the forefront of the health system. It is those things that can drive improved patient outcomes. Under the conga line of health ministers that Labor has thrown up over the last 10 years, accountability and transparency have been severely lacking and ownership has been non-existent. The latest example of the lack of transparency and accountability is Labor's Health and Hospitals Plan outlined in this budget. The Capacity Expansion Program under the plan was to build or revamp 15 hospitals. That program has blown out by nearly \$1.5 billion according to the budget papers. The original price tag was \$9.785 billion for 2,200 beds. The new price tag is \$11.215 billion for 2,200 beds. Let me just crystallise that for the benefit of the House: not one new bed for \$1.5 billion. The minister and the Treasurer say it is not a cost blowout. Seriously? If it is not that, what on earth is it? Just for once the minister should be honest about this. Queenslanders deserve to know.

I turn now to my own electorate of Mudgeeraba and another appalling example of Labor's laziness and disregard. For almost a decade the good people of the best area in Queensland have been ignored by Labor governments and, even worse, they have been treated like fools. Every year the Labor Treasurer makes the same hollow promises, reannouncing a range of projects that have already been promised. Those opposite are hoping desperately that no-one will notice they keep reannouncing upgrades to Nerang Murwillumbah Road even though we continue to have fatalities, reannouncing a train station at Merrimac—that one has been announced seven times—and reannouncing a visitors centre at Springbrook National Park. The people of Mudgeeraba are not fools. They can see through this shallow, self-serving, desperate government. They know pork-barrelling when they see it—money being diverted to Labor seats whose desperate MPs know that the writing is on the wall. They are trying to spend their way back into a fourth term. This is a budget for four months, not four years. In the meantime in Mudgeeraba we are crying out for better roads, including a lifesaving improvement to the Austinville causeway. For years we have been calling for a new state high school west of the M1 to cater for families who are flocking to live in Mudgeeraba.

We are fighting for CCTV cameras to help the wonderful men and women in blue who are trying to prosecute the hoons terrorising our suburbs, but this government does not care. They do not think my constituents are worth it. My electorate can see through this. They know that this government is more concerned about its political future and not Queensland's future. My electorate knows that the only things this Labor government has delivered are a health crisis, a youth crime crisis, a housing crisis and a cost-of-living crisis. In four months they will finally have the chance to hand down their verdict on this shambolic, underperforming government. The people of Mudgeeraba cannot wait until October 2024. The people of Mudgeeraba and Queensland deserve so much more.

 **Hon. C MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (Minister for Child Safety, Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (5.09 pm): I rise to support the appropriation bills. The Miles government's 2024-25 state budget is providing real, practical help and cost-of-living relief for our most vulnerable Queenslanders. This includes young people, seniors, carers, people with disability and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. There is support for vulnerable Queenslanders, with a significant investment of \$2.3 billion for child and family services, \$3.7 billion for seniors and disability services and \$21 million for multicultural affairs.

Children and young people in care deserve every chance to live happy and healthy lives. Foster and kinship carers are critical to helping this happen. That is why we are investing an extra \$190.8 million over four years so more carers looking after children with complex and high support needs can access extra financial support. This new investment means that carers of more than one-in-five children in out-of-home care will receive between \$5,660 and \$21,740 extra a year. It is a move that reflects the increasing complexity of the needs of these young people. While residential care remains a necessary part of a suite of out-of-home care for children and young people, increasing the number of kinship and foster carers is our key focus. Those organisations we partner with to provide residential care receive our utmost respect and support, but our government's ambition will always be to have far fewer children and young people living in them. It is why we have developed our five-year residential care road map, with our aim to halve the number of children and young people in residential care.

We also understand the pressures being created by the increased cost of living. That is why we are investing an extra \$31.8 million over five years and \$7.9 million ongoing for the Extended Post Care Support program. This program provides financial support for young people leaving care up to their 21st birthday, whether they remain with their carer family or choose to live independently. This has been a life-changing reform for many young people. It gives them more time and more support to find the right path as they transition out of their teenage years and into adulthood. I have been told that this funding has helped young people buy a car so they can get to work and study. It has helped them pay rental deposits, upgrade their skills and access necessary services. Extended Post Care Support has changed the lives of those leaving out-of-home care. This additional funding reinforces our commitment to children and young people in care during the early years of their lives.

We are also supporting vulnerable families with new funding for early intervention and support through the Putting Queensland Kids First strategy. We will invest \$9 million over two years for Safe Pathways initiatives to provide early intervention support for families and mums with babies. The aim is to reduce the risk of child protection involvement. There is an extra \$2 million over two years to trial a Family Connections program in two locations. During the trial, clinicians will work with families in their homes and connect them with the right services at the right times.

The Queensland government also remains committed to supporting Queenslanders with disability. The recommendations of the royal commission and National Disability Insurance Scheme review were significant. It gave us an opportunity to consider how we improve outcomes for people with disability in Queensland. As an initial response to the recommendations, we have allocated more than \$160 million in extra funding across government for disability reforms for better services and supports. This includes an immediate investment of \$5 million for disability advocacy to uphold the rights and needs of people with disability. There is also \$24.4 million over five years to develop a stakeholder strategy led by the disability sector. The voices of people with disability will always be at the heart of this important process and we are committed to partnering with them to reform the system. We will also invest \$7.5 million over two years to continue disability supports for children with autism in Queensland.

Queensland is one of the most culturally diverse places in the world. As part of the multicultural affairs budget we are investing an extra \$4.8 million over two years in the Asylum Seeker and Refugee Assistance program. This will provide more support to people escaping conflict zones and who may not have access to work rights, benefits or public health due to visa restrictions. We will also inject an extra \$1 million over two years into the Queensland Program of Assistance to Survivors of Torture and Trauma. This will expand an initiative that is working in more than 50 schools to support children, young people and their caregivers, particularly those directly affected by the trauma of global conflicts. Support for grassroots multicultural communities will also continue in this year's state budget. I am pleased to say that the highly popular Celebrating Multicultural Queensland grants program will receive \$3 million. This will ensure the fantastic display of colourful cultural events and festivals will continue around the state.

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

The speech read as follows—

They also provide opportunities for more social and economic participation by people with a culturally or linguistically diverse background.

As part of the Queensland Government's Community Safety Plan, we are investing \$2.6 million over two years to support the African Youth Support Council's newly established African Villages in Moorooka, Geebung and Redbank Plains.

These centres are modelled on the idea that 'it takes a village to raise a child'.

Under the safety plan, we are also allocating \$5.7 million over two years to design and implement a pilot family reunification service for children aged 12 to 15 and their families.

The aim is to improve relationships and facilitate children's reunification.

This service will operate across greater Brisbane and support around 150 children each year.

Speaker, the Queensland Government is proud to support older Queenslanders.

We are committed to helping them to stay active and feel connected and cared about.

Importantly, we want to provide older Queenslanders with real, practical assistance, so they can live their best lives.

And right now, that means helping them with the increased cost of living.

That's why this budget includes \$1 billion in concessions and rebates on energy, utilities and rates bills, and the Cost of Living Rebate.

We want to put more money in the pockets of older Queenslanders so they can enjoy more time doing what makes them happy, healthy and connected.

Speaker,

The 2024—25 State Budget is a budget for the people.

Importantly, it is a budget that recognises and responds to the challenges being experienced by some of our most vulnerable people.

Especially with cost of living.

Across government, the Treasurer has announced measures that will ease the cost of living for every Queensland.

This includes our seniors, our foster and kinship carers, young people in care and our culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

Measures such as:

- 50 cent public transport fares.
- \$1000 electricity rebates, rising to \$1672 for vulnerable households, including eligible seniors.
- Reductions in car registration.
- Significant support for first-home buyers.

I believe how we look after the most vulnerable in our communities speaks to the Queensland we are and want to continue to be.

Deputy Speaker, I want to also speak to some of the local initiatives in my electorate that have received funding in this year's State Budget.

I am pleased to see further investment for the Greenbank Battery.

This will provide for a 200MW of battery storage, able to power 60,000 Logan homes for two hours during peaks and a vital link to transfer stored solar and wind energy onto the grid.

The Greater Springfield new permanent fire and rescue station had been delayed due to some issues with the land provided however, we are all systems go and we are now able to progress the construction of our new fire station with \$5 million in this year's Budget.

One of the big wins for our Ipswich communities is the \$36.3 million for increased bus services. This is something that our Labor Members in Ipswich have been calling for and we were fortunate to have a Transport and Mobility Study undertaken last year.

The community provided its feedback and I welcome the proposed changes and improvements including:

- A new service for Augustine Heights as well as Springfield.
- The introduction of a new direct route linking Springfield and Ipswich via Redbank Plains
- The extension of existing routes in Springfield Lakes, Camira and Spring Mountain.

There will also be improved connectivity to rail services and to Ipswich Hospital.

One of the biggest issues in our community is the Centenary Motorway—and I am pleased to see ongoing investment of \$1.4 million for more detailed planning which will scope out the projects along the section from Ellen Grove to Yamanto.

This will include the section between Exit 31 and Exit 33—with a duplication of this section being proposed.

Education continues to be well supported in the Jordan Electorate and we have new builds funded for Springfield Central State High School, Woodcrest State College and Camira State School.

I'm also very happy to see a new security fence for Woodcrest State College—this is something that the school raised with me only recently and I am stoked that I am able to deliver this for our school community there.

Four schools in the Jordan Electorate have also received funding through our very popular School Playground and Tuckshop Upgrades—this includes Springfield Lakes State School, Camira State School, Greenbank State School and Woodcrest State College.

Speaker, the Jordan Electorate continues to see significant growth and I am thrilled at the health investment that we are making locally but also across the Ipswich and Logan regions.


We have a brand new public hospital under construction in Springfield which is due to open in early 2026.

Massive upgrades to both the Ipswich and Logan Hospitals, the new Ripley Satellite Hospital and Sub-Acute Facility, the new Acute Mental Health Facility and the development of a new Alcohol and Other Drug Rehabilitation and Treatment facility.

Speaker, this is a Budget about priorities. I would like to commend the Deputy Premier and Treasurer on delivering a budget that has focused on cost of living relief, investment in infrastructure, education, health, community safety and in a renewable energy future.

Our Government has focused on these issues because we know they are the priorities for the people of Queensland—and we are doing what matters to them.

I commend the Bill to the House.

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (5.15 pm): I was glad I popped into the House a little earlier than I was scheduled to and heard the contribution of the member for Bancroft, who let the cat out of the bag for his command-style operations when he said that he wanted to talk about ruling in Queensland. That is the Labor way. They want to rule Queensland. They want to tell you what to do and how to think and how to spend your money. They do not want to govern; they want to rule. That is the way the commissars in the ALP think.

Then I was happy to hear the contribution of the member for South Brisbane, because out of the mouth of the member for South Brisbane came the truth: Labor has adopted the Greens policy. Labor and the Greens are in bed together to deny Queenslanders the rights and the opportunities they want. Whether it is jacking up taxes and fees and charges as much as they possibly can until they get caught out—we heard it from the member for South Brisbane. We heard what their game is. They are coming after the Labor members. They see their voter base as interchangeable, and we know that that is what Labor is worried about. It was, indeed, fun to be here and to hear the truth come out from a couple of speakers.

This is the 10th budget of this decade-old, chaotic and crisis-ridden Labor government—a government that has never taxed more, spent more and left Queenslanders with so little to show for it. While the Premier and the Treasurer desperately pretend that this is a new government, Queenslanders know the reality is far different. While the Treasurer desperately tries to airbrush the past out of his resume, that past is a stain too dark to be painted out. Here is the question the Treasurer did not dare answer in his budget speech: if he is so proud of his previous budgets and the Labor government's achievements, why is he so desperate to avoid mentioning either them or the former premier? This budget is the culmination of nearly a decade of Labor policy and administration failures. It is the end result of more failed plans than the commissars of the USSR ever tried to implement. Queenslanders can see Labor's re-election desperation evident in a budget spendathon: the desperation of a tired, 10-year-old government abandoning all fiscal rectitude in an effort to spend its way to an election victory.

We have had a decade of fiscal and policy failure. Who remembers the now abandoned debt management trust of the 2015 election—a trust that bit the dust? It was going to quarantine 66 per cent of GOC dividends. It was a bit like the Bruce Highway trust that disappeared—a bit like the plan to fix the Bruce Highway itself. Members will remember that this Labor government stopped paying superannuation contributions into public servants' superannuation funds for five years. It was Labor that then raided the Public Service long service leave entitlements in 2015. It was Labor that ripped

\$10 billion out of government owned corporations and forced them to borrow billions in order to pay that money to the government, something that in the private sector you would be prosecuted for. Then there was Labor's \$4 billion raid on public servants' superannuation funds in 2016. Not only did they stop making payments to it but they also raided the superannuation funds and took \$4 billion out.

Then there was the massive hoax of the transfer of the titles office and the now barely mentioned Debt Retirement Fund in the Queensland Future Fund and the subsequent borrowings against that fund of \$2.1 billion, supposedly to improve liquidity. How is that Debt Retirement Fund going? The budget papers bell the cat on that failed plan. Every year from 2023 onwards shows both net and gross debt increasing—every single year. There is not much debt retirement going on there. It was another sleight of hand that was, as always under Labor, proving to be ephemeral and of no lasting value.

Then there were the billions more in borrowings under the Trad treasury years. We have had Treasurer Dick's infamous 26 broken promises not to increase taxes. He has tried to airbrush that out of his history as well. For anyone remotely interested, you can catch the entire episode in last week's edition of 'Chooks'. They even have the video of that broken promise. What were the words? 'No new taxes from the Labor government if we are re-elected.' That applied to businesses and individuals.

This 10-year-old Labor government has never fronted up to the real structural problems of Queensland's finances. It relies on financial trickery and chicanery each and every year, and this year is no different. The forwards predict a return to surplus through a magical \$3 billion cost control program—something that Labor has never been able to achieve in all its time in this place—with no detail and no realistic expectation, just a line item in the budget.

It does not matter if it is Premier Miles or Palaszczuk, Treasurer Trad or Dick: the tricks and failures are the same because it is the same tired, 10-year-old, chaotic Labor government. The member for Bulimba, who obviously did not get the memo or read or listen to the Treasurer's speech, knows this. Only yesterday she said that, despite everything, past behaviour is the best predictor of future behaviour. The member for Bulimba was exactly right. Past behaviour is exactly the predictor of the future behaviour of this Labor government. All of the accused are still in the dock over there. They are still sitting on the government front bench. They all supported the failures that are now coming home to roost—each and every one of them.

This is a big-taxing and big-spending budget purely because it has to be. The cost-of-living crisis that Labor has ignored for far too long, and in some cases through its failed policies has actually exacerbated, necessitates spending and taxing on a scale that is almost without precedent in this state. While Queenslanders will no doubt accept the rebates, the fee relief and the grants programs with alacrity, they will also do so with two big questions in their collective minds: how long will they be available and will they continue to be necessary? Those are the two key issues raised with me by members of my community and more broadly in my travels.

Plenty of people treat these programs as nothing more than a cynical vote-buying exercise by a desperate decade-old government that has run out of ideas and is desperate to win another term. They ask: if Labor has managed the economy and finances so well, why is it necessary to have massive electricity rebates? Others say: whatever happened to the federal Labor promise of reducing everyone's powers bills by \$275, made only two years ago? The sad reality is that in some jurisdictions prices have increased by up to \$773 and here in Queensland we have seen a 19 per cent surge in prices under this Labor government.

If the transition to renewables was meant to not only save the planet but also save consumers from paying more, why did this decade-old Labor government rush a bill through this place in the last sitting week to provide electricity rebates and what happens when those rebates expire? Are power bills going to miraculously drop after 30 June next year? Will Callide C be up and operating at full speed again, or is the fantasy of the uncosted, unapproved and already over budget Pioneer-Burdekin hydro scheme proposed by this government going to save the day? Queenslanders know that it is not.

Many reasonable people question why this government continues to turn its back on some of the cheapest and most reliable forms of existing base-load power in Queensland, and that is black coal mine-mouth fired generation. Those installed, operating and paid-for generators have many years of life in them if they are properly maintained. We have some of the youngest generating fleet in the country. We are consistently told by the minister for energy that we have the youngest fleet in the

country and he wants to keep them running but will not pay for the maintenance bill to do so. We all saw what happened at Callide C when you do not fund maintenance. When you rip the money out of the GOCs they break down. Just like a family car, generators have to have the proper maintenance to get the best out of them and just like a car when you skimp on maintenance it starts failing.

A government member interjected.

Mr NICHOLLS: Who said that? Was that the member for Sandgate?

Mr Hinchliffe: No.

Mr NICHOLLS: Was it the member for Bancroft who talked about failing? When we talk about failing, let us talk about the Redcliffe 'rail fail'.

Mr Hinchliffe interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Order! Members, that quarrelling was getting to be too much. Member for Sandgate, if it continues you will be warned. Member for Clayfield, of course it would be helpful if you were not as provocative.

Mr NICHOLLS: Almost three years after we were promised it would be up and running again, Callide is still not running at full capacity. Only in the last fortnight we have seen allegations in the Federal Court of power price manipulation by the state owned generation companies, which disturbingly, if true, show the generators were not being operated in the best interests of Queensland consumers. These are substantial issues that this government does not and cannot answer.

In the meantime, power bills for Queensland families and businesses will continue to escalate. We see the impacts of this every day. In my electorate, businesses that have been around for decades are closing. Mica Brasserie at Breakfast Creek has closed and King Street Bakery, run by award-winning chef Shannon Kellam, has gone into liquidation. Brewbakers at Albion, one of Brisbane's famous sourdough bakeries, has closed. Every day we read of restaurants closing and builders going to the wall. Costs are too high, customers are cutting back and nothing in the budget will bring back those businesses. They are gone and the jobs they provided are gone.

Housing is under threat because of the failures of this Labor government. There is too much red tape, approvals take too long and can be uncertain and affordable land is unavailable. The transactional costs of buying a house make entry into the market a challenge for Queenslanders, and none is greater than stamp duty. That is why the opposition leader's speech outlining the LNP's pledge of no stamp duty for new home buyers who buy new build housing or vacant land-and-house packages is so important. That pledge goes directly to the heart of the great Australian dream of owning your own home. The great Australian dream is not of moving into government owned accommodation, which might be necessary but is not sufficient; nor is it of renting forever. Renting is often a step along the way, but for many it is not the end; ownership is that end.

Hopefully, we all know what it is like to find your own place. Nothing can replace the feeling of picking up the keys to the front door of your very own house and making it your home. You found it, you bought it and you own it. That piece of land is yours. You can literally tell the world to 'nick off' once you walk in the front gate. That is what this tired 10-year-old lefty Labor government does not get: aspiration for our kids and their kids; getting a foot on the ladder; starting modestly, get bigger if you want or stay there forever—it does not matter because it is yours.


The LNP's policy reaches deep inside the very core of what it means to be an Australian and it answers that need. Only the LNP can deliver it because the LNP believe in private ownership, we believe in personal responsibility and we believe in the dreams and aspirations of every young Queenslanders who chooses to own their own home. It is that simple. This policy is about the long term. It is not just a sugar hit for six months; it is a solid foundation that reforms stamp duty and lets people invest in themselves just by getting government out of the way.

In the very short period left to me I want to mention a few things relating to the electorate of Clayfield. There has been a total failure by this decade-old Labor government to honour its promises to the people of Clayfield. In 2017 the former transport minister promised us that we would see the Albion Railway Station supersized and made disability compliant. Seven years later we are still waiting. There is a paltry \$1 million out of a cost of \$16.8 million. At this rate it will take another nine years, by which time all of the standards will have changed and they will have to start again. In 2020 the former transport minister made the same promise for the Woolloowin station. Guess what? We are still waiting!

I can see no money in the capital statement for a new concert hall for Kedron State High School. Indeed, there is no funding for any new facilities at any school in the Clayfield electorate.

There is no funding for upgrades to the Eagle Farm racecourse, so there will not be much love for the racing minister on Stradbroke Day this Saturday. I can tell members that for free. There is no funding for capital improvement for the Kedron State High School concert hall for which they have been patiently waiting 10 years under Labor.

Never has a government taxed more, spent more and delivered so little for the people of Clayfield. It is no wonder the Treasurer does not want Queenslanders to make a judgement on Labor's decades of failure, because the only judgement would be that this Labor government is guilty of failing—failing Queenslanders and failing the residents of Clayfield. This budget again highlights the decade of failures that should encourage everyone in Queensland on 26 October to show Labor the door in 2024.

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (5.30 pm): It is interesting to follow the member for Clayfield, who talked about past behaviour being an indicator of future behaviour. He referred a number of times to the member for South Brisbane. It was actually his party's preferences that saw her elected to the House. In terms of future behaviour, I am sure that on 26 October they will do the same again, so they can spend another four years spreading LNP-Greens policies.

The Miles Labor government budget, delivered by Treasurer Cameron Dick, is a budget that reflects the needs of the Mackay community. People tell me each day that they are doing it tough. They are looking for household budget relief. Mackay is growing. This budget is investing in our local clubs, tourist attractions, critical infrastructure and services to support that growth. Our Labor government will always put Queenslanders first and do what matters to them.

In my region we know that a roof over your head—a safe place to call home—is something everyone should have. Mackay will see homes delivered faster through our modular homes program—homes built in factories on the Gold Coast and Cairns and transported to regional Queensland. We need housing for our frontline workers and to attract teachers, health workers and police officers. This will take pressure off the private rental system. Modular homes can also be used for good quality social housing, reducing the waitlist for vulnerable residents.


The 20 per cent increase in funding was well received by our community housing providers. When I spoke to groups such as CASSA, they said that the money will allow them to support people into accommodation and support them to keep their lease. Some of these people find it difficult to stay in their accommodation. They can also guarantee their casual staff ongoing employment. On top of this, we have slashed stamp duty for first home buyers on homes up to \$700,000. Also, households will benefit from our power rebate of \$1,000, along with the \$300 rebate provided by our federal Labor mates. People need to get around our great state so there is reliance on motor vehicles. The 20 per cent discount on car rego will help households make ends meet.

Our children need support to be able to grow into their best self. Our free kindy is saving families \$4,000. Kindy opens up the opportunity for children to engage in activities that will develop their social and emotional skills and get them ready for formal education. To keep our kids engaged and fit, we have increased our FairPlay vouchers to \$200 and made them available to all families, not just those with concession cards. Children need support through their whole life to make good choices for their health, education and work into adulthood.

The Mackay Base Hospital is undergoing an extension. As our region is growing quickly, we are outgrowing our local hospital years earlier than expected. We will get a new women's ward, birthing suites and children's ward. This is all welcomed. We look forward to health students from the south doing their practicum training in our hospital. They can do this with the support of the state Labor government. When people come to the regions to work they will see what a great place we live and work in and will be more likely to apply for jobs when they finish their training.

Members opposite have cheered on their threat to scrap the Pioneer-Burdekin Pumped Hydro. I hope the member for Whitsunday is ready to explain to the manufacturers set to establish their businesses in my region. They were coming because of the green energy that this project would produce. The member is trashing our economic future. Industries that would diversify—the cane industry producing biofuture novel foods like proteins from sugar to ensure a good outcome stream for our farmers and millers—are at risk if this project does not go ahead. The member for Whitsunday is putting a huge roadblock in the sugar industry's viable future. The project is vital for Queensland's

economic future. It is disappointing that those opposite have jumped on the bandwagon of putting down pumped hydro. Queenslanders will have their futures destroyed because of the LNP's short-sighted and simple way of thinking. When companies walk away if those opposite get their chance to cancel this vital project, my community will know that it is the LNP that has destroyed their future. The LNP is stealing the economic future of our children. I support the bills.

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (5.35 pm): Let's look at the backdrop to this budget. Queenslanders, like others across Australia, have endured financial and emotional hardship since the COVID-19 pandemic. The fallout from COVID continued, overwhelming our policing and medical services from increases in domestic violence and mental health issues—and a housing crisis. Post-COVID inflation hit and CPI rose 3.6 per cent. Regardless, the Queensland economy is performing well, having the highest growth of all states and territories in the last quarter. However, with the unrest and wars around the world and some uncertainty, the global economy could head into recession.

The Reserve Bank of Australia observed that economic growth remains slow and inflation is higher than expected, with higher interest rates adding to an even higher level of hardship in households. Understandably, Queenslanders welcomed the relief through this budget via electricity rebates, a discount on registration, food for our children at school, 50-cent transport fares and many increases in existing supports such as FairPlay vouchers. However, this all has to come from somewhere. According to the budget financials, it is not from extra income as revenue is expected to fall by \$1 billion next year; nor is it from decreased government expenses as they have risen.

Queensland will end this financial year with a net operating surplus of \$564 million; however, it will then head to a deficit of \$2.63 billion in the year ahead. This means we are borrowing money from next year to spend now and the banks will come asking for it. As I asked during the week, at what point will we get to sustainable living and not require government subsidies to survive in our households? However, to put this in context, our forward deficit is no greater than the annual interest earned by some Australians on their wealth. As I said last night, that is something to ponder.

I turn now to specifics for Noosa, where we have both joy and disappointment. After delays to the Lake MacDonald refurbishment, it is wonderful to see \$72 million allocated to get this safety work done. While the official opening of Six Mile Creek bridge No. 7 was celebrated last week, the need to create greater safety on Kin Kin Road remains. It was welcomed to see a total of \$37 million allocated. That these sums have been required due to inappropriate levels of heavy haulage through our villages is another example of our system failings. However, I thank former TMR minister Mark Bailey, who listened to our pleas, as well as the current minister who is equally committed. The first disappointment of this budget was the missing \$1 million required for a pedestrian crossing in Pomona so that residents can safely traverse this road, which is, again, impacted by heavy haulage. I make a plea to the minister on this.

Back to the good news, there is \$25 million to widen the Eumundi-Noosa Road from Emu Mountain Road to Beckmans Road. However, this is where our second disappointment lies. After the completion of stage 1 of the Tewantin Bypass, which is fabulous, to address the congestion, stage 2 needed construction funding by the next budget, but the detailed design moneys required in this budget to make that happen are nowhere to be seen. Regardless of the reasons for the delays that have led to this, whether on TMR's end or Noosa council's end, I ask the minister to fast-track and fund the requirements to get it back on track.

I move on to our rail. The good news was the \$115 million to start the Beerburrum to Nambour rail upgrade stage 1. However, there was not anything in the budget for a Nambour to Gympie rail shuttle, which is vital, and we await the outcomes from the northern line study.

Our businesses are receiving some assistance, with \$650 off their electricity bills and extra access to initiatives in the Queensland Small Business Strategy including business supports, natural disaster recovery and extra cash grants, which they do need. It was lovely that out at Kin Kin \$500,000 has been provided for eco villas from the Tourism Experience Development Fund. I look forward to seeing them on completion. However, we do need to reduce red tape for our businesses and also expand the ability of the Small Business Commissioner to resolve disputes. There are many of those still ongoing in the fallout from COVID.

For our local sports clubs, the Noosa Yacht & Rowing Club received \$225,000 and the Pomona-Cooroy football club \$200,000. Now we are searching for the funds for the Tigers lighting!

On the education front, we celebrated the opening of the new hall at the Noosa District State High School Pomona campus. I think that is on Monday. It was really good to see within the budget papers that there is progress on the advanced manufacturing unit for Sunshine Beach State High School. There were some other bits and bobs. There was \$300,000 for refurbishment at Tewantin State School, \$100,000 for water upgrades at Cooran and just over \$600,000 for maintenance across our schools.

However, an area that needs improvement is funding for tuckshops as this is obviously inadequate given that we have schools for a number of years unsuccessfully applying for grants to do the works needed. With the loss of our TAFE a decade ago, we are still waiting for the finalisation of the native title determination so that the successful proponents can finally get to work. It has been a long journey. We will also need funds into the future for a possible learning hub that Noosa council has been working on, with the feasibility study completed.

There was welcomed news on our health front, with additional funding for the Queensland Ambulance Service which will result in 12 extra paramedics for the Sunshine Coast, which Noosa will obviously benefit from. In addition, for mental health there was the extra requested youth co-responder team and a second mental health CORE team for our region. We look forward to finding, in amongst the buckets of funds, either grants or allocations for our Noosa Salvos to provide after-hours and weekend supports for both mental health and emergency accommodation. This is really important because a lot of this assistance stops at four o'clock on a Friday, and we need to move beyond that. As well, we need some co-location of services provided through the Better Care Together mental health program.

An expected decision is due on Noosa Private Hospital's appeal against Noosa council. We look forward, regardless of the outcome, to the finalisation of negotiations between Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service and Ramsay on the emergency department's expansion as well as the required extra contracts.

There was no mention of fairer funding models for our palliative care hospices. I know we are waiting on the completion of the review that we fought so hard for. We appreciate the increases recently provided to our Katie Rose Cottage Hospice. However, we still need more.

The extra funding for domestic, family and sexual violence is welcomed, as well as the funding for perpetrator programs. At this time, I can see no mention of a DFV court for the Sunshine Coast which is much needed.

Housing announcements, as we have heard, are around stamp duty and a doubling of the Queensland first home owner grant. However, as I said in my Help to Buy speech, these initiatives do not increase the affordable housing stock and can potentially push prices up. With a real need for more social and community housing, the budget does commit additional funding as part of producing 53,000 dwellings by 2046. However, as I have raised before, Q Shelter have said we need 175,000 by 2036, so there is clearly still a shortfall. In digging around the budget we are yet to find the amounts allocated for our Cooroy housing project or for the 36 Tewantin units that have been through the design phase. However, I know they are there and I will find them.

For our environment, there is \$1.1 million for coastal walk upgrades in Noosa National Park, with the only extra funding being very targeted such as to improve firefighting capabilities. With Queensland lagging behind other states and territories in funding per hectare—and I have raised this before—the needed increase of \$200 million over four years has not been found, nor funds for a new independent environmental protection authority or for the environmental upgrade agreement process. That is important because that will then allow landowners to be able to put solar on their houses which will then benefit renters.

I move on to our policing. The budget provided for 98 additional officers for the Sunshine Coast, and we are waiting on the amount that is to be allocated for Noosa as well as the timeline for those. However, without accommodation available, it is impossible to secure any staff in any industry in my community, let alone police, and I ask that provision be made to ensure there are no barriers to securing these extra frontliners.


Welcomed news was the \$1.12 billion allocated to community safety, and it has been good to see that many of these measures align with the recommendations from the Youth Justice Reform Select Committee. They include the all-important much earlier interventions to support children from their earliest years through to preventions via educational engagement and health services from birth. In addition, family support coordinators and behavioural specialists in primary schools and early childhood

coordinators are important. Especially appreciated has been the extra funding to Victim Assist to reduce the delays and to expand supports to victims of nonviolent crimes, as well as those youth co-responder teams I mentioned earlier and an expansion of the intensive case management program, including on the Sunshine Coast.

Overall, from the 60 recommendations from the Youth Justice Reform Select Committee report, between the Community Safety Bill and this budget it looks like so far 36 have been addressed. I am not sure because I still have to go hunting. However, I do thank the government very much for the speedy response that has been sought by Queenslanders.

There is much more to explore in this budget over the coming days. It has brought relief through cost-of-living measures as well as some hope, not only in relation to the major issues of crime, health and housing but also to what may be considered 'less major' issues for our communities. I feel that we have been listened to even if it has taken longer than we would have liked. I want to thank and congratulate the Treasurer and all those across government who have worked so hard in ongoing difficult times.

It can be no easy task putting together such a large and complex budget. Let's be honest: it is much easier for us as MPs to find fault and gaps as we get ready for estimates. That does not mean that we do not appreciate what has and is being fought for. We are thankful even if it appears that we may not be. May the hardest times now recede into the past and we really focus on working to get beyond the need to subsidise into the future.

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (5.46 pm): I am proud to rise today to speak in support of the Appropriation Bill delivered by the Hon. Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment. I congratulate the Premier, the Treasurer and their team. What a great budget it is for the Queensland we serve, including for the good people of the electorate of Mansfield—a budget that is responding to what matters for Queenslanders. This great Labor budget addresses the cost-of-living challenges—the No. 1 issue for my community. Every local constituent I speak to is so grateful for the cost-of-living measures this budget outlines. My community is hurting as a result of interest rate rises, cost of groceries, water and insurance. These measures are exactly what my community needs right now.

This budget also responds to the health, housing and community safety challenges, impacted by mass interstate migration, labour shortages, increasing interest rates, record inflation and nine years of neglect by the federal LNP government. This budget creates jobs, setting out a clear economic plan, attracting investment and delivering infrastructure: the Big Build, including Cross River Rail, the expansion of the Pacific Motorway from Eight Mile Plains to Daisy Hill, and the Rochedale park-and-ride. All this infrastructure is so important to my community.


All Queenslanders will receive a \$1,300 cost-of-living rebate off their electricity bill in the next financial year and \$1,672 for pensioners and concession card holders. Further, new Premier Dr Steven Miles has responded to the No. 1 issue affecting our local people—cost of living. This has been evident in his announcements of: free kindy, which will save local families \$4,600 per year; free TAFE, free flu vaccines; 50-cent bus fares; 20 per cent off car registration this financial year; \$200 FairPlay sporting vouchers for children aged five to 17; the new satellite hospital at Eight Mile Plains ensuring our community has access to free health care, with free parking closer to home; making bond when renting a house transferable and capping rent increases to once per year; making the contraceptive pill and UTI medication accessible over the counter without having to see a doctor—that is important for women in my community; ensuring women are paid superannuation during 12 months unpaid maternity leave—all of this helps; and increasing the stamp duty threshold for first home buyers from \$500,000 to \$700,000, just to name a few.

The Miles Labor government can deliver this record investment because of our courageous revenue initiatives which ensure Queenslanders get paid for the resources they own—a budget that delivers health and education infrastructure for the future success of young Queenslanders and cost-of-living measures for the prosperity of our great state. As the Assistant Minister for Youth Justice, a former school principal and still a passionate registered teacher, it comes as no surprise that I have worked hard to secure nearly \$9 million for local schools in the Miles government's 2024-25 budget. This includes: a new building for Wishart State School; two new car parks for Mount Gravatt East State School; \$1.25 million for Upper Mount Gravatt State School to refurbish student administration facilities; new and refurbished science classrooms for Rochedale State High School; and an additional \$279,000 for school upgrades across the electorate.

I also congratulate our wonderful education minister for the tremendous increase in funds that she has been able to fight for and allocate to our state education system. Congratulations, Minister. I know that our education profession is very much appreciative of your work and your leadership, so I thank you immensely.

To address the challenges in our health system, the Miles government has delivered the largest investment in new hospitals and new beds in Queensland's history, with the 2024-25 state budget providing additional funding of 10.6 per cent for our health and hospital system. The delivery of our new Eight Mile Plains Satellite Hospital will enable our tertiary hospitals to continue safely managing seriously ill patients. This is much welcomed by my community. The 112 new beds at the QE II Hospital and 249 new beds at the PA Hospital are also much appreciated. This budget allows for the recruitment of a further 206 ambulance operatives statewide, bolstering services within the Metro South region and providing increased frontline ambulance services.

This is what Labor governments do, and this is exactly what the people of Queensland elect Labor to do. In order for Labor to do this work, we need to elect a Labor government. My community understands that strong and proven community leadership and a good, strong, stable government is what is needed at all times, but especially in times of global economic headwinds. Locally, 1,471 people lost their jobs during 2012 to 2015. Not a week goes by that locals do not remind me of this. There is one thing that is most important in times of economic headwinds, and that is job security. Our community knows they can rely on a Labor government here in Queensland to ensure their job security. I am proud to stand part of a Queensland Labor government led by our Premier, who has a vision for this great state of Queensland. The 2024-25 state budget ensures a progressive Queensland which will be more educated, more critical, healthier, more mobile and better prepared for the ongoing economic challenges that lie ahead. This will be the work of one government—a Labor government—and the result of only one party: the Australian Labor Party. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Ms CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (5.53 pm): I will begin my contribution to the Appropriations Bill by taking a look at the portfolios I hold as opposition spokesperson: firstly, child safety, in particular residential care. In the past 12 months we saw a review into residential care. We need to remind Queenslanders that the reason for the review is that there are increasing numbers of children in residential care. In fact, the number has grown by 80 per cent over the last five years. No other jurisdiction in the nation has experienced this growth. Almost one in three children in residential care in Queensland today is under the age of 12. There were community concerns about links to youth justice issues and increasing incidents within the residential care system. There were complaints arising about the sexual exploitation of young people in residential care. There were complaints about the quality of care, in particular around unregulated providers and unlicensed providers operating. We saw this government embark on a review into itself that was meant to address the increasing number of young people in care.

The recommendations outlined in the residential care review do not fully address the increasing number of children under the age of 12 in residential care. QFCC modelling of residential care shows there are currently 1,829 young people in residential care, 308 of whom are under the age of 10. QFCC modelling of residential care further sees an increase of 2,766 places by 2018. This is an extraordinary number of young people in residential care. This means that babies who wake up are being cared for by different individuals throughout the night. This Labor government should be ashamed of how it has treated—and how it has allowed a system to be created for—the most vulnerable in this state. The government has failed to take responsibility for what has occurred on their watch. Residential care workers have been assaulted; young residents have been assaulted. The government is not even tracking data to consider the real impacts on young people. The residential care road map does not deal with one of the fundamental issues of residential care, which is why is there a growing number of children being placed in residential care? The child safety system is at crisis. We have a workforce with record vacancy rates that is under enormous pressures. In my own community of Mackay and Whitsunday, child safety officers are dealing with caseloads in excess of 40! It is disgraceful. We are just waiting for a time bomb. A child will fall through the gaps and we will see another preventable death under the watch of this state government.

I also cover domestic and family violence prevention. After meeting with DV Connect recently, I was distressed to hear that in the last quarter alone 7,000 calls to that service have gone unanswered under the watch of this state government. The 20 per cent uplift that has been proposed by the government, while welcomed by the sector, will not even deal with the demand they are facing now without the impact of the coercive control legislation that was introduced. Every time a phone goes

unanswered a woman's life is put at risk. The referral waitlist for the men's line is sitting at 3,000. How does the cycle of violence stop and change when this state Labor government cannot even fund the frontline services that are there to work with perpetrators? I was in Cairns last week, and the services up there are reporting to me that waitlists for the perpetrators' program are in excess of 100, yet we see no action by this Labor government. We have seen a slow rollout of the *Hear her voice* recommendations and continued advocacy by the sector. I thank and recognise them for their service, but they need more in relation to resourcing.

I will now turn to my electorate. What a fantastic announcement today by the Leader of the Opposition to secure our housing foundations. I know it will be very much welcomed by my community of Mackay and the Whitsundays, in particular the growth areas of the Northern Beaches, Cannonvale and Proserpine. If an LNP government is elected in October, we will abolish stamp duty for new builds. This is good news for young individuals and families wishing to purchase their first home. This is an incredible incentive that will address supply and market conditions as well as ensure young people and young families can realise the great Australian dream. I have already been in contact with both Mayor Ry Collins of the Whitsunday Regional Council and Mayor Greg Williamson of the Mackay Regional Council. They very much welcome the LNP's policy commitment of \$2 billion over four years to fund infrastructure that will bring forward housing development. I know they have projects ready to go and we look forward, if elected in October, to working with local government proactively and collaboratively to deliver greater housing supply on the ground, because they have been screaming out for a state government that supports the development of their communities.

I have looked at some of the announcements in the budget that impact my community. I have been calling for the Hamilton Plains connection between Cannonvale and Airlie Beach through to Proserpine to be upgraded. That is the only road connection to our hospital. It is the only road connection to our state high school and children travel every day on that road. Last season it became a flood crisis within hours with the increased wet weather. This government has announced that the project will proceed. However, it comes with a caveat—that it is post-business case stage with cost and timing subject to confirmation following market engagement and consideration. I have zero confidence that the fine print outlined in almost every project in my region in QTRIP will actually see them delivered for the people of the Whitsundays. However, they will have a clear choice come October: will they support an LNP government which will get on and deliver those road projects? I look forward to welcoming the shadow transport minister as he drives from Cairns down to South-East Queensland. He will be visiting those many road project sites in my community, including Hamilton Plains, Shute Harbour Road, the Paluma Road to Valley Drive upgrade and also the Valley Drive to Tropic Road upgrade. If the project proceeds, we will see the lanes duplicated into Airlie Beach—a much needed project to meet the growing demand.

It was disappointing, but not surprising, that zero dollars have been allocated to the Mackay-Bucasia Road upgrade. There is no funding for the most congested and most busy road in the Mackay local government area where population growth has exploded. Residents in my community sit in traffic for 45 minutes to travel five or six kilometres to access school, to get to work and to access our industrial sites on the other side of town.

I do welcome the million dollars that has been allocated for safety upgrades at the Glendaragh Road-Bruce Highway intersection that I, along with many residents who contacted my office, fought so strongly for after a fatality at that intersection last year. I also welcome and recognise the Ngaro Trail that will continue to receive funding as part of ecotourism in the Whitsundays. It is an iconic trail in our region and, in fact, in the state. However, it is disappointing that the Whitsundays Skyway project, which has been under the stewardship of multiple tourism ministers, has failed to be supported by this state government. It continues to be held up by the department of environment. Proponents have spent hundreds of thousands of dollars preparing that, ticking all of the boxes and doing all of the studies, yet there has been no support by the government when it in fact asked my local proponent to undertake this incredible signature project. I certainly will continue to support that project. I see incredible merit in tourism infrastructure in this state in the lead-up to the Commonwealth Games, and that is part of the legacy that an LNP government hopes to support and to deliver as we move towards the Olympics.


After the leader's announcement today and confirmation that an LNP government will not proceed with the Pioneer-Burdekin Pumped Hydro, I say to Mandy Tennent and to Save Eungella, 'Keep going,' because a vote for the Labor Party or a vote for the member for Mackay risks our iconic rainforest—the Eungella National Park. It risks this government proceeding with its hydro hoax project—a project that Glen Kelly, our LNP candidate for Mirani, has been advocating for on behalf of the

community; a project that was announced with no business case and no funding attached after a fly-in fly-out visit by the previous premier on National Police Remembrance Day. It was the most disgraceful act. She turned up late to the service and then took off to announce the pumped hydro project that Premier Miles is so proud now to lead. This is a project that does not have the support of the Yuwi people, the traditional owners of the land, and it does not have the support of the Mackay Regional Council. The businesses of Paget, the industrial estates of Mackay and the Chamber of Commerce knew from day one that this was nothing but a hoax to win votes in South-East Queensland. It is a fake renewable project that will cost billions and billions of dollars more than what was initially estimated.

I certainly look forward to working with our Mackay candidate, Nigel Dalton—Citizen of the Year in 2023, a decorated police officer, a man of integrity and a gentleman who is well regarded and respected by all people across our local Mackay community. As a police officer who has worked in crime prevention, he has spent the last 10 years visiting every primary school and every high school. Those young people who know Nigel cannot wait to vote for him in October. He ran programs in partnership with CQ University's Safety Circus and Choices and attended Schoolies Week in Airlie Beach. Nigel is part of the Sinkers masters swimmers and the Shed Happens men's program. He does an enormous amount of work in crime prevention and promoting and supporting men with their mental health. He was also recognised in 2023 by the Australasian Neighbourhood Watch, receiving the Police Commissioner's award for service. We have had a great response since announcing Nigel's nomination, and I know that he will be a great advocate for the Mackay region.

We have seen funding cut and no further investment in disability advocacy support in Mackay. The community legal service has reached out to me. YIRS—the youth service—has reached out to me, as has Relationships Australia which works in harm minimisation from gambling. All of that funding has not increased and in fact has been cut under the watch of the local member for Mackay.

I look forward to ensuring the people of Mackay, come October, have a clear choice—that is, an LNP government that has the right priorities for Queensland. An LNP government will stand up for the women of Mackay who are still traumatised by the incidences that they endured at Mackay Base Hospital and the lack of representation from their local member. The health minister announced funding for mental health support for women who are going through postnatal depression but left out Mackay. As a result of what this state government put women through in Mackay, women will now travel to Brisbane to have their babies because they have zero confidence in the health system in Mackay because of the failings of this current Labor government. I look forward to standing up with our candidate in Mackay so that people will have a clear choice. Our region of Mackay and the Whitsunday matters and deserves better. We look forward to showing Labor the door in 2024.

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (6.07 pm): I rise after that pitch from the member for Whitsunday to be the new leader of the opposition, because that is what it sounded like to me. Before I start I want to thank the LNP for turning up tonight. Thank you very much. It is great to have you here doing your job in the House. We know what happened the other night—they hid in the toilet, they hid in the bar or wherever they could possibly hide. They were in the broom cupboard. We know that when the pressure is on the LNP it does not turn up. I will say one thing about the member for Whitsunday's speech: at least it was better than the leader's reply. The leader's reply earlier today was like a *Seinfeld* episode—something about nothing. That is what it was about. It was called 'the Seinfeld reply to the budget', and it was absolutely worth nothing. While we are talking about the budget, I refer to an article from *Independent Australia*, and I will table it too.

Tabled paper: Extract from a media article, dated 10 June 2024, titled 'Data shows Queensland Labors economy outperforms other states again' [[1065](#)].

The article states—

As elections approach, the mainstream media are ramping up efforts to deceive voters into reinstalling the Coalition ...

Australia's economy is travelling well. Queensland's economy is in exceptionally good shape relative to the other states. These realities were confirmed last week in the quarterly national accounts from the Australian Bureau of Statistics ...

Unfortunately many Australian citizens, especially in Queensland—

I will repeat that, especially in Queensland—

are unaware of these truths because of constant mainstream news misreporting. With the Queensland State Election set for October, the deceptions are becoming more insidious.

Let's talk about the budget. It is a great Labor budget for the Maryborough electorate. There is more money in health. I saw the education minister here today. What a great budget for my schools across the Maryborough electorate. There is money for the special school and upgrades for all of my schools. This is an education budget. I am amazed at what is coming for schools in my electorate. I would like to thank the education minister. She came up and visited my electorate and talked to my principals and teachers, and that was great. The proof is in the pudding with the great outcomes we are receiving for schools across the Maryborough electorate.

In terms of roads, the Tiaro bypass is funded. We call the federal member for Wide Bay 'Laryngitis Llew'. During the Morrison years he had no voice, but now that there is a Labor government it is a miracle and his voice has come back. I can see him at church every Sunday saying, 'Bring back my voice,' and it came back. It is unbelievable to see a federal member without a voice for so many years and suddenly now he has a voice. He is calling for projects that he did not call for when they were in government and he was a Deputy Speaker of the federal parliament. That is 'Laryngitis Llew'.

We have money for the Burrum Heads-Pialba Road intersection. The member for Chatsworth wants to give us tough love, which is that love where—


Mr Tantari: Pruning.

Mr SAUNDERS: I take that interjection from the member for Hervey Bay. He does like pruning. He has the shears out ready to come and prune all of the services around Queensland. In 2015 we had SOS—save our services. If the member for Chatsworth gets his way, we will be having SOS rallies again—save our services.

We have Burrum Heads-Pialba Road—tick. There is funding for that. I thank the transport minister. We have Oregon Creek on Pialba Burrum Heads Road at Toogoom—tick, done. In terms of the Maryborough Hervey Bay Road, the member for Hervey Bay and I have been talking to the transport minister and the Treasurer about this. There is a big 'boom' and a tick for that; we are getting money for the Maryborough Hervey Bay Road. How great is that? It would not be a speech from me unless I talked about trains. There is money for the QTMP. There is great money for Torbanlea for the trains. This is going to be fantastic because we are going to have trains.

We have money for the rural training fire centre—the first in Queensland—and that is because it is being delivered by a Miles government. We are miles ahead in the Maryborough electorate thanks to this budget. I would like to thank the Treasurer because he has done a great job.

There is more money for Skilling Queenslanders for Work. One thing they cut in 2012 was Skilling Queenslanders for Work. That was absolutely disgraceful and that is what made me run for parliament—when they cut Skilling Queenslanders for Work—because it is such a great program. We reinstated it, and it is great to see people get real jobs from it. That is the difference between us and them on that side. For a start, we turn up and we do not go and hide in the toilet when the vote is on. The second thing is that we make sure everyone is looked after. This budget is a great Labor budget. It is a great budget for the Maryborough electorate. Thank you very much, Treasurer.

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (6.13 pm): I rise to make my contribution on this year's budget. To be blunt, there is not a lot to say about the Labor budget. To be honest, many in Glass House can see right through this Labor budget. In the electorate of Glass House, all they have seen in this budget is a lot of reannouncements—projects that are reannouncements from last year's budget. In one case, the Beerburrum to Landsborough rail project—which is part of the Beerburrum to Nambour duplication—has probably been announced 10 times now in 10 separate budgets by this government. All we have seen to date is some early works—a realignment of Steve Irwin Way and a new car park at Landsborough Railway Station—but no contract actually signed to duplicate and build that railway from Beerburrum to Beerwah.

We have seen in this budget 50-cent public transport fares, a temporary reduction on car registration, an increase in not only the dollar value but also who can apply for FairPlay vouchers and energy rebates. I am sure all of the people in Glass House and indeed across Queensland will welcome that. We certainly have too, but, as I have said, the people of Glass House have seen right through this. They see it for what it is. It is a short-term budget for the next four months in the lead-up to the October election, not a long-term budget that delivers a vision for the state of Queensland over the next four years.

As for it actually identifying and changing the current crises facing Queensland—the youth crime crisis, the health crisis, the cost-of-living crisis and the housing crisis—we know that it does not really achieve any of those. It might give a short-term sugar hit in terms of cost of living, but it is not addressing the underlying principles of why we are in a cost-of-living crisis in the first place.

What I want to do in my contribution is offer a little bit of hope to the people of Glass House and others who are listening. I want to turn to some of the commitments that the LNP leader, David Crisafulli, made in his budget reply speech today. One of the values of the Liberal National Party is aspiration. We believe that everyone can aspire to enjoy a quality life, to own a home and to work in a job of their choosing. It is that home ownership that I want to drill down into today. Like me, a number of members in this House have adult children who are looking at moving into the housing market for the very first time. I have spoken on a number of occasions of how having three adult children still bumping around our small house is causing a lot of challenges for us and we have looked at what alternatives there are. I will tell you what: my kids are going to have plenty of alternatives should there be a change of government in October. Let me start with home ownership.

Do members know that over the last 50 years the percentage of Queenslanders owning their own home has fallen drastically? Not long before I was born, the percentage of Queenslanders who owned their own home in 1971 was 70 per cent. Just a couple of years ago back, in 2021, that number had dropped to 64 per cent. We have fallen behind other jurisdictions. This used to be the state that people moved to because of that aspiration, that hope. We are now one of the worst in the nation and the LNP want to turn that around. How are we going to do that? For starters, we are going to abolish stamp duty on all new homes for first home buyers. Yes, as the leader said this morning, we are going to abolish a tax; we will abolish stamp duty on all new homes for first home buyers.

We are also going to have full stamp duty concession on properties up to a value of \$700,000, with a partial stamp duty concession through to \$800,000. For your first home, if you build or buy a new home, you will not pay a single dollar of stamp duty in Queensland. That is significant. That means if you are buying a new-build home of roughly around \$850,000—that is what you are looking at if you are looking at one of the master planned communities around Palmview or Aura on the Sunshine Coast—then you will save more than \$24,000 if it is your first home. If it is an existing property, not a new build, then you will be saving more than \$17,350.

On top of that, we are going to help drive down the cost for first home buyers and also immediately boost rental supply by lifting the restrictions on renting a room. Currently, if you receive the first home owner's grant you are unable to rent out a room on that property for a period of 12 months. That is going to be gone. That means you can go to the bank and say, 'I have an REIQ contract to rent out a room for \$250'—which seems to be about the going rate for a room on the Sunshine Coast or Moreton Bay—'and that will contribute to assisting me in paying off my mortgage.' In the middle of a housing crisis, if young Queenslanders want to immediately rent their front room to help cover the cost of their mortgage, nothing should stand in their way. That is what this policy achieves.

Members should not take my word for it. One of my constituents jumped on my Facebook post today and said, 'Okay, now this is how you spend money to help people, not \$1,000 power bill bribes.' This is a genuine way to change the cost of living and improve housing availability and affordability for Queenslanders, and I am glad to see that it is being acknowledged by members of my community.

This policy is far more comprehensive than that. We know that if people are wanting to buy homes we are going to have to make sure there is a supply of homes. It is only through a supply of homes that we can drive down costs further. Competition produces better value for money. To increase supply, we are going to develop new regional plans, and we will match those with infrastructure plans for every corner of Queensland. We are calling it Unlocking Homes for Queensland's Future, and we aim to deliver one million new homes over the next two decades. That is an average of 50,000 homes a year.

Over the past decade, housing loan approvals have declined by almost 30 per cent under Labor, and that has left us in the situation we are in where there are not enough houses for people moving to, or looking to buy in, this state. They can say that migration has been extraordinary, but, as we have seen through a lot of the documents that have since been revealed, they knew that this migration was coming. It was forecast 10, 15, 20 years ago. We have hit that median mark and achieved the population they expected us to achieve 20 years ago.

What they have not done is what we are planning on doing—that is, ensuring we have those homes available for Queensland's future. As I said, we will develop new regional plans and we will match them with infrastructure plans, and that will ensure we can build the homes we require to put a roof over Queenslanders' heads. We will reset the planning partnership with local government. We will streamline the approvals process for planning scheme amendments while preserving a rigorous community consultation process. One of the reasons a lot of the potential lot developments in my electorate of Glass House are being held up is because of those approvals, and often it is a planning scheme amendment. The councils will make the amendments and then it gets bogged down, waiting for the state to sign off on those amendments. We will work with councils to achieve that.

In the next five years we will scale up housing approvals by 25 per cent before ramping up further to reach that one million extra homes by 2044. As I said, we will do that in partnership with local government and, with the support of Economic Development Queensland, we will fast-track approvals to build new homes more quickly.

Another exciting element is that we will also deliver a new \$2 billion dedicated fund for the infrastructure needed to get new housing developments out of the ground. For the homes to be ready for Queenslanders, that means we need the water, the sewerage, the lighting, the roads and the parks built so that they can move into those new estates. Let me give a very concrete example of how this \$2 billion fund could be used. Caboolture West sits wholly in the electorate of Glass House. Members have heard me speak of it before. It has been on the cards since I was a kid, yet we have only just turned the first sod on the first neighbourhood within that city that will eventually host a population the size of Mackay. Why is that? Because it has been put on the City of Moreton Bay to cover so many of the start-up costs involved in getting that development going. Yes, the government came to the party late to assist in some start-up infrastructure around utilities but had not addressed important things like road access. Finally, the government is getting around to mapping out where the Bruce Highway Western Alternative will go, but that will not be built for at least another 10 years, so what we need in the interim is access to the Bruce Highway.


Members heard me speak recently on the Buchanan Road project that the City of Moreton Bay desperately needs that will link the Bruce Highway to Caboolture River Road and ensure people moving into the new city of Caboolture West can get east-west out to that major arterial. It also gets them to Morayfield Railway Station. That is a \$100 million-plus project. That is the kind of project for which someone like the City of Moreton Bay could apply to a future LNP government under that \$2 billion dedicated fund to get that necessary infrastructure happening so we can get those houses coming out of the ground.

We are also going to assist those who find it a bit tougher to raise the deposit needed to buy a house. We will do that through our Boost to Buy and Open the Door policies. We will close the deposit gap for a thousand Queensland first home buyers with a new shared equity program to offer them a critical boost into home ownership. First home buyers with a two per cent deposit—a two per cent deposit—will be able to bridge the rent-ownership divide with government equity. We will invest in it with them. To drive housing supply, as I said, we will offer up to 30 per cent equity for new homes and up to 25 per cent equity for existing homes up to a value of \$750,000. Those Queenslanders can choose to buy out the government at a time that works for them while getting into their first home sooner and for less. As I also previously mentioned, we will get rid of that rental restriction on the first home owner grant. Many Queenslanders cannot rely on the bank of mum and dad to close the deposit gap, which is why we in the LNP will step in.

We realise again that that will not be sufficient to meet all of the housing needs of Queensland, which is why we will have Homes with Purpose. We will deliver 10,000 new social and community homes on church and charity owned land by 2044, in partnership with the community housing sector. We will redirect every single dollar of that \$2 billion Housing Investment Fund into building new social homes. We will unleash the community housing sector. We will do it in partnership with them, with long-term management leases to drive reinvestment into new community housing supply. We will deliver eight new supported accommodation services for young Queenslanders. We will bolster after-hours outreach homelessness services for those sleeping rough. That is desperately needed, particularly around the City of Moreton Bay part of the electorate of Glass House, with people sleeping in tents in places like Cruice Park in Woodford or beside the D'Aguilar Highway in Caboolture. We will deliver 10 new and replacement domestic and family violence shelters for vulnerable women and children, and we will deliver 53,500 additional social and community homes by 2044.

That is a comprehensive plan to deal with the housing crisis created by those opposite over the course of the last decade. That will drive down costs for people trying to get into the market. That will assist people who cannot afford a deposit to buy their first home. That will help those most vulnerable who cannot look to own or rent a property. That is a real policy that the people of Queensland will aspire to, and that is what we are putting on the table in the lead-up to the election in October.

In the time remaining, I want to briefly mention a great initiative on the Sunshine Coast—endED. Mark and Gay Forbes have done this fabulous work around treating eating disorders. I am just stoked to hear that their program has finally received funding so that their lived-experience coaches, the young ladies they have working with them who have worked with others who are suffering from eating disorders, can now do that with government funding. They have been doing it on their own for so long, and it is great to hear that they finally have that commitment and can expand the services they offer. There is more to do. I know that Mark is in my ear now about his way of accommodating people who come for those programs. Trust me, Mark and Gay, we hear you and we will work towards that goal now. Congratulations! It is a great outcome for a great service, and long may it continue.


 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Youth Justice) (6.27 pm): We had the record budget handed down by the Treasurer this week—a budget that goes to the heart of addressing the cost-of-living crisis that is gripping Queenslanders, no matter who they are or where they are. It is a budget that addresses the things that matter—50-cent public transport fares, a 20 per cent cut in car rego, \$1,300 energy subsidies, \$200 FairPlay vouchers, increasing the stamp duty threshold for first home buyers—things that, on the doorstep of my electorate, are so welcomed because people are so stressed by household budget pressures.

After all that, we had the big build-up as we were waiting for the Leader of the Opposition to give his budget reply speech. He is the man who wants to lead Queensland in these challenging times. What a total fizzer it was. After months and months of only having their little booklet to give us any idea of what their policies might be—that little thing that is full of motherhood statements and slogans, that has quite a few words in it but is completely content-free—we were all waiting for the big speech from the Leader of the Opposition to finally show some respect for Queenslanders and tell us what he plans to do. That smiling leaker from over there managed to get out their housing plan, which turns out to be our housing plan, so there was no effort made there. That leak duped us all into thinking there was that amount of detail in all of their plans, but no, no, no, no, no. It looks like the only reason the smiling leaker did not give anything else to Channel 9 is that there was nothing else to give. Here we are, just over three months before going into caretaker mode, and they are still not telling us what they are planning to do or even if they have any plan. How disrespectful is that?

On education, there is no mention of how they will attract more teachers and other school staff. The only mention of anything even slightly relating to workforce was that there would be no forced redundancies of public servants, and we have heard that from them before. Meanwhile, we were already 96 per cent on track to deliver our election commitment of more than 6,100 new teachers and 203 per cent on track to deliver more than 1,100 more teacher aides. There was no mention at all from them of support for students with disabilities, yet teachers all over Queensland are telling us that their No. 1 issue is the increasingly complex environment they are facing. That includes supporting the increasing number of children in mainstream classrooms with special needs. We have announced \$1 billion in our budget to support these children and the teachers who teach them.

The Leader of the Opposition mentioned asbestos in school buildings, but he did not mention that it was the LNP that reclassified low-density asbestos board—something the Labor government reversed in 2021 after a review found it did not reflect the seriousness of the risks. Of course, he had no solutions at all to offer.

Sitting suspended from 6.30 pm to 7.30 pm.

 **Ms FARMER:** On youth crime it is, again, disappointing. There is not one more skerrick of detail on what they will do on what everyone acknowledges is a very big issue of concern for Queenslanders. There are lots of motherhood statements, again. How disrespectful to victims. I can only hope when he said last week in his radio interview that he would support our budget, he meant he would support our Community Safety Plan, our Putting Queensland Kids First plan and our youth engagement strategy—all the initiatives we know are starting to make a difference, all with critical actions to address not only the crime itself but also the root causes of crime and provide the right support to victims, all evidence-based and all established through expert advice.

We all know that the word of the Leader of the Opposition is worth nothing. We saw that when they came to government last time. We saw it when he backed out of treaty. We saw it within nanoseconds of him saying last week that he would support our budget. Then he had a panic and realised he had accidentally supported the Pioneer-Burdekin Pumped Hydro project and he backed out of that, too. He says he will make the youth crime crisis a priority, but his little book gives us 13 words across three slogans and his budget reply speech gave us nothing more. How can youth crime be a priority when he does not even have a plan for addressing it? He does not talk about the root causes of crime or those Queenslanders who are victims of the increasing incidents of domestic and family violence. He does not talk about the LNP's record during their term in government: cutting support for victims of crime; cutting funding from Victim Assist Queensland; cutting \$295 million from community organisations that provide early intervention services; sacking police; making police buy their own body worn cameras—who does that; and abolishing the sentencing advisory council. Shame.

Mr Deputy Speaker, you have reviewed and approved my speech on the budget for incorporation. As such, I ask that the remainder of my speech be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*.

The speech read as follows—

As the Number One fan of my local community Speaker, I was absolutely thrilled at the investment this Budget makes into making it an even stronger community than it already is. To make even stronger the amazing social fabric that underpins it.

So let me shout from the rooftops the wonderful things that are going to happen:

- For Balmoral State High School—a Tuckshop upgrade, and a plan and design for completely re-doing A Block into a 3 story building with general and special ed classrooms
- For Cannon Hill State School—a Playground upgrade
- For Murarrie State School—a Tuckshop upgrade
- For Morningside State School—Toilet block upgrade (which they were so excited about)
- For Norman Park State School—Continuing the rectification of retaining wall
- Seven Hills State School—Well I cannot wait to open their new multi-purpose hall next week, which will be funded into next year's Budget.

Morningside Panthers and Southside Eagles Football Club—both amazing community sport clubs, both holding an important place in QLD sport—both will get new change rooms

We'll finalise the major accessibility upgrade of Morningside Station. And a big thank you to local commuters for being so patient as we get this important work done as quickly as we possibly can for such major works.

\$3 million for Morningside-based Foodbank to increase its capacity to help the increasing numbers of food-insecure people we are seeing

And funding for vulnerable families at our very own local Wellspring Child and Family Hub in Hawthorne.

What a difference these will all make Speaker.

But Speaker I am so proud of what this Budget achieves in my portfolio areas, and I do want to highlight some more the commitment we have to the future of our young people.

The success of Queensland's kids is the success of Queensland. We are investing in the future because every Queensland kid deserves the opportunity to access education so they can reach their potential.

We are delivering what matters to Queenslanders:

- We are Putting Queensland Kids First—the opportunity of a lifetime initiative that supports vulnerable families to access quality early childhood programs, health and other support services.
- We are Keeping Queenslanders safe—tackling the root causes of crime, investing in grassroot early intervention and evidence-based programs that are proven to reduce the offending and reoffending rates of young people.
- We are keeping students engaged in their education through a have a comprehensive package of alternatives to mainstream schooling including Flexispaces and Pathways Colleges.
- We are helping Queensland families who are struggling to meet all the cost of living demands on their household budgets through our School and Community Food Relief Fund.
- We are increasing our tailored support for students with 2000 extra support staff and professional resources to help students living with disability learn easier.
- And we continue to improve, upgrade and expand our school facilities with two new schools opening this year. Bringing to 29 the number of new schools we've built since 2015.
- There's out \$35 million funding of Round 2 of our School Playgrounds and Tuckshops Upgrade program.

- We are putting practical measures in place to encourage teachers to travel to rural and remote parts of QLD—by increasing subsidized accommodation in those areas, including total subsidies for priority schools; plus doubling our support for student teachers to do their prac in rural and remote areas because we know they'll be more likely to then take up positions there.

Keeping Queenslanders safe is the priority of the Miles Government, that's why we are investing millions of dollars in evidence-based programs that are proven to reduce the offending and reoffending rates of young people.

We have made investment in youth justice a priority in this budget.

Through the Community Safety Plan for Queensland \$1.28 billion in new investment is being made to support community safety in Queensland.

This is contributing to expenditure to support evidence-based approaches to reduce reoffending.

It includes new and expanded intervention programs aimed at protecting Queenslanders while tackling the root causes of crime and this Budget delivers that.

Like:

- \$11.2 million over two years to increase the capacity of the successful Youth Co-Responder Team program, delivering additional vehicles to hot spots in Cairns and the Gold Coast, as well as new co-responder teams on the Sunshine Coast and in the South West district to engage with at-risk young people and their families.
- \$3.5 million over two years to expand Intensive Case Management to the Sunshine Coast, Bundaberg, Redlands, Gladstone, Central West, and youth detention centres. Intensive case managers will work with young people aged 10 to 17, and their families, to help them become more accountable and change anti-social behaviours and attitudes while ensuring they receive tailored programs to address their needs.
- 16 new positions at \$5 million over two years for restorative justice conferencing services expansion to ensure victims are supported and experience timely management of their cases.
- \$3.3 million over four years for culturally-focussed family partnership responses which prioritise young people who are high risk of offending.
- \$8.8 million over four years will be spent on specialist counselling services to address the use of serious violence, particularly by serious repeat offenders.

Keeping Queenslanders safe means young people will face consequences and be held accountable, with detention, intervention and prevention.

We make no apologies for detaining young offenders when it means keeping the community safe.

That's why we are funding new beds in youth detention, including the new Youth Detention Centre at Woodford, plus the proposed new 40-bed centre near Cairns, which will add 120 beds to the state's youth detention capacity.

And the Wacol Remand Centre.

It means doing all we can to break the cycle of offending, because when a young person comes into the system, we want to make sure we're doing our very best to stop them returning.

Whether it is drug and alcohol abuse in the home, domestic violence, poor family environment or trauma, we are committed to evidence-backed programs to reduce offending by young people and make communities safer.


Speaker, we know well-fed students perform better at school. But we also know so many Queensland families are struggling to meet all the demands on their household budgets.

The Miles Government is providing \$15 million towards the School and Community Food Relief Fund.

This includes more than \$10 million for schools to begin or continue to provide healthy meals to their students.

We are also supporting students' health and wellbeing by providing \$21 million over 4 years from 2024-25 to continue the GPs in Schools program.

Speaker we are doing the things that matter to Queenslanders. And I am proud to be part of the Miles Labor Government that is putting our plans to Queenslanders to ask for their support to do so.

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (7.32 pm): I rise to deliver my reply to the state budget. I am grateful for the opportunity to represent the people of my electorate in this place because at the end of the day they, and all Queenslanders, are what matters. My colleagues and I have been listening, unlike those opposite who for nearly a decade have proudly wound back our strong laws and failed to deliver the fundamental services that Queenslanders not only deserve but rightly expect. From what we have seen over the past three terms of this Labor government and what we have heard this week in their last-ditch attempt to buy votes, it is clear Labor has only one priority and that is to keep their jobs.

The budget is another Labor fiasco and reveals everything we need to know about how desperate they have become to clutch at the straws of power. Let us take a close look at what this budget is. It is a budget with the second largest deficit in a decade. It is a budget for four months, not four years. It is a budget that delivers a short-term political sugar hit instead of meaningful reform. It is a pre-election

budget that is focused on one goal only and that is to re-elect a tired, lazy government that has run out of ideas. It is a budget that offers a bandaid solution to long-term systematic issues that have resulted in a deterioration of the most basic services that Queenslanders rely on. It is a typical Labor budget, in that Queenslanders will be worse off once the short-term measures have expired. It is a budget that Labor MPs are all hoping will be a lifeline. It is a blatant display of shameless hypocrisy in the hope it might be enough to buy votes and to save their jobs. It is a budget that should set alarm bells ringing for every household, business and company across the width and breadth of this state. It is a budget of desperation.

In terms of what this budget is not, it is not a budget that delivers long-term economic security and future prosperity for Queenslanders. It is not a budget that addresses the government's failings in crime, cost of living, health and housing. It is not a budget that delivers generational opportunities. It is not a budget that delivers anything beyond 26 October. It is not a budget that delivers anything for my electorate, other than short-term measures as a reward for forgiving and forgetting a decade of Labor failures.

Labor have repeatedly proven that they cannot be trusted when it comes to law and order and they have absolutely no credibility when it comes to giving our police the backup they have been calling for. At the 2017 election they promised 535 extra police. By the time of the next election in 2020 they had failed to deliver on this promise, falling around 130 officers short. They then doubled down and promised to boost police numbers by 1,450. We now know there are 89 fewer frontline police on the beat across Queensland today than there were when they made this announcement at the last election. That is 1,539 police short of their commitment, but Labor does not want Queenslanders to reflect on their past performance or hold them to account for their failures. They want people to forget the past and believe their new empty policies. Our frontline police do not and will not forget.

Labor wants all Queenslanders to forget about the increasing number of innocent victims of crime who have bravely told their story in the hope that the government was listening, and that something would change. They want Queenslanders to forget about how they have had to install security cameras and change their locks and barricade themselves in their homes because crime is out of control. It is simply abhorrent that this government should be asking Queenslanders to forgive and forget. How do you move on from burying a loved one whose death could have been prevented if the government had not proudly watered down the laws when they took office nearly a decade ago?

Our hardworking police are leaving in droves because this government has failed to support them with the laws and the resources they need to do their job and to keep our community safe. Even worse, this government has admitted they have run out of ideas on how to solve the crime crisis. The Premier himself admitted their cupboard is bare. Despite all their promises, they have no plan to deliver the laws that our police and all Queenslanders need. This budget reveals that they have not even funded the police helicopters they are promising. There is no money in the budget for the interim helicopters for Cairns, the Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay, and no money for the permanent helicopter in Townsville.

These commitments have been left high and dry by a government who cares more about how things look than how they are. Our police have publicly acknowledged that by the end of 2023 crime had reached an all-time record high. From 2012 to 2014, the number of victims of crime, including offences against the person and property crime in Queensland, reduced by 30,000. By the end of 2023 that had increased by over 130,000—an increase of 60 per cent. There is no doubt that crime has exploded across Queensland since this government watered down the laws, but these are the numbers the government wants you to forget.

The government has sold this as a budget that is doing what matters for Queenslanders, but this government stopped listening a long time ago and Queenslanders know that doing what matters goes much further than a cash hand-out. How will that help them when the short-term measures expire after the election? This government should be ashamed of itself for asking hardworking Queenslanders to forgive nearly a decade of failures, cost blowouts, the crime crisis, the housing crisis, the health crisis and the cost-of-living crisis.

As I have said numerous times in this place, the highest priority of any government should be the safety and security of its citizens. Only an LNP government will give our police back the laws and the resources they need. We will introduce our Making Queensland Safer laws by the end of year. This includes removing detention as a last resort, putting victims' rights front and centre and embedding consequences for actions.

The cost-of-living crisis impacting each and every Queenslanders is a direct result of the failures of this decade-old government. Let us not forget who has been sitting around the cabinet table for the past decade. The same faces who are trying to reinvent themselves as a new government are the exact same faces who have been calling the shots for the past three terms. Some of them have swapped seats, but there is nothing new or different about the priorities and competence of this government.

Queensland is ground zero in the cost-of-living crisis, and skyrocketing costs and inflation figures prove it. Under this government, Queenslanders are facing the steepest cost increases in the nation, including rents up 9.5 per cent, health costs up seven per cent, transport up 6.4 per cent and insurance up 15.9 per cent. Every single one of these costs are critical state government responsibilities and have been directly impacted by decisions of this Labor government.

Labor's failures are costing Queenslanders in the hip pocket. When a government fails to invest in our road network, it is Queensland motorists who see their fuel bills grow through congestion. When government lets youth crime grow out of control, it is Queenslanders who see their insurance premiums go through the roof. The more cost blowouts there are on infrastructure, according to the IMF, the more inflation surges. Every dollar an incompetent Labor minister wastes is a dollar that cannot go into the pocket of a Queenslanders who is struggling. Labor's chaos and crisis is leaving Queensland families with difficult decisions to make around the kitchen table.

Home ownership rates in Queensland are the lowest in the nation. After nearly a decade of Labor, lot and building approvals have both declined by 30 per cent, sending rents and house prices soaring. Queensland now has more than 40,000 people waiting for social housing who have been priced out or who are unable to secure rental properties in the middle of a housing crisis.

I am proud to be part of an LNP which is providing real solutions to the housing and home ownership crisis that we have seen escalate at the hands of the Labor government. An LNP government has a bold vision that will give Queenslanders the hope and aspiration to own a home with the Securing Our Housing Foundations policy announced by our leader earlier today. The policy will abolish stamp duty for all new homes for first home buyers and raise the stamp duty concession threshold; introduce a new shared equity home ownership program designed to close the deposit gap for buyers; plan for one million extra homes by 2044; remove restrictions preventing first home buyer grant recipients from renting out rooms or opening up rental supply; allow 10,000 new social and community homes on church and charity owned land; and fast-track development approvals to build new homes quicker.

Let us compare this to Labor's track record. Under this government, the housing crisis has seen a sharp decline in the number of new housing lots approved, lengthy development application processes, a lack of investment in infrastructure to unlock housing, significant increases in construction costs, a lack of investment in social housing and a reluctance to partner with the community housing sector. Labor's hallmark solution is, and has always been, to come after your money when it runs out of its own. Never before has a government taxed more, spent more or borrowed more and yet Queenslanders have less to show for it.

Economists have warned that the Treasurer's budget cash splash could add to inflationary pressures and potentially lead to the RBA delaying rate cuts. Other media commentary in the *Australian Financial Review* this week referred to the budget as a 'politically shameless and fiscally irresponsible attempt by a Labor government staring at seemingly certain defeat' while the *Australian's* Judith Sloan has likened the Treasurer to Sideshow Bob stuffing vote-grabbing show bags at the Ekka.

One of the most important aspects of this budget is what it delivers for my electorate of Ninderry. Unfortunately, though, other than some much needed cost-of-living relief there is not much else. We received very little investment in the infrastructure desperately needed to support our growing region; no significant investment in our languishing road network that continues to deteriorate from the pressure of the population growth and long overdue maintenance; nothing to help our local schools build, grow and develop to ensure the needs of our students are being met now and into the future; and nothing that will help families better manage their budgets once the cash handouts have expired.


A government with a long-term vision would have funded new buildings at Coolum State School to get our children out of flood-prone and asbestos ridden demountables. The school has embarked on a long overdue master plan and the first stage is out for public consultation now. With the investment we have secured in upgrading the roundabout and school parking, it only makes sense to continue the momentum, but sadly there is no money to start construction on these desperately needed new buildings. Similarly, there is no money for a new multipurpose hall at Coolum State High School—one of the shining gems of secondary education on the Sunshine Coast. Despite its first-class educational

standards and outcomes, the school lacks a dedicated multipurpose hall. Even with the hard work and support of a passionate and dedicated P&C and a community campaign, we have been left empty-handed. The short-term vision of this government has failed to deliver for the students of my electorate.

I welcome the investment in a number of road projects, including an extra \$1.43 million for the planning and upgrade of the aging Bli Bli bridge. This is in addition to the \$1.6 million we have already secured, and I know locals will be pleased to finally see some progress. The \$7 million to install lights at the Denna Street intersection on Bradman Avenue is also welcome and will greatly improve safety in this area. Similarly, after many years of fighting for upgrades at the notorious intersection of Maroochydore Road, Pike and Killick streets at Kunda Park, the government is finally committing further funds to progress the preferred design. It is nowhere near enough, but this investment is long overdue and congestion is increasing by the day.

The most significant funding in the budget for my electorate is the additional \$5 million for a new pedestrian bridge in Eumundi. This is a project that spans more than 20 years. Since we first secured the funding in 2020, we have been waiting for the works to start. It now appears the total cost has ballooned from \$1.1 million to \$6 million. Thanks to a \$3 million injection from my local federal counterparts, I am delighted to be able to announce this long-awaited project will commence before the end of the year.

In conclusion, Queenslanders know that it will be a very costly mistake to elect this decade-old Labor government for another four years. As Robert Menzies once said, the only guarantee for failure is to stop trying. This is a government that has run out of ideas and resorts to bribery in a final attempt to buy votes. Queenslanders have lost faith in this Labor government. When a government loses the trust of its citizens it is forced to resort to desperate measures. Only the LNP has the right priorities for Queensland's future.

 **Hon. MP HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (Minister for Tourism and Sport) (7.45 pm): The ghost of Robert Menzies? Wow! That is really going to work well! Cost-of-living action is at the heart of the Miles government's first budget along with building the infrastructure we need for our growing state and, most importantly, investing in our greatest asset, which is our people. This is the biggest cost-of-living relief package ever presented to the people of Queensland at a time when it has been desperately needed. We know that because we have been listening to people and this is what people have been telling us. This budget is helping with household bills and putting downward pressure on inflation. There is \$3.739 billion in new and expanded cost-of-living action including over \$1,300 off Queensland householders' electricity bills, 50-cent public transport fares, 20 per cent off vehicle registrations, 200,000 FairPlay vouchers valued at \$200 available to every Queensland child aged between five and 17, and first home concessions extended up to \$800,000. These are absolutely fundamental in ensuring a better quality of life for Queenslanders.

I want to touch on some of the things that are happening in my electorate because they are absolutely fundamental in ensuring we are working with regional councils and we continue to grow. Some of the investment in my electorate in Cairns includes our announcement of \$87.5 million towards stage 1 of the Cairns Water Security project, which will help the council deliver critical water security in our region and will avoid them having to put the rates up significantly. I want to acknowledge the Minister for Water, who has done an outstanding job. He was a hard man to advocate to, but he did the right thing because he knew it was the right thing for the people. I want to recognise my parliamentary colleagues who also assisted in that. The Miles Labor government is now funding \$195 million of the project to bolster Cairns' future water supply.

There is \$250 million for the Cairns Hospital expansion to deliver a new surgical centre, refurbish selected areas within the existing hospital and utilise opportunities for futureproofing facilities. In addition to that there is \$60 million for the Cairns Health Innovation Centre, which will deliver additional capacity for Cairns Hospital and provide health education, training and research facilities for future medical professionals in Cairns. This is about building a new health industry in the tropics.

There is \$37 million in the budget out of a \$360 million total spend towards the Cairns Marine Precinct common user facility. It currently employs over 4,500 people. There is strong demand. I went to a marine college meeting on Saturday last where over 1,500 students and parents turned up. This is a real investment into our area. This will provide much needed labour for increased maintenance, repair and overhaul service capabilities delivered in partnership with the Australian government.

In addition to that, there is \$21 million to complete the Cairns police facility upgrade. I acknowledge the fantastic work of the police minister. He has listened to what we have been asking for and he has provided, as well as additional police, a facility that has been designed with all the features and specifications needed for a modern policing facility that will accommodate the current staffing level with room for, most importantly, future growth. The facility will support frontline policing services to deliver safe and secure communities and build a safer Queensland.

All of these measures from the new Miles government are delivering better services for Cairns and Far North Queensland. This builds on our record of delivery, where the Far North has benefited from: 680 extra nurses, up 31 per cent; 297 extra doctors, up 62.2 per cent; and 59 extra ambulance officers, an increase of 21.5 per cent. What we hear from the other side borders on pathetic. In contrast, when those opposite were in government, in Cairns 306 frontline health jobs were cut, 48 nurses lost their job and over 500 full-time staff in teaching positions were sacked. It was absolutely appalling. It has taken years for the Far North to recover from the LNP's cuts to local schools and hospitals.

In relation to my portfolio responsibilities of sport and tourism, I would like to provide comprehensive details about how we are delivering world-class, thriving, inclusive and sustainable tourism and sport and active recreation sectors. Firstly I would like to touch on the Leader of the Opposition's comments in relation to sport and tourism—at least I would like to, but there were no comments about tourism and there was very little, if anything, about sport. The opposition leader is the shadow tourism minister. The only mention of tourism in his hour-long, visionless speech was the following—

We will deliver sustainable ecotourism opportunities by creating more world-class experiences to drive conservation through education.

What in God's name does that mean? I have had five tourism operators, from the Gold Coast to Cairns, ring me saying, 'Can you explain what that is?' I said, 'I will tell you what it is: it is absolutely nothing.' The Leader of the Opposition did not even mention his supposed 20-year tourism plan, which he has been spruiking for four years but no-one has ever seen.

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr HEALY: I will start on you in a tick, buddy. Industry certainly has not been consulted on any plan.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Direct your comments through the chair, please, Minister.

Mr HEALY: It is concerning that industry has not been consulted on any plan. We have a plan—a real tourism plan. It is Towards Tourism 2032. It has been consulted on with industry. Industry has been involved. It is a framework and we are working with the tourism industry. It is amazing. The partnership with government and industry to deliver long-term growth and success for our tourism is well articulated, with goals and milestones. This is a multibillion dollar industry—a huge employer, and most of them are small businesses. It is unbelievable that there was not one single mention of it. We in the industry remember what the LNP did to the tourism industry when they were last in government: 35 staff were taken out of Tourism and Events Queensland and \$188 million was slashed from its budget. It was absolutely appalling.

Let us move on to more impressive things. There has been no commitment from the opposition to match our investment in sport infrastructure across Queensland. There is no funding available for grassroots sports clubs. The LNP has said nothing about it. The only contribution on community sport from the shadow minister for sport, the member for Everton, was bemoaning the lack of any funding for the Mitchelton Football Club, which last year received \$2,970,000 in disaster recovery funding. The member for Everton is not even aware of what is going on in his own electorate. Those opposite will not back our FairPlay proposal, taking away \$200 from every Queensland child, limiting kids' access to sport and taking away all the social, physical and mental health benefits that sports participation brings our children. It is concerning and disturbing.

The good news, Mr Deputy Speaker, is that the Deputy Speaker and Speaker have 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*.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): As you suggest, member for Cairns, good news.

The speech read as follows—

In my Ministerial portfolio of Tourism and Sport—

Families feeling the pinch of junior sport costs will get some budget relief with an extra \$33.5 million expanding the FairPlay program for all Queensland children aged five to 17 years and boosting the voucher value up to \$200.

The additional funding boosts the Miles Government's FairPlay program to \$40 million for 2024-2025, with the number of vouchers available increasing from 50,000 to up to 200,000.

The value of each voucher is also increasing from up to \$150 to up to \$200, to help reduce the cost of sports memberships, registration and participation fees for families.

The program will be open from 1 July 2024 with vouchers to be redeemed by June 2025, enabling children to take part in summer and winter sports and activities.

Since the program began in 2019, over \$30 million has been redeemed by activity providers with more than 210,000 vouchers used by eligible families.

The Queensland Government's Minor Infrastructure Program has been allocated another \$9.5 million for shovel-ready community sport infrastructure.

A further \$3 million has been approved for the Youth Development Partnership Fund aimed at improving youth crime prevention in association with the Queensland Police Service.

There is \$72 million over 4 years to continue delivery of the Queensland Academy of Sport 2032 High Performance Strategy—Inspiring Extraordinary Sporting Success ensuring elite sporting success in Brisbane 2032.

Other Sport and Recreation programs receiving a boost to support a healthier and more active Queensland are the popular Active Clubs program receiving \$1.9 million, the ActiveKIT program receiving \$1.3 million and the Emerging Athletes Pathways Program receiving \$2.3 million for 2024-2025.

Queensland's tourism industry strategy Towards Tourism 2032, sets out the best path forward to grow Queensland's visitor economy and achieve industry's ambitious target to reach more than \$44 billion-a-year in overnight visitor expenditure by 2032.

Queensland has already achieved \$34 billion in annual overnight visitor expenditure.

Tourism and Events Queensland's base funding will continue to be supported with \$125 million-a-year, as the Queensland Government backs its lead marketing agency to drive demand.

Working with industry, the \$30 million Growing Future Tourism program will deliver major new and enhanced tourism infrastructure or experiences with funding between \$1 million and \$4 million on a matched contribution basis.

Visitors to regional Queensland will enjoy new and enhanced tourism infrastructure and experiences across the state with the support of the \$10 million Building Bush Tourism Fund.

\$12 million is also allocated over two years to support the 2023 Year of Accessible Tourism activities, increasing awareness and capability and for visitor experience development.

First Nations tourism gets a boost with a \$3 million investment, matched by the Australian Government, supporting the sector to deliver the \$6 million Strategic Indigenous Tourism Projects initiative in Queensland. The initiative focuses on increasing the supply of First Nations tourism experiences with a focus on Brisbane 2032.

Further budget measures for Cairns include:

\$16 million to expand TAFE Queensland's Great Barrier Reef International Marine College. This includes constructing a new workshop, additional classrooms, staff facilities and a boat shed.

\$16.5 million to deliver a new performing arts facility at Trinity Bay State High School

\$14.7 million for QAS Cairns Operational Centre and Regional Office Redevelopment providing support to communities through delivery of pre-hospital ambulance responses services.

To support our local marine tourism industry this budget delivers:

\$5.9 million for the Cairns Marlin Marina Reconfiguration and Expansion, and

\$12 million for Trinity Inlet Channel Navigation Improvements to allow easier movements for larger cruise ships.

In contrast when those Opposition were in Government they cut 35 staff from Tourism and Events Queensland, through their budget slash and burn process in 2012 and 2014.

They failed to invest in tourism and cut \$188 million from the tourism budget.


Their lack of investment in the sector severely limited Tourism and Events Queensland's ability to plan, market or deliver events supporting the tourism industry.

The LNP Government's short-sighted vision for tourism put thousands of Queensland jobs at risk, and we saw Queensland tourism drop behind New South Wales and Victoria.

Thankfully, we have rebuilt the tourism industry so that Queensland is back in its proper position as Australia's number one holiday destination.

Cost of living action is at the heart of this budget, along with building the infrastructure we need for our growing state and investing in our greatest asset, our people.

This is the biggest cost of living relief package ever for Queensland, helping with household bills and putting downward pressure on inflation.

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (7.54 pm): I rise to make my contribution on the 2024 budget bills. This budget is criminally short-sighted. Communities across the state are suffering and it feels like the major parties just do not get it. Rents are up. Mortgage costs are higher. Over the last year Queensland has had the biggest increase to energy, insurance and health costs in the country. Supermarket price gouging, interest rates and school fees add extra pressure while wages continue to lag behind. It is a perfect storm, but it is one that is not going to end anytime soon without real change, and this budget offers no hope of that. What does it offer? Short-term relief. As the member for South Brisbane put it, it is like an umbrella in a hailstorm—a bandaid on a bullet wound, maybe.

Almost every cost-of-living measure in this budget is set to expire just as this Labor government seems to think it is going to be turfed out. Discounted public transport fares, one-off energy rebates, more sports vouchers and cheaper rego will all be gone next year while the cost-of-living crisis and the housing crisis are not going to disappear next year. Labor has apparently given up on making any real change. Labor's short-term royalty sugar hit is effectively over.

After just a couple of years of play fighting with the QRC, Labor is already backing down from its pathetic, predictably brief attempt to make mining companies pay a fair share. Over a three-year period these mega profitable gas companies will hand over 60 per cent less in total royalties. In coal companies it will be 70 per cent less. They are back to robbing Queenslanders absolutely blind. That is the part that Labor is not saying out loud: they will not commit to real change. They cannot commit to real, long-term changes because they will not make corporations pay their fair share to fund it.

A 35 per cent mining royalty rate, like the Greens proposed, would have raised an extra \$21 billion last year. With that kind of revenue we could have permanently made public transport free, funded hundreds of thousands of public homes and abolished school fees by fully funding our state schools. Imagine that. Instead, Labor is letting coal royalty revenue crash from \$15.4 billion in the 2022-23 financial year to just \$4.8 billion in 2025-26. That is billions of dollars ripped out of Queensland's schools, hospitals and housing just as Labor's election sweeteners run out.

Mr Head interjected.

Mr BERKMAN: Let me be very clear: this is not inevitable. It is not just geopolitics, international trade patterns or the winds of change, as Labor would have us believe. The major parties want us to believe that it is impossible for good times to last, but they hold the levers. In Norway, 55 per cent of all revenue from oil and gas goes to fund things that people in Norway really need. Here, over the last 10 years big mining corporations have exported \$634 billion worth of Queensland resources—those are our resources—and paid only nine per cent of that in royalties. In fact, to go to the tinfoil hat brigade over here, you could cut fossil fuel exports by 10 per cent over the next year and still make an extra \$19 billion in royalties by increasing the rate like the Greens have proposed. Instead, Queenslanders are looking down the barrel of a huge revenue crash and a worsening cost-of-living and housing crisis.

In the last year, wait times for social housing have increased. Queenslanders with high needs are now waiting 21 months—almost two years—on average for social housing. I understand that is the longest wait time in Queensland's history. Even under the LNP, before these clowns took power, average wait times were 8½ months—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Pause the clock. I will get some advice. Member for Maiwar, you have the call.

Mr BERKMAN: Before Labor took power, under the LNP wait times were about 8½ months. Yes, wait times are longer now because we are in the middle of a health crisis—

Mr KELLY: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I would suggest that the member has not used correct titles in his contribution. I would ask for your ruling in relation to that.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will take some advice. Member for Greenslopes, thank you for your point of order. I did not hear the member for Maiwar refer to any member in particular by an improper title but I remind the member for Maiwar to please ensure that he uses proper titles when referring to all members in every context.

Mr BERKMAN: Of course, Deputy Speaker. The member for Greenslopes is a delicate petal, isn't he, but I will carry on. Yes, wait times are longer because we are in the middle of a housing crisis and again the government wants to outsource—

Mr KELLY: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I am far from a delicate petal but I do take offence and ask that that be withdrawn.

Mr BERKMAN: The irony.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Maiwar, would you withdraw, please? The member has taken personal offence.

Mr BERKMAN: I withdraw. Tell me: who sold off hundreds of social homes? Who supported tax concessions for big investors while underfunding social housing? Who folded to the REIQ again and again, preserving the right for landlords to kick out tenants at the end of their lease even when it makes them homeless? Who repeatedly refused to limit rent increases despite calls from not just the Greens but also organisations like QCOSS? This government did! Members over there should not put on their sad faces and tell us it is unfortunate that Queenslanders have landed in housing stress when they did nothing to stop it. In fact, they have actively made it worse by putting the property lobby ahead of renters and first home buyers.

Every year, like clockwork, this government tells us that there is record spending on social housing but in reality there are now fewer social homes per Queenslander than a decade ago. Queensland has the lowest proportion of social housing of any state. The only extra money for social housing in this year's budget looks to be the \$380 million in federal money that the federal Greens secured from federal Labor through negotiation.

The expanded stamp duty discount will obviously be welcome news for some first home buyers, but the major parties' handouts to investors are pushing up house prices at such a pace that it will not go far. Based on the LNP's weak response today—let's call it that—we are in for even worse if they win the election, as Labor seems to have already concluded they will. Seriously, this is an incredibly complex shared equity scheme capped at 1,000 people statewide. We have criticised Labor's own limited scheme for being a lottery, but there are some extraordinarily long odds coming from the LNP. It is depressing to watch both major parties tinker at the edges of a fundamentally broken housing system.

Ms Boyd: Oh!

Mr BERKMAN: Are they really going to try to put up an argument that it is not a fundamentally broken housing system? I hear the groans from the member for Pine Rivers. I wonder how many people are close to homelessness in her electorate.

The same goes for community safety. How many times does the government have to double-down on funding more police and more prisons before they will realise it just does not work? The government has committed \$1.28 billion over five years to its so-called Community Safety Plan but what do they mean by that? They mean half a million dollars for 900 more cops; \$8.5 million for 1,000 new tasers; \$7 million to expand the GPS trackers on kids—a program that so far has been a spectacular failure; an undisclosed amount of money for helicopters and drones for police; and over \$820 million for new youth prisons so they can succeed in their goal of locking up more and more Queensland kids. Continued investment in expanding police force and surveillance infrastructure can never be effective as prevention.

I acknowledge that the government has also announced some funding for early intervention services, community-led programs and health care to support vulnerable kids before offending occurs. Obviously we welcome that, but the funding discrepancy is so incredibly stark, as always, especially when we know that the police will only ever be responders to those issues. The budget suggests that the only way to better community safety is to lock up more and more people, criminalise more and more people and presumably, at some point, just throw away the key and close our eyes.

In an open letter from dozens of frontline organisations, the government were told, 'We can never imprison our way to a safer community.' In fact, the evidence is very clear that Queensland's criminal legal system is making crime worse. We are hiring more police to put more children in prisons and in watch houses from which they emerge traumatised, alienated from the broader community and robbed of time with crucial services such as health and education. We have the highest rates of detention of children in the country and by their rationale we should be the safest state in the country. They might as well be pouring petrol on the fire and pretending it is water.

What a familiar story that is because they have been doing the same thing on climate change for years. I have said before and I reiterate that the Energy and Jobs Plan is a huge step forward for Queensland. Building huge amounts of publicly owned renewable energy and supporting workers is exactly what we need to transition Queensland's energy system off dirty coal and gas. Labor's clean energy plan comes close to what the Greens proposed at the last election and we are obviously happy about that. Again, in this space the thought of an LNP government is a terrifying one. The LNP now seems so confused and so far behind on climate that it is becoming cringe-worthy. They want to ditch major energy storage projects and build nuclear power instead. They all coincidentally vacated the chamber and 'missed' the vote on the motion from the Katters to drop climate targets, which is a pretty effective wedge, I have to say, based on the federal LNP's comments this week that even a 43 per cent emissions reduction is too much. We can all laugh at Peter Dutton not seeming to know what the Paris agreement is, why it is called that or whatever, but it gets a lot less funny when we remember the crisis we are facing.

Not only is this Labor government still approving new coal and gas mines; they are spending public money to prop up fossil fuel corporations. This budget locks in \$520 million in subsidies for coal and gas companies to greenwash their operations through the Low Emissions Investment Partnerships program—sounds pretty schmick, doesn't it? It means \$70.6 million of public money is being used to clean up mining corporations' mess at abandoned mine sites. Queensland Labor is giving \$21 million in taxpayer dollars to gas companies to open up new gas fields, which is pouring fuel directly onto the fire. More coal and gas projects means more global greenhouse gas emissions, which will heat the atmosphere and drive dangerous climate change for Queenslanders and for everyone else. It is an absolute disgrace that our taxpayer dollars are contributing to that and making it happen.

The most exciting thing about this budget are the little glimmers of green that are shining through. For Queenslanders struggling with the cost of living, 50-cent fares is a big win. The trial sounds awfully familiar to something that the Greens proposed back in 2017. Unfortunately, Labor is copying old homework because, since 2020, we have been calling for them to make public transport free and I will tell the House why. In 2024-25, the state government will pay 92 per cent of the cost of public transport in Queensland—92 per cent. Fares will cover just eight per cent. The government is probably spending more on their privatised ticketing system, the cost of which is still secret, than if they just made fares free. At 50 cents a fare it may well be cheaper to just switch off the fare machines, ditch ticketing altogether, ditch enforcement and ditch the hassle for Queenslanders.

Clearly, the government is half-heartedly taking on Greens policies because we are threatening their seats. Yes, I am looking at the member for Greenslopes, the poor petal. For years now we have been calling for the expansion of free meals programs to every state school and for programs to make club support free for kids. In this budget there is some more money for school breakfasts and a temporary increase to sports vouchers. The Greens are already breaking up the status quo and we are not about to stop here. Clearly, the more people who vote Greens in Queensland the more Queenslanders will get out of this busted Labor government.

I would love to see Labor pick up some of our other ideas. How about freezing rents and giving tenants the right to a lease renewal? What about raising state school funding to at least the needs-based minimum or—what a crazy thought—how about actually raising mining royalties for all coal, gas and other resources?


I am really disappointed that, at a local level, this state budget does not include any funding for new buildings at Indooroopilly State School. They are desperately needed. The community has been begging for them, yet all we have instead in this budget is \$1.2 million for a new security fence. Maybe I missed something, but I have not seen any students learning in a security fence any time recently. Indooroopilly is projected to exceed capacity by almost 900 students next year, as I understand it, even with its tight enrolment restrictions. Recently one of the parents at the school told me that her daughter is avoiding drinking water at school so she does not have to spend her entire lunch break lining up to go to the toilet. The students have already lost their student support rooms, play areas and time in specialist learning spaces such as science labs. This budget confirms that there is no funding for Indooroopilly High. There is no indication of when and how the government will fund additional infrastructure for Toowong State School, where students have again lost half of their oval to demountables. This is their only sizeable play space. They need a permanent solution at these schools. I call on both Labor and the LNP to commit to urgently fund new buildings if they win the next election. I know a lot of parents in my community would like to hear similarly.

The people in my community would also like to know why there is no funding allocated in this budget to make Taringa station accessible or for the bus lanes—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Pause the clock. Sorry, member for Maiwar. Member for Buderim, you accidentally clicked on a microphone. Thank you for turning it off.

Mr BERKMAN: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I will finish by saying that the *Guardian* called this budget a 'going out of business sale'. There are a couple of ways that we can interpret that. Maybe Labor does not believe it can win the election, so it is spending the inheritance. We deserve more as a state.


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Sandgate, I remind members about the convention or practice of not getting in between the line of sight of the Speaker and the member on their feet. Member for Logan, I caution you in this regard.

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (8.11 pm): I want for us to return to the real world, and I want to do that by congratulating the Deputy Premier and Treasurer on handing down the 2024-25 budget—an outstanding Labor budget which is all about doing what matters for Queenslanders. In an environment where everyone is feeling cost-of-living pressures, the Miles government is delivering initiatives that will make a difference to Queenslanders in the here and now with \$11.2 billion in cost-of-living relief measures.

My conversations with Queenslanders in my electorate of Sandgate reveal that they appreciate that our government is responding to the issues that are the most important to them. This has been demonstrated with the \$1,300 off their electricity bill in the coming year, delivering an up-front \$1,000 cost-of-living rebate from the Queensland government and the \$300 bill support from the Albanese government. It has been demonstrated by the 50-cent public transport fares trial from 5 August this year, delivering a Sandgate commuter a weekly saving of \$38.40. It has been demonstrated by a 20 per cent reduction in car rego, delivering some relief on running the family or business vehicle at a time when it is very welcome. It has been demonstrated with our increase and extension of the FairPlay vouchers scheme, delivering greater opportunities for Queensland children to participate in sport and active recreation. Well done, Minister Healy!

This budget also delivers on investing in Queensland and Queenslanders' futures. Initiatives include the increased eligibility for the first home concessions to deliver on the Miles government's Homes for Queenslanders plan; delivery of our Community Safety Plan for Queensland, supporting victims, boosting early intervention and strengthening the front line; investing \$500 million in our Putting Queensland Kids First Plan; and better health care and education for our whole community. This budget does this while continuing to deliver our Big Build over the next four years, responding to our rapid population growth, and our Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan to support the decarbonisation of our economy, without which we will have no future.

Cost of living is at the core of this budget, but it is also at the core of the issues for the October election. We heard today in the Leader of the Opposition's budget reply a commitment to the public sector in Queensland that sounds an awful lot like Campbell Newman's claims in 2012 that 'public servants have nothing to fear'. The biggest concern that Queensland families have about cost of living is the risk of them or a family member losing their job. Just look at this week's BCC budget. Immediately after the re-election of an LNP administration, they deliver fewer services for higher rates. That is what the LNP do. That is the risk that the Labor candidate for Sandgate Bisma Asif has been hearing about while out doorknocking in our community. Locals have not forgotten the risk that an LNP government was to their jobs and to essential community services, but locals are also welcoming this budget's commitment to cost-of-living relief. I commend the bills to the House.

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (8.14 pm): I rise to contribute to the budget debate. From the outset I, like many of my colleagues on this side, want to echo the words of the shadow Treasurer and many on this side that this Labor budget does not have the right priorities for Queensland's future. It is simply a budget for the next four months, not the next four years. It is obvious that not only the new Premier, who has been the deputy premier for many years, but also this decade-old and tired government has run out of ideas. In fact, those opposite are the same old government that has presided over the crises that we have in this great state, and it is not just us mentioning the crises. When I say 'the crises', there is the health crisis, the housing crisis, the crime crisis and the cost-of-living crisis. When it comes to my portfolio, we could even add the water crisis because, as I will get to in a minute—and it is wonderful that the Minister for Water is in the House—

Mr Butcher: I wouldn't miss it for the world!

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I am sure. As I only have a short period of time in which to contribute to this debate, it is important to note that this is a budget where the government is trying extremely hard to tell Queenslanders about this bright, shiny, brand new government when in fact it has been in power for the past 10 years. The now Premier was a senior minister or deputy premier alongside the former premier, but now he is the Premier, so it is a little bit ironic that he is calling himself 'new', as are all members opposite. They are all part of this new, shiny government. All these 'new' people are part of this 'new' government, but they are the same old members. It has become very clear that this is a government that will say and do anything to stay in power.

While I am on my feet, I will say that it was wonderful to be in the Beaudesert-Scenic Rim area with you, Mr Deputy Speaker Krause, last week talking about those vital water projects that we know this government has completely walked away from. Of course, there is no bigger or greater crisis—and I think even Labor members said this—than the cost-of-living crisis. It is an issue that is front and centre for so many Queenslanders right now. Never before have Queenslanders faced such massive increases and rises. Look at car rego, water and electricity. When we look at last year's CPI data across 2023, there was a 6.7 per cent increase in health costs—highest in the nation; a 4.2 per cent increase in transport costs—highest in the nation; an 8.4 per cent increase in rent costs; an 18.5 per cent increase in insurance costs, and we know that that is because of the crime issues across the state; and a 7.4 per cent increase in sports participation costs.

Let me be very clear: the LNP will support any measures that will give Queenslanders relief from those ballooning bills, but where we differ from this government is a focus on driving real reform to lower the underlying costs of government services such as electricity and water. As the opposition leader mentioned, the LNP has already introduced a raft of policies aimed at lowering underlying costs Queenslanders pay such as the Supercharged Solar for Renters plan, saving renters over \$700 a year on average on their household electricity bills. We have already announced cheaper learners' licences after the LNP led the campaign to reduce the cost of getting a learner driver's licence and forced the government to reduce that cost.

We announced free numberplate replacement for victims of crime. We have also announced that we will deliver a maintenance guarantee for our power plants which will put downward pressure on household electricity bills. We have also announced that we will invest in traffic congestion-busting infrastructure to get Queenslanders home sooner and safer, and of course using less fuel. This is critical in maximising productivity for businesses such as tradies who are constantly on the road, saving them valuable time and money from sitting in traffic.

We have announced an ambition to deliver resilience infrastructure to minimise the risk in times of natural disaster. Something that I am incredibly passionate about is that we will drive down the cost of water through better water security. This is just the start. There is so much more to come.

When it comes to energy, the LNP has a vision for an energy supply that is affordable, reliable and sustainable. We support a balance in the mix of generation sources to achieve just that. Secure baseload supply, such as coal and natural gas, is critical to the reliability right now on our network and it will underpin the shift to renewables. That is why it is so critical we get the Callide C4 unit fully returned to service. We know that the explosion that occurred under this government's watch has led to the power plant being offline, not totally offline, for more than three years. This is a failure that has driven up—

Mr de Brenni: Not totally.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: But it is not 100 per cent back yet, Minister, and we would like to see that. We would also like to see the full release of forensic engineer Sean Brady's report, because we know that this government and this minister are running a protection racket to hide it from the people of Queensland. We will continue to call for the release of that vital report. It is wonderful that the energy minister is here in the chamber, because he might hear that again and he might go, 'You know what, Deb? I'm going to release that report.' Wouldn't that be in the spirit of bipartisanship for the betterment of all Queenslanders! I look forward to that.

Mr Weir: He might release the business case for Pioneer-Burdekin.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: We would love to see the business case for Pioneer-Burdekin. I take that interjection from the member for Callide. It is important that we say the LNP supports hydro-electricity to provide—

A government member: Callide? Condamine.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Sorry, Condamine. The member for Callide was here. I will withdraw that. Pat, I will withdraw that. That was not fair.

We do support pumped hydro-electricity to provide clean energy on demand, like we support renewable energy. What we do not support, though, is this government's multibillion dollar fantasy—and that it is all it is because there is no money in the forwards; there is no money in the budget—that they call the Pioneer-Burdekin Pumped Hydro. The minister over there talks about his billion dollars in an equity account, but there is nothing in the budget that is going to build that project. We were the ones who were very quick to dub it the 'great hydro hoax', which people in the energy industry and, importantly, environmentalists have been claiming for a long while. The massive cost blowouts on this project will unavoidably drive up the price of power in Queensland. Let's remember: this is a project with no direct funding, no approvals and no social licence from the communities. That is why we have already announced that we will be ruling that out.

As shadow energy minister, I believe it is very important that we also ask those vitally important questions around Borumba Pumped Hydro. Where is the business case? What is it going to cost? How long is it going to take? What landholders will be impacted by the major transmission lines going out of Borumba? We have all of these questions and all we need to seek once again from this energy minister is the answers.

It is very important that all projects in Queensland, as the Leader of the Opposition spoke about today, are treated equally. When it comes to renewable energy, the LNP is committed to addressing the concerns relating to social licence and improving the livability of our rural and regional communities. We have consistently said that we must put our communities first. There are levers like better transparency around planning approvals, giving local government input into the decision-making, a code of conduct for proponents and contribution to rural and regional communities they operate in. These are the options that are on the table.

In relation to water, where is the money for Paradise Dam? Where is the dam wall going to be? What is happening? Where is the money? The water minister is in the chamber. We know that there are no other dam projects. We know that Emu Swamp Dam is not in the budget and neither is Barlil or many of the other dam projects. That is hugely disappointing.

When it comes to manufacturing, our state has so much opportunity. Disappointingly, manufacturing in Queensland has been abandoned once again by this manufacturing minister, as it has been for the last 10 years.

When it comes to the Nanango electorate, I can stand here and say that this is the worst budget that has ever been brought down for the Nanango electorate. There is absolutely nothing for the electorate besides two very minor road projects. There is absolutely nothing for the Tanduringie bridge, where a school bus full of children nearly went over the side.

There is absolutely nothing for the brand new Blackbutt Police Station, where there are six police officers working in a one-person station. It is unacceptable. We have Tanduringie Creek Bridge, GS Bond Bridge and Running Creek Bridge. None of those are in the budget. For the GS Bond Bridge on the Chinchilla Wondai Road there was a \$13 million big budget announcement by the then Palaszczuk government in 2019, but it has disappeared from QTRIP and has never come back.

The Running Creek Bridge on the Brooweena Woolooga Road actually burnt down after a car crash and there is still no funding for it in this budget. It seems that the safety of my community and rural and regional communities is obviously not a priority for this supposed 'new' Miles government. It has not been for the last 10 years either and it is extremely disappointing.

There is no funding for the Buaraba Creek intersection or the widening and sealing of the Kilkivan Tansey Road or the Memerambi Gordonbrook Road. There are no anti-hooning measures for the Somerset communities of Dundas and Coominya. These are two areas that are absolutely desperate for something to be done when it comes to localised hooning. I know that there are other members in this House who talk about this issue. Local residents have had enough of the blatant, frequent and ongoing hooning on their roads, but no money has been assigned for measures to stop this dangerous and antisocial activity.


When it comes to health, we have also missed out. I really wanted to see a commitment in this budget to the opening of the Kingaroy Hospital short-stay unit. This is a unit that the government keep talking about. They keep putting out press releases but, like the nurses and the doctors and the admin staff at Kingaroy Hospital keep telling me—I was only up there in the last couple of weeks with one of

my very dear friends Rosie Schmidt, who sadly lost her life to that hideous disease cancer. I thank so many people of the Kingaroy community for their outpouring of love and care and affection to the Schmidt family and to her wider family. I want to see a commitment to the opening of that Kingaroy Hospital short-stay unit. I want to see funding for a paediatrician. I want to see funding for a dedicated palliative care nurse for the Kingaroy region. We just need a palliative care nurse in that area.

Our emergency services have also been completely overlooked. I will again talk about the Blackbutt Police Station. The Kingaroy Fire Station and the Goomeri Fire Station were both slated for upgrades but there is nothing in this budget. Let us remember that the Kingaroy Fire Station is going to transition to 24/7 permanent staffing, yet they do not have room for the current staffing model. I have written to the minister about that.

Our community deserves investment in long-term solutions for water security in the South Burnett—projects such as Barlil Weir and the Blackbutt irrigation scheme. We also know that many projects have been ignored such as the fixing and reopening of Seqwater's Cormorant Bay Cafe, a special education school for Kingaroy and flood gauges on Boonara Creek, which we have been calling for. These projects are my priority because they are the priority of my community.

In the time left there is still so much to talk about. We just do not have enough time. I have not even got to all of the amazing announcements, particularly in and around housing and getting young people in Queensland into homes. With this tired, decade-old government we need to make sure Queenslanders show Labor the door in 2024.

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (8.30 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Appropriation Bill 2024. It is a privilege to stand here as Queensland's Attorney-General to speak on the last budget of my political career. This is my final budget as the member for Redcliffe. After 17 years as an elected representative, both in federal and state politics, I am stepping down on my terms, I might add, which is not always a luxury that is afforded to people who choose a life in public office. I know, because I have experienced both versions.

What a great budget this is! The 2024-25 Queensland budget, the first by the Miles Labor government, delivers for the people of Redcliffe. While I am talking about my great town of Redcliffe can I do a 'phins up' for the Dolphins, who are playing the Sharks right now and who are doing well.

There would not be many people in my electorate who are not feeling the effects of cost-of-living pressures. We know that people are hurting because they are telling us. What makes us proud is the Miles Labor government is not only listening, but acting. It starts with a \$1,300 cost-of-living rebate from both the state and federal governments which will be automatically applied to electricity bills. We can do this because we have retained public ownership of our power assets. This would not be the case if, back in 2015, Campbell Newman's divisive and damaging government had secured a second term. Their plan, designed by the member for Clayfield, the then treasurer and still member of the LNP's leadership team, was to lease our power assets to private companies for 99 years. The Leader of the Opposition sat around the cabinet table and made that decision. Thankfully, the people of Queensland saw this plan for what it was. Importantly, we can afford cost-of-living relief for Queenslanders because we have progressive coal royalties. The \$1,000 credit for Queenslanders, along with the federal Labor government's \$300 energy rebate, will make a huge difference to household budgets in Redcliffe. This credit increases to \$1,672 for concession card holders. On its own this is an amazing initiative, but the new Miles Labor government has not stopped there.

In 2016 Redcliffe was connected to the South-East Queensland rail network thanks to Labor governments, giving locals a new and efficient way of travelling. The Miles government is now making public transport more affordable, with fares being cut to just 50 cents. That is right: all fares are being cut to just 50 cents across the state's Translink network for six months from 5 August. This applies to trains, buses and ferries. For someone in my electorate travelling to the CBD every day for work, that equates to savings as much as \$18 a day, or \$90 a week, or more than \$2,300 over the six-month trial. Airtrain tickets to and from Brisbane Airport terminals will also be half price over this time. Passengers using a go card in off-peak travel times will save up to \$1,200 over the trial period.

This is an innovative way to help people in my electorate alleviate cost-of-living pressures, but it goes so much further by encouraging commuters on to public transport and off our roads. Those who have no other option than to be behind the wheel have not been forgotten either. Around 5.7 million

Queenslanders will save 20 per cent on car registration costs for 12 months. This works out to around \$800 in savings. For families this is a significant amount of money, and for those with active children the news only gets better.

The Miles Labor government is supporting families by offering \$200 Fair Play vouchers to help young people between five and 17 years of age participate in sport and other active recreational activities. This is open to all children and is an expansion on the existing program. I know that many families have benefited from our existing Fair Play vouchers, so whether your child participates in little athletics, netball, Rugby League—Redcliffe Dolphins—baseball or many other sports available locally, they will benefit.

Furthermore, in recent years my Redcliffe electorate has seen an influx of new residents, which is having an impact on the real estate market. This has put pressure on local buyers, especially those jumping into the market for the first time, but again the Miles Labor government is listening and acting. In this budget the first home buyer concession will be extended to capture more people and could save them as much as \$17,000. If you live in Redcliffe, use electricity and public transport, drive a car, have children who play sport and are in the market for your first home, thanks to the Miles Labor government you could potentially be saving an astonishing \$21,600. This further increases if you are accessing free kindy or free TAFE courses. There is no denying the new Miles Labor government is best placed to support Queenslanders through cost-of-living pressures.

All of this is on top of the funding and initiatives already underway in my community such as the over \$1 billion Redcliffe Hospital expansion, \$2 million to revitalise the Redcliffe PCYC and upgrades to our local schools and roads.

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

The speech read as follows—

Portfolio

Turning to my portfolio, the 2024-25 State Budget reinforces our commitment to providing a justice system that is accessible, efficient and effective at upholding the legal rights of all Queenslanders.

In addition to ensuring courts and frontline services are funded and supported, this budget focuses on pressure points within the system.

It places a strong emphasis on meeting the needs of victims of crime, including domestic, family and sexual violence (DFSV) survivors.

Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence

Sadly, reported rates of domestic and family violence have risen alarmingly in recent years.

We have listened when existing services tell us that they are under strain as a result of this growing demand.

To relieve that pressure, we are investing more than \$154 million over four years to support DFSV services and violence prevention programs.

Mr Speaker, in April we increased funding to the DFSV sector by 20 per cent, taking it to an extra \$36 million in direct funding for services, for 2024-25.

This budget makes this funding permanent in the DFSV sector's core funding.

It has been noted previously but it is worth re-iterating that we have invested more to prevent domestic violence than any other government in Queensland's history and continually strive to bring about generational reforms.

The Queensland government has now committed \$1.9 billion towards our goal of ending all forms of domestic and family violence and improving women's safety in Queensland.

The second annual report on Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce released two weeks ago showed the government is making significant headway, with responses to 95 per cent of all recommendations either underway or complete.

The significant progress means that more people are being protected from domestic, family and sexual violence, and more perpetrators are being held to account.

Victim Assist Queensland (VAQ)

Furthermore, crime can have a profound impact on a person's physical, mental and emotional wellbeing.

It can be devastating and long-lasting.

That's why this Budget is delivering a \$45 million package that focuses on providing victims with the support they need to recover.

Mr Speaker, we stood up the Victims of Crime Community Response team in Redbank Plains earlier this year where they provided assistance and support to over 2,000 members of the community.

I am pleased that we are committing \$16 million to expand the successful Victims of Crime Community Response.

Victims Assist Queensland (VAQ) will also receive an increase of more than \$234 million over five years to provide timely financial assistance to victims of crime and meet increasing demand.

From 2017, when assistance was extended to all forms of DFV, there has been a 195 per cent increase in applications. Demand for VAQ services is now at record levels and has continued to increase this financial year.

VAQ has reduced wait times by streamlining assessment processes, engaging additional staff, and improving systems. This additional funding will allow VAQ to continue to support victims and survivors during the most difficult times.

We have also committed \$25.1 million over five years and \$4 million per annum ongoing to support the operations of the Victims' Commissioner and Sexual Violence Review Board.

The Interim Victims' Commissioner has laid a strong platform over the past nine months and the new, permanent Victims' Commissioner will be announced shortly. Critically, the Commissioner will have the ability to conduct systemic reviews on matters relating to victims of crime and will consult broadly with victims of crime.

Gambling Harm Minimisation

The Miles Government's focus on protecting Queenslanders extends to our commitment to reduce gambling related harm.

Gambling harm disproportionately impacts those experiencing social and economic disadvantage, and has been linked with poor mental health, substance use, and family and domestic violence.

That is why the Miles government is doubling the funding for the Gambling Help Service System, which will mean an additional \$8.06 million in 2024-25 to support the delivery of crucial services responding to people experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, harm from gambling.

This will support organisations such as Relationships Australia Queensland to better prevent and respond to gambling harm through the Gambling Help Queensland website and will help to ensure that the Gambling Helpline is available for Queenslanders 24/7.

The increased funding for Gambling Help Services across the State will assist in expanding the range of counselling and support services offered to Queenslanders, including at-risk populations.

Importantly, this new investment will further support providers trying to reach those who live in remote and regional areas.

Queensland's Gambling Help providers do an amazing job providing education and counselling services to people experiencing gambling harm.

This record investment will mean they can do even more to prevent and minimise harm in our local communities.

Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal

We also know Queenslanders are seeking more accessible and affordable options to resolve increasingly complex legal issues and disputes.

In fact, more than 60,000 Queenslanders use Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal (QCAT) services every year to resolve matters ranging from civil disputes and occupational regulation and discipline to guardianship proceedings and residential tenancy matters.

As a result, there has been strong demand for tribunal and arbitration services.

This Budget provides an additional \$70.1 million over five years to QCAT.

This will fund additional decision-making members and increase critical mediation services for minor civil disputes and a strong focus on guardianship matters.

QCAT's capabilities will also be enhanced across the State, with additional hearings and circuits of the tribunal in regional areas, as well as improved videoconferencing facilities and transcription services.

To support the tribunal's growth, the government has committed an additional \$3 million in capital funding over two years.

From 2028-29, more than \$20 million a year will be committed to maintain the expansion of QCAT's services and staffing.

This additional investment is essential to ensure justice services are timely, accessible, sustainable and cost-effective for every Queenslanders, not just now but in the future.

Courts

In total, \$1.343 billion is being spent across the Department of Justice and Attorney-General in 2024-25, of which the courts are obviously a key component.

We are providing \$36 million over the next four years to alleviate demand on the Beenleigh and Townsville courthouses while increasing funding to the Coroners Court of Queensland, continuing the CourtLink program, and investing in positions to address demand in Childrens Courts.

I want to publicly make mention of the dedicated staff around the State who work incredibly hard to ensure our courts system is efficient and just. I've personally seen the professionalism that exists within our registries and other offices.

Our heads of jurisdiction and the judiciary in general operate under a significant weight of expectation from the public and they too have my respect and admiration.


Improving Child Safety

This week we have also introduced the Working with Children Bill and with this the Budget provides \$1.043 million to assist Blue Card Service process applications as well as over \$578,000 to provide culturally appropriate individual support to First Nations applicants.

Conclusion

Mr Speaker, this Budget demonstrates the Miles Government's commitment to increasing the safety and security of Queenslanders, supporting victims of crime, and ensuring the justice system is accessible and efficient.

While also providing important cost of living relief, along with significant investment in health and housing, this is a strong Labor Budget that is doing what matters for Queensland.

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (8.35 pm): This is a budget for the next four months rather than a budget for the next four years. This is a budget that is all about getting a decade-old Miles-Palaszczuk Labor government re-elected rather than tackling the chronic issues that Queenslanders are facing in health, housing and crime. On the Sunshine Coast and right across Queensland this is a budget that shows Labor will do and say anything they need to just so they can cling to power.

This Labor budget fails the Sunshine Coast because there is no money to start construction on Sunshine Coast heavy passenger rail. This Labor budget fails the Sunshine Coast because there is nothing of substance to get work started on the Mooloolah River interchange. I can hear the minister for transport chirping away. The Minister for Transport cut the Mooloolah River interchange. He will say there is funding in this budget for stage 1 of the Mooloolah River interchange, which he said would cost \$771 million. Is there \$771 million in this budget for stage 1? No, there is not one extra cent. There is \$10 million to do a bit more planning, to talk about it and consider it, but there is no money to start work. That says everything about this Labor government. The budget papers even say that for Sunshine Coast heavy passenger rail and for the Mooloolah River interchange 'the scope and time of those projects are in doubt' and that they are 'under further consideration'. That does not sound like a promise to me.

This budget fails the residents of Sippy Downs and Palmview too because for another year we are going to have to make do with a police station that is only open business hours during the week. More than 1,000 residents recently signed a petition and made their views very clearly known to this government. We require a 24-hour, seven-day-a-week police station in Sippy Downs, but the Miles government has chosen to ignore that petition. They have chosen to ignore their voice because they do not care. They do not care about the voice of the people of Sippy Downs, but I will keep fighting for them so that families in Sippy Downs and Palmview no longer have to live in fear.

This budget fails commuters sitting in traffic because of the mess that is the Sugar Road and Mooloolaba Road intersection. Despite the fact that the government spent \$2 million on planning, Labor has now cut the project completely. At least last year they kept it in there as a line item, but they have now cut it completely from QTRIP and the budget. They cut this project despite acknowledging that the intersection is 'dangerous'—their words, not mine—and 'congested'—their words, not mine. That tells residents in Buderim everything they need to know about this decade-old Labor government. Labor does not care about the Sunshine Coast, but my LNP colleagues and I will not stop fighting for the Sunny Coast.

Make no mistake: Labor will say and do anything to cling to power. The Treasurer is imploring voters to forget about the failings of his decade-old Miles-Palaszczuk Labor government. The Labor slogan for this budget is—

Mr BAILEY: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member is referring to governments against the Speaker's ruling. I ask that he withdraw and refer to governments by their correct name as per the Speaker's ruling.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): I will get some advice. Member for Buderim, can I please remind you to refer to the government by its appropriate title.

Mr MICKELBERG: I take your guidance, Madam Deputy Speaker. I am sorry: I should have referred to this tired, third-term, insipid, arrogant, ineffective, decade-old Labor government, and I will continue to refer to it in that manner. If I were the member for Miller, I would be ashamed of my government's record as well. I would be hiding from a record of failure and of incompetence—

Mr BAILEY: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. What is your point of order, member?

Mr BAILEY: Clearly I take personal offence at those ridiculous comments and I ask that they be withdrawn.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Buderim, the member for Miller takes personal offence. Do you withdraw?

Mr MICKELBERG: I withdraw. Labor's slogan for this budget is 'doing what matters'. It is a slogan that is designed to distract from the failures of this tired third-term Labor state government. It is a carefully crafted strategy, but it was delivered in a ham-fisted and amateurish manner by the Treasurer. Asking Queenslanders to ignore Labor's failings of the last 10 years is arrogant and disrespectful, but would we expect anything less from the Treasurer? By adopting this approach, Labor is taking Queenslanders for mugs. The *Courier Mail* nailed it with its headline—'Labor tries to hide Annastacia Palaszczuk: we'll pay you to forget the last decade'.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, can I ask you to please put that down.

Mr MICKELBERG: I table that.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Courier-Mail*, dated 12 June 2024, titled 'Labor tries to hide Annastacia Palaszczuk: We'll pay you to forget the last decade' [[1066](#)].

I am confident that Queenslanders will see through Labor's pathetic attempts to distance itself from a decade of failure. To be frank, this new Miles government rhetoric is embarrassing—a new Miles government where the now Premier was most recently the deputy premier who wasted \$220 million on Wellcamp, and before that he was the minister for health and ambulance services whose failure pushed ambulance ramping to double what it was in 2015 and laid the groundwork for Queensland having the worst ambulance ramping in the country at 45.5 per cent. Despite the fact that he has tried to run miles from his record, Steven Miles's fingerprints are everywhere on the failures of this decade-old Labor government.

Let us contrast that with the plan delivered by the Leader of the Opposition today—a real plan to get more Queenslanders into their own home, a real plan to tackle the drivers pushing up—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member, I ask you to refer to members by their correct titles.

Mr MICKELBERG: I take your guidance, Madam Deputy Speaker. We have a real plan to tackle the drivers pushing up the cost of living, many of which are within the control of this state government; a real plan to tackle the youth crime crisis, with a commitment to remove detention as a last resort, restore consequences for action and implement early intervention programs that work and a commitment to put the rights of victims before those of offenders; a real plan to tackle the worst ambulance ramping in the country so that Queenslanders can get the health care they need when they need it; a real plan to put Queensland's small and family businesses first.

As the shadow minister for small and family business, fighting for the more than 480,000 Queensland small and family businesses is close to my heart. It is close to my heart because small and family businesses are the backbone of every single community in Queensland and supporting small and family businesses is at the core of who we are as the LNP. Despite the rhetoric, small and family businesses are always an afterthought for this third-term Labor government. Small business is hurting right now, but if people listened to the Minister for Small Business or the Premier they would think that small business was killing it. Instead, many small businesses are telling me that they are slowly dying.

Inflation and regulation are up but opportunity is down, and people are losing hope. Queensland has one of the highest rates of business liquidations in Australia and it is largely to do with how difficult it is to run a business here. The cost-of-living crisis—a crisis of this government's making—is having a significant impact on every Queenslander. Bills are piling up for small business owners, too. Power bills in particular are shocking. Behind wages, electricity has become the largest cost for small business and it is forcing them to make tough decisions. They are either increasing prices and driving away customers, laying off staff or throwing in the towel and closing up shop for good.

I recently met with a business in Bundaberg whose power bill has doubled to \$8,000 a month. That is more than someone's wage. Rather than tackling the underlying issues pushing up electricity prices, Labor has instead decided to pay lip-service to the issue and use short-term measures to distract from its failures. While any relief is welcome, a \$325 rebate from this government for small businesses is barely a drop in the ocean. Numerous small business owners have said to me that that paltry support is an insult. The root cause of the problem must be solved in order to drive down prices for long-term improvement. It has been more than three years since Callide went offline. It is still not fixed. Queenslanders are sick of excuses. They need a government that is genuinely committed to delivering for all Queenslanders. The youth crime crisis gripping the state is having a huge impact on small business too.

Mr Skelton interjected.

Mr MICKELBERG: The member for Nicklin, who is not in his seat, likes to deny the impact of youth crime on small businesses in Queensland. He likes to get on Facebook at night and abuse small businesses in his electorate, but he wants to pretend that there is no problem with youth crime in Queensland. If there is not a more out-of-touch member of parliament than the member for Nicklin, then I do not know who is. He is a bloke who thinks it is best to abuse his constituents, not fight for them. He fights his constituents rather than fighting for them. He has missed that key bit in the middle, but there is hope in Marty Hunt. Marty Hunt will give the electorate of Nicklin hope.

It is not just running costs that are killing small businesses; red tape and regulation are strangling them too. As we have seen once again, improving the system is not a priority for this Labor government. The Queensland Business Chamber's *Efficient regulation report* last year stated that 80 per cent of businesses indicated that the time associated with meeting their regulatory compliance has increased. Some 85 per cent of businesses said that the costs associated with red tape had increased and the median cost of that compliance was \$50,000. That is one of the reasons that we have committed to restoring the Productivity Commission, and its first task will be tackling red tape and inefficiency in the building industry.

The LNP knows how important it is to release the shackles on Queensland's small and family businesses. We will make reducing red tape a priority. We will strip back redundant legislation and streamline processes. It should be easy to do business with the government, but right now it is far from easy for small businesses in Queensland. The Putting Queensland Small and Family Businesses First policy, announced by the Leader of the Opposition today, makes it clear that a Crisafulli LNP state government will put small and family businesses at the forefront of government tenders and procurement. We will streamline tender processes, we will implement smaller tender amounts and we will improve the resources available to small and family businesses so that they can compete and get their fair share of Queensland government procurement opportunities. Alongside this, we will implement a Buy Local Small and Family Business Procurement policy which will put local businesses first when government departments go to market in local areas. Too often local businesses lose out to Brisbane-based big businesses because of this government's Buy Queensland policy. A case in point was the Cairns Convention Centre upgrade where a big Brisbane-based company poached workers from local electrical firms when the work could have, and should have, been performed by Cairns small and family businesses. Even when big business subcontracts to small business, it is the small business that loses out, with the big businesses using their market power to squeeze margins on small businesses, leaving no margin in the deal for small businesses. We will make fixing that a priority.

A Crisafulli LNP government will implement a Small and Family Business Innovation Pathway that will allow government to directly engage a Queensland small and family business on short-term contracts of up to \$1 million for the purpose of proof-of-concept or outcome-based trials. It is an initiative that aims to try new ideas and access new providers that might be able to develop innovative programs and solutions to tackle some of the challenges currently facing Queensland.


When small and family businesses are engaged by a future LNP state government, we will make sure they are paid on time, every time. Despite the fact that this state government says that it will pay small businesses in 20 days, it frequently fails to. Government should lead the way when it comes to paying small and family business suppliers on time. Every single quarter Queensland Health misses its own small business payment requirement for about \$15 million worth of invoices. I mentioned Queensland Health, but I could mention every department, including the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training, which also misses its own small business payment target. In contrast, an

LNP Crisafulli government will make sure that small and family businesses are paid within five business days and for payments of less than \$10,000 we will implement a system where they can be paid immediately.

On vocational training, this is another one-track budget that does little to tackle the chronic shortage of skilled workers that is currently choking Queensland's productivity. By their own measure, Labor have delivered 17,600 fewer tradies and skilled workers than they should have. That is 17,600 fewer workers like chippies, plumbers and electricians who right now would have been so valuable in tackling the skilled worker shortage Queensland is facing. On nearly every single vocational training measure detailed in the SDS, Labor have failed. In the interests of time I will not go through them, but I would encourage members to have a look.

We have seen Labor failure after Labor failure after Labor failure, yet the Labor government come in here and try to make a virtue of spending more while delivering less. It is Queenslanders who pay the price. Strengthening vocational training means finding a path that supports both TAFE and independent providers to give Queenslanders the best opportunities. Queenslanders deserve choice and the best opportunities to get the skills they want for the jobs Queenslanders need. Labor want to weaponise TAFE and vocational training for their own selfish political interests, but the truth is that all Queenslanders want to see a strong, sustainable and effective TAFE for the long term. TAFE, business, trainees and the LNP all want to make sure that more Queenslanders are enrolling in training and finishing their training. Right now, on that measure things are getting worse. Talk about commencements from the government is irrelevant if there is not a conversation about the number of people who complete their training, and right now Queenslanders are not completing that training.

Time is against me, but it is very clear that this is a budget that is designed to win an election, not to fight for Queenslanders. It is time for Queenslanders to show Labor the door in '24.

 **Ms LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (8.51 pm): I rise this evening to contribute to this debate and speak in support of the first Miles government budget. It is an honour and a privilege to serve in the Miles Labor government as the Assistant Minister for Health and Regional Health Infrastructure working directly with the fantastic Minister for Health, the member for Waterford. Our record \$28.9 billion health budget aims to address pressure on emergency departments, improve ambulance responsiveness, reduce wait times for surgery and specialist clinics, and support the health workforce. It includes: \$22.1 billion for the state's 16 hospital and health services, including a record \$870 million for the Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service, which is an eight per cent increase on last year; a \$2.16 billion infrastructure program; \$1.14 billion for the Putting Patients First 2024-25 plan; and funding for more than 4,000 additional staff to be employed.

I am absolutely passionate about all Queenslanders having access to quality public health care no matter where they live. It is especially important as I am someone who represents a regional community in this place. I am incredibly pleased that in my local community the budget includes funding for the brand new cardiac hybrid theatre and mental health unit at the Rockhampton Hospital, as well as the renal dialysis unit for the Capricorn Coast Hospital, for which construction is well and truly underway.

The budget includes funding for the continued construction works on the Yeppoon-Rockhampton road, which is a critical project for the 11,500 vehicles that travel this road every single day, as well as funding for the Rockhampton Ring Road, which is under construction. Both of these projects are projects I have been fighting hard for for years. There is millions of dollars of investment at local Keppel schools for new tuckshops, playgrounds, classrooms and administration buildings, including at Emu Park, Yeppoon, Cawarral, Frenchville, Lakes Creek and Taranganba state schools as well as North Rockhampton and Yeppoon state high schools.


I am proud to be delivering our improvements to Great Keppel Island. Last year our government seized the leases from Tower Holdings and brought them back into public hands. We have developed a community-led master plan, which we released in April, and we are investing in infrastructure. The One Nation candidate in Keppel is misleading people about our \$30 million commitment to the Great Keppel Island master plan. He is clearly out of his depth because he cannot even read the Treasury budget papers. This funding is clearly mentioned in the budget papers in the Department of Tourism and Sport Service Delivery Statements, and I table a copy for the interests of the House.

Tabled paper: Extract, undated, from the 2024-25 Queensland State Budget—Service Delivery Statements, titled 'Budgeted financial statements' [[1067](#)].

I am pleased to inform the House that Livingstone Shire Council is delivering the first piece of work, with \$10.1 million provided by the Miles government to build a new wastewater treatment plant and amenities blocks. The Miles government is also funding: \$500,000 to improve maritime access; \$5 million for a new gateway precinct for visitors; \$5.5 million for new and upgraded boardwalks, walkways and signage; and \$150,000 for a Woppaburra Land Trust feasibility study for a cultural centre. Led by the community and key stakeholders, the final GKI concept master plan has a strong focus on unlocking the island's full tourism potential, generating jobs and celebrating the island's rich history, cultural heritage and natural environment.

I am also incredibly pleased to announce an additional—let me be clear: an additional—\$5 million in this budget from the Department of Resources to secure and improve the safety of the former Great Keppel Island resort. A priority is installation of fencing to secure and manage unauthorised access to the former resort area and ensure that community safety is being progressed. Upcoming works will include the removal and disposal of rubbish on the site, management of hazardous materials including asbestos, undertaking pest and weed control, and working with council to make safe derelict assets such as the underwater observatory and the heritage listed Leeke Homestead. We are also ensuring critical services for the community are maintained through the continued operation of the Telstra mobile tower and ensuring the airstrip is accessible for emergency services, including CapRescue's helicopter services for medivacs.

I know that at the moment increased everyday expenses, including household bills, groceries and the price of petrol, are making it harder for everyone to make ends meet. This budget is doing what matters for Queenslanders. Because we own our own electricity assets and we have taken on multinational mining companies to return profits from Queensland resources to Queenslanders, we can fund the following: free TAFE; free kindy; 50-cent bus fares; 20 per cent off every car, motorcycle and trailer registration; \$200 vouchers for children to play sport; and stamp duty concessions on up to \$700,000 for first home buyers. In contrast, the LNP want to sell our assets. They will cost the state billions by scrapping our progressive coal royalties. Under the LNP, energy will cost more. They will privatise our energy assets and slash Queensland jobs. We cannot afford to risk the LNP when times are tough. I commend the bills to the House.

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (8.56 pm): I rise to make my contribution to the budget bills for this year. Like most members on this side of the House, I have very little to praise but I will start with the one glimmer I want to thank the government for, and that is the announcement of the Cross Border Commissioner. This is something I have taken as a commitment to both the 2017 and the 2020 state elections, and it was my intention to do so again at the upcoming state election. The reason is that this is an extremely important facility for the communities that I represent along the Queensland-New South Wales border, like Stanthorpe, Warwick and Goondiwindi and the smaller places in between like Texas and Wallangarra.

Living on the border is not easy when you have to face the red tape, the restrictions and the difficulties in doing business on either side. We found that to be most acute during the COVID lockdowns and the border closures. It would have been fantastic to have the Cross Border Commissioner available for us then. I know that I speak for the Goondiwindi Regional Council in saying that. I have not yet spoken to the mayor of the Southern Downs region, but I bet a penny to a pound that she and the council will be pleased about that announcement. I want to thank Minister Butcher for that.

The only thing I would say is that I think the Cross Border Commissioner ought to be located in the Premier's department and not in the Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water. It needs to be positioned so that they can bring departments together and insist, with the imprimatur of the Premier and the director-general of the Premier's department, on cooperation and understanding of the unique difficulties of living on the border. I have put together a list of the kinds of things that people talk to me about as cross-border issues: youth crime; transport; red tape; schooling; health services; infrastructure; disaster preparedness and recovery—and I know the Goondiwindi Regional Council needs help to make sure the communities on the southern side of the border have an integrated plan with them for disaster preparedness; firearms regulation; biosecurity; business certification; licensing and registration for small businesses, which is a big issue; and Murray-Darling Basin Agreement implementation. That is a good initiative and I thank the minister for it.

However, that is the end of the bright part of this budget from my perspective. I want to talk about the housing situation. In my electorate of Southern Downs, housing availability is in a dire state. It is my understanding that my electorate has the worst vacancies in the state. That does not surprise me because I have people coming to see me saying, 'I'm homeless. I've rented for 20 years. I have a job but I don't have a home.' That is really difficult to see.

I want to applaud the opposition leader, David Crisafulli, for his budget reply speech in which he outlined a vision to improve the supply of housing. It is not talk. It is not announcing again and again what you are doing and putting elaborate and glitzy stuff on social media. It is about actually making a difference and getting more homes built. That is how you improve the housing situation—more new homes, not just the churn of buying existing ones and turning them into social housing.

The LNP will abolish stamp duty for first home buyers of a new property or one they have built, for properties valued below \$700,000. That is a great way to improve the supply of housing, to encourage the construction of new housing. There will be billions of dollars to assist in providing the infrastructure necessary to be able to open up the blocks to enable homes to be built. I know that that will be of enormous comfort to councils, many of which do not have the means to embark on the development necessary. They yearn to have support from the state government to provide the infrastructure for sewerage, water, electricity, roads, parks and so forth. There is another example of something which is aimed unashamedly at increasing the supply of housing.

One thing that is dear to my heart is partnering with the community and not-for-profit sector. I think I have mentioned to the House before that I know there are not-for-profits and community organisations in my electorate of Southern Downs that would love the opportunity to partner with the Queensland government to provide housing. They know the need. They understand it exactly—it is their people—and they are very good at doing what they do very economically, indeed.

I took the chair of Killarney Memorial Aged Care, a fantastic organisation, to meet with the department some years ago. I am thankful that the minister allows us to do that. At the end of the day, Killarney Memorial Aged Care had land and they had a design; they just needed to sit down with the department and work out the nuts and bolts, but it went nowhere. I hear other stories about the Catholic Church making land available to the state government, but nothing has come of it. You have to wonder whether there is an ideological objection to the community of the not-for-profit sector providing housing, because I cannot find any other explanation.

Mr Power interjected.

Mr LISTER: I am not taking interjections from the member for Logan, Madam Deputy Speaker.

Mr Power interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): Member for Logan, cease your interjections.

Mr LISTER: In the absence of some sort of logical explanation as to why a good proposal goes nowhere, you are left to consider that the government just says, 'No, only big bureaucracies can provide housing.' That is not true, and we will do something about that.

We saw at the first housing round table that the ALP promised to provide the student accommodation at Griffith University as social housing. What a debacle that was—\$2 million down the drain and, again, lots of announcements but no follow-through. Three years ago the \$2 billion Housing Investment Fund was announced. At the second round table, in October 2022, it was increased to \$2 billion. Three years after the commencement of that scheme, not a single house has been built. These are appalling statistics. The Labor government should hang their heads in shame at having not built a single home. However, I know that they put a lot of announcements on social media. I saw the minister and others in their hard hats and wearing high-vis and lots of colour and movement in the hope that they would convince people they were doing something.

Mr Stevens: The hard hats are to stop the cricket bats hitting their heads.

Mr LISTER: The hard hats would stop the cricket bats. There might be a few people with cricket bats waiting for the next election, I suspect. But we cannot have a decade of failure in housing go uncriticised. There are people in my electorate who need housing. There are employers in my electorate who need staff, but people cannot work for them because they do not have housing. These are problems that have been caused by a decade of poor policy by the Labor government.

I want to talk about the issue of transport in my electorate. There are a couple of things in this budget that disappoint me. I see that QTRIP still shows that we are still billions behind in routine program maintenance. I see the shadow transport minister—

Mr Minnikin: The backlog, mate.

Mr LISTER: Backlog, yes. That may not mean much to somebody living in a metropolitan area, but when you have to drive long distances on the Gore Highway, the Cunningham Highway, the Barwon Highway or the New England Highway and you are driving over rough surfaces, it is dangerous, it wears your car out and slows things down. That is a point very important to heavy vehicle operators who rely on those roads and whose trucks are constantly busted. In fact, one heavy vehicle operator challenged me to come with him on a trip down the Gore Highway to see how bad it was. I was looking forward to doing that, but he had to cancel because he broke a front axle on a pothole near the Warrego Creek crossing. That is a massive brake on the good private sector which has to try to make a quid and provide transport services for our economy. We really need to do something about that.

Mr Stevens: Emu Swamp Dam.

Mr LISTER: Emu Swap Dam—I will get to that, member for Mermaid Beach. In relation to speed cameras, I see that the budget predicts a \$118 million increase in speeding fines. The community of Millmerran was in uproar some months ago when a speed camera was located just outside of town. Many disputed that it was calibrated properly. People were finding themselves fined twice, three times or four times in a day. They found out about it and they had thousands and thousands of dollars worth of fines and lost their licences. If the Labor government want to resort to pious expressions, 'Oh, this is all about safety,' I ask them: why did they embark on the miserable decision to close and demolish the Gladfield Driver Reviver? I remember seeing them play the village idiot rather than admit that all they wanted to do was—

Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members.

Mr LISTER: They said, 'Oh, no, no-one uses it.' We got 1,000 signatures in two weeks from people turning up. The government said, 'No, there aren't enough volunteers. The volunteers were agents,' and so forth. That was news to the volunteers, who were bitterly upset that it was closed because they enjoyed providing that service. I maintain that the Gladfield Driver Reviver was the best driver reviver in the state. Not only did they evict them and refuse to listen to the petition, refuse to listen to reason, but, faster than a ferret up a trouser leg, the department went in and demolished the building. They wanted to make sure there could be no turning back; that driver reviver was going to go. They doubled down. This is the hypocrisy we see from the Labor government.

Lastly, on the matter of transport, I mention the Wallangarra railway line. At the end of last year a fire went through there and four bridges, plus a traffic bridge, were burnt. The traffic bridge has been repaired, and I thank the department for that, but there are four other small bridges—I am talking about bridges not much longer than from me to you, Madam Deputy Speaker—that were two metres off the ground; they are just to allow water to go underneath. Queensland Rail says it will cost over \$18 million to repair them. What planet are they on? What are they smoking? Even if you were to build it to the exacting standards of Queensland Rail and hopefully build it more efficiently than they do—their workforce issues have been terrible in terms of replacing sleepers already on that line—it could not cost that much. It is ludicrous! It is cartoonistically absurd. I am calling on the government—and I have written to the transport minister about this—to get real about that and reopen the line. If it was good enough to have the line before and to put 6,000 sleepers down a few years later then it is good enough now and repair the fire damage. It is important to the tourism industry in my electorate.

On crime, a decade ago it was a high priority for Labor when they came to power, and they watered down the youth justice laws. Over the intervening years they have been dragged at length, kicking and screaming, to reintroduce some semblance of consequences for action, but they have always tried to do it in a way which says to their backers on the left, 'Don't worry, we are going to make sure we word it in a way that no-one actually goes to jail,' but then they go out and tell the community that they are the toughest laws in Australia. What nonsense!

I saw some statistics announced the other day that there is a 16 per cent reduction in youth crime. I think the reduction in youth crime depends on how it is measured. My understanding is that they measure the amount of youth crime by the number of offenders who have been charged. What if 50 cars were stolen and only one offender was charged, or maybe there were 10 charged last week

and eight this week? Does that indicate that crime is getting better? No, it does not. The measure of crime is how many victims there are, and there are victims aplenty—and they will take a very harsh verdict on this government at the next election. I know that the Greens said we can never imprison our way to community safety. I can tell you, that would be news to the people of Goondiwindi who have to hide their keys each night, who have been invaded over and over again, because if somebody has been let out who should not have been let out and they invade your home, but they would not have invaded your home if they were locked up, there is the community safety aspect.


You would have real difficulty telling somebody who is a victim of crime that locking up the offender before they became a victim of crime would not have saved them. I invite anybody who disagrees with me to walk the streets of Goondiwindi and advance those ludicrous ideas. I asked a question on notice of the Minister for Police for statistics on rural crime in the area around Millmerran and Pampas because the Pampas community came to me about the growing amount of rural crime. The minister's response—30 days down the track—was that it would be an inappropriate use of police resources. It would use too many resources to answer your question. That is a discourtesy not only to this House but also to victims of crime around Pampas. While I am at it: where is the police sergeant at Millmerran Police Station? We hear all these happy statistics about people at the academy.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr LISTER: I can tell you, they are down to three days a week of counter hours so if you want to see the police it had better be on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday because Thursdays and Fridays there are only two senior constables who are stationed there temporarily to keep it going. I thank them for taking that job on to at least make sure we have some police.

Mr O'Connor interjected.

Mr LISTER: The member for Bonney just reminded me of something. I want to talk about water. Where is the money for Emu Swamp Dam? That is a project that will provide 700 jobs for my community. Here is a project that will provide water security for the people of Stanthorpe and water security for the farmers who grow our food, provide food security and pay taxes to pay for all of us lot in here. This is a bad budget, and I say to the people of the Southern Downs: the LNP will do better.

 **Mr SKELTON** (Nicklin—ALP) (9.11 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Miles Labor government's budget which is delivering what matters to Queenslanders. This budget invests \$65 million in education funding on the Sunshine Coast, more than half of which is in the Nicklin electorate. This will make sure our kids receive the quality education they deserve in a thriving, supportive environment. The budget commits \$1.795 billion to fund health services on the Sunshine Coast. Most notably, we are rolling out a record \$11 billion cost-of-living relief package—the largest in our state's history.

For Sunshine Coast health, that statistic means 800 employees, which is a massive investment in our community. Thanks to our government making foreign mining conglomerates pay their fair share, our patch of the Sunny Coast west of the Bruce is finally getting a fair share. Our budget delivers for health services on the Sunshine Coast with: 801 additional FTE staff, from just shy of 6,700 to almost 7,500 full-time workers; funding to boost medical imaging at Sunshine Coast University Hospital; and additional services following the completion of the redevelopment at the Nambour Hospital that is almost complete. I look forward to seeing the Minister for Health open the new ED. Once the facade is finished, everything will be done at Nambour. It is a magnificent \$90 million investment from our government.

Under our Better Care Together plan, \$15.44 million of the mental health levy has been awarded to the Sunshine Coast for mental health, alcohol and other drug treatment and supports in the region. I think it was the member for Glass House who mentioned End ED and the work of Mark and Gaye Forbes in regard to eating disorders. It is also fantastic that Emily Seebohm, who is their ambassador, had a child and will still compete at the Olympics. They are a magnificent group that are self-funded. It is great that the state is including them. On that, I will join with the members opposite.

There is also funding for a child and youth acute response team which will provide timely and effective treatment and care for children and adolescents who are experiencing mental health crises and suicidality. Everyone deserves access to health care, no matter where they live. This is why our new budget focuses on increasing staff, expanding home care options, improving services at key hospitals—like the massive Nambour Hospital redevelopment—and, significantly, bolstering mental health support programs.

One thing I am really intensely proud of is the trial of home birth services on the Sunshine Coast. We will be a pilot area in Queensland for home births, supported obviously by our hospitals, our nurses and midwives and the Queensland Ambulance Service. It will be fantastic. I know that it is a strange thing. My dad was actually born at home; it is pretty common thing in the UK. You call the midwife and it just happens. You have seen the show! It is a fantastic initiative by this government to allow families to have births in their own homes with their health as the top priority. Health is a top priority of ours. I am more than happy to see that the state budget prioritising those crucial local services. This funding means more frontline health workers delivering world-class health care to Queenslanders when and where they need it most.

Cost-of-living pressures are on everyone's mind and the speakers before me have spoken at length about what the Miles Labor government is doing to improve that situation for all Queenslanders. There is not one Queenslanders who is not going to benefit from the cost-of-living measures that have been implemented by this Miles state Labor government.

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

The speech read as follows—

Many of the contributing factors to today's cost-of-living pressures are well outside the ambit of what a State Government can address. We can't stop the war in Ukraine, nor can we control the global energy market.

But it's what we can do—what we are doing—that matters to Queenslanders. And what we're doing is delivering the biggest cost-of-living budget in this nation's history.

An \$11.2 billion package of cost-of-living relief and targeted concessions, paid for by taxing the big mining companies.

Unlike those opposite, who started out saying they might support our coal royalties—but then walked that back; who started out saying they support our budget, sight unseen—but then walked that back; who won't make a concrete promise to Queenslanders—but will make promises to coal lobbyists that they can "take to the bank": our stance has always been consistent. If you want to dig up and sell Queensland's natural resources, the people of Queensland deserve to share in the profits.

It's through these coal royalties—which we've levied during a time of staggering, record profits from the resources industry—that we're able to deliver record cost-of-living relief, like our nation-leading \$1,000 energy rebates!

If you pay a power bill, from July you will get \$1,000 credited straight to your account—no application necessary!

On top of this, the Federal Government is delivering a \$300 rebate paid in quarterly instalments. That's \$1,300 off your electricity bills for the next financial year.

Eligible seniors, pensioners and concession card holders will receive an extra \$372, bringing their total energy bill relief to \$1,672! Eligible small businesses will also get a total of \$650 off their power bills.

This means most households will not have to pay any out-of-pocket cost for their electricity in the next quarter—and many will not pay another power bill until 2025.

One of the most obvious ways that we can help address the cost-of-living is by looking at State government fees and charges. Every year on July 1st, routine indexation kicks in and makes everything a little more costly. Well, not quite every year—and that's because we're freezing all government fees and charges for the next financial year! There is a notable exception to this, and that's your rego fees—because we're cutting those by 20%!

Another massive cost-of-living initiative we're funding through the Budget is our nation-leading 50c fares initiative!

From August 5, all TransLink public transport services will be slashed to 50 cents, no matter where you live or how far you travel.

I was at Nambour Station last week, chatting with people about what 50 cent fares would mean for them.

For Kevin, who has to get on the bus from Nambour to SCUH for regular medical appointments, this means hundreds of dollars back in his pocket—every month.

Now, I represent a regional electorate, with plenty of people who rely on a car to get around. We've all noticed that the roads seem a little busier, traffic a bit denser, following the pandemic.

And it's no illusion either—indeed, public transport usage still remains around 13% below pre-pandemic levels. That's why this policy is not only designed to save commuters up to hundreds of dollars per week—but also bust congestion on our roads.

Soon it'll be much easier for kids to get involved in organised sports, following our expansion of the FairPlay voucher program in the budget.

We're boosting both the value and the number of FairPlay vouchers to make sure more Queensland kids can get involved in their local sporting clubs.

These new changes mean that the vouchers will rise from \$150 to \$200, and will no longer be means-tested, making them available to all Queensland kids aged 5 to 17.

On top of this, we're also quadrupling the number of vouchers available compared to last year—with up to 200,000 up for grabs!

This is just another way we're helping families with the cost of living, all the while promoting active and healthy lifestyles for our kids.

Education

The Miles Government's budget delivers \$65m in education funding to the Sunshine Coast.

I'm proud to announce that more than half of that—\$36.3m—is going to the Nicklin Electorate!

Our Eat right, Play right, Learn well initiative is delivering new infrastructure upgrades to 8 schools in the Nicklin electorate!

Both Burnside State School and Burnside State High School will be sharing in upgrades to their tuckshops, while Chevallum, Cooroy, Yandina, and Palmwoods State Schools—along with Nambour Special School and Nambour State College—will be getting their playground equipment upgraded!

In addition to this, funding has been delivered to finalise the new \$17m Burnside State High School Performing Arts Centre, and the new \$13m hall at Yandina State School—both of which are well on-track for completion this year.

The budget has also funded more than \$1.1m in accessibility upgrades for Nambour State College, and Chevallum State School!

We've also provided more than \$10m to expand our successful school breakfast program, to make sure that our kids are going to class well-fed and ready to learn.

We've delivered a \$3m funding package to boost teacher attraction and retention—particularly in our regions.

We're also continuing with our Free Kindy initiative, which we expanded last year. This initiative opens up Kindy for some 8,000 eligible Queensland kids who weren't attending this time last year. It also puts money back into the pockets of young families, saving up to \$4,600 per year.

We've also expanded free TAFE! Removing financial barriers to tertiary education means that more people can skill themselves up and get into a career they love.

People like Sunny Coast local Michaela, who I had the privilege of meeting earlier this year, is accessing our Free TAFE to transition to a rewarding health career in our region.

After spending 35 years as a seamstress, Michaela resigned from her job last year to study full time—pursuing a Certificate IV in Mental Health under the Miles Government's Free TAFE.

Her interest was first sparked by her own lived experience with mental health care, and now Michaela has come full circle—a successful graduate, employed as a mental health support worker here on the Coast.

Michaela is one of the many thousands of people across the state signing up for TAFE, to take their part in Queensland's next golden decade of opportunity.

Free TAFE is just a part of our Queensland Skills Strategy, which is the biggest reform to our skills & training system in almost a decade.

The Sunny Coast is booming, with job growth in our region the second-fastest in the entire state. That's why we're funding 1 million training places statewide, including 70,000 more free TAFE places.

These places will be targeted to provide our region with the skilled workers we need the most—particularly in the care, nursing & construction sectors.

Free TAFE is changing lives—people who were facing homelessness, mums returning to work, and young people who haven't completed high school—have all completed free TAFE courses and come out with good, rewarding careers on the other side.

Housing

The Sunshine Coast is getting \$30.8 million out of this budget to expand and improve our social housing stock!

We're already getting on with the job of building and unlocking more homes with the help of our Housing Investment Fund—including at Yandina, where we opened 26 new social housing units in partnership with Coast2Bay, and at Nambour, where we have delivered social housing including \$1.4 million for safe and secure housing for up to 21 at-risk young people at a time—that is, supported housing.

This is in addition to securing supported temporary accommodation for women who are experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness, also in Nambour.

Through our Homes for Queenslanders plan we've delivered 20% funding boosts to crucial homelessness services, like Kyabra, St. Vinnies and IFYS.

I wanted to take this opportunity to address some of the lies being peddled by those opposite. The LNP are bizarrely in lockstep with the Greens on this one, complaining about the HIF not building new houses. One can only wonder why they seem hellbent on our nation leading Housing Investment Fund not giving our taxpayers the best value for money.

Everyone who's actually serious about addressing housing in this state knows that best practice is to refurbish existing social housing stock, bringing it up to standard and adding back to supply.


Now let's say, just hypothetically, you were trying to pander to the Property Council. Well one sure-fire way to do that is by insisting that only new homes are built by the HIF. I don't think I need to say anything further.

While some people in this place waste everyone's time by bringing up pointless, red herring arguments, I'm focused on making sure the Sunny Coast gets its fair share of social housing.

That's why, on top of the funding uplifts to our homelessness services, and all the housing we've built and are building around the coast, we're also buying up the properties exiting the old NRAS scheme, to make sure that people who have been relying on these subsidised rents for years can still get by.

Our budget also delivers:

- \$97.1 million in capital grants for Social and Affordable Housing on developments led by EDQ
- \$16.5 million to investigate the delivery of social and affordable housing through public-private partnerships with work on Ground Lease Delivery Model pilots underway
- \$1.1 million to support the establishment of medium scale, mixed use tenure housing projects in key growth areas.

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (9.16 pm): I would like to begin my contribution to the budget with a reference to where the Treasurer ended his budget speech contribution yesterday. On page 24 of his budget speech contained in Budget Paper No. 1, the member for Woodridge stated—

It is no secret that on 26 October, Queenslanders face a choice. Queenslanders will be asked to make a choice about their future not to express an opinion about the past.

This ridiculous pompous statement supports our assertion that it is a budget for the next four months, not the next four years and beyond. This is not a new government. This is definitely not a new government. It is a collection of recycled ministers who simply have been rearranging deck chairs on the *Titanic*.

It is no wonder this failed Labor government is simply trying to airbrush the last decade. It is like a scene from *The Simpsons*. You know the old saying: 'Move along, people. There is nothing to see here!' Never has the Queensland government taxed more, borrowed more, or spent more with less to show for it than under the Palaszczuk-Miles government. Despite, as has been said by members on this side of the chamber, revenue rivers of gold, Labor has delivered record debt and record taxes. Concerningly, we also have record numbers of Queenslanders sleeping in tents, record numbers of crime victims, record ambulance ramping and record numbers of Queenslanders who are struggling to simply make ends meet. It is incredulous that the Treasurer has now received \$69 billion more than forecast in his first budget, yet Queenslanders incredibly have less to show for it.

In 10 budgets Labor has added \$100 billion worth of debt. Total debt was \$72 billion when Labor was elected and will be \$172 billion by the end of the forwards. Interest costs will be over \$21 million per day at the end of the forwards. In other words, Queenslanders will be in debt to the tune of \$875,000 in interest payments each and every hour. In other words, if the Queensland government owned outright a house worth \$875,000, they would have to sell it on the hour every hour just to pay our interest. It is incredible. Queensland spent \$32 billion more than we will be earning in the next four years.

I have previously commented that throwing ever increasing 'record budget' amounts of money into key government areas such as transport and main roads, health and education is not—and never has been—in itself a real measure of success. Every minister spruiks about this year being a record budget, so what is new? Labor seems to simplistically equate success with how much money it throws at an area of public policy rather than what it actually delivers for hardworking Queenslanders. Simply put, it is what you do with resources rather than continually throwing borrowed money at an issue.

I want to address some of the budget items pertaining to the Department of Transport and Main Roads. Let us be clear: the Miles Labor government is clawing back the discounts it is giving, the little trinkets it is giving, before the forthcoming election. Let us have a look at motor vehicle registration revenue. In the election year, this year, motor vehicle registration revenue will decrease by \$306 million. The year after it will increase by \$424 million. They give Queenslanders a short-term sugar hit before the election, but then they claw back \$424 million thereafter. South-East Queensland public transport fare revenue in the election year will decrease by \$130 million. The year after it will increase by \$163 million. Again, they give a short-term sugar hit before the election but then claw back \$163 million afterwards.

Despite this smoke-and-mirrors approach, the LNP welcome—it has been repeatedly said—anything that will provide cost-of-living relief. We welcome cost-of-living relief in the form of 50-cent public transport fares as a means of inducing demand. The government has stated that the measure of success is returning patronage to pre-pandemic levels. However, budget documents show that patronage next year is forecast to increase by only 3.3 per cent, leaving it lower than before the pandemic and lower than when Labor came to power in 2015. In other words, the trial is to see if Labor can get re-elected rather than increase patronage and deal with the ever-growing traffic congestion caused by this inept government's failure to simply invest in our road network.

In terms of new projects, there are no new major projects announced in this budget—zip! All the government could rustle up over the weekend was the announcement of an extension to a train signalling system. Whistleblowers have told me that the project is only going ahead because the existing signalling system has reached the end of life and must be replaced ahead of schedule. I call on the transport minister to say whether this will have any impact on the Cross River Rail opening timeframe. Let us not forget that this was the signature infrastructure project which was originally slated to open in 2024, then 2025 and now 2026.

I now turn to the Gympie Road bypass tunnel. Projects in the transport minister's own electorate show that they cannot be trusted to deliver important projects like the Gympie Road bypass tunnel. The Beams Road open level crossing replacement was supposed to start in 2021. It did not. The Link Road overpass still has not started. The project cost of the Gympie Road bypass tunnel is claimed to be \$7 billion. However, if members go through the budget they will see it allocates only \$318 million for pre-construction works, meaning construction will not start until at least 2027-28. Sadly, the tunnel probably will not be ready in time for the Olympics. Based on these numbers, under a Labor government it will not start until about 2035. By that stage, using a discounted cash flow rate of around 5¾ per cent—and I did not get that advice from the Treasurer, that is for sure, who still grapples to understand what a discount rate is, let alone a discounted cash flow rate—that would probably cost \$14 billion. This government is absolutely clueless when it comes to project infrastructure management.

On other project costs, why has the government slashed funding for the School Transport Infrastructure Program? It was \$32.9 million in last year's budget. This year's budget shows the program has been reduced to \$16.1 million and zero will be spent in 2024-25. On the inland freight route, the government promised to bring forward \$107 million in funding. They spent an extra \$4.1 million in 2023-24 but have reduced funding in the 2024-25 financial year by \$10 million. These are just a couple of examples where Labor has moved money around to balance the books because of massive cost blowouts in other projects, and let us go through some of them.

There is around half a billion dollars extra on the M1 Varsity Lakes to Tugun, another \$863 million on the Coomera Connector, another \$44 million on the Linkfield Road overpass project, another \$453 million for Beerburrum to Nambour rail, another \$162 million on Cooroy to Curra D and another \$665 million on the Rockhampton Ring Road. The Minister for Transport and Main Roads wants to talk up the transport and main roads budget and tell us it is a record big build and that everything is tickety-boo, but like his predecessor in previous years it is more of a smoke-and-mirrors exercise. The master and the apprentice—some things simply do not change.

I will take a bit of a deeper dive into the QTRIP. In the interests of time I will highlight just one of those projects which is of particular interest to me. It is the upgrade of the Maryborough Hervey Bay Road and Pialba Burrum Heads Road intersection. I was in beautiful Hervey Bay only a matter of a month or two ago and I went to this intersection. The only project growth I could see there was the grass. Nothing is happening. Despite the local member and the member of the adjoining electorate often sprouting that this is their No. 1 priority project, there was little to show for it.

The bottom line is this: at the end of the day when I look at the Service Delivery Statements I always try to find at least a kernel of positivity. I will give a bit of a plug to the Department of Transport and Main Roads staff. When I went through the Service Delivery Statements in relation to the department's service delivery from a customer service perspective, page 7 outlines their customer experience standards and effectiveness measures. I have previously stated that I am very honoured to have been appointed the first shadow minister for customer service by the opposition leader. I want to put on the record my congratulations to the Transport and Main Roads staff on their KPIs that they have actually hit for the second year in a row. I absolutely congratulate them on that. However, if I look at the same document, the Service Delivery Statements, on page 6 I see that the Queensland government failed to meet its own road safety targets in this budget.


The Queensland government is expecting to pocket millions more in traffic fines this financial year following a surge in penalties. However, tragically, the number of fatalities on Queensland roads is today 15 above the same time last year. Revenue for the Camera Detected Offence Program is expected to be approaching around half a billion dollars in 2024-25. Again, I ask the minister: what is the actual plan to improve road safety on Queensland roads? I have previously stated that the role of the opposition is to hold the government to account. I would give anything to see, along with, I am sure, all members in this chamber, a massive reduction in the road toll. It is absolutely chaotic not just for the families involved but also in relation to their place of employment. We need to be doing everything possible to drive down the road carnage on Queensland roads.

From a local perspective, there is little comment to make. Like many of the members on this side of the chamber have said in relation to their own electorates, the people in my Chatsworth electorate have received hardly a thing. It is extremely disappointing but not unexpected. I have spoken about delayed projects, cost blowouts, broken promises. What is the government doing when it comes to the all-important long-term vision for crucial infrastructure for the Olympic Games? That, again, is missing in action. As I have previously stated, if the cut-and-run, former member for Greenslopes, now member for Woodridge, wants to continue with his dream of channelling a famous US president with the black-and-white or sepia photo he takes at this time each year for the budget, maybe he should heed the sage words of a real leader, Abraham Lincoln, who said, 'You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today.'

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): Pause the clock. Members, there is way too much noise. The member for Maryborough will cease his interjections.

Mr MINNIKIN: At the end of the day, what does this budget promise for younger people in Queensland? Very little. Only a few weeks ago my 22-year-old son had some mates over, and it was deflating to look at their faces when the topic of home ownership came up. That is why I am extremely pleased and grateful to be part of the LNP opposition that today has announced what I think is an incredible raft of policies in relation to home ownership. It is incredible to think that the opportunity for young Queenslanders today is less than it was for my generation. That is the reason I will continue with every fibre of my being to strive to not only hold my own seat but also work with every member on this side and our candidates to show Labor the door in '24.

 **Mr WALKER** (Mundingburra—ALP) (9.32 pm): Those on the opposite side of the House continually support this budget by saying it is a re-election budget. I thank them for saying that because it is. Every budget we do demonstrates that we have listened and we will deliver. I will continually deliver in the seat of Mundingburra. I thank the Miles Labor government for the support they give me. Just like Marcel Marceau, they are all brilliant actors. This is a Miles Labor budget that puts downward pressure on the cost of living now, not next year or the year after. That is what people in my seat of Mundingburra want and the people of Queensland need now.

Now is not a time for silly politics from the LNP. We have to be serious. This is a time to address cost-of-living pressures. All Queenslanders will receive \$1,000 off their power bills thanks to the Miles state Labor government, plus a further \$300 off thanks to the Albanese federal Labor government. For our more vulnerable Queenslanders there is a further \$372. That is \$1,672 not only for our seniors but also for those who are vulnerable and on a concession card. There is \$1,300 for self-funded retirees. It is often forgotten that they need extra because they do not get other concessions. That means for our seniors a total of \$1,672 off their energy bill. Some of our more vulnerable Queenslanders will not pay a power bill for 12 months. We can do that because Queenslanders own their energy assets. Under Labor they are not for sale. That is actual cost-of-living relief now—not next year and not the year after but now. These energy rebates for Queenslanders are not a new thing; they have been around since 2017. I might note that we have been re-elected every year since. It is not just now that this is a re-election budget. We have demonstrated time and again that we have listened and we have delivered.


There is more cost-of-living relief being delivered so all Queenslanders will benefit. There is the 20 per cent reduction on each vehicle registration. It is not capped at one. It does not matter how many cars are in the family. You can have a child in your family going to university and their car will get a 20 per cent discount as well. There are 50-cent public transport fares for those doing it tough or going to university or those who want to try public transport for the first time. We want to encourage them to jump on. That includes the Translink buses in Townsville and the buses on Magnetic Island. Even tourists can benefit from 50-cent public transport. There are \$200 FairPlay vouchers to take the

pressure off family budgets and assist families to get their young people into sport. There are free TAFE courses that will change lives. It is a huge saving for those who choose to upgrade their skills or get a set of skills they want to try out in a new career move. First home buyers will receive a grant of \$30,000. For the first home buyer there is the removal of stamp duty on homes up to \$700,000, saving up to \$17,340. That is around about \$50,000.

As the state member for Mundingburra I have seen my city grow and become the regional hub for many government services with our ever-growing, world-class health services at the largest tertiary hospital in Northern Australia. The Miles Labor government is investing \$540 million to add an extra 143 new beds, more operating theatres and a new helipad. We are delivering for the people of Mundingburra.

In the seat of Mundingburra I have committed to deliver a new four-lane Stuart Drive, now known as the Townsville Connector Road, and a second bridge for Bowen Road, making it into four lanes. I am delivering for the people of Mundingburra thanks to the Miles Labor government. Those two critical pieces of infrastructure are now underway and are being delivered by the Miles Labor government.

We are delivering a \$199 million investment for an improved road network and a new and improved active transport corridor that will make it much easier and safer for those who choose to walk or even ride their bikes to and from school, work or sport nearby. This improved road network will also meet the growing needs of the south-west growth corridor of Townsville, with the emerging and fast-growing Elliott Springs, which will house 30,000 people in the next 20 years. This infrastructure will also allow the smooth movement of traffic to and from the nearby Murray Sports Complex. The list goes on. I will leave it there. I commend the Appropriation Bill and the associated bills to the House.

 **Mr HEAD** (Callide—LNP) (9.37 pm): How far does this budget go? It does go far beyond the next 120 days and certainly not much beyond 120 kays from where we stand today—a budget for Brisbane, not for the bush. Ten Labor budgets in and one would think Premier Miles would be talking about his and Labor's record. Instead, he is running away from it at a million miles an hour. Maybe he is flying away from it, as 'Premi-Air Miles' loves to do—on two separate jets, of course.

Mr Saunders interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): Pause the clock. Member for Maryborough, you are warned under the standing orders. I have already given you a warning. I have a blank sheet here. I can fill it up.

Mr HEAD: From listening to the contributions from the Greens what did we learn? The most surprising thing is that the member for Maiwar supports the coal industry. Who would have thought the people of Maiwar would elect such a coal lover? Other than that, of course, Labor has taken the Greens' policy book—Labor and the Greens forever in bed. Never has a Queensland government taxed more, borrowed more or spent more. What have we got to show for it? We have roads that are falling apart, health services that are crippling, teachers frustrated about a broken system, hardworking coppers walking out the door and the worst cost-of-living crisis in generations. In contrast, I am proud to be part of the LNP as we and our leader, David Crisafulli, have a bold, considered and comprehensive plan to get Queensland back on track. I will say more on that shortly.

Labor wants Queenslanders to forget about the victims of their failures: the mothers who have had roadside births because of the closure of maternity services, such as Yvette and Chloe; or Clayton Skewis, a stroke victim from Chinchilla who sat in the Chinchilla Hospital overnight causing permanent damage so that he now needs 24-hour care because there were not adequate facilities and procedures in place under Labor's health crisis. There are countless other victims under this Labor government. Instead of apologising to them all, Labor wants you to forget. Well, I will not forget. We deserve a government that is focused on the right priorities for Queensland's future, not one that is single-mindedly focused on re-election.

Last financial year the Callide electorate contributed a whopping \$2 billion in royalties, roughly. I wanted to get the precise figure on that but, of course, the Treasurer does not want the people of Callide to know. When asked on two different occasions, the Treasurer could have given the answer but instead he made up excuses. He clearly does not want to be honest and transparent with Queenslanders. Callide has received a pittance in this year's budget under Premier Miles. Across the electorate, new projects that the community supports add up to a fraction of over one per cent of total capital spend. We contribute a huge chunk of state revenue and get crumbs in return for road upgrades and new facilities. More than half of that relates to the gas-fired power station being constructed at Kogan Creek,

which I absolutely support. The construction of that plant is a damning revelation of how we very much need coal- and gas-fired power stations going forward. The Brigalow gas plant is one of many power stations needed to drive down electricity prices because it is clear that under Labor renewables are only sending power prices skyrocketing.

I have been talking to a lot of constituents about solar and wind projects and it is clear that rural Queensland does not support the government in its reckless rollout of those projects. It is throwing billions of taxpayer dollars at projects in communities that do not support them. It must stop. Property rights must be protected. Solar and wind generators should only be installed with stringent rules and regulations that are fair. The companies building them must work with all of the impacted owners and the community that has to put up with them for years to come.

Labor's reckless plan does not respect the views of Queenslanders, which is why earlier this year the LNP voted against the renewable energy bill. It is also why the LNP is committed to scrapping the Pioneer-Burdekin Pumped Hydro project, which is what the local community wants and what our great candidate for Mirani, Glen Kelly, has been calling for for a long time. Instead, we should support a proper energy mix and we will work with private enterprise on delivering projects that have community support. Mount Rawdon pumped hydro is a fantastic proposal to transition a goldmine with a depleted gold resource into an energy storage system. Let us use the expertise of industry to get the right projects going in Queensland and not uncosted ones that simply do not stack up.

I have spoken in depth about the Callide cover-up and the lengths that the government is going to to hide the truth from Queensland in relation to the explosion at the Callide Power Station. I say to the Premier: release the Brady investigation's findings. Clearly he does not want Queenslanders to know what really happened on that fateful day. Under this Labor government's policy and failures in the electricity market, we know that once energy rebates run out Queenslanders are in for the most expensive power prices they have ever had.

I turn to health. In recent times there have been a number of announcements for new hospitals and upgrades, including at Biloela and Chinchilla. The Minister for Health has been spruiking the biggest health spend on record in Central Queensland, but in actual fact the increase from last year's budget will not even cover inflation. That means we will see a cut to the health spend in real terms in the region. It is another Labor cut to rural and regional health at a time when we are in need of more services. The budget does not outline how much money has been allocated for the upgrade to the Biloela Hospital and only \$3½ million has been allocated to the Chinchilla Hospital. That would hardly cover a lick of paint, so what exactly are they planning to build? At Biloela, construction was meant to start in a few weeks, yet it is not in the budget. Is this another broken promise?

I have been told by a source that Premier Miles is so proud to be downgrading our hospitals to bandaid-and-transfer stations. Some Premier this disgraceful member is! Only the LNP will heal the health crisis. The Moura Multipurpose Health Service aged-care extension should have been completed by early this year, but instead we have seen delay upon delay. Not a shovel has been moved on that critical project, which will deliver eight aged-care beds for Moura.

Hundreds, if not thousands, of Callide constituents and many others across rural Queensland need the support of the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme. You would think that a government that claims it is doing what matters for Queensland would ensure that the program is fit for purpose and keeps up with inflation. It is a disgrace that this year's budget does not include an increase in funding for that critical program, likely because the Premier was too busy throwing around cash to buy votes. The processing times for the PTSS are disgraceful. Queenslanders are waiting months to get reimbursed for the travel they have undertaken to access basic health services. In many instances, they have to travel because Labor cut health care in the first place.

For all the money we spend on roads they should be gold plated, but drive across Callide and tell me how far that money has really gone. Road safety is incredibly important and, unfortunately, rural roads take the lives of Queenslanders at a far higher rate than in the south-east. We need to be doing more. My electorate has far too many roads that have been neglected for decades by Labor governments. Funding for the Warrego Highway has not kept up with the volume of traffic that now uses it. The Chinchilla Wondai Road is incredibly dangerous and urgently needs widening. It is only a matter of time before there is a death along that road if something is not done. The Leichhardt Highway, the Burnett Highway, the Dawson Highway, Auburn Road and the Fitzroy Developmental Road are just some of the many roads across Callide that are not getting the funding they need and deserve.

I welcome the commencement of sealing on the final stage of the Monto Mount Perry Road. This has been a multi-decade campaign. I thank everyone who has put in a significant effort over the years advocating for that road. Frankly, it should not have taken this long, but that is what happens when Queensland has a government that treats the bush second to Brisbane. The budget contains no mention of widening 11 kilometres of the Mundubbera Durong Road to allow road train access to the North Burnett, creating freight hub opportunities. That would decrease freight costs for fresh produce, which would flow on to consumers. Twenty-five per cent of Australia's fresh produce is grown in the Wide Bay-Burnett region.

Callide has the most schools of any electorate in this state, so an honest government would ensure that Callide gets a decent portion of the funding, but no. Less than one per cent of the total education spend has been allocated to Callide. It is no wonder that we have schools with paint flaking off buildings and noncompliant facilities. What a disgrace!

There is not one new dollar in the budget for fire ant eradication despite their continued spread across Queensland. That is a key change of language, too. I used to be able to say 'South-East Queensland' but, alas, Labor has failed again and fire ants are now at Callide's back door. At the Jandowae Timbertown Festival I heard a telling comment about this program. Henry Palaszczuk was present at the first event in 2001. He said, 'Don't you worry about those fire ants. I have them under control.' The current minister, Minister Furner, has made similar comments dozens of times over the past decade. What has gone wrong?

The other day I had an epiphany: Labor makes a mess of everything that it touches, so the best way to kill a project, a government system or anything for that matter is to get the Labor Party to try to help. I have worked out the secret to success: Labor needs to try to protect and spread fire ants and they will be extinct in a matter of months. We know that Minister Furner is the fire ants' friend. He just needs to try to be friends with them and they will run for the hills. Biosecurity is incredibly important but Labor has put the issue on the back foot once again. Agriculture is a vital resource for Queensland and Australia so we need to preserve it for our prosperity and for future generations.

The LNP has a bold vision for Queensland. We have a well-considered and comprehensive plan in major policy areas to get Queensland back on track. The first of these key reforms was announced in the House by the Leader of the Opposition today. As the youngest member of the House, I am proud to be part of a team that has a vision to take Queensland's home ownership rate from the worst in the nation to the highest in the space of a decade.

We will create a new \$2 billion infrastructure fund, which will be welcomed by many people in my electorate who have historical overlays. These people are currently unable to build their dream home because councils cannot afford the development required thanks to Labor's failure to support local government. We will re-establish the Productivity Commission. Its first point of business will be productivity in the construction industry. We know that far too much time is wasted and that Queenslanders are not getting value for money.

I am fortunate to be a home owner in my 20s, but I must say that if I had to live and work in Brisbane or other major regional centres this would not be the case in the current environment. I got into the market because I was a FIFO worker and could live in a rural town and still earn a good wage. I am proud to say that, as a young person, I am part of a team that will help other young people into their first home. We will abolish stamp duty for first home buyers who are buying and building a new home. If you want to build your first home, you will not pay stamp duty under an LNP government. We are abolishing that tax. We will raise the threshold for existing homes to \$700,000, gradually pushing up to \$800,000. This will save a first home buyer \$17,350. First home owners who continue to live in their home will no longer have any restrictions when it comes to earning a little income from rent to help them make their home ownership dream a reality. I know many people who have had to pay stamp duty or who have pulled out of a purchase because of this exact clause.


We will implement a buy local small and family business procurement policy to ensure that local small and family businesses are prioritised for local tenders. This is great for small business and the people of Callide. Of course, the Cabinet Housing Taskforce will call out bad government processes and red tape that hold up developments and progress.

Paradise Dam is the biggest infrastructure failure in Australia's history, all thanks to dodgy deals by a Labor government. In this budget Labor has not funded even one-fifth of the current expected cost to rebuild Paradise Dam. Frankly, the costs, we have been told, will not come close to what the final

deal will be. I have been told that it will likely cost more than \$2 billion to rebuild, so not even 10 per cent of the total cost of this project has been allocated by Labor. It is their mess and now they are walking away from their promise to clean it up.

I would love to have contributed to the Suncorp-Metway merger bill but, unfortunately, we have a lazy Labor government which, rather than giving enough sitting days to get through the legislation on the agenda, crams bills together and removes the opportunity for elected members of this House to properly contribute. Banks need to look after rural Queensland and keep local services.

The Miles government has no shame when it comes to stripping away funding, core services and prosperity from rural and regional Queensland with another budget for Brisbane. I am not going to stand here and let it happen without a fight. Queensland is going down the gurgler under the watch of the Palaszczuk-Miles Labor government. I will not stand here and let it happen. If we want to see prosperity return to our state, there is only one thing to do: back in a party that has the right priorities for Queensland's future and show Labor the door in 2024.

 **Mr TANTARI** (Hervey Bay—ALP) (9.52 pm): It is a privilege to rise in support of the first Miles government budget—a budget focusing on doing the things that matter for Queenslanders and for the people of Hervey Bay: delivering cost-of-living relief, services and infrastructure backed in by the biggest building program in Queensland's history, the \$107 billion Big Build. As a regional member I can say that this budget shows that our new Premier and the Miles Labor government have listened to regional Queensland and are delivering on their commitment to lower national cost-of-living pressures.

For the people of Hervey Bay, this budget eases costs for all and provides safeguards for our most vulnerable. This budget tackles cost of living head-on by providing new and expanded measures. Amongst these measures is \$1,000 off power bills—with the Albanese government's further rebate, a total of \$1,300 savings off power bills—

Ms Richards: How good is that?

Mr TANTARI: It is so good—for all households from 1 July for the financial year 2024-25, with a higher rebate of \$1,672 for vulnerable households. That is each and every household in Hervey Bay getting a reduction in power bills. For many, this may go close to eliminating most of their annual power bill. This is a great outcome for many people in my electorate, because it is not just not about numbers in a budget paper. They are our Pensioner Concession Card holders, our Health Card holders, those on carer allowances and our Queensland Seniors Card holders.

Recently, whilst doorknocking my electorate, I spoke with many age pensioners who said that, with the \$1,300 and their ongoing Queensland government subsidy, they now will be able to use these savings for other household needs. That is a great outcome. These are just some of many people who have thanked the Miles government for listening and acting on their cost-of-living concerns. I know that families right across my electorate of Hervey Bay will welcome these savings. They will go a long way towards lowering some of the household bills that families are experiencing at this time.

On top of these savings, this Labor budget will also reduce vehicle registration by 20 per cent; eliminate stamp duty on homes purchased up to \$700,000 in value; and provide for 50-cent flat-fare trips across all Translink public transport services.

The Miles government has heard the community loud and clear. This was the No. 1 issue currently affecting them, and the government has delivered assistance when it is most needed. Our communities are receiving this assistance and getting their fair share because this Labor government is making multinationals pay coal royalties. I believe that this would not have happened and will not happen under an LNP government.

There is more. As a dad, I know how hard it is to balance the costs associated with kids' recreational and sporting activities. Keeping them happy and healthy does come at a cost to the household budget. The Miles government recognises this and has increased FairPlay vouchers to \$200 for every kid in Queensland aged between five and 17 years. This will be a great help to family household budgets.

Another excellent cost reduction measure is the indexation of all fees and charges, which will be frozen for the 2024-25 financial year. It is these everyday reductions in cost that have a big impact on the family budget at the end of the fortnight. I again congratulate the Miles government for acknowledging the impacts national cost-of-living pressures have on family budgets and for acting to ease the pressure.

This budget continues to provide the funding for the next stages of major infrastructure currently underway in the electorate of Hervey Bay: funding to continue the planning and construction of the new \$28 million Hervey Bay Police Station; the \$40 million expansion of the Hervey Bay Hospital, with a new acute ward bringing 59 extra beds to Hervey Bay; and the \$3.8 million Hervey Bay Water Police facility.

Further, there is funding for the \$55 million Maryborough Hervey Bay Road and Pialba Burrum Heads Road intersection. I acknowledge the member for Maryborough for his work and efforts in securing this. As was obvious earlier, the member for Chatsworth just continues with his dribble in this place. He referred to something to do with grass—I do not know what grass he is actually using lately—but there is action taking place. The member thinks he will be the minister for transport. He should know how a project is managed and progresses in stages. It is strange that he does not understand that at all.

In collaboration with the Fraser Coast Regional Council, there is the \$27 million Booral Road and Boundary Road intersection in Urangan and funding towards further trunk infrastructure that acknowledges the growth that is Hervey Bay today. There is funding to continue the rebuild of the \$22.5 million Pialba power substation.

Major school upgrades are happening right across my electorate, including \$700,000 to upgrade the existing Pialba State School amenities block and combined funding of \$555,000 to upgrade the Kawungan, Pialba and Sandy Strait state schools' tuckshops. Further funding has been allocated to increase specialist spaces at Hervey Bay State High School and an indoor rock climbing gymnasium—an envy of the region—upgrade at Urangan State High School.

Along with providing new infrastructure, these projects and the many that are currently under construction bring jobs and economic prosperity to the Hervey Bay electorate. This is what good Labor governments do: we listen to our communities and we act. With this budget, the Miles Labor government is doing what matters for the Hervey Bay electorate.

The Deputy Speaker has reviewed and approved my speech on the budget for incorporation. As such, I ask that the remainder of my speech be incorporated in 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.

I believe, it is just not in their DNA to provide assistance this way.

Not a single one of us, on this side, let alone the most vulnerable in our communities, would have seen one single cent of a return from our asset that we have all worked hard to pay for, because they would have sold it off long, long ago and we know, who would have been getting the benefits from our assets and our royalties their billionaire LNP mates.

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 this budget in black and the LNP still moan, because the funding comes from the royalties of the 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 for the people of Queensland, and the work done to steer our economic prospects, the other side continues to drive division in our community.

We on this side of the house know that this budget delivers better cost of living relief and 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 Queensland families.

We know that the LNP can't wait to get their hands on a budget so they can start pruning away in the background, to slash and burn the budget by billions of dollars.

Speaker these cost-of-living measures in this budget are a great boost to the family budget, allowing these savings to go towards their other expenses, like paying the rent or mortgage and putting more food on the table, but also will support family's ability to work and improve the educational outcomes of their children.

The Miles Government must be applauded for increasing the availability of free kindy to more families and making TAFE free for those that want to expand their skills.

As the Treasurer stated in his budget speech, the people of Queensland recognise the importance of doing what matters, like better hospitals, smarter schools, safer roads and creating a pipeline of infrastructure that creates jobs for decades to come.

Speaker, previous budgets delivered record funding to ensure a strong health care system for all Queenslanders and this budget goes further again.

This budget delivered for Hervey Bay, ensuring our hospital is continuously upgraded and improved to meet the growing demand of health services in our region.


This 2024-25 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 commitments 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 2024-25 budget the Miles Labor Government has delivered on its promises and commitments made to the people of Hervey Bay.

Speaker, the Miles Labor Government are doing what we promised, and with this budget we continue to build a better Hervey Bay.

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (9.58 pm): I rise to give my last speech in response to a state budget as a member of this chamber. In previous budget replies I have made it a custom to focus chiefly on the impact of the Treasurer's budgets on my electorate of Gregory. This time I am breaking with that custom. Despite Gregory covering one-quarter of Queensland's land mass, there is nothing in it for us. Apart from a little bit of money for the Longreach Police Station and the Alpha-Emerald section of the Capricorn Highway, there is not a brass razor.

This is a budget to buy an election—a budget for the next four months, not the next four years. This is a budget for Brisbane, and the very area that this government gets its rivers of gold from—its royalties from coal and agriculture—has been forgotten. You only have to look at the Central Highlands—have a look at the map in the budget that shows where the money is being spent.

Mr McCallum: Do your constituents get the rebate?

Mr MILLAR: The Central Highlands is the powerhouse of mining and agriculture but there is not a single funding announcement for the Central Highlands—not a single funding announcement for the Central Highlands. Have a look at the map and tell me what you have given to the Central Highlands, an absolute powerhouse of this economy.

Mr McCallum: Rebates.

Mr MILLAR: The biggest cattle herd in Australia lives in the Central Highlands, delivering money for this government, and you have given them nothing—not a damn thing!

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): Pause the clock.

Mr KELLY: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Greenslopes, resume your seat. Member for Gregory and member for Bundamba, there will be no arguing across the chamber. Member for Gregory, calm down. You have the call.

Ms McMillan interjected.

Mr MILLAR: Labor always likes—

Mr KELLY: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I think the member has used unparliamentary language in his contribution. I seek your guidance on whether he needs to withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Gregory, I did not hear that but if you did I ask you to withdraw.

Ms McMillan: Come on, Lachie!

Mr MILLAR: I withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Mansfield, I do not need your assistance.

Ms McMillan interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Mansfield, did you just interject again?

Ms McMillan: Yes.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are warned under the standing orders.

Ms McMillan: Thank you.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Mansfield, one more interjection and you will be gone.

Mr MILLAR: The shire council of the Central Highlands is one of the major economic contributors to Queensland and not one announcement has been made for that area. It is an area I have grown up in. I know the member for Mansfield has been interjecting, but that is where I come from. That has been where I have lived all my life and have been a part of. To see a shire council that has given so much to Queensland not given one funding announcement is absolutely disgraceful.

Where do you think the coal royalties are coming from? They are coming from the Central Highlands. They are coming from the member for Callide's electorate. They are coming from the member for Warrego's electorate. They are coming from the member for Burdekin's electorate. Yet we see nothing given to us. There are no important announcements for areas like the Central Highlands, like the member for Callide's electorate, like the member for Warrego's electorate. It is absolutely disgraceful.

Labor always likes a fairytale and this one has a two-deck title which is revealing in itself. In their announcement the first deck, in large type, is 'Doing what matters'. The second deck, in smaller type, is 'For Queensland'. Note that Queensland is regulated to a secondary status here. It would have been honest if it were titled 'Doing what matters for Premier Miles and Treasurer Dick'.

As the opposition leader said, as much as Labor do not want Queenslanders to judge them on their record, there is no other way to judge them. They have been in power for almost a decade. Their past actions have led to the position Queensland is in today. For all of this time they have blamed all of their issues on everyone else. They have continually blamed problems on past governments and now they demand not to be judged by the past actions of their own government. You have been in power for nearly 10 years and you come up with that statement: 'Please don't look at our last nine years.'

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Gregory, direct your comments through the chair please.

Mr MILLAR: Through you, Mr Deputy Speaker, they are saying, 'Please don't look at our last nine, almost 10, years. Forget about that. We're new.'

The way Gregory has been ignored—a quarter of Queensland's land mass with some of the most productive mines and agriculture—shows that this is not a budget for Queensland. This is a budget to try to save Labor, and they hope the people will forget the last 10 years. Queenslanders are not mugs. They are smarter than the Labor Party take them for. This cynical vote-buying exercise has been underwritten by the rivers of gold paid by Gregory's coal royalties and from industries in Gregory.

I also point out that the Treasurer plays an old game when he consistently underestimates how much he will be raking in from coal royalties and then pats himself on the back when he reliably receives the whopping revenues that he was always going to receive. Another game he likes to play could be called 'Same old, same old'. This is when Labor produces a sheaf of infrastructure announcements as 'fully funded' and then reannounces them year after year. It was hard to keep a straight face when the latest glossy infrastructure announcement was ironically called the 'Big Build' because nothing seems to actually get built!

We were told the Blackwater Hospital redevelopment was fully funded over two years ago. We have lost two CEOs and a board from the Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service and they are only just starting to dig the ground. This hospital was supposed to be built by early 2024. We are now going into late 2024 and we still have not put anything in the ground. We have just dug a few holes in the ground to start the hospital. Blackwater is a major contributor to those rivers of gold, but most of the health care is operating out of the original facility built by the Utah mining company, which came in the 1960s.

The beef road corridors were fully funded but seem to have been abandoned. There is no 'Big Build' there. Take this week's closure of the Fitzroy Developmental Road. This is a major road. This road goes from Nebo all the way down to Dingo. It is a major road for mining and agriculture. It has been closed at the May Downs area. A grassfire on the weekend so badly affected the old timber bridge that the department of transport simply closed the road to all traffic from Dingo north to the May Downs Road intersection until further notice. This is a major artery for agriculture and mining in Central Queensland and it has been closed until further notice.

Thirty per cent of the students enrolled at the Dingo State School are affected by this. Not one student was able to attend school on Monday. By Tuesday a new school bus route was prescribed which involves the school bus first driving to Bluff and then using the Bluff Jellinbah Road to get to Locarno Road where students can board it for the return journey. Parents are having to drive 25 kilometres just to get to the boarding place to put them on the bus. One little girl who lives not far from

the school had a 200-kilometre round trip on Tuesday under this new arrangement—a round trip of 200 kilometres to go to school! That is past Oakey, almost to Dalby, and back to Brisbane. This is absolutely not on for these kids. These kids are in prep and grades 1, 2 and 3 and they are travelling 200 kilometres to get to school!

We have an old bridge that was burnt by a bushfire and these kids have to suffer because of that. That is called lack of infrastructure spending in regional Queensland—the very place that the rivers of gold come from in coal royalties and from agriculture, yet kids have to travel 200 kilometres to get to school. How do we sit there and say this is fair? How do we sit there and say as a government that is okay? You cannot. You just have to put more effort into helping regional people. It is not that hard. They are not asking for much.

The Fitzroy Developmental Road is a key route for heavy vehicles, road trains, wide loads for mining and cattle carters. They are all now forced to use a secondary route which is not built to take them. The issue you have to understand here is that there are now wide loads, mining dump trucks and major mining infrastructure passing school kids on a school bus travelling on this road. Is there an element of risk there? I think very much. There is a major element of risk. I suppose I have had my rant. You can see I am frustrated. I am frustrated.

This is just not about regional Queensland; it is about all of Queensland. We are seeing gridlock here in the south-east corner. I do read the *Australian*. I love to read the comments from the readers. They give me a bit of a laugh. A reader commenting in the *Australian* this morning highlighted just this. Geoff wrote—

Another awful thing with this budget is the 'increased infrastructure' spend. Sadly, the increase is in spending, not the amount of new infrastructure.

He cites the Beerburrum to Beerwah rail duplication, which was fully funded when announced in 2019 by the Palaszczuk and Morrison governments. Costs have now doubled to a billion dollars and construction is yet to start. Geoff, this is the story right across the state, but you are right to point out that the sweetheart deal between Miles and the unions will ensure that construction costs and completion times are guaranteed to blow out.

The only thing this government has delivered for Queensland in nine years of government is record debt, record taxes, and housing prices that are seeing Queenslanders living in cars and tents. Yes, we have Queenslanders living in cars and tents. I grew up in Queensland where basically everybody had a house. If they were working and they were trying to get there, even if they were not working, they always had a house. This is where we have got to in Queensland. We have got to the point where people are living under bridges. People are living in parks and tents, and these people are working and cannot afford a house. What have we got to? Who are we in Queensland if that is the case? This is a major crisis.

One thing I do want to pick up on that is very concerning for me is obviously the health issue in Queensland. I have had constituents die because they could not access renal dialysis. I know many of you here know how passionate I am about getting renal dialysis in Emerald. Many more have had to move to Rockhampton and Mackay to receive critical treatment. The Emerald community has now raised the funds to install a dialysis chair, but Queensland Health is holding it up. Emerald Hospital is the hub hospital, but instead of strengthening its service delivery everyone is sent to Rockhampton even if they have no family or friends to support them. One elderly gentleman was discharged from Rockhampton Base Hospital at 3 am on a Sunday morning in his pyjamas. He had been brought to Rockhampton by ambulance in his pyjamas and had no clothes with him, no transport, and no-one knew to come and collect him. He was over 300 kilometres from his home. That is the care we are receiving.

Worst of all is the rural maternity and birthing crisis, and I acknowledge the member for Callide for his continuing advocacy on this. They are preventable healthcare deaths. This morning I was privileged to receive a copy of a letter from my constituent Rebecca Spreadborough to Premier Steven Miles. In March 2023 Rebecca suffered an obstructed labour at the Emerald Hospital. The mismanagement of the labour left her with lifelong injuries. Mismanagement of the labour and neonatal emergency care resulted in the death of her baby, Alby. Rebecca was prompted to write to Premier Miles after watching his performance on Tuesday's question time when he responded to a question about Redcliffe Hospital and the death of Thea Flaskett. In an articulate letter she tells the Premier, a

former health minister in this government, that his response completely disregarded Thea's death as if it did not matter. She points out that when the LNP raised these serious issues the government responds 'as though it is a political attack'. Rebecca said—


Have you ever considered it's the families of these innocent babies trying to raise the issue—
through the LNP—

due to the lack of action by the Labor Party? If you took genuine concern to address the issues it may not get raised at a parliamentary level.

Rebecca also said that the health minister's claim that Queensland is one of the safest places in the world to give birth is not right. Queensland has one of the highest rates of perinatal deaths in Australia, second only to the Northern Territory. Rebecca writes—

I was the subject of a horrific birthing experience and sustained permanent and lifelong injuries in addition to the death of my baby, a type of obstetric scenario that occurs ... a third world country.

This is even more serious than cost-of-living issues, and Labor's lack of action is not doing what matters for Queensland. This budget is taking us into record debt with massive interest bills that have to be paid by all of us. This budget has not delivered for regional Queensland. It has not delivered for our health system. It has not delivered for our schoolchildren in Dingo. It is not delivering, and it is a budget that is looking at the next four months, not the next four years.

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (10.14 pm): I rise to speak in support the Queensland budget 2024-25. The Treasurer is again to be commended for handing down a budget that focuses on what matters for Queensland. It contains responsible cost-of-living relief for Queenslanders that will help them lower their household bills. It safeguards Queensland's long-term future by sensibly investing in critical infrastructure such as our hospitals, our kids' education, our transport networks, housing and community safety.

Queensland's economic growth is set to strengthen to three per cent. As of April 2024, Queensland recorded the largest employment growth of any state or territory since March 2020. It is no wonder that people are moving from interstate to Queensland. In the first quarter of 2024 over 1,600 people migrated to the Ipswich local government area. The fastest growing suburb in the local government area is Ripley in my electorate of Ipswich. I am pleased to say that the Miles government recognises this growth. It sees the pressure it is putting on our local hospitals, our schools, our housing, roads and public transport. That is why I am so proud to support a budget that delivers the infrastructure that Ipswich needs to manage this growth.

In this budget we have delivered a record \$1.1 billion for the West Moreton Hospital and Health Service, which will provide world-class treatment and care to Ipswich people. We also have funding to shortly commence work on building stage 2 of the \$710 million Ipswich Hospital expansion, which will deliver 200 new beds, a larger emergency department and new operating theatres; \$205 million will go to schools across the Ipswich region to upgrade and maintain buildings, classrooms and school playgrounds; and \$36.3 million will be delivered to improve bus services in Ipswich and extend bus routes into those growth areas I was talking about like Ripley and Deebing Heights. Ipswich also stands to receive \$1.8 billion in this budget for infrastructure and capital works projects as part of the Queensland Big Build. These works will support up to 4,800 jobs and create a pipeline of infrastructure that Ipswich residents and businesses need now and into the future.

At the heart of this budget is our massive cost-of-living package to help ease financial pressures on Ipswich households. Over the past two years constituents in Ipswich have endured multiple interest rate hikes, rent increases and growing inflation on things like groceries, fuel, electricity, education and health services. It has really been a perfect storm, and it has affected every household in Ipswich. In these uncertain economic times Ipswich people deserve to be supported. The Miles government is doing just that by delivering a solid package of vital cost-of-living measures to help make ends meet.

Ipswich people tell me that these relief measures will make the world of difference to them. The \$1,300 electricity rebate and the \$1,672 rebate for concession card holders means that many households will not have to pay a power bill for the next 12 months. Fifty-cent public transport fares will mean that a worker travelling return from Ipswich station to Brisbane Central five days a week will save up to \$66 a week on their train fare. One woman I met at the train station told me she has already worked out that she will save over \$1,200 in the six months of this trial. The 20 per cent rego reduction is a huge saving that will take pressure off rising fuel and vehicle costs, and \$200 FairPlay vouchers will mean that more Ipswich kids get a chance to play sport at club level. First home buyers looking to

buy affordable homes in Ipswich will benefit greatly when stamp duty is cut on homes worth up to \$700,000, and free kindy, free school breakfasts, free TAFE and free tools for first year apprentices mean that our kids in Ipswich are getting everything they need to get the best start in life.

We can do all of this because we are making multinational mining companies pay their fair share. Disappointingly, the LNP does not support our mining royalties. They would rather take billions away from the people of Queensland and put it back into the profits of mining companies. This would make Queensland poorer. It will cut all of that great cost-of-living relief that Queenslanders need and deserve. For many people in my electorate of Ipswich those cost-saving measures might mean having money left over to buy a few extra groceries per week, help them pay the car rego on time, or help their kids join a local sports club or get into kindy. These savings matter to Ipswich families.

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

The speech read as follows—

Speaker, our coal royalties are also supporting Queensland's Big Build which is critical to building Stage 2 of the Ipswich Hospital Expansion. Without those royalties, the Stage 2 expansion would be under threat.

A good public hospital and health system is not only vital for people living in Ipswich, but it's the key to healthy economic growth and productivity for our city.

Health

In this budget, we will deliver \$65 million out of a total spend of \$710 million to build the Stage 2 Ipswich Hospital Expansion. This will see the construction of a new acute clinical services building housing 200 new beds, a new and expanded emergency department, and additional operating theatres.

The 200 new beds are part of the Miles Government's Capacity Expansion Program which is our commitment to deliver 2,200 in public hospitals across Queensland.

Speaker, in the first quarter of this year, just over 20,000 people visited the Ipswich Hospital emergency department. As our region's population grows, that number will only go up.

That's why I'm looking forward to seeing Stage 2 get underway when construction works commence later this year. The build will also support 1,700 good construction jobs which is a win for our local workforce.

Once finished, Stage 2 of the hospital will be a major milestone achievement in line with our other recent health achievements in Ipswich such as the new Acute Mental Health Unit, the Ripley Satellite Hospital, and the new Ripley Ambulance Station, all completed and opened last year.

Building on those achievements will be our major investment in the expansion of the Ripley Satellite Hospital. This budget will commit \$33.5 million out of a total \$269 million spend to deliver a three-storey, sub-acute modular unit on the site of the Ripley Satellite Hospital delivering new services in rehab, geriatric, palliative, and interim care.

We are also committing \$10 million out of a total spend of \$36.2 million to build an Alcohol and Other Drug Community Treatment Facility in Ipswich.

This is a service that's very much needed in Ipswich—no specialist alcohol and other drug treatment service currently exists.

People wanting help for substance use either have to pay tens of thousands of dollars for private rehab, or go without.

This new facility will deliver an affordable 45-bed residential rehabilitation and withdrawal facility to help people quit.

Transport

Speaker, this budget is about delivering what matters for my community and that includes public transport.

Residents living in new growth areas of Ipswich have told me that they need public transport in their communities so they don't have to rely on private vehicles to get around.

I'm very pleased to announce that our budget will deliver for them \$36.3 million to expand Ipswich bus services into these new growth areas.

We are delivering new services to Deebing Heights, Springfield, Karalee, Redbank Plains, Collingwood Park, Augustine Heights, and Bellbird Park.

We're improving bus connectivity to the Ripley Valley.

We will introduce a new direct bus route linking Ipswich to Springfield via Redbank Plains.

We will also improve bus connectivity to rail services and Ipswich Hospital.

These upgrades will target Ipswich communities experiencing significant population growth and will introduce bus services to many areas for the first time.

This is a great win for Ipswich residents; it will reduce congestion on our roads, and improve access to jobs, healthcare and education. When 50 cent fares come in on the 5th of August, Ipswich residents will also be able to access cheap bus fares.

This budget will also provide \$100,000 to start work on the business case for the Ipswich to Springfield rail line. This is a project that will transform connectivity between Ipswich, Ripley Valley, Redbank Plains, and Springfield. The business case is a \$7.5 million endeavour, jointly funded with the Federal Government and Ipswich City Council

I've been fighting hard for the Ipswich to Springfield rail line for many years and it's exciting to see it go into the planning stage.

Education

Speaker, we are putting Queensland children first by investing in our schools. This is a direct investment in our state's future prosperity.

Last year, the Ipswich electorate welcomed the brand, new Ripley Central State School to our community. It's a young, thriving school with fast growing enrolments, and it's great to see \$10 million in this budget to continue the school's building works.

I'm also very excited to see a number of schools in my electorate receiving funding for upgrades and additional classrooms.

\$27.75 million will be spent in this budget to upgrade, improve, and maintain schools in the Ipswich electorate.

Some of this includes:

\$16.7 million for Claremont Special School to deliver a brand, new building and new play spaces

\$5.9 million for Bremer State High School to build additional classrooms

\$1 million for Ipswich East State School to install a new security fence around its school grounds

\$498,000 for Bundamba State School to build an outdoor learning area and nature playground

\$320,000 for Ipswich West State School to install new ramps and accessible amenities.

Ipswich has some of the oldest schools in Queensland. The Miles Government is committed to investing in these schools so that they meet contemporary education building standards.

We are also committed to investing in children's future by supporting them from the earliest years of their lives.

That's why we're funding the free school breakfast program so that kids can get a healthy start to the day. Ten schools in my electorate will receive healthy free breakfasts to help Ipswich kids learn and play throughout the school day.

Our Putting Queensland Kids First Package is a game-changer that will provide positive support to our most vulnerable children. The program will see Raceview State School get a Health Practitioner, a Family Support Coordinator, and a Behaviour Specialist. Churchill State School will receive a Family Support Coordinator.

Supporting our young students' health and wellbeing gives them the strongest foundation for learning. The Putting Queensland Kids First Package is an important investment priority to help Queensland kids be happy, confident and prepared for the journey through school, training, and future employment.

Sport

Speaker, one thing I can confidently say is that many kids in Ipswich love their sport, and that's why our \$200 FairPlay vouchers are so important to me.

This is a win for Ipswich families including those who may not have had the means to get their kids into club sport previously due to participation fees or the cost of uniforms and equipment.

This budget also provides a win for two sport clubs in my community who are getting funding through the Activate! Queensland program for upgrades.

Ipswich Netball Association is receiving just over \$220,000 to upgrade their lighting on their courts so they can play netball at night.

Brothers Football Club is receiving \$350,000 to construct two new female changerooms and upgrade their current male changerooms.

I've long championed increased female participation in sport, so it's fantastic to see Activate! Queensland deliver that funding to Ipswich Netball and Brothers so their female players get the amenities they need.

This budget's funding for sport infrastructure in Ipswich builds on our recent sport investment achievements such as the recently completed clubhouse for Raceview Soccer Club, and the newly completed canteen for Ipswich and West Moreton BMX Club. In 2020, the Queensland Government committed a total of \$1.4 million for both of these projects, and it was great to see the projects come to fruition and start operating.

Lastly, I cannot forget to mention the Miles Government's \$10 million commitment to building the proposed North Ipswich Sport and Entertainment Precinct; a 12-thousand seat stadium that will be jointly funded with the Federal Government and Ipswich City Council.

Housing and Other

Speaker, it's also great to see the number of social housing projects completed or underway in my electorate.

Housing is a concern for many people in my community.

At our Housing Summit in 2022, we acknowledged that more needed to be done to build more homes sooner. Our landmark Homes for Queenslanders plan announced earlier this year confirms our commitment to build 1 million homes across Queensland by 2046 including 53,500 social homes.

This budget will lock in a record \$2.8 billion in 2024-25 to help deliver Homes for Queensland.

In Ipswich, we are seeing more social homes built faster to accommodate our growing population.

The QuickStarts Queensland program aimed to commence 185 social homes in the Ipswich region by 30 June 2025.

This target for Ipswich has already been exceeded with contracts awarded for the commencement of 197 social homes as of 31 March 2024.

Of these homes, 42 have been delivered, 106 are currently in construction, and 49 homes are under contract to be delivered.

In my electorate, construction work is well underway on 41 new social housing apartments in Basin Pocket targeting a tenant cohort of seniors, and 13 new apartments in West Ipswich targeting people with a disability and older people.

In Booval, work will soon commence on 43 new social housing apartments which will target a tenant cohort of women.

This work is ongoing, and the 2024-25 budget ensures \$30.2 million is committed to expand and improve social housing in the Ipswich region.

Accessible and affordable housing is something the Miles Government is firmly committed to and builds on our recent announcements to double the First Home Buyers Grant, introduce the Help to Buy Scheme, and cut stamp duty for first home buyers purchasing homes up to \$700,000.

We're also implementing rental reforms that will making renting more secure, stable, affordable, and fair.

I would now like to provide an overview of several other important commitments we've made in the 2024-25 budget for Ipswich.

Ipswich's Swanbank Clean Energy Hub battery storage facility will receiving investment of \$274.8 million in 2024-25 out of a \$403.4 million total spend to install a large-scale battery at the Swanbank Precinct.

More battery storage is also underway through the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan delivering \$12.2 million to install a network battery for Ipswich which will store excess solar PV generated by solar customers.

Community safety in Ipswich is being prioritised with a commitment of \$9.5 million out of a \$36.5 million total spend to deliver extra police officers, Mobile Police Beats, and police vehicles for high pro-active visibility activities.


The new \$34 million Ripley Police Station is also well underway with \$15 million in this budget for ongoing construction works.

Conclusion

Speaker, Ipswich people can be satisfied that this budget delivers record cost-of-living relief that will help them balance their household budgets. I can also assure them that the Miles Government is investing in the vital infrastructure Ipswich needs to keep pace with its growing population.

This budget has deliberately gone into deficit to help Queenslanders through temporary economic pressures, but it's the right decision that will strengthen our future.

I commend the Bill to the House.

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (10.19 pm): I came into this week hoping that we would see some great spending in this Big Build which has been promised for Queensland. There are some great opportunities for us in the Lockyer and our region but, unfortunately, I was sadly let down. Those opposite so proudly promote their cost-of-living measures but, at the same time, inflation is going up for businesses, whether it be retail, commercial, industrial, agricultural or manufacturing.

My community is the seventh most fertile valley in the world and we contribute to the \$26 billion worth of agriculture produced each year, which has grown significantly. All of those businesses are paying for electricity. As the shadow minister for energy and cost of living, Deb Frecklington, said, power has gone up 19.5-odd per cent in the last year and 50 per cent over the last three years, so it is actually money that has come from businesses and ourselves that Labor is now returning in the form of rebates.

This is a budget of a desperate government that has gone from crisis to crisis, whether it be the cost-of-living crisis, the housing crisis, the health crisis or the one that is dear to me—the youth crime crisis. Wherever we go, Queenslanders are saying to us that they cannot afford to pay the bills—they are struggling to pay the bills—and they do not feel safe. That is an absolute slur on this government—a government that has made this cost-of-living crisis, this health crisis, this housing crisis and the crime crisis over the last 10 years. It wants us to believe that it is a new government, but this is a government

that is trying to cling to the power that it has held for the last 10 years. Here we are now four months before an election and it is making some promises in a valiant attempt to cling to power. However, I am sure that Queenslanders are smarter than that. Queenslanders have never been taxed so much yet have so few services to show for it. We have been out listening to Queenslanders and they are telling us that they are struggling to pay the bills and they do not feel safe. Fortunately, the LNP has some solutions, and I look forward to speaking about those very shortly.

I was told to say thank you for the things that we do get in this budget, and the Lockyer did get some small wins. These are announcements that have been in QTRIP for a while, but we will finally see more work on the Gatton Helidon Road—that is, \$33 million over the next two years—and the Mount Sylvia Road will have nearly \$12 million spent on it over the next two years. Government members should not get excited and say that the government is being so generous, because that is actually federal money that is flowing through to our community to repair the flood damage caused by the floods a few years ago. It is certainly not before time, but we do appreciate it.

One of the big builds that has affected our community is the Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre. That is a \$900 million spend for a new 1,500-bed facility in the Lockyer. I have stood in this place and spoken to the then minister for corrective services and demanded in meetings in Gatton that they make sure that local businesses get their share. That did not happen. That has not happened because of the government's procurement policy. Its best buy practice is to say, 'We'll just ask locals.' It does not have to take the prices that locals offer and most of the work—I stress 'most of the work'—has not gone to our local community. I have heard terrible stories from our contractors who are not able to get a start on that site, so I look forward to the new minister working with our community to get some benefit for our small businesses and to see some of our good local produce perhaps served to the prisoners in that new 1,500-bed facility.

There is another bridge which, again, is a reannouncement—the Coominya Connection Road. We have been hearing about that for four years, but there is \$3 million in this year's budget, so we welcome that. That bridge is near my colleague's old business. We do have some small improvements in our schools. The Gatton school and the Lockyer District State High School will get some fences and security improvements. The Marburg school, which is just outside of my electorate, will also benefit. The Marburg school is in the Ipswich West electorate, and I recognise the member for Ipswich West, Darren Zanow. He is a champion of the Ipswich community. He is a true local Ipswich legend who has absolutely written a great chapter in his life and is so proud to represent the Ipswich West community. This great local member has been able to successfully get some new facilities for the Marburg State School. Well done! Many from my community in the Lockyer go to that school as well. I say to the Minister for Education that we are waiting to hear the detail of the Go for Gold Fund announcements and whether we will get our fair share of improvements for halls, tuckshops and other sporting and playground facilities.

One of the areas the government has missed is that of resilience. As all in this House appreciate, floods, disasters and storms over the last few years have really impacted our communities. There was an inquiry at the federal government level about the structural reforms and the reporting processes of the national emergency management responses. We are looking forward to some positive outcomes from that, but the scalability of these programs is something that I have spoken about in this place before but is a real issue for us. We had a strip of storms go through the area causing \$50 million worth of damage to about 30 properties but they did not trigger national disaster funding. That program really does need to be scalable so that communities can get assistance when those sorts of disasters happen.

I am going to be fighting very strongly over the next period of time for the Laidley flood mitigation works. I pay tribute to the Lockyer Valley Regional Council—Mayor Tanya Milligan and the team. It has recently bought Snare's paddock, as the locals in the Laidley community know it. A study has been completed and the flood modelling shows that the Laidley flood mitigation work will take about three foot of water out of the town. That will turn a dangerous flood into a manageable flood. It estimates that it will need to spend \$20 million now whereas in 2013-14 it was \$13 million. Economists say that that flood in 2013 cost that community about \$10.9 million. That means that there will be a 0.9 per cent return on investment for that work. That \$20 million will be well spent. It will make that community of Laidley—a place that is very dear to my heart—a lot safer and it will stop the flooding of many places in town.

Having said thank you for those few things that we did receive, I turn my thoughts to some of the missed opportunities, particularly with regard to the Lockyer being a great agricultural area. One issue of concern to many in our community are fire ants and the biosecurity threat that they pose as well as

water security. It was disappointing that we had to fight so strongly to get our fair share of the announced City Deal money, and I understand that some of that federal money has come to our Lockyer Valley and Somerset Water Collaborative recently. We welcome that but, again, it is not before time and that has certainly caused many sleepless nights for a number of people. That money will now go to making our Lockyer Valley and Somerset Water Collaborative project shovel ready and we are looking forward to that process starting in the very near future.

As I said at the start, I hoped that the Big Build in Queensland would deliver some benefits for our community. I thank my colleagues from Toowoomba North and Toowoomba South for their efforts in promoting the issue of the Warrego Highway in Glenore Grove. I recognise the member for Condamine in the House, as well as the members for Callide, Warrego, Nanango and Gregory who all assisted in a petition to see the Warrego Highway at the Forest Hill Fernvale crossroads improved. Anybody who travels that route knows that it is a major freight route and a couple of times in every 10 years it gets closed to traffic by not a big flood but by about a one-in-eight-year flood. That is a very costly exercise, but for our community it is about saving lives. That intersection is one of the worst in the state. The RACQ recognised that as being one of the worst in the state because of how long it takes to get across the road and the difficulty in doing so.

Again I am calling on the government to assist with that. It is in a five-year planning study and I was hoping it would be in this year's budget. We need that project delivered and that overpass built so we can stop the flooding and stop the crashes. This affects people from Toowoomba, the Darling Downs and the west. We need to allow that freight going to Victoria, New South Wales and the southern states to get through.

That is critical infrastructure that was sadly not included by this government, but I will continue to fight for it. I hope we are fortunate enough to have a change of government and then I will be fighting to see that included, as I did in 2017 and 2020. We need that major piece of infrastructure delivered. A business case has gone to the feds and they have supported it and made sure there is extra flood immunity there. It is just about this government having the right priorities, and we certainly do.


While I am talking about infrastructure and other priorities, I want to mention the Lowood Police Station. This was a promise by a future LNP government in both 2017 and 2020 if we were successful. We made that commitment. I am fighting hard to see that police station built. It was built for a staff of eight but there are 21 staff there now if it is at full strength, and we know the struggle around Queensland with staff. There are 1,539 fewer police, as our shadow police minister correctly pointed out in his contribution earlier today. That is how far behind we are in policing numbers from 2020. Back in 2020 this government committed to 1,450 new police but that number has gone backwards, which is a disgrace. From my policing career and from talking to my fellow officers at every opportunity, I know they are just trying to get the job done. The commitment from the LNP is to give our police the resources and the laws they need. As our leader said today, we look forward to making further announcements about making our communities in Queensland safer.

What a contrast we had with our Leader of the Opposition's contribution today. We heard about this government and the housing crisis, the health crisis, the crime crisis and the cost-of-living crisis. I note the wonderful suggestion to get that boost in home ownership. There is an absolute interconnectedness between people renting and owning their home, because when people who have been renting move to home ownership that makes a new property available for the rental market. To abolish stamp duty on new homes for first home buyers is a bold process and I hope our side of the House gets the opportunity in October to do that.

The problem with this government is that they are giving cash splashes but not actually making genuine structural reform. I welcome our leader's announcement that we will see the Productivity Commission return and that the first order of business will be to inquire into the building industry. I am sure there will be some very good terms of reference which will see some good outcomes.

The biggest problem that local governments face with the supply of new housing is the cost of trunk infrastructure and the gap between headworks and the cost of delivering that infrastructure. The announcement of that \$2 billion infrastructure package is very welcomed by the 77 local governments across Queensland. I know that will contribute a great deal to supply in South-East Queensland.

This is a budget from a tired, 10-year-old government that is desperate to cling to power. The only way to change that is by showing Labor the door in '24.

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (10.34 pm): It is no secret that Queenslanders right across the state have been doing it tough with high cost-of-living pressures. The ongoing financial stress is forcing many Queenslanders to go without. I am excited to speak on this budget because it will deliver for Queensland. In this budget we will deliver the biggest cost-of-living relief package in Queensland's history as well as big infrastructure investments in health, education, the arts and training in Cook. I want to congratulate and thank the new Premier and Treasurer for delivering a phenomenal budget—a budget that speaks directly to Queenslanders. The Miles government knows and understands that Queenslanders are doing it tough. We listened and now we are delivering.

When it comes to health, the Miles Labor government is absolutely committed to delivering quality health care for Queenslanders. I want to acknowledge and thank the Minister for Health, Shannon Fentiman, for her support for health in my electorate. I am proud that in this budget we will invest \$200 million to redevelop the Cooktown Multipurpose Health Service. The Cooktown Multipurpose Health Service was built as a temporary facility in the 1980s. This government is all about providing world-class health care, and this investment means that we continue to deliver a world-class service to Cooktown and surrounds in a facility that we can all be proud of.

That is not all. This government supports quality health care no matter where people live. The Pormpuraaw community will benefit from a brand new primary healthcare centre, while redevelopment work at the Thursday Island Hospital will continue with funding allocated in this budget. St Paul's on Moa Island will benefit from public health community centre rectification work worth \$8.7 million.


To attract the right health professionals to work in our facilities, we need the right infrastructure in place to support the workforce in the most remote communities in Cook. There is funding to deliver health accommodation upgrades in Hope Vale, Pormpuraaw and Laura as part of the Building Rural and Remote Health Program. We are committed to removing barriers when it comes to providing continuity of care in remote communities. We are not only focused on the immediate and short-term plans for attracting health professionals to the region; we are investing into our future workforce, with \$2.5 million to construct a health hub at the Thursday Island TAFE. This will open up opportunities for more locals to access health training locally and create even greater opportunities for locals to enter the health sector workforce in the future. Whether it is in the Torres Strait or elsewhere, it is certainly an opportunity that many local people will benefit from.

Who does not love art? In Cook we have art centres and we have talents. Coen in Cape York is that community, being home to world-renowned artist Naomi Hobson. The community has been calling for funding to build a new art centre and I am thrilled that funding has been allocated in this budget, with \$6.7 million to construct a new Coen art centre. This is fantastic news for my community of Coen and it will certainly support more local talents and create opportunities for the next Naomi Hobson to break into the arts on the global stage. I give a massive thank you to the Treasurer for seeing the potential in this small community. This investment will certainly influence social, economic and cultural long-term benefits for the community.

Education is the key for future success and I am proud of our government investment into education in Cook. State schools in Mareeba, Mount Molloy, Chillagoe, Mossman, Daintree and Aurukun and 13 campuses of Tagai State College in the Torres Strait will benefit from our government's massive investment into improving infrastructure. Some of these schools are so remote but they deliver the best education for our kids. Investment into our schools is investment into our future.

Local sporting clubs such as the Mareeba Tennis Club and the Mareeba United Football Club are set to receive vital funds to improve their facilities to support local sports on the Tablelands. The Northern Peninsula Area will benefit from a \$4.2 million investment for the Bamaga fire and emergency services complex. There is also \$2 million allocated in this budget for the Rocky Point Community Youth Precinct in Weipa.

I want to again thank the Premier and the Treasurer for delivering a good, strong budget for all Queenslanders. I know that my community will benefit greatly from our government's cost-of-living measures such as the electricity rebate of \$1,000 plus the additional \$300, the 20 per cent off car registration, no stamp duty for first home buyers up to \$700,000, free kindy, free TAFE and \$200 FairPlay vouchers. These are measures that I know will go a long way to help Queenslanders deal with cost-of-living pressures. This government will always stand up for Queensland and this is a good, solid budget. I commend the bills to the House.

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (10.39 am): I typically like to critique the budget in detail. Tonight I am going to start by being grateful for the things that did come our way. CopperString is one of the most critical projects to be announced in the North West Minerals Province. After more than a decade of KAP advocacy, the vital link to the national electricity grid will deliver power to our mines and processing facilities. This benefit and economic drive will only occur once the project is completed, and the recent \$700 million funding injection shows the best signs of seeing poles finally going into the ground.

Hospitals in Traeger have had previously announced upgrades commence or being planned, particularly in the communities of Normanton, Doomadgee and Camooweal. The announcement of the CT scanner in Charter Towers is welcomed, but there is a lack of any mention of additional renal services, particularly for the at-breaking-point facility at Mount Isa, and there is a desperate need for a new facility at Normanton to deal with the ever-increasing number of patients requiring renal services. It would be remiss of me not to acknowledge that the Cloncurry and Charters Towers hospitals have again missed out on funding.

I acknowledge the funding allocated to a number of sportsground upgrades at clubs which are the lifeblood of our small towns. It is much appreciated.

Mr Deputy Speaker, you have reviewed and approved my speech on the budget for incorporation. As such, I ask that the remainder of my speech be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*.

The speech read as follows—

Overview

The budget fundamentally contradicts the KAP vision for Qld Prosperity. That is not done by fancy policy announcements or plans but seeking and identifying opportunities then enabling them.

There will always be a tension in the budget between Industry Development and Political, Social/Welfare spends, and it becomes a matter of how much weighting goes one way. This budget has strong political focus heavily weighted on social and welfare at the cost of future prosperity. It's easy to throw other people's money around in the short term to enhance popularity but where we earn our money is braving the temptation of short-term gratification for long term benefits.

Taking an additional \$10B when at once committing to \$60B energy transition based on ideology, committing to Olympics that we could reasonably expect to tick over \$20B and completion of traffic tunnel for city only commuter convenience of 5-10min.

The rebates on energy of \$1,000, the rego discount, sports grants and 50 cent public transport fares. Taking \$10B to fund things like these new initiatives.

Again, I make reference to CopperString which is the only big spending infrastructure item that fits the criteria of genuine wealth creation and nation building. This type of asset will give a genuine commercial return on investment connecting for the first time affordable industrial energy supply to a minimum of \$650B of mineral wealth in the North West Minerals Province. Our grandkids and great grandkids will be grateful for the services they will be provided from the wealth created off this initiative. Could you say the same about cross river rail or the Olympics?

The KAP has the fundamental belief that as a government we need to enable production, innovation and activation of wealth creating development.

The KAP wants to refocus the approach on policy to stop saying "how much money can we milk off this industry" to how can we modify policy to create wealth to responsibly fund social initiatives.

Policy Settings: The place to start is to have utilities modified so that they again focus on industry enabling. Let me give you some examples:

Water—Little Eva Mine

Little Eva Mine is a mine project 75 kilometres north of Cloncurry and 95 kilometres north-east of Mount Isa, and located near to Lake Julius—a dam built to expand the resource industry in the North West. Instead of tapping into this resource, the project proponents have been forced by prohibitive development and water policy and the Brisbane bureaucracy to pursue a bore field. Imagine that—a dam built to support industry is too expensive for industry to access.

Timber Harvesting

Queensland has a wealth of natural resources, including native timber. A renewable and sustainable resource, Queensland timber is vital for building Queensland homes, yet this resource continues to be locked up. Without security of supply, there is no timber industry in Queensland. A managed, sustainable timber industry is essential for North Queensland's future prosperity.

Rail Policies

It doesn't take Einstein to understand that bulk freight, such as ore, should be on rail. Rail is designed to carry millions of tonnes of valuable ore. Road transport has a fantastic place in Queensland, but carrying bulk ore is not it. The Mount Isa rail line operations are fundamentally stacked against the users of the line. Instead of incentivising more usage of the efficient, and dare I say 'greener' rail line, policy settings are pushing more and more freight onto our crumbling road network. The Flinders Highway, running almost parallel to the Mount Isa line is a prime example.

Housing. The KAP sees the large gap in stamp duty concessions on new homes or the first home buyers' scheme, when it comes to homes in regional and remote areas. Both Labor and Liberal policies are geared to new homes, but this is ignorant to the low hanging fruit in regional and rural towns where the vast supply of underutilised housing that keeps declining towards obsolescence due to lack of local opportunities. If you opened the first home buyers' scheme and stamp duty concessions to include existing housing, we would immediately see more people in their own homes and revitalised rural communities.

Speaking of driving rural communities, the long-standing policy of a rural bank remains needed in Queensland, and indeed Australia. Australia Post, with its existing network and presence is a logical home. A bank that is mandated to understand and invest in the development of rural Queensland. Today, if you buy a viable, thriving business in rural North Queensland and want to buy a house in town, there is every chance that you will be required to stump up 50% of the price as a deposit. Despite ample ability to repay.

Emission Targets. KAP understands that you pay more for your power bill because of the large investment towards renewables. The alternative business case for the expansion of a \$60B system to replicate the effort of our existing generators and network and pretending that it won't have an impact on cost is wicked financial sorcery at best. It is a deceitful way of preying on the goodwill of people that all want to feel like they are helping the environment while being suffocated by cost of living. Despite what the LNP backbenchers may say in their speeches, they all voted for emission targets in this house, and refused to deny their support last night. In the last decade power costs have continued to skyrocket, with my personal bill in Mount Isa rising from \$4,000 per year to \$10,000, and that is not an unusual number. In the same period of time, I am unaware of increased Ergon staff, or serious wage rises. The only change has been the head-long push into renewables and targeting emissions. This hit on everyday Queenslanders, and well as the state coffers is driven purely by policy. A policy that the KAP strongly opposes.

Crime. KAP has long since pushed the Bush Sentencing policy to attend to the youth crime crisis. A North Queensland born policy, that we know works. The term 'Buje-ka' is a First Australian term that means banishment, for those who broke tribal laws or rules at the time. Based on four pillars—remote location, mandatory, fixed term, and intensive rehabilitation, the KAP 'send 'em bush' policy is a proven circuit breaker which can arrest the cycle of crime that is crippling our communities in North Queensland, and now the South East. While each Brisbane party has adopted—or maybe stolen—parts of the 'send 'em bush' policy, we are yet to see their words come into action, or more importantly adoption of the KAP in its entirety.

Insurance. North Queensland has yet again been left behind. We all know that insurance is an essential and a worthy investment, but North Queenslanders are increasingly unable to access affordable insurance. KAP remains resolute in its calls for the abolition of stamp duty charged on insurance for North Queenslanders. A useless tax on an essential product, this policy would deliver real relief to struggling North Queenslanders.

In addition, the Federal Government's poorly constructed and delivered attempt at a re-insurance pool requires urgent and immediate attention from the Queensland government. A KAP supported policy, the delivery of this program has been botched from the start. Until the program is effectively rolled out, North Queenslanders are the ones who are left behind, and left vulnerable.

Bridges and Roads. Burketown and Gulf communities remain at the peril of the annual wet season, being cut off for months at a time, and going on food and fuel rations. While four key bridges would make all the difference, funding is yet again denied. But the Brisbane parties here can find up to \$20 billion for an Olympic Games, over seven billion dollars for Brisbane traffic tunnels, and almost a billion dollars for Brisbane footbridges.

Grocery Prices. Related to flood proofing communities and managing the tyranny of distance is the exorbitant prices that remote communities in North Queensland are forced to pay. Simple items like a small box of cereal cost me more than eight dollars on Mornington Island recently, and I have also heard about \$13 loaves of bread in other remote communities. These communities are some of the most disadvantaged and poorest communities in Queensland, yet they are the ones who must pay the most for food. Education around healthy eating and choosing the best food options for families is utterly wasted in the face of unaffordable food. Unaffordable grocery prices are as much of a health problem as they are a cost-of-living problem.

Title Deeds. In Brisbane, treaty is all the rage. A \$300 million plus process, which will achieve nothing, but to help do-gooders in inner Brisbane sleep at night. Instead of frivolous exercises in 'talk', real action is needed to empower First Australians. Action like enabling First Australians to own their own home. The same right that most Australians take for granted, continues to be denied to our First Australians. The KAP have continued to advocate for the opportunity for First Australians to have the dignity of owning the home that they live in.

Blue Cards. A welcome development in this house yesterday was the adoption of long held KAP policy to reform Blue Cards. Three KAP bills voted down, but finally the message has got through. For too long, Blue Cards have been the weapon used to deny many First Nations people the dignity of meaningful employment. One indiscretion, not relating to children many years ago was all too often the reason why a gardener could not work at a school, even after hours. The KAP welcome the government's introduction of reform but remain sceptical whether this bill will see the light of day, before the election.

Biosecurity. This budget has continued to neglect the dire needs surrounding biosecurity. Noxious and weeds are spreading right across Queensland, costing landholders, our economy, and our environment. Be it belly-ache bush, prickly acacia, or a raft of others, you know that they are out of control when you see them all on the roadside. NRM groups across the state are crying out for support to tackle this enormous challenge, yet I am continually told that there is only funding available for 'reef' work. Activities which invariably continue to persecute farmers for producing food and fibre, and further reducing our food security. The KAP reiterate our call for renewed funding for control of weeds which are being harboured in unmanaged state land.

Another example of illogical underfunding is the Queensland-born development of POCT testing. Testing equipment that could be used to give an invaluable early warning of the outbreak of disease in our cattle and livestock industries. An enterprising business has developed this technology that is easily operated, with low requirements for training. Despite this innovation, and government rhetoric, this technology remains unsupported, with our Northern Livestock industry at ongoing risk from exotic disease.

Nation Building

The blinkered view of Brisbane's parties continues to stall our State and our Nation's development. As I've touched on, our water and land remain locked up by the narrow ideologically driven views of Brisbane. If this vision was opened up, the possibilities are endless.

HIPCo. On the surface, what appears to be a fait accompli, the Hughenden Irrigation Company project is a region changing, and state developing project. Despite the most thorough and comprehensive proposal, Brisbane's departments have found every excuse to stall or hinder progress. Hinder progress of not only this project, but progress of North Queensland and our state.

Big Rocks Weir. Another example of drawn out and stalled projects that seek to advance North Queensland. Since mid 2021—almost two years—the Charters Towers Regional Council has been striving to, in the words of the co-ordinated project's own documentation, "establish a new water source that provides additional water supply security for the township of Charters Towers and supports the further development of existing irrigated agriculture in the region. Other potential uses include to support future industry and recreational opportunities." What a wonderful aspiration for a small country town yet stalled by our Brisbane government and bureaucracy.


Cairns Tunnel. KAP's long-advocated-for Cairns / Kuranda Range tunnel remains one of the most obvious investments in road infrastructure that would make a material difference to Queensland yet remains unconsidered by government in Brisbane. Unlike the kilometres and kilometres of tunnels in Brisbane which shave minutes off a commuter's travel time, a tunnel down the Kuranda range, linking the port and city of Cairns to the production powerhouse of the Tablelands would drive amazing economic growth and development. Produce could get to its market, new opportunities for marketing would open up... and just for good measure, commuters from Mareeba to Cairns would shave up to 30% of their travel time off their commute, not to mention the saved time from weekly closures on the current range due to accidents.

Hells Gates. Finally, an idea and concept for more than eight decades now, the Hells Gate dam project was set to deliver untold benefits to North Queensland as recently as 2022, until yet again quashed by our Brisbane government's propensity to continue developing Brisbane and the South East and ignoring the North. 60,000 hectares of irrigation across North Queensland remains untapped. The KAP fully support Hell Gate dam and untapping the potential of our abundant resources.

Conclusion

Speaker, I draw the house back to the beginning of my speech. The government's confetti throwing in Brisbane and the South East makes little difference in my electorate. My electorate with no public transport to utilise 50c fares, and my electorate with power bills of \$10,000 per year, which \$1000 will struggle to touch the sides on.

This budget is not just short sided, it is blinkered to the prosperous potential that North Queensland has. KAP are here to say that North Queensland remains shackled by Brisbane and the South East and their aversion to any genuine new development outside the South East Corner.

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (10.40 pm): It is real privilege to be giving my fifth budget response speech in the House. I do not intend it to be my last, but I do want to take the opportunity to put on record what an absolute privilege it is to represent the good people of The Gap, Ashgrove, Paddington, Bardon, Kelvin Grove and Milton in this House and their remarks on the state Labor budget.

Budgets are opportunities for governments to lay out their priorities for Queenslanders, and Premier Miles's first budget prioritises what matters for Queenslanders. The greatest overarching priority that people speak to me about is cost-of-living relief. The reaction from people to our cost-of-living measures was so overwhelmingly supportive.

Fifty-cent public transport fares for all Queenslanders across all Translink services, no matter how far, is unheard of in this country. One of the issues we have in our electorate is the connectivity of some of our routes. As most know, route planning and frequency is a Brisbane City Council responsibility and not so much a state responsibility, but the local councils and I have been working together on that. Getting the patronage rate of people on public transport back up to pre-COVID levels is one of those key steps. I have been in the Premier's ear quite a bit about lowering public transport fares, so naturally I am thrilled for this announcement, as is everyone in my electorate, and I want to thank the Premier for responding to those calls.

Energy bills and car registrations are some of the larger household bills. I have heard from many people about the cycle of getting a little bit of savings behind you and then being slugged with a big electricity or rego bill, so our announcement to apply a \$1,000-plus credit to household power bills and reduce rego fees for all cars, motorbikes and trailers is a great announcement that will bring much relief to Queenslanders. Expanding the FairPlay vouchers to all Queensland children is fantastic.

This year's budget, a record \$21 billion in education, really focuses on bridging those gaps for students who do need additional supports at school. We are extending health checks to children in the early years because we know that undiagnosed or unaddressed health, learning or behavioural issues do impact on a child's ability to learn and can impact on the entire learning environment. Many families have spoken to me about their struggles with getting their children to school. A lot of this can come back to mental health struggles or learning disabilities. We have many families with autistic children or children with ADHD, ODD or GAD who are unable to get to school or to stay at school. This budget

allocates \$1 billion over five years to deliver more teachers and teacher aides to help every student realise their potential, with a focus on those priority cohorts such as students with a disability. This is great. I will flag for the House my hope that we can expand some additional flexi schools or autism-specific schools into Brisbane's north-west. It is something I will continue to work on with the minister and my community.

Ensuring that Queensland women and girls are valued, included, prioritised, protected and celebrated is also a priority of mine, and I know it is something that matters to my neighbours also. I really have to commend Minister Fentiman on her relentless advocacy in her portfolio area as Minister for Women. The announcements she has made are genuinely exciting.

In contrast, I was underwhelmed by the budget reply by the Leader of the Opposition outlining his plans for a \$5,000 grant that women can apply for when returning to the workforce after having a baby. Women do not need handouts; we need respect. We need structural reform so that we are recognised as equals, which is why Labor's budget outlines a number of wideranging initiatives for Queensland women: paid parental leave, 10 days reproductive health leave and paid superannuation during that entire 52-week period of parental leave for public servants, funding to improve access and give women more choices in their reproductive health, improving access to termination-of-pregnancy health care, funding to kickstart the introduction of midwife-to-patient ratios across Queensland's public hospitals, and a \$3 million trial to help in health education programming in upper primary schools to increase access to contemporary puberty and menstruation education and access to period products. It is a great contrast to the commitments to women and girls made by the LNP, and it is important to reflect that many of the LNP members have been vocal in their commitment to actually wind back women's access to some of these programs.


The causes of climate change have occurred over generations; however, it falls to us as leaders and as a community to act now. Further delay of climate action will be catastrophic, and it is in that recognition that I entered parliament and have committed to being a strong advocate within the government on climate action. The environmental reform we have seen in this term, in particular the time that Steven has been Premier, is remarkable. We have developed and released our Energy and Jobs Plan and our plan for Queensland's transition to renewables. Queensland will decarbonise our energy sector. We have entrenched Queensland's renewable energy grid into law and enshrined three renewable energy targets of 50 per cent renewable energy by 2030, 70 per cent by 2032 and 80 per cent by 2035, and we have acted to lock in public ownership of energy assets and a world-first Job Security Guarantee and Fund. The fund ensures energy workers and existing publicly owned power stations and associated mines have access to new jobs and training or financial assistance during the transition. As Smart Energy Council Acting Chief Executive Wayne Smith said—

Queensland leads Australia in climate action—that's the truth and that's now the law.

...

It positions Queensland to be a Renewables and Critical Minerals Superpower, laying strong foundations for Queensland's economic future.

Finally, one of the consequences of Queensland being the great state we are is that we continue to attract tens of thousands of people each year, and we are seeing the consequences of that particularly in the housing space. We have to act with urgency on this. I have spoken already this week about Labor's plan to end homelessness by building one million homes by 2046, so I will not repeat that for the House. However, I will say that this budget is a strong Labor budget that reflects the diverse needs of a diverse Queensland, and I commend it to the House.

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (10.47 pm): It is a pleasure to rise to speak in the 57th Parliament for the final time on the budget. I want to acknowledge the member for Gregory for his heartfelt contribution in his last term, which has changed how I want to deal with this budget response speech instead of the rhetoric, and as I heard from the member for Cooper, who also did not want to necessarily repeat a lot of the rhetoric we have heard across the chamber. It has made me really think about the things that are most important to my community of Surfers Paradise and the Gold Coast. For that reason, and having heard the passion with which the member for Gregory delivered his speech, I will speak about portfolio issues specifically and local issues for the Gold Coast.

I will tell those opposite that people on the Gold Coast do not really understand how Labor ever gets elected anywhere at any time, and they are waiting for 26 October with so much enthusiasm to send a message to this Labor government to throw them out of office—and hopefully in the seat of Gaven we will see Bianca Stone as the member, because the paucity of distribution that has come to

our electorates on the Gold Coast, as evidenced by the government's own budget papers, shows how little regard this government has for the people of the Gold Coast and always has had. They refuse to give us things for the Gold Coast based on polling. It is never better exemplified than in the area of policing.

I want to speak about communities. As shadow minister for communities, I want to acknowledge the money that has been given to Meals on Wheels and Foodbank as well as OzHarvest and SecondBite, organisations that I have been to see. I have heard their desperate pleas for more assistance. In my area, St John's Crisis Centre has had a lot to do with OzHarvest and during COVID was unable to provide food. Through my connections with senior management there, I was able to help St John's Crisis Centre to keep providing services. Now they have a very active committee and they have been able to provide ongoing services.

At a recent Queensland Community Alliance meeting, where I represented the Leader of the Opposition, I spoke with the honourable member for Nanango. Dr Christian Rowan was there, as well as the Leader of the Opposition who made an appearance. It was clear that those organisations that make up the community alliance understand the issue of cost of living. The short-term relief that has been given by the government will obviously run out and because of a lack of planning from those opposite, we will be left with ongoing issues.

I return to the subject of policing on the Gold Coast, where we have experienced issues to do with the youth crime crisis all the way from the member for Theodore's electorate and the member for Coomera's electorate and all the way along the coastline. It is basically down to the issue of police numbers. When we speak to the officers in charge trying to get services for our frustrated constituents, it comes down to the numbers. Under this Labor government we have 89 fewer police officers on duty compared to the numbers at the last election. We heard today from the opposition leader that we are 1,539 officers short of the number Labor promised to deliver at the last election where they committed to increasing the Police Service by 1,450 officers.

There is nowhere where that is more evident than on the Gold Coast where hardworking police are seeing a decrease in numbers. They are frustrated with the hours that it takes to deal with domestic and family violence issues. Often there are jobs passed on from one shift to the next because of the time they take. This means that constituents are frustrated when they have calls for service to do with break-ins, robberies, car theft or homelessness. It is not the police responsibility when people who are homeless are wandering around Broadbeach, Surfers, Southport, Kurrawa and Northcliffe, but the police are the ones who are called to deal with this and they are frustrated because they do not have the resources.

We have crime flourishing—both personal and property offences are at all-time record highs and we have the unenviable title of the 'car theft capital of the nation'. We have seen a 115 per cent increase in unlawful use of a motor vehicle since 2015; a 54 per cent increase in unlawful entry; a 50 per cent increase in other theft; and a 220 per cent increase in assault. As the opposition leader said today: how has it come to this? It is literally unbelievable that we have people on WhatsApp groups throughout my electorate—whether it is Paradise Waters, Benowa Waters, Clear Island Waters, Sorrento, Isle of Capri, Chevron Island or Main Beach—saying, 'Where do I leave my keys? Do I leave my keys under the bed and then be fearful someone will come into the room? Do I leave them at the front door?' People are discussing their personal safety in Queensland where traditionally people would say, 'We do not even lock the front door.' Now, we have these massive increases in crime.

In 2014, there were 25,734 victims of an offence against a person. We heard from the opposition leader today that in 2023 that figure jumped to 81,166 victims. Despite Labor claiming the youth crime crisis is a beat-up, as we have heard from those opposite—the member for Capalaba, as I remember—it continues to plague our state. Gold Coast locals are all too aware of the recent announcement on police resource allocations for our area. There are no new police for the Surfers police station and only one additional for the Broadbeach station, so Labor is not dealing with the crime wave which has become a full-blown crime tsunami on their watch and is driving up various insurances. As we have heard from the opposition leader today, if elected we will roll out the Making Queensland Safer laws by the end of the year, remove detention as a last resort and open the Childrens Court to victims, their families and media. Gold Coast residents and local police have been crying out for stronger laws and resources to protect our community. The men and women of the Queensland Police Service deserve our utmost respect and gratitude for the difficult job they do.

I want to turn other portfolio areas—Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partnerships. Over the last 25 years, Labor state governments have largely shaped the policies affecting Indigenous Australians and yet, despite these efforts, the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians remains significant in many crucial areas. The public debate last year around the Voice was incredibly divisive and the result was clear. Many Queenslanders saw it as a tokenistic gesture that would not improve the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders on the ground.

In the most recent Queensland Closing the Gap annual report we saw a concerning picture, with only nine of the 17 targets on track. Education targets are falling short, housing targets are unmet and the aim to reduce the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults and youth in the criminal justice system remains unachieved. The life expectancy gap—a stark indicator of inequality—is also not on track. In Queensland, the gap is 7.8 years for males and 6.8 years for females. These figures are not just statistics. They represent real lives, real families and real communities who are still waiting for the change they deserve. Yet when we hear from Aboriginal leaders, they are very critical of what the Labor Party have done. In a letter to the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition, Noel Pearson from the Cape Town Institute says—

The Palaszczuk Government's tenure from 14 February 2015 to 15 December 2023 was a period of complete non-performance in terms of tackling entrenched disadvantage in Queensland.

He refers to 'Attachment A, Palaszczuk Government Scorecard on Closing the Gap'. Attachment A has five categories on a statistical scorecard—children in out-of-home care; youth detention; adults in prison; school attendance and life expectancy—which are all failing, according to Noel Pearson. He says—

What we have seen is that if you pursue 'progressive' policies unable to deliver results, you end up having to resort to regressive policies anyway.

...

Take the consistently appalling school attendance figures across Queensland's most disadvantaged communities, as just one example. There is nothing so fundamental as supporting good school attendance, in terms of the State fulfilling its obligations to ensure the most disadvantaged children have the same opportunity to succeed as those born into advantage.

We asked Noel about school attendance in places like Aurukun. We have asked this of the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and the Minister for Education and we are handballed from one minister to the other. I table the letter and the attachment for the benefit of the parliament.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 12 June 2024, from a representative of the Cape York Institute, Mr Noel Pearson, to the Premier, Hon. Steven Miles, and the Leader of the Opposition, Mr David Crisafulli MP, regarding the youth justice crisis and enclosing a document, undated, titled 'Attachment A—Palaszczuk Government Failure: Scorecard on Closing the Gap' [\[1068\]](#).

When I asked the minister last year at estimates if she excludes non-Indigenous people from meetings she confirmed that she does and said I needed 'cultural awareness training'. This is a minister who is happy to go on a 10-day, \$125,000 taxpayer funded trip. It says in a newspaper article—

The minister's meeting with the Museum of Vancouver has resulted directly in the necessary preparation work for repatriating Queensland's First Nations artefacts held by the Canadian museum ...

The minister referred to and justified her trip in the middle of a cost-of-living crisis at a cost-of-living press conference. What that shows us is that often Aboriginal Indigenous leaders are taking advantage of the people they are supposed to be representing and not doing what they are supposed to be doing.

Mr BAILEY: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. As fascinating as this version of history is from the member, it has nothing to do with the budget and I ask him to come back to the budget that we are debating.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): I will seek some advice. Thank you, member for Miller, for your point of order. The member is being relevant. It is an appropriation debate; it is extraordinarily broad. I ask the member to continue.

Mr LANGBROEK: I was commenting about the fact that the minister had spent this amount of money on a trip. I was at a presentation at the Queensland Museum to do with repatriation where she referred to that trip, but outcomes are what Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders want to see. What Noel Pearson is clearly saying in his letter and what other Indigenous leaders are saying to us is that for all the money that is being spent they are not seeing the outcomes and we do not see coordination between departments to make sure these things are improved.

I want to move on to the seniors and disability portfolio. It is clear that again there are failings in service delivery and meeting the expectations and needs of some of the most vulnerable members of our community. It has been four years since the last seniors strategy concluded in 2020 and yet we still have no new strategy. It was due in 2023. The serious issue of elder abuse has been completely overlooked, with the government making no mention of it in their plans despite the urgent need for action and support in this area. I note that the minister and the Premier have also been very critical following the NDIS review, overseen by Bill Shorten federally. An article from 28 March states—

... Mr Miles said there had been 'flawed communication' from Mr Shorten, who had rushed the legislation without fairly consulting with leaders.

I table a copy of that article.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Courier-Mail*, dated 28 March 2024, titled 'Premier critical of NDIS process' [\[1069\]](#).

Another article from 28 March 2024 states—

Queensland Minister for Disability Services Charis Mullen is concerned about secrecy of the bill, which he said—

it should say 'she said'—

was put together 'with very little consultation with states and territories and very little consultation with people with disability and the sector'.

I table a copy of that article.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Australian*, dated 28 March 2024, titled 'Anger over NDIS reform plan limiting "choice and control"' [\[1070\]](#).

The government's own target for employing people with a disability in the Public Service is being missed once again. The goal was set at 12 per cent, but the actual figure languishes at 3.54 per cent. This is a failure to provide equal opportunities and support for people with disabilities, further marginalising a group that already faces significant challenges. I want to acknowledge the money for major repairs and upgrades at Forensic Disability Services house, which I have been out to at Wacol, and \$2.1 million for improvements and modifications of accommodation facilities for disability services clients.

I turn now to multiculturalism. I was pleased at the AfriQueensland Awards to hear the announcement of an allocation of \$2.6 million over two years to support the African Youth Support Council's African villages in Moorooka, Geebung and Redbank Plains.

With the time remaining I wish to say that, apart from police resources, e-scooters and e-bikes on our pathways are a significant issue. I table an article by Ashleigh Jansen from 12 June titled 'Locals and tourists "scared" to use the Oceanway'.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Gold Coast Bulletin*, dated 12 June 2024, titled 'Locals and tourists "scared" to use Oceanway' [\[1071\]](#).


I note that, since 2018, 10 lives have been lost and 952 people have been seriously injured whilst using these devices in Queensland. I have a response from the Department of Transport and Main Roads to a constituent yesterday confirming that the speed limit is 12 kilometres per hour, and I table a copy of that.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 12 June 2024, from the General Manager, Land Transport Safety and Regulation, Ms Joanna Robinson, to Mr Rodney Brice, regarding the speed limit for motorised and electric vehicles on shared pathways [\[1073\]](#).

Yesterday another person died having had an accident on the Story Bridge on an e-bike. Instead of 10 deaths there have now been 11 and 952 people seriously injured. There is an article in today's *Courier-Mail* titled 'We have to pull plug on e-bike and scooter nuts'. I table a copy of that article.

Tabled paper: Media article, dated 13 June 2024, titled 'Calls to make Oceanway safer for pedestrians: We have to pull plug on e-bike and scooter nuts' [\[1072\]](#).

It is a serious issue. We just do not have enough police resources for them to be doing speed monitoring on the Oceanway and yet there are more and more accidents for residents, visitors and young children on the Oceanway. It is just not fair for the council to try to do it without police resources.

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (11.02 pm): I want to begin by quoting some words from the famous Ben Chifley. He stated—

I try to think of the Labour movement, not as putting an extra sixpence into somebody's pocket, or making somebody Prime Minister or Premier, but as a movement bringing something better to the people, better standards of living, greater happiness to the mass of the people. We have a great objective—the light on the hill—which we aim to reach by working the betterment of mankind not only here but anywhere we may give a helping hand. If it were not for that, the Labour movement would not be worth fighting for.

That was from his speech in June 1949 and that should be the goal of all good governments. In response to the member for Surfers Paradise, I think his shameful speech with regard to treaty and support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people actually goes a long way to talk about his party and the LNP and what they do. This was a party that stood up in Cairns and actually voted wholeheartedly in support of the Path to Treaty Bill and then not long after turned around and stood down and did not support it. How shameful to do that. I am gobsmacked, quite frankly, and ashamed to be sitting in the same room as that man.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Order, members on my left. Member for Callide, your interjections are not being taken and are verging on the disorderly. Member for Bundaberg, your gesticulation at the back of the chamber is not welcome. If you wish to make a point of order, rise to your feet and do so, otherwise please refrain from what you have been doing.


Ms PEASE: Mr Deputy Speaker, thank you for your protection. I would also like to point out that it was interesting that the member for Surfers Paradise, who I assume must be the shadow or assistant spokesperson for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander issues, stood up—

Mr Head: Catch up.

Ms PEASE: I do not need to know who he is. It is completely irrelevant to me, quite frankly, because they achieve nothing and deliver nothing. Do not say to me that I need to catch up. What I am wanting to point out is the fact that this person, who has been in the House long enough to know better, would have the audacity to stand up and make outrageous allegations against our wonderful Indigenous First Nations minister with regard to expenses whilst investigating the Path to Treaty. Might I point out that if we were to look further into his history we could look at the claims he made on his GTA. Perhaps he might like to explain to his community why he is claiming for hotel accommodation in his own electorate whilst coming to work here in parliament. The member for Surfers Paradise should be very cautious about what he is saying about our minister, the member for Algeester.

Let me get back to the budget. Queensland and the bayside are, I believe, the best place to live and work. I know it, my constituents know it and so do the tens of thousands of people who have flocked to Queensland in recent years. We are a parochial mob in Queensland and the bayside. We stick together and we always look out for each other, whether it be during the pandemic, floods or fires or cost-of-living pressures because that is the Queensland way. Looking out for Queenslanders when they need a hand—that is the Queensland way and that is the Labor way. There should be equity and opportunity for all now and into the future. That is why this budget, the first budget of the Miles Labor government, is focused on doing what matters to Queenslanders.

I know that what matters most to baysiders is cost-of-living relief. That is why this great Labor budget is delivering nation-leading cost-of-living relief, ensuring that no baysiders or Queenslanders are left behind, as in the words of our great former prime minister Ben Chifley. We know that people are always more important than numbers on a balance sheet. There is \$11.2 billion in concessions to lower household bills, supporting all of us when we need it most. All baysiders will automatically receive a \$1,000 up-front rebate on their electricity and a further \$300 from the Australian government. Eligible families will receive a further \$300. This budget delivers for everyone across Queensland. I commend the bills to the House.

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (11.08 pm): Before I begin my contribution and as the budget's appropriation bills are being debated in cognate with the State Financial Institutions and Metway Merger Amendment Bill 2024, out of an abundance of caution I declare that I hold shares in Suncorp. I am disappointed to follow the member for Lytton. I would have thought if this was such a great budget she could have spoken for a lot longer. I would have liked to have heard a greater contribution from the member for Lytton, but I was disappointed that it was so short. It was very disappointing to hear that.

Ms Pease interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Order! Member for Lytton, I do not think your interjections are being taken.

Ms LEAHY: This is a budget for four months. It lacks the longer term structural reform that is needed to drive down the cost of living over the next four years and beyond. I want to say at the outset that the LNP will not stand in the way of cost-of-living relief because we know that Queenslanders are

paying out of their hip pockets because of all of Labor's additional taxes and increased fees. At the same time as paying for Labor's taxes, Queenslanders are experiencing increases in fuel, electricity, rent, food and insurance—if they can find an insurer to cover them.

What the budget has exposed is that Labor does not have the right priorities for Queensland's future. In fact, it is more of the same from a decade-old Labor government that has delivered Queenslanders a health crisis, a crime crisis, a housing crisis and a cost-of-living crisis. It has never been clearer that this government cares more about their political future than Queenslanders' futures. Never before has a Queensland government taxed more, borrowed more, spent more and had less to show for it. One thing that is for sure is that in the last 10 years of Labor governments they have spending other people's money in their DNA. Despite the revenue rivers of gold, Labor has delivered record debt and record taxes. We also have record numbers of Queenslanders sleeping in tents, record numbers of victims of crime, record ambulance ramping and record numbers of Queenslanders struggling just to make ends meet. Only the LNP has the right priorities for Queensland's future, including saving you from Labor's many failures.

Speaking of record debt, in the last 10 budgets Labor governments have added \$100 billion worth of debt. The total debt was \$72 billion when Labor was elected. Debt will be \$172 billion by the end of the forwards. The interest cost will be over \$21 million per day at the end of the forwards—\$21 million per day of interest. We should stop and think about what cannot be done because the interest bill has to be paid: \$21 million per day is 20 kilometres of road per day that cannot be sealed with bitumen because this money needs to be used to pay the interest bill on Labor's debt. That is some 7,300 kilometres of road per year that will not be sealed because the interest bill has to be paid.

It is not just the LNP saying this about the Labor budget. In her article, Judith Sloan summed it when she said—

Queensland Treasurer Cameron Dick seems to be a bit confused these days. Rather than deliver a responsible budget for his state that uses the fortuitous flow of coal royalties to pay down debt, he thinks he has taken a job at the Ekka stuffing vote-grabbing show bags.

The Local Government Association of Queensland, in its reaction to the budget, said that the budget is not so sweet for councils delivering community livability. Local governments are disappointed by this Labor budget. It is not so sweet for Queensland councils, whose needs are being lost in a superdepartment. Last year in his speech the Treasurer could not bring himself to mention local government. This year we heard his dislike of local government again. In the Treasurer's budget speech he proceeded to set up councils to take the blame for the cost pressures they are facing. This is not the time to forget councils. They are key to unlocking housing supply across the state.

When it comes to Works for Queensland, we still do not have permanent funding. The current funding is slated to end at 30 June 2027, with no ongoing funding locked in for councils. This is despite the permanent funding of this program being the No. 1 advocacy item of local governments. This budget does not deliver that funding certainty for local government. If only the Labor government had not wasted \$230 million on that quarantine camp at Wellcamp they would have the funds to put towards the Works for Queensland program.

One of the disaster mitigation projects that the LNP keeps a watching brief on is the Bundaberg flood levee. We know last year's budget found that the Bundaberg levee had a massive cost blowout. The Bundaberg flood levee was promised by Labor to be delivered by June 2024. As of June 2024, only 2.2 per cent of the money has been spent. It is certainly not on time and it is not on budget. Over the last 10 years Labor has failed to build the levee bank. Clearly flood mitigation is not a priority for Labor governments. In the meantime, Queenslanders' insurance premiums continue to rise—up to 18.5 per cent in the last year alone.

Another important funding program for the safety of all who drive on our state's roads and for local government is the Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme. In real terms, this program is struggling to keep pace with the escalating construction costs. While there was a small increase in TIDS funding last year and it has been retained in this budget, it is still well short of the funding that councils need for road construction projects. Once again this budget falls short for local governments' needs.

Despite the 64 per cent of Queenslanders who volunteered last year, there is nothing new in this Labor budget for volunteers. The value of volunteering to the Queensland community is some \$117 billion, yet this budget does not recognise the contribution to the state's economy. The LNP value volunteers and we will help them break down the barriers to volunteering.

I see that in this budget there is a line item allocation of funding for a cross-border commissioner. Councils along the border have been calling for a cross-border commissioner for years. Apparently the Labor government has had an FTE for a cross-border commissioner but no-one could find them and no council ever saw them. I am pleased to see that Labor has now copied the LNP's policy initiative. That was a policy initiative that the LNP announced in 2017 and in 2020. It is amazing what the Labor government can do when an election is just four months away.

I commend the opposition leader, David Crisafulli, and the shadow Treasurer, David Janetzki, on their budget reply speeches. They have pointed to the positive policies of the LNP. The LNP has a plan to secure our housing foundations. This will focus on increasing housing supply across the state, something that is needed in many communities and also the communities in my electorate. The Cabinet Housing Taskforce will have local government at the table and will help them with the trunk infrastructure funding that they have been fighting for. The LNP will forge a partnership with local government on planning and regional infrastructure planning, which is so important for livability. The LNP will empower the community housing sector and unlock faith-based and charity surplus land. The LNP will completely abolish stamp duty for first home buyers who are buying and building a new home. We will also enable first home buyers to rent out a room to help them make their home ownership dream a reality. The LNP will put family and small businesses first with our policies on tenders, procurement and quicker payments.

I will now turn to some of the issues in my electorate. In my electorate, roads are important for the transport of agricultural produce and resources to market and also the return of goods to the region's residents and tourists. Groceries in the regions will cost more now because this Labor government has cut the regional freight subsidy to Barcaldine, Cloncurry, Dirranbandi, Hughenden, Julia Creek, Longreach, Mount Isa, Roma, Winton, Dalby and Tara this year. I am advised that Dalby's freight costs have increased from an average of \$60 per pallet to \$180 per pallet. This follows Labor's subsidy cut in 2021 to the communities of Surat, Wandoan, Taroom, Theodore, Moura and Biloela. These increases in freight cannot be absorbed by the family businesses who run these food stores, meaning that groceries and perishable lines will cost more in these communities. This Labor government is the cause of cost-of-living increases in these communities.

When it comes to roads, this budget is a failure. It does not address the need to replace the Eulo Bridge. It does not restore the funding cut to the Adavale Back Road following federal Labor's 90-day review. It does not fund the Landsborough Highway and Main Street intersection. It does not fund the passing lanes on the Warrego Highway west of Miles. It does not improve the safety of the Surat Development Road and the intersection with the Leichhardt Highway. It does not fund the upgrade of the Cunningham Street rail crossing in Dalby. It does not improve the flood immunity of the Loudon Bridge. It does not widen the Roma-Condamine, the Mitchell-St George, the Jackson-Wandoan, the Meandarra-Talwood, the Charleville-Quilpie or the Tara-Kogan roads. My constituents have every reason to be disappointed with this Labor budget because they know that there are bike tracks in Brisbane that are wider than many of those roads.

Mr Head: It's disgraceful.

Ms LEAHY: I take that interjection from the member for Callide; it is disgraceful. In Tara, constituents of mine are facing another cold winter without a permanent home and they are disappointed in this budget. The Labor government has reportedly spent \$390,000 per bedroom purchasing the Park Hotel at Spring Hill yet they quibble about providing Tara bushfire victims with \$50,000 to restore their homes. Nine of my constituents who lost their homes in February 2023 are still waiting to move into their new premises. If you are a vulnerable homeless person in Brisbane then the Labor government is prepared to spend up, but in Tara if you have lost your home in a bushfire then you are expected to wait 18 months and will receive only 12 per cent of what those in Brisbane receive.

Despite all the talk about this being a record budget for health, it does nothing to improve the number of doctors in my electorate, including in the health facilities. In the past 12 months, the Augathella Multipurpose Health Service has been without a doctor for 41 days. For more than a month there has been no doctor on site. It is a similar story in Mitchell where for 28 days there has been no doctor at the multipurpose facility. In Quilpie, for 25 days there has been no doctor in the multipurpose health facility. In Surat, for 29 days there has been no doctor on site. Those communities pay their taxes and they provide wealth for this state. The least that this Labor government could do is provide a full-time doctor to work in the health facilities. I will continue to fight for doctors in those communities because Labor is failing when it comes to the provision of doctors. Queenslanders deserve so much better and they will show Labor the door in '24.

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Member for Stafford, you are warned.



Mr POWER (Logan—ALP) (11.21 pm): I have been listening to Logan locals and I certainly have heard about the pressures on family budgets. Logan residents know that, post COVID, there are factors confronting us such as war and supply chain issues that have meant energy prices have increased all around the world and they feel it themselves. I have listened and now we are acting to help families and deliver services to Logan. The member for Mundingburra also spoke about the fact that he has listened and he knows that these are the measures that the people of Mundingburra—and I think the people of Logan—are calling for. We do not mind saying to Queenslanders that we think we have something better to offer. We have a connection and compassion. We have an understanding of where people are at. We are listening and we are doing something about it. We have had to make tough decisions to put us in a position to do this. The member for Mundingburra is absolutely right.

This is a renewed and reinvigorated government and the Premier and the Treasurer really get it, which is why they are delivering. For families, the biggest contribution is the \$1,300 energy rebate to help with electricity bills. It is \$1,000 from the state and \$300 from the federal government. I know the federal member who represents Logan, Jim Chalmers, also endorses this. I have sat down with residents from Jimboomba and Yarrabilba to Hillcrest to speak about this. It is extraordinarily welcomed. We have a government that recognises the challenges that families are facing. At St Paul de Chartres I spoke to Mary. I talked to her about the relief we are offering, which will mean taking off the table at least one of the bills that is confronting her. Hers is a fairly humble home so the rebate will probably mean her electricity bill will be taken off the table for an entire year. That is something that I am proud to do because we know people are facing tough times.

Mr Head interjected.

Mr POWER: I can hear the chirping from others in the chamber. That seems to be an indication that, although they do not want to get into their own election commitments, they object to and are against these types of initiatives. If they had the choice, people would not receive this relief. That is something that the people in Logan will be really aware of.

We know that many in Logan rely on a car to get to school, work and the shops. That is why we are reducing the cost of car and trailer registration by 20 per cent, which will be a saving for Logan families. That will start on 5 August and it will last for a full 12 months. When people receive their registration bill, even if they have a six monthly or monthly bill within that period, they will receive that relief. We are introducing that initiative to make it easier for Logan families.

For those who rely on public transport, we have a plan to get passenger numbers back to pre COVID levels and to reduce the cost of living by introducing 50-cent fares for six months. Jimboomba residents travelling on the 540 could save over \$8 and there would be similar savings for those travelling on the Yarrabilba 540, even if travelling all the way to the city or the Gold Coast. There has never been a better time to make plans to get on a bus or train. This is a unique time because we have seen radical change in public transport and this 50-cent fare policy is just the thing to get back people back on board.

Importantly, we are also expanding services in Logan with \$33 million budgeted. I have been campaigning hard for that with local councillors and others. From that fund we hope to announce improvements to services soon. Some of the new bus routes will pass new housing estates where people will be benefiting from the first home concession, which will be increased to phase out up to the dutiable value of up to \$800,000, which is up from \$550,000. That is a really important thing for families moving into their first home.

Our FairPlay vouchers make it easier for people to get their kids involved in sport. I have long been an advocate for that because if kids are out there playing organised sport then they are not going to be involved in worse things. I think it is a really important thing for Logan.

I want to speak about the Mount Lindesay Highway. We have a project under tender at the moment. It is an important project for the Jimboomba area. We have to recognise that, in their time, the LNP cut over \$160 million and there is nothing left from the LNP's time in government between Browns Plains and Jimboomba. In fact, they stopped one project that was well underway. I can show members the photos and the documents from QTRIP in relation to that.

One thing that no-one opposite spoke about is the three surpluses that have been delivered. A press release talks about our responsible fiscal management that has delivered a \$564 million surplus. None of them could speak about that. It builds upon the record state surplus of \$13.93 billion in 2022-23. Not a single one of them could mention that. I would love to hear them talk to that.

I want to follow to its conclusion their logic when they say they would cut these initiatives. That means that families would be worse off. Following their logic, there would be cuts to our cost-of-living measures and also cuts to the funding for the Mount Lindesay Highway such as we saw under the previous LNP government.


I want to speak about the fact that we are investing in education with funding for both the Park Ridge school and the new school in Logan Village.

An opposition member: Pork-barrelling.

Mr POWER: Isn't it disgusting that a member says that educating the growing number of families in Logan is pork-barrelling? I find that deeply offensive. I know it shows their attitude. The first thing that the LNP would cut is, as that member just said, funding to schools in Logan.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Order, members on my right. There is too much chat. Member for Logan, I am sorry to interrupt you. I know you do not need any protection. Member for Callide, occasionally your interjections are a little loud and I cannot hear what the member for Logan is saying so bear that in mind. I know he has been taking them.

Mr POWER: I was mostly speaking about the cuts the LNP made to Mount Lindesay Highway funding during their time in government. I want to emphasise that we are both investing and relieving the cost of living, which is all at risk. We hear from their interjections that that is what they would do. That is why I humbly ask for support to continue to deliver the right things for Logan.

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (11.29 pm): What can I say? I will open where I opened last year. I feel like a broken record, because I talked about these things last year, the year before and, yes, the year before that. There is no new money in this budget for the northern Gold Coast—just blowouts and no new projects. This is a budget for the next four months, not for the next four years. Labor is more concerned about its political future than Queensland's future and certainly the future of the people of the northern Gold Coast. Never before has a Queensland government taxed more, spent more and borrowed more, yet Queensland has less and less to show for it. That is a reflection of what is going on on the northern Gold Coast. This government have told Queenslanders not to judge them on their record, that their past failures do not matter, but Labor's record on crime, health, housing and cost of living does matter to Queenslanders and most certainly does matter to the people of the northern Gold Coast.

The people of the northern Gold Coast have seen massive growth—it is the fastest growing region in Queensland—with no new money, if you do not count those blowouts I mentioned a moment ago. On 28 August 2016, according to *Queensland Government Gazette No. 20*, at page 155, the Coomera electorate had 30,723 voters and 58,000 residents. As at 31 May 2024, the Coomera electorate had 53,428 voters—up 23,000 voters—and over 100,000 residents as at June—up more than 40,000 residents. It is the fastest growing region in Queensland. Over the past 15 years as the member for Coomera I have fought for upgrades. Back in the day it was exit 54—tick. That was funded by and planned by the previous LNP government and came in on budget and on time.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock, please. I apologise, member for Coomera. Members to my right, there are far too many conversations going on. If members want to have a yarn, go outside. I know that it has been a long day and it is late, but please give respect to the member on their feet.

Mr CRANDON: The second M1, the Coomera Connector, is a partial tick. We have a Coomera Connector being constructed from Shipper Drive in the north to Nerang-Broadbeach Road in the south. Let's put aside the fact that it is five years late, but it has doubled in cost—\$1.5 billion to \$3 billion since the time it was mooted and planned for in 2020, when we saw a commitment by those opposite to build it. It took 2½ years before they started pushing forward on any of the construction. Because of all of those delays, we have seen a doubling in the cost of the Coomera Connector south of Shipper Drive. What about north of Shipper Drive leading up into the canelands and swinging around onto the Logan Motorway? There is nothing at all. Some \$22 million has been in the budget year on year on year—\$11 million from the federal government and \$11 million from those opposite—but there is nothing for construction. That is meant to be developing a business case. It has been developing this business case for something like 3½ years with that \$22 million.

A police station was added, something we were fighting for and had been fighting for for many years. It is on record—at the opening the then retiring assistant commissioner confirmed it—that it was because of the community and because of my pushing that the police station was built when Katarina Carroll came on board.

Government members interjected.

Mr CRANDON: Listen up. You will learn something. When Katarina Carroll came on board—

Mrs McMahon interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, member for Macalister!

Mr CRANDON: They promised us 36 additional police and we got 36 additional police. Eighteen months ago we had 36 additional police, taking us to a total of 40 for that police station. We are down to 25. They have taken away 15 of the police officers working out of that brand new police station who two years ago were confirmed as being necessary. They have only recently allowed advertising to bring those police back to the police station. They were on a freeze; they were not able to do it.

What about the upgrade at exit 41? There is a big tick there. It has finally been built thanks very much to Bert van Manen, the federal member for Forde, and his fighting to get 50 per cent funding before members opposite even gave any thought to doing any funding for exit 41. They finally came on board kicking and screaming to build exit 41.

How is exit 49? It has blown out by \$30 million. Nobody bothered to say anything; there were no announcements on this. It just went from one QTRIP at \$110 million to the new QTRIP at \$140 million. They just let it sneak through the system and did not bother telling anybody what was going on. The money for exit 49 was there from 2019. In fact, in May 2019 the money became available from the federal government. They only just started building it last year and it will now be pushed back. We will be lucky to see it open by the end of 2024. It will be most likely 2025.

I refer to the railway station at Pimpama. It was promised in 2017 before the election. We now will not get it until 2025. Eight years to build a train station? By the way, the original funding was \$40 million. The current funding is \$170 million. That is what eight years of 'stuck in the slow lane' ministers do. It has pushed the train station cost from \$40 million to \$170 million. In fact, there is \$500 million for three train stations on the Gold Coast, while the original budget was \$120 million.

Increased car parking at Ormeau train station was hard fought for as well. They were actually going to take away about 110 casual car parks and give us 70 proper car parks. I said, 'No, we need to do something more than that. Let's do a little more planning.' We finished up with 125 additional car parks. Again, it is because of the intervention of me and the local community that these things are being done. We doubled the car-parking space at Coomera Railway Station. Once again, thanks to Bert van Manen for coming forward with the money that we needed to do that. It took them five years to get there.

The fire station at Cox Street at Pimpama—a big tick there. The local community needed it. As I said and demonstrated earlier, it is the fastest growing region in Queensland. Cedar Creek State School's Albert Hall now is fully enclosed. There was pushback from those opposite for several years, but they finally bowed to the pressure of the community and me and have given us that.

I refer to planning and construction at the northern Gold Coast Hospital and Health Precinct. We are talking \$1.3 billion of spend in the old money. We do not know what it will be going forward from here, but there was a billion dollar-plus blowout in that overall health budget. There were no more new beds, so it was a blowout in the health budget. We can bet our bottom dollar that that \$1.3 billion is more like \$1.6 billion or something in that order for the 405 beds. No construction has commenced yet. It was guaranteed in 2020 by this government, but there is no construction. All we have had is machinery pushing earthworks around on the site. No construction has commenced on that site.

We finally got a win for the bus services from Ormeau to Coomera railway stations and extension of operating hours. That was thanks again to another level of government—the local government, the Gold Coast city council and Mark Hamell, who put money up in 2021. We only started getting those bus services in 2023. By the way, not all of those bus services have been delivered. A bus service was promised down to Jacobs Well, then to Pimpama and to Ormeau train station, but that is not yet delivered. Money was available in 2021 and here we are, going into 2025, and we are yet to see it.

For exit 38, there was business case on the then minister's desk in November 2019. We are yet to see any money for that. Again, in this budget there is not one dollar, not one penny, for exit 38. For exit 45, a \$20 million bandaaid solution which ended up being about \$13 million has created absolute havoc at exit 45, and there is not one dollar in this budget to do anything until 2026-27 in the forward estimates to do some planning—and that is just \$1.5 million. That is way into the future.

Finally, we got a \$5 million commitment for the Police Citizens Youth Club at Pimpama. Hang on a second: Caloundra got \$15 million in this budget! Where did that come from? That was a real surprise to everyone. Oh, there is an election and somebody is struggling to hold on to his seat! There was no more money for the PCYC at Pimpama—only \$5 million from this government.


There is nothing in the budget for the bus services between Beenleigh and Ormeau train stations. We have been waiting for the uptick on those since 2021. I have mentioned the caneland bus service. Once again there is nothing in the budget for the upgrade of Staplyton Jacobs Well Road between exit 38 and Norwell Road. There is nothing from those opposite in relation to that.

We asked for an upgrade of the TAFE centre of excellence at Coomera. That was a fascinating thing we did. We wanted a TAFE centre of excellence for health and nursing. It was very popular: we got 663 signatures. The petition was only out there for three or four weeks. What did we get back? No, they are not going to have a centre of excellence for health and nursing at Coomera, which is where the new hospital is being built and there will be a new health precinct. They are not going to do that. They have just waffled on about it.

What about doubling the size of the Marine Centre of Excellence? What about fast-tracking that? The land is already there. The plans are already there. We could double it. We need those additional services for the marine precinct such as welding and other specialist services. Once again, there was just a lot of waffle in the response from the minister, not committing to anything further—just talking about what might happen in other areas in the future.

Tuesday's budget exposed Labor, which does not have the right priorities for Queensland's future. They certainly do not care about the northern Gold Coast, as demonstrated by what I have just outlined. In fact, it is just more of the same from a decade-old Labor government that has delivered Queenslanders a health crisis, a crime crisis, a housing crisis and a cost-of-living crisis.

I will finish where I started. This is a budget for the next four months, not for the next four years and beyond. Labor is more concerned about its political future than Queensland's future. The people of the northern Gold Coast do matter. This government has been ignoring the people of the northern Gold Coast budget after budget after budget. We do not see any additional funding except blowout funding, but those opposite do not care. On 26 October 2024 the people of Queensland can show Labor the door.

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Community Safety) (11.43 pm): It is with great satisfaction that I rise to speak about the first Miles Labor government's budget—a budget that does what matters for Queensland: cost-of-living relief; record investments in health, education and community safety; delivering even better services and infrastructure for our growing state. The Miles Labor government is providing the biggest cost-of-living relief package in Queensland history. I know that this will make a huge difference for the people of the Morayfield state electorate. They are doing it tough. They have asked for help and, as always, their government—a Labor government—is listening and delivering for them.

Because we have made the tough decisions to make multinational mining companies pay their fair share, to keep energy assets in public hands and to manage the budget as we have, we are able to deliver this support for Queenslanders. From 1 July, locals will see a credit of \$1,300 over the financial year on their power bill courtesy of their Labor government. This rises to \$1,672 for pensioners, seniors and concession card holders, and small businesses will receive \$650.

In a six-month trial, public transport fares will be reduced to 50 cents per trip irrespective of the trip length. There is also relief with a 20 per cent discount off car registration for the next 12 months, free kindy, free TAFE and abolishing stamp duty for first home buyers on purchases up to \$700,000—all of these things in addition to the billions of dollars worth of other concessions available to Queenslanders.

In the Morayfield state electorate, significant investments continue to be made by the Miles Labor government because we understand the needs of local people and we are determined to provide the supports and opportunities they need. Highlights include the continued investment in the upgrade of

the Caboolture Hospital, with further new services being rolled out including a \$10 million day chemotherapy unit. This is on top of the new Caboolture Satellite Hospital and the new Morayfield Ambulance Station, which were delivered this year.

Locally we see further investments in schools and sporting infrastructure, with projects funded at Morayfield State High School, Minimbah State School, Caboolture East State School, Caboolture State School, Bellmere State School, Burpengary Meadows State School, the Burpengary Pony Club and the Murrumba Pistol Club. I am very honoured to be the patron of both the Burpengary Pony Club and the Murrumba Pistol Club. In fact, I have been the patron of both of those clubs since about 2009 and I am very pleased to see this investment in these outstanding clubs.

The state budget also supports a record \$4.379 billion police and community safety portfolio budget. It is a record investment in police and a record investment in community safety. It is a record police budget that supports historic investments underpinning the Community Safety Plan for Queensland. It is a record police budget that supports investment in over 3,000 extra police personnel.

The total Queensland Police Service and community safety portfolio budget of \$4.379 billion is an increase of \$700 million, or 15 per cent, since last year. This includes an operating budget of \$3.695 billion and a capital budget of \$684 million. That capital budget is very significant because, with the Queensland Police Service undertaking the biggest recruitment campaign in its history, we need to fund the infrastructure and the resources a growing police service will need. The 2024-25 Queensland Police Service capital program of \$684.2 million will support the delivery of quality frontline services throughout Queensland. The program will fund police facilities, motor vehicles, aviation assets, vessels and other essential equipment.

Mr Deputy Speaker Kelly, I am very grateful that you as Deputy Speaker have 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*. I encourage all members to support this first and great Miles Labor government budget.

The speech read as follows—

Key police and community safety investments in this year's State Budget include:

- \$200 million to complete the Youth Remand Facility at Wacol.
- \$124.6 million for the Airborne Law Enforcement—SEQ POLAIR.
- \$78.2 million for the aircraft acquisition program.
- \$47.7 million for new and replacement police service vehicles.
- \$32.4 million to continue the replacement police facilities at Cunnamulla, Hervey Bay and Kirwan.
- \$25 million to continue the new police facility at Ripley and the upgrade of the Warwick police facility.
- \$24.5 million for minor capital works and other plant and equipment across the state.
- \$18.1 million for the Public Safety Network.
- \$16.9 million for information and communications technology.
- \$16 million for new and replacement police service vessels.
- \$14.6 million for Camera Detected Offence Program equipment.
- \$14.3 million to complete the replacement police facilities at Clermont, Cooroy, Dayboro and Rosewood and the new police facility at Caloundra.
- \$9.8 million to complete the upgrade of the police facilities at Cairns, Mackay and Maryborough.
- \$8.3 million to continue the replacement police facilities at Longreach, Proserpine, Rainbow Beach and Winton, and the multi-agency community safety facility at Palm Island.
- \$5.5 million for upgrades and replacements to air conditioning and closed circuit cameras at police facilities across the state.
- \$5.5 million for the new residential accommodation at Mount Isa.
- \$3.3 million for Queensland Ambulance Service information systems development.
- \$2.8 million for Queensland Fire and Emergency Services information and communications systems and equipment.
- \$2.7 million for mobile capability and the development of new applications for the QPS QLITe mobile tablet devices.
- \$2.6 million for land acquisitions.
- \$2.1 million for aviation capability—Remotely Piloted Aircraft System.
- \$1.2 million for aircraft maintenance.
- \$350,000 to commence the upgrade of the police facilities at Bundaberg and Upper Mount Gravatt, the replacement water police facility at Hervey Bay and the new police facility at Yarrabilba.

- \$15 million for PCYC Caloundra.
- \$2 million for PCYC Redcliffe.

Speaker, the government also is investing \$100 million, with funding held centrally, to deliver a new Police Academy for Townsville.

It will be constructed alongside the new Kirwan police facility at the site of the old Cowboys football stadium.

Speaker, we are also investing in a dramatic extension of the Queensland Police Service's aerial capabilities, to Cairns and the Far North and to the Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay areas.

Speaker, we are investing the length and breadth of the state to support police.

I recently joined the Member for Hervey Bay to announce a new \$28 million police facility for Hervey Bay police.

And I joined the Member for Bundaberg to announce a \$20 million upgrade for the Bundaberg police station.

Speaker, we need to make these investments in parallel with what is the biggest investment in police personnel in more than thirty years.

And that's what we are doing.

Speaker, there is also funding in the budget to upgrade and modernise watch houses across the state.

This is necessary.

When you have strong laws, including for the first time in Queensland's history breach of bail as an offence for young offenders under the bail act, and when you have targeted, proactive police operations, like the deployment of Taskforce Guardian and Operation Whiskey Legion, you are going to see more offenders in detention.

And that's what we are seeing.

So, we need to invest in the infrastructure to accommodate these offenders.

For example, the new youth remand centre at Wacol will be completed by the end of the year.

Speaker, while we are making the big-ticket investments in police infrastructure, we are also paying attention to the detail.

This record police budget includes funding to complete significant maintenance work and upgrades at police facilities.

There is also funding to begin work on the relocation of the dog squad to the major police facility at Wacol.

We're making history with the establishment of Marine Rescue Queensland with a dedicated annual budget of \$27 million per annum including \$7.1 million for the marine rescue vessel replacement program.

And we're building a better, stronger, more sustainable State Emergency Service with a dedicated annual budget of \$60 million including \$3.8 million for State Emergency Service support vehicles.

This is all part of our community safety and emergency services reforms. Reforms which I'm very proud of because I know that they will support our police and emergency services personnel and deliver better community safety outcomes for all Queenslanders.

Speaker, as I mentioned, the record police budget supports an investment that will deliver 3,000 extra police personnel.

Speaker, the Queensland Police Service not only leads the nation when it comes to attracting new recruits, it is setting new benchmarks and records along the way.

We recently saw a record set at Oxley Police Academy when 137 new police officers graduated from the Academy.

That is the highest number of recruits to ever graduate at the same time.

Another 56 recruits graduated from the Townsville Academy the week before last. And 51 graduated on Thursday this week. Another graduation will be held in two weeks time.

And over coming weeks there will be three new intakes of recruits.

Two intakes totalling more than 200 recruits will enter the Oxley Academy.

And another intake of more than 60 recruits will begin their 8 month training period at the Townsville Academy.

Speaker, this will mean that by 8 July there will be approximately 750 police recruits in training in Queensland.

That is a stellar achievement by the Queensland Police Service.

In addition, I am advised that there are now nearly 2,500 applicants in the police recruit pipeline.

In one week alone there were more than 130 new applicants.

Another outstanding result.

Speaker, the number of serving police officers plus the number of recruits is now at the highest level in Queensland's history.

And there are more coming.

Speaker, the record police budget also supports the government's additional \$1.27 billion investment in the Community Safety Plan for Queensland.

In particular, the record police budget will extend police aerial capability to Cairns and the Far North and the Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay areas.

The plan is focused on five key pillars, backed by evidence, including:

- Supporting victims
- Delivering for our frontline
- Detaining offenders to protect the community
- Intervening early
- Preventing crime before it occurs

In the 2024-25 Queensland Budget, the government is providing:

- \$1.27 billion of new funding and relevant FTEs for the Community Safety Plan investment package, major investments for the QPS including:
 - 900 additional police personnel including 500 police officers
 - an additional 3000 metal detecting wands and 1000 tasers
 - increased police airborne capacity, including two helicopters for response work in Far North Queensland and Wide Bay/Sunshine Coast and new drone capability in priority regions across Queensland
 - an expansion of the Youth Co-responder Teams model in Gold Coast, South Brisbane and Cairns and additional teams in the Sunshine Coast and South-West regions
 - upgraded police facilities in Hervey Bay and Bundaberg
 - new PCYC for Caloundra and upgrades to the PCYC Redcliffe.
- \$72.6 million over five years and \$14 million per annum ongoing to support non-government community organisations which provide services to keep Queenslanders safe. These include Surf Life Saving Queensland, Royal Life Saving Society Queensland, Emergency Services Cadets Program delivered by the Police-Citizens Youth Club, Blue Light Association, Neighbourhood Watch Queensland, Crime Stoppers Queensland, Queensland Homicide Victims Support Group and the Stop the Coward Punch Campaign.
- \$60 million per annum ongoing for more State Emergency Service personnel and resources, including crucial safety equipment, vehicles and vessels, to provide an enhanced frontline response capability to natural disasters and other emergencies.
- \$35.5 million over 5 years and \$9.3 million per annum ongoing to deliver extra police resources for South-West Brisbane and Ipswich areas.
- \$13.2 million over four years and \$3.4 million per annum ongoing to build a sustainable and family-centred coronial system that meets the needs of all Queenslanders and improving community confidence.
- \$5.5 million in 2024-25 to modernise and upgrade the QPS' network of watch houses to improve safety and security for all detainees and staff.

The plan delivers more police and more police resources, and further enhances the Miles Government's commitment to give police the capability they need to support community safety.

Speaker, community safety is paramount and the Miles Labor Government will always back police with the people, the infrastructure and the resources they need.

Only a Labor Government can deliver the record police budgets we are delivering.

Only a Labor Government makes record investments in the frontline, providing funding for police to undertake the biggest recruitment campaign they have ever undertaken.


Only a Labor Government will ensure that prudent budget management delivers unprecedented investments in measures that underpin community safety.

It means investments in more police, more resources like extra police aerial capability, and funding to deliver police the best resources they need, including the latest taser technology and more wand devices for the expanded operations of the nation-leading Jack's Law.

Speaker, we invest heavily in police because police are invested in keeping the community safe.

And community safety will always be the Miles Labor Government's priority.

I commend the Budget to the House and I encourage all members to support it because it delivers on what matters for Queenslanders.

 **Mr DAMETTO** (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (11.48 pm): Before I start my speech on the budget, I want to put on the record the appreciation from the member for Traeger for everyone here who has come up to him and talked to him after tonight's events in the House. Thank you very much. We in the KAP appreciate that.

I must continue with the KAP's stance when it comes to the top priority in Queensland. While giving my speech on the budget tonight I must say that the No. 1 topic in North Queensland right now is youth crime. The policies of the KAP, which we will continue to push through this House, are as follows: we want to see relocation sentencing introduced as a third option for magistrates when sentencing in Queensland; detention as a last resort removed; adult crime tried as adult time; and mandatory minimum sentencing attached to the back of the relocation sentencing policy so we can ensure those youth offenders who continue to go through the youth justice system are doing at least 12 months relocation sentencing as part of their rehabilitation.

There has been one thing delivered in this budget, and we will wait with anticipation to see how it affects youth justice across Queensland. There is \$108 million for the ongoing construction of the 80-bed facility at Woodford. We would rather it be in North Queensland, but we acknowledge that we need to put these kids somewhere. The total Woodford correctional precinct spend will cost taxpayers in Queensland \$627 million. The KAP continues to advocate that there is a cheaper way to do this through relocation sentencing. We are disappointed that in this budget we have not seen any money allocated for an intensive on-country program. This was a program that was not only spruiked by the state government but also the Premier coming up to Queensland. It highly resembled what KAP was calling for, and we would have liked to have seen some money allocated for that. We understand that the EOI process has closed, and we would appreciate the state government coming forward with the findings of the EOI process as soon as possible.

The KAP must also put on the record that, from the motion that we moved in the parliament last night, we believe that the pursuit of renewables is costing every Queenslanders in the hip pocket. The fact is that Queensland energy bills are going up in price. The KAP has introduced a number of policies over the years that we believe would bring energy prices down, including a gas reserve policy to make sure that energy generators that wait for the market around peak load times can access cheap gas. That would give them an opportunity to produce cheap electricity at that time by picking up those peak load times. There must be a further investment in coal-fired power stations in Queensland. We understand there is a great push globally to decarbonise, but we need to do this in a way which is measured and creates a situation where Queenslanders can afford the electricity transition. The KAP will continue to push for coal-fired and nuclear power generation in this state. We know that a lot of work needs to be done to ensure Queenslanders can enjoy nuclear energy, and the KAP will continue to push for that.

I must acknowledge that the government has brought in a \$1,000 electricity rebate. I know we can afford this right now in Queensland, mainly because of the rise in coal royalties. If coal royalties are coming in we should make sure they are going back to Queenslanders, but I do not want to see a sugar hit. I do not want to see a rebate that looks after the here and now. We want energy prices to come down in the long term. This is really a budget that is aimed at renewable energy. There is \$8.6 billion committed in this year's budget to make sure that renewable energy projects go ahead—everything from batteries to wind and solar farms. I must acknowledge the investment for CopperString 2.0. From its inception the KAP never saw this project as a clean or renewable energy project. It is about unlocking minerals in the North West Minerals Province, making sure that places like Mount Isa and those mine sites near Mount Isa—I worked at one of them once—can continue to operate with cheap electricity by being attached and integrated into the national grid.

There have been some good things delivered around housing, but the KAP will continue to push for our policies. We want to make sure that at some stage the first home owner's grant is extended to existing homes. I remember when I bought my first property at the age of 22. The opportunity came about not because I had rich parents behind me or wealthy people who were happy to lend me the money; it was because there was a home owner's grant available for existing properties. We want to see that continue, especially in regional areas where properties are still affordable. We want to exempt all insurance policies for properties from stamp duty. We have heard some great things about stamp duty in this House from both sides over the last couple of days, but it is not the only cost impost on home owners right now; it is also owning a property and going forward with that.

I want to make sure there is funding available for towns and cities to make sure infrastructure is in place and that developers out there can develop and deliver a block at a reasonable price. It is no use putting all of these cost infrastructure prices back on to developers if they cannot develop a block at a price that people can afford.

As we get through this opportunity to speak tonight, I must turn to health. We have seen a 10 per cent increase in the health budget across Queensland. Most Queenslanders who are looking to get into a hospital would say, 'That's great, we're seeing an increase in the budget. Surely services must improve.' The fact is that I have a number of people back in my electorate, everyone from the ATSI Community Advisory Network, the Ingham Hospital Community Advisory Network, sporting groups, clubs and service groups in my area, who are asking the No. 1 question in the Hinchinbrook electorate right now: why was there not a budget allocation for a CT scanner for the Ingham Hospital? These people have fought long and hard for this, even before we talked about asking for dialysis units for the Ingham Hospital. These people are asking, 'If the minister in 2023 committed to the CT scanner, where is the money in the line item?' We would love the minister to explain that in the near future. Hospital staff at the Ingham Hospital are dealing with—

Mr Crandon interjected.

Mr DAMETTO: I will not take the interjection from the member for Coomera. The doctors, nurses and staff who work at the Ingham Hospital emergency department day in, day out have been asking about this for a long time now. We know that plans have been supported by the Townsville University Hospital board for an upgrade to the emergency ward. We have a fairly new hospital at Ingham, but the emergency ward was developed and designed at a stage where we did not have people coming in with acute mental health issues or problems associated with the drug ice. Scenarios play out all the time. You might have people who might have a laceration or snakebite being treated by a nurse or doctor, and then you have someone come in with an acute mental health issue turning the place upside down in the middle of treatment. We have to move those people out who need help to make sure we contain those people within the emergency ward because there is no way to make those people safe while they are having an episode.

We also did not see in this budget an increase to the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme. We would have loved to have seen that increase to align with the cost-of-living crisis we have right now. People in regional Queensland do not want to go to the hospital. They would love to go if they need to, but if they have to travel they do not want to be out of pocket. I think equitable health services are so important in this day and age, especially in regional Queensland and especially in places like Hinchinbrook.

I also want to acknowledge that there has been some incremental good work around crocodile management from the Department of Environment and Science. It might be hard for those opposite to hear the KAP talking about the government in a positive light in relation to crocodile management, but we do want to see more money spent on the removal of crocodiles from zoned areas to make sure that they are removed in a timely manner. We have also seen a number of line items saying there is going to be more money spent on securing Queensland's environmental viability moving forward, which means purchasing more national parks. More national parks in Queensland sounds great, except right now if you are the neighbour of a national park. We need more money spent on pest management. We need more money spent on those places so we can ensure that pigs, lantana, prickly acacia and all of those things are being managed and not spreading through neighbouring properties.

I know I am limited for time tonight but I will continue. I will go through some of the wins for the Hinchinbrook electorate. Under the previous education minister we were always looked after, and I am sure most electorates in Queensland can say they have been looked after by Education. It seems to be one portfolio where we get to celebrate some wins. I will take that head nod from the member.


In the Hinchinbrook electorate, we must be thankful for \$750,000 for minor maintenance projects. There are schools that deserve a special mention. The Murray River Upper State School is a small school—we love our small schools in Hinchinbrook. Principal Megan's school will be the recipient of \$492,000 for a brand new tennis court upgrade. You never know, you might have the new Pat Rafter coming out of the Murray River Upper State School. Adriana, the principal of Victoria Plantation State School, will be happy to hear that \$53,000 out of a total of \$439,000 will be spent on the playground upgrade in this budget. Sandra, the principal at Mount Fox State School, another small school that means a lot to us in Hinchinbrook, will be happy to see that \$420,000 is coming for a multipurpose court there.

There will be \$200,000 for school enhancements at Northern Beaches State High School. The principal, Thomas Frankling, will be happy. Lower Tully State School principal Cyndi will be happy about \$196,000 coming for a new playground. At Kennedy State School there will be \$145,000 for a new playground. Joanne, the principal there, will be very impressed.

Our small schools are being looked after, and so is Ingham State High School, one of our biggest schools. There is \$14,000 in this budget out of a total spend of \$124,000 for a tuckshop upgrade. Pam Chiesa, who makes the best mince buns in North Queensland, will be very impressed with the upgrade to the tuckshop there. Also, the principal of Toobanna State School will be happy about \$130,000 being spent on new playground equipment.

We acknowledge the money being spent on upgrades. Some \$158,000 will be spent at the Thuringowa Rugby League club. Norths will be happy to have a lights upgrade—they will be able to have night matches there. Also, for my retirees and some of the young golfers up at Cardwell, \$112,000 out of \$124,000 will be spent at the Cardwell Golf Club on a new irrigation project to ensure the greens stay green in the dry months.

I must say that TMR have delivered in some ways through the state government for flood mitigation projects at Gairloch and Dallachy Road. We are appreciative of the extra \$4 million to make up the shortfall so that project can go ahead. We need money spent in the Northern Beaches of Townsville. The upgrade at the Northern Beaches—Shaw Road, North Shore intersection, Bohle Plains and that whole section of Woolcock Street—needs money allocated. We know that options analysis is in process, but we need at least \$7 million for a business case or that project does not proceed. I commend the bills to the House.

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (12.03 am): You know what they say: nothing good happens after midnight. I will give it a crack and see how we go.

This is a budget that is good for your hip pocket. It is good for jobs and good for infrastructure. This budget is further proof that the Miles Labor government in Queensland is absolutely focused on delivering. There is always more we can do, and we will.

I will talk about sport in Gladstone in particular. I love my sport in Gladstone. I know that the \$200 FairPlay vouchers have gone down extremely well in my electorate. Kids will certainly benefit from that in the future. The Miles Labor government is committed to delivering infrastructure in our growing community of Gladstone, from funding for our schools to more support for those locals who need it most and to a major injection into job-creating industries. There are some investments in the budget that certainly deliver for my community.

I am glad to see that there is \$6 million in the budget to complete the feasibility work on a new desalination plant in Gladstone. This is a critically important project to help us to unlock the potential of the green hydrogen industry coming to Gladstone, and this builds on the commitment of the Labor government building the Fitzroy to Gladstone pipeline and, of course, Rookwood Weir near Rockhampton.

Gladstone's unmatched renewable network is receiving a major boost, with \$92 million allocated to CleanCo, our publicly owned energy generator, to progress renewables in the region and right across Central Queensland. Some \$33.9 million will go to progressing the Northern Land Expansion project at the Gladstone port to help release additional land at the port to assist with more developments coming through with energy and other industries.

There is also \$20 million in the 2024-25 budget for the construction of the Gladstone transmission training hub—a purpose-built training centre to support regional growth of the electricity network in the region and more training opportunities for locals to harness. Other initiatives that will have a big impact in the Gladstone region are \$16.3 million towards a \$30 million brand new industrial tech building at Gladstone State High plus \$10 million at Toolooa State High going towards new learning spaces and another \$90,000 for facilities across that school. Gladstone Central State School, the oldest school in Gladstone, will receive \$2 million towards the \$15 million new hall they are building. Some \$864,000 has been allocated to the housing and homeless hub in Gladstone, which is absolutely fantastic.

We also have funding to enhance school sports. Three sports clubs will receive funding for the upgrades they need: the BITS Saints AFL Club, \$350,000 for new change rooms; the Boyne Tannum Sharks soccer club, \$337,000; and, \$333,000 for Gladstone Amateur Basketball. There is more coming in that portfolio.

When it comes to manufacturing, this budget continues to deliver. We have created over 7,400 jobs in Queensland so far thanks to our manufacturing investment, and this budget will certainly help that number grow. The hugely successful Made in Queensland grant program continues. We have an extra \$20 million of new funding to continue this fantastic program in Queensland. Made in Queensland helps our manufacturers get to the next level by embracing new technologies, increasing productivity and improving their competitiveness. We have already funded 129 projects here in Queensland, and that will continue on.

Our manufacturing hubs here in Queensland have also been a huge success, and they will continue to receive extra funding. Last year I announced the new train manufacturing program under my portfolio. We are making trains here in Queensland again. We are building a once-in-a-generation pipeline of local supply opportunities, and small and medium-sized manufacturers are going to benefit as well. Let's not forget that the LNP let the trains go overseas, just like their Canberra mates did with the car industry. Those opposite are still playing small target, but manufacturers show what they are really about—offshoring, cutting and sacking. This budget has an extra \$20 million to restore the Rockhampton railyard. The member for Rockhampton will certainly be pleased with that. It is a huge opportunity for them.

When it comes to regional development, it is crystal clear that the Labor Party is for the regions. Those opposite are just pretending. They are a party of fake miners, fake nurses and fake dams. They promise all these dams and they deliver consultant reports, plans marked 'not for construction' and white noise across the board. More than \$1.1 billion of funding has been locked in to deliver water security right across Queensland in this budget. One of our most valuable resources is the Great Artesian Basin. It is an absolutely amazing source and we are going to invest \$32 million into that fantastic project.

There is plenty more to get on with in the region and in Queensland. We are funding \$195 million for the Cairns Water Security project. We have more funding in the Burdekin Falls Dam project. The Toowoomba to Warwick pipeline is locked in. The Fitzroy to Gladstone pipeline is locked in. There is more money out the door for the Mount Morgan pipeline, plus, of course, funding for planning and enabling works for the new Paradise Dam wall.

Mr Deputy Speaker, you have reviewed and approved my speech on the budget for incorporation. As such, I ask that the remainder of my speech be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*.

The speech read as follows—

We will always do what's right for Queensland and we will always put Queenslanders first.

We're putting our border communities first by creating Queensland's first Cross-Border Commissioner.

This new role will help tackle cross-border issues and work collaboratively with NSW on areas of shared interest, including service delivery, economic opportunities, policing and transport. Border communities asked for this and the Miles Government has listened and we have delivered.

Water security and services throughout the state have been reaffirmed as a priority for this government, with \$1.1 billion in funding locked in for crucial water projects.

The Budget has allocated \$200,000 to work collaboratively with the Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation (QYAC) to help the group manage water on Minjerribah (North Stradbroke) Island. This work supports the Minjerribah Futures project, a strategy to develop cultural and eco-tourism opportunities.

Mr Speaker, with this budget I am proud to say that the Queensland Government's outstanding track record on water infrastructure remains strong. We've invested \$5.8 billion in water infrastructure, creating 3,550 construction jobs.

Speaking of our track record, this financial year we've seen the completion of Rookwood Weir, the largest weir built in Australia since World War II. By every measure this project is a success. Completed in late 2023, the weir filled and spilled by December 2023. Earlier this year, it won the Premier's Award for Excellence for Planning and Infrastructure and received an 'excellent' rating by the Infrastructure Sustainability Council. The weir will have up to 86,000 megalitres of water available annually to Central Queensland for agriculture, urban and industrial use.

Looking forward, we are continuing our work on one of the state's most important projects, raising our largest dam, the Burdekin Falls Dam. More than \$500 million has been committed to improve and raise the dam by two metres, which will future-proof Queensland's largest dam by providing up to 150,000 megalitres of new water allocations, locking in water for agricultural irrigation, and supplementing urban use, while powering industries and jobs in north Queensland.

Not only that Mr Speaker, but the project will also provide more than 350 regional jobs during construction.

This year's budget also continues progress on the Paradise Dam Improvement Project, providing more than \$109 million for planning and enabling works to build a new wall that will meet dam safety standards and support the Bundaberg-Burnett region's economic growth, as part of the Queensland and Australian Government's existing \$1.2 billion commitment.

This work will deliver long-term water security for the Bundaberg region by restoring the dam's capacity and improving the dam's resilience against major and extreme weather events.

Mr Speaker, the Queensland Government is bringing water security to the Southern Downs, thanks to progress on the Toowoomba to Warwick pipeline. This \$300 million project has \$56 million allocated in this budget to support pre-construction works. The pipeline will carry water from Wivenhoe Dam to Toowoomba via existing water infrastructure and then deliver water to Warwick through a new 109-kilometre pipeline, providing a drought contingency supply for the Southern Downs and a permanent water supply to Toowoomba satellite communities of Cambooya, Greenmount, Nobby and Clifton. This project will deliver more than water security—creating 400 jobs for regional Queenslanders during construction.

Southern Downs Regional Council is also receiving \$2.97 million this year, part of the \$8.5 million over five years, for network monitoring to reduce losses and leaks in its water network. Around 9000 meters installed in Warwick, Allora, Yangan, Killarney, Dalveen, Leyburn, Wallangara and Pratten will deliver real time data on water volumes used and pipe flow rates, to help council pinpoint leaks and save water.

The Gladstone Area Water Board will spend over \$311 million for the construction of the Fitzroy to Gladstone Pipeline. This project has reached the half-way point, with more than 58 kilometres of pipeline laid. This almost \$1 billion project will ensure Central Queensland communities, industry and agriculture will have water security now and into the future. This project is creating 400 direct jobs during peak construction and more than 25 apprenticeships. It brings us more urban water security.

This department is committed to identifying every single drop that can be used for economic opportunity. The Queensland Government is providing \$2.8 million to continue development of the Hughenden Irrigation Project (HIPCO) while a review of the Gulf Water Plan and Regional Water Assessment are conducted in the region.

In addition to our Big Water Build projects, the following investments have also been confirmed:

- \$71 million for the Lake Macdonald dam improvement project
- \$87.5 million over three years for the Cairns Water Security Project; this is in addition to \$107.5 million commitment maximum.
- \$46.9 million over three years for a new water treatment plant for Ayr.
- \$7 million for Cloncurry's water supply through the Community Service Obligation
- And more than \$15 million as part of the \$26 million commitment for a water pipeline for the Lansdown eco-industrial precinct in Townsville

The Queensland Government is committed to making sure all Queenslanders have safe and reliable water and sewerage services no matter where they live.

The \$70 million Building our Regions program continues in its third year to deliver funding to projects in Round 6. This program helps local councils with costs associated with crucial maintenance and upgrades.

This year, \$26 million is being provided to the Rockhampton City Council to help with the cost of more than \$88 million for the Mount Morgan Pipeline, which will provide a permanent water supply from Gracemere to Mount Morgan. The pipeline is already more than one-third complete and designs for the new pump stations and reservoirs are nearing completion as well.

Mr Speaker, these projects are vital to help keep water flowing across regional Queensland, because no matter where they live Queenslanders can count on the Queensland Government to deliver on water projects needed across the state.

And more good news with this budget is that Queensland is still the place to be for manufacturing.

For the manufacturing sector, our programs will invest \$52 million this year for existing and new grant programs to boost the industry and ensure Queensland's good jobs and economic growth will continue into the future.

I want to also make mention of our Manufacturing Hubs and the incredible work they deliver. Our six Manufacturing Hubs are supporting businesses to adopt the machinery, technology and processes they need to advance their businesses.

Queensland's manufacturers will also benefit from the still ongoing \$7.1 million Manufacturing Energy Efficiency Grant Program (MEEG) and the \$10 million ReMade in Queensland Grant Program which is funding manufacturing and recyclers for projects using recycled materials for manufacturing.

The Advanced Robotics for Manufacturing (ARM) Hub has \$2.2 million to continue its vital work in leading edge robotics for manufacturers.

In case there was any doubt, this Budget and these priorities make it clear once again that there is no better place to be a manufacturer than Queensland.

Mr Speaker, I'm proud to stand behind this Budget and what it promises for regional Queensland—that's good jobs, better services and a great lifestyle today, and into the future.

Debate, on motion of Mr Butcher, adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. MC de BRENNI (Springwood—ALP) (Leader of the House) (12.09 am): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 12.09 am (Friday).

ATTENDANCE

Andrew, 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, Katter, Kelly, King A, King S, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Lauga, Leahy, Lister, Lui, MacMahon, Mander, Martin, McCallum, McDonald, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Mickelberg, Miles, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Mullen, Nicholls, Nightingale, O'Connor, O'Rourke, Pease, Perrett, Pitt, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Richards, Robinson, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Simpson, Skelton, Smith, Stevens, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Watts, Weir, Whiting, Zanow