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## FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

### Thursday, 26 June 2025

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## THURSDAY, 26 JUNE 2025

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The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

Mr Speaker (Hon. Pat Weir, Condamine) read prayers and took the chair.



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I acknowledge the Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people of this state and their elders past, present and emerging. I also acknowledge the former members of this parliament who have participated in and nourished the democratic institutions of this state. Finally, I acknowledge the people of this state, whether they have been born here or have chosen to make this state their home and whom we represent to make laws and conduct other business for the peace, welfare and good government of this state.

### SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

#### Absence of Member



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have received advice from the member for Ipswich that she will be absent from the House from 25 June to 27 June 2025 inclusive. The member's notification complies with standing order 263A.

### PRIVILEGE

#### Speaker's Ruling, Referral to Ethics Committee



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, in correspondence dated 8 May 2025 and received on 13 May 2025, the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services wrote to me alleging that the member for Bancroft deliberately misled the House on 1 May 2025. The matter relates to a statement made by the member during matters of public interest. Specifically, the member stated—

The biggest excuse they could land on for stopping the Redcliffe Hospital expansion is the scar tree. This is an urban myth being perpetrated with great glee by the LNP.

The minister argued that this statement was deliberately misleading because the issue of the scar tree was contained in the *Queensland Government Capacity Expansion Program Independent Review Report* and provided evidence that the member was aware of that report.

I sought further information from the member for Bancroft about the allegation made against him in accordance with standing order 269(5). The member submitted that the LNP were placing disproportionate emphasis on the scar tree as the reason for halting the Redcliffe Hospital expansion plan. He also notes that he sought to clarify his statement in the House on 22 May 2025 when he said—

The fact is that I believe—and I reference my last speech on this matter and clarify that I should have said 'I believe' I believe—that the LNP is using excuses to cover up their cuts.

The issue is what a member says, not what a member argues they meant to say. Standing order 269(4) requires that in considering whether such a matter should be referred to the Ethics Committee I should take account of the degree of importance of the matter which has been raised and whether an adequate apology or explanation has been made in respect of the matter.


I note that I offered the member for Bancroft the opportunity to make an apology in the House but no such apology has occurred; therefore, I have referred the matter for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee.

I wish to emphasise that my role is not to determine whether there has been a breach of privilege, but rather whether sufficient issues are in play to warrant the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee.

As the matter is now before the Ethics Committee, standing order 271 applies and the matter should not be referred to in proceedings in the Assembly.


### SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

**Mills, Ms R**


 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I advise of the departure of a long-time Parliamentary Service staff member. Roylene Mills works in the Committee Office as an assistant committee secretary and is retiring on 1 July 2025. She commenced at Parliament House on 11 October 1993 as a Hansard reporter. In December 1999 she was appointed as a research officer in the Parliamentary Library. In April 2003 Roylene moved to the education area and worked there for a number of years before moving to the Speaker's Office in 2015 for approximately three years. In October 2019 Roylene was appointed to her current position in the Committee Office. When Roylene retires, she will have completed approximately 32 years of service. I am sure you will all join me in thanking Roylene for her contribution to the Parliamentary Service and the Queensland parliament and wishing her all the very best for her retirement.

**Honourable members:** Hear, hear!

**Visitors to Public Gallery**

 **Mr SPEAKER:** I wish to advise members that we will be visited in the gallery this morning by students and teachers from St Ita's Catholic Primary School in the electorate of South Brisbane and Pullenvale State School in the electorate of Moggill.

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS****Budget**

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (9.36 am): This budget lays the foundation for a fresh start. It delivers what we said we would do. We promised to restore safety to Queensland communities. The 2025-26 budget funds the rollout of the Making Queensland Safer Laws alongside our early intervention and rehabilitation programs to help break the cycle of crime. We committed to put victims of crime first. This budget will also deliver a new Victims Advocate Service and 1,600 new police recruits will bolster the front line. We will provide police with the resources and the support they need to keep Queenslanders safe. We will invest in our courts to ensure justice is served.

This budget also delivers generational infrastructure for the future of the state. A record investment in road, rail and public transport infrastructure will help get Queenslanders home sooner. Our historic 80-20 funding deal for the Bruce Highway is locked in. Work is already underway on improvements. Investments in projects like the Wave, the Logan to Gold Coast faster rail, the Barron River Bridge, the Bribie Island Bridge and the Mooloolah River interchange are all critical to our state's future.

This budget also lays the foundation for affordable, reliable and sustainable energy. To keep Queenslanders' power stations running more reliably and put downward pressure on prices, we have established an Electricity Maintenance Guarantee. It will ensure our existing assets are properly maintained and operating efficiently, which is something Labor never did. Real funding will flow for CopperString, taking the government's commitment to \$2.4 billion.

This budget will also start implementing the 2032 Delivery Plan for the games, just as we promised.

Fifteen new schools, including two new primary schools and six new special schools, will help our kids catch up, keep up and stay in school.

Queensland's population is growing, and with that comes the need for more housing. We want more Queenslanders to have a place to call home. That is why our budget includes nation-leading support for home owners. We axed a Labor tax and removed stamp duty for first home buyers. We extended the First Home Owners' Grant, and this budget invests in a new Boost to Buy program to reduce the deposit gap and help get more Queenslanders into the property market. This budget also delivers a record investment in social and community homes. It is all part of our record spend on housing.

This budget lays the foundation for a fresh start and delivers a plan for Queensland's future.

**Budget**



**Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (9.38 am): The Crisafulli government's first budget lays the foundation for a fresh start for Queensland and slays Labor's decade-long scare campaign, and the state's industry and advocacy leaders know it too. The AMAQ president, Nick Yim, said 'the government recognises the urgent need to invest in our health system'. Infrastructure Partnerships Australia acknowledged 'the necessary clean-up of Queensland's hospital expansion mess'. The QMCA CEO, Andrew Chapman, said that our 'infrastructure commitment represents a strong signal of confidence'. Business Chamber Queensland said that the 'budget also included timely investments to relieve the economic impacts of community issues like housing and crime'. The Townsville Enterprise CEO said, 'The Government has clearly listened to the needs of North Queenslanders, committing to long-term projects that will drive growth and jobs across the North,' and she is right.

This year the budget includes a \$2.4 billion record investment in CopperString—real money to build the transmission line and real investment in the economic growth of our state, including our mineral- and renewable-rich north-west. It means real on-the-ground work in the upcoming financial year as work progresses to connect the Hughenden Hub to future renewable energy and wind projects in the Flinders shire to the National Electricity Market, pending approvals.

The budget also included investments in system-firming gas generators and smaller, more manageable pumped hydro projects, just as we promised we would do. We are investing \$479 million in 2025-26 into the development of the 400-megawatt Brigalow gas peaker at Kogan Creek. We are investing \$79 million to progress ongoing development of CleanCo's Mount Rawdon and Stanwell's Big T pumped hydro projects—both being progressed in partnership with the private sector.

As QIC progresses a proper commercial assessment of delivery options, we have allocated \$355 million towards early works on the Borumba pumped hydro project. The investment in gas and renewables projects was supported by investments in our coal-fired generators, with the Crisafulli government's Electricity Maintenance Guarantee increasing to \$1.6 billion to properly maintain our generation assets and put downward pressure on power prices. Our budget provides the fresh start Queenslanders voted for, and it shows that we are delivering for Queenslanders.

### Planning Laws; Housing Supply



**Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (9.41 am): I know honourable colleagues are all excited about the budget this week, as one ought to be, but there is another thing we all should be happy about. It was a momentous occasion last night when this parliament passed our new laws putting regional Queensland at the forefront of renewable energy projects in the state. It also sorted out the chaos and crisis of the Olympic and Paralympic Games that we saw under the former Labor government. I am so proud that we have a Treasurer who has delivered his wonderful budget, but I am equally excited with my bill that went through the parliament last night putting regional Queensland first—just as we promised we would do. We took it to the election and we said that regional Queensland would have a say in renewable energy projects, and we did it last night with the passage of our laws. Interestingly, the Labor Party ended up voting for our laws at the end of the debate. You would not believe it with the speeches they gave, but they ended up supporting and not dividing on our legislation at the end, including the Olympic and Paralympic Games—


**Mr Crisafulli** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Bar one—I take the interjection from the Premier. One member deliberately got kicked out so that she was not on paper for any of the votes last night. I am so proud that within eight months as a government we have set a framework for the 100-day review of the Olympic and Paralympic Games, we delivered our 2032 Delivery Plan and the Treasurer delivered a budget which puts money in the budget for the Olympic and Paralympic Games, and now we will get on and deliver it for 2032.

The final thing I want to say in relation to the bill that we passed last night—and it was a momentous occasion for this House—is that we have reset the planning partnership with local government. We are not going to play the blame game for local governments anymore in the state. They are our partner, and we will partner them and redo all of the regional plans in the next 3½ years in Queensland. That is why the legislation dealt with that last night. I want to thank the Local Government Association of Queensland and the local governments that have been supportive of us in this process. We have a housing crisis in Queensland and they are doing everything they can to help us get on with the job and deliver supply, supply, supply. This can only happen under a Crisafulli

government and only because of the budget we delivered this week and the momentous legislation we passed last night.

### Manufacturing


 **Hon. DR LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development) (9.43 am): This budget marks a turning point for Queensland manufacturing, especially in our regions. Labor's scare campaign around manufacturing is over. We are delivering the Queensland Train Manufacturing Program as promised. I am pleased to inform the House that the Crisafulli government is also delivering on our commitment to strengthen Queensland's manufacturing capability with a new Manufacturing Hub to be established in Toowoomba. This is a \$10 million investment that backs regional jobs, local businesses and the industries that underpin our economic future.

The establishment of a Manufacturing Hub in Toowoomba was a key election commitment and one that we are proud to deliver in our first budget, but we have gone a step further. Through strong fiscal management, we are also delivering a second new hub on the Sunshine Coast within the same funding envelope, further expanding Queensland's regional manufacturing footprint. Manufacturing hubs are proven drivers of regional growth. They help local manufacturers access advanced technologies, improve productivity and create the skilled jobs of tomorrow. These hubs will also connect businesses with vital networks and support workforce development.

The Crisafulli government is further supporting our manufacturing sector with \$79.1 million in this budget for targeted grants through our Transforming Queensland Manufacturing Program. This program will provide grants to small and medium-sized businesses to: create manufacturing jobs in Queensland; support pathways for Queensland manufacturers to export; enhance our state's manufacturing sovereignty; support manufacturers to adopt advanced manufacturing technology; encourage private investment; and drive supply chain development. This is about unlocking a new wave of future-focused manufacturing jobs right across Queensland—jobs that are skilled, technical and, more importantly, local. Manufacturing already contributes nearly \$27 billion to our economy each year and supports about 180,000 jobs. That number should grow, and under the Crisafulli government it will grow.

This budget sends a clear message. Queensland is open for business and we are serious about growing the industries that create long-term prosperity. The Crisafulli government is a government that delivers, and we are delivering a modern manufacturing sector that supports regional jobs and builds Queensland's future.

### Health Infrastructure

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (9.46 am): The Crisafulli LNP government's first budget is delivering a record \$18.5 billion investment in health infrastructure as part of our landmark Hospital Rescue Plan. We are truly investing in the foundations for a fresh start. I want to quote from the Queensland Major Contractors Association, which said—

This investment will strengthen health networks across the state and ensure infrastructure keeps pace with growing demand.

We are delivering on our commitment to build bigger and better hospitals on time and on budget. From Currumbin to the cape we will deliver more than 2,600 new beds for Queenslanders—critical beds for communities across the state that would never have been delivered under Labor.

We had to find \$5.592 billion of new funding to address the cost blowouts on major hospital projects under Labor's failed capacity expansion program. Adrian Dwyer, CEO of Infrastructure Partnerships Australia, rightfully said that this budget includes 'the necessary clean-up of Queensland's hospital expansion mess'. I will say that again: Queensland's hospital expansion mess.

The Hospital Rescue Plan is also delivering more funding for the regions and a focus on local procurement opportunities—local businesses and local builders being able to deliver. Our investment includes more than \$350 million in new funding towards Labor's false promises of new and upgraded health infrastructure in rural and remote Queensland—projects like the new Cow Bay Primary Health Centre that is currently being delivered but had no funding source until now.

We have also relaxed BPICs, the CFMEU tax, so that local contractors can be involved in projects and our construction sites will be more productive. We have seen the benefit of this already, with recent procurement activities like the Townsville University Hospital car park out to tender to local builders

employing local people delivering local outcomes. This is a major project that is underway that would never have been delivered this way under the Labor government.

The \$18½ billion spend also includes \$3.16 billion for the new Timely Investment Infrastructure Maintenance program to ensure our hospitals and health facilities are kept functional and safe. We have listened to the experts and the Auditor-General and have uplifted the allowance for capital maintenance for the first time since 2010. This includes \$2.6 billion of new funding because Labor left nothing for the future of this state. Our investment in this budget shows just how little Labor cared about delivering health infrastructure for Queenslanders.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Earlier this week, you made a very clear statement about the intent of ministerial statements. I submit to you that the health minister's language does not accord with your instructions around tempered language and he has been deliberately argumentative. I ask you to instruct him to remain within the confines of the time that has been allowed by this House for the provision of ministerial statements, appropriately.

**Mr SPEAKER:** When I made my statement, I asked for ministers to be relevant to the portfolio matters. The minister is providing context as to the budget and what the implications of the budget are on the portfolio, so I find he is being relevant.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** As I say, in conclusion in respect to our budget, our investment in this budget shows the direct contrast between how much we care about delivering healthcare services versus those opposite who did not care and did not fund it. Mr Dwyer from Infrastructure Australia described Labor's capital program as 'little more than a mirage of media releases', and when we went to put together the health budget, that is all we found. Mr Sangster said in terms of their projects, 'In each case continuing with the currently scoped and programmed projects is an exercise in futility.'

We are delivering our commitment to establish a world-class health system for Queenslanders no matter where they live. With this investment, we will be laying the foundations for hospitals throughout this state for now and well into the future.

### Water Security



**Hon. A LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers) (9.51 am): The Crisafulli government's first budget is a budget that delivers for all Queenslanders, particularly regional Queenslanders. It lays the foundations for a fresh start that we promised the people of Queensland, and it includes water security and affordability. It is a budget that delivers almost \$38 million for crucial water security projects right across the state. We are delivering on the Water for Warrill business case. We have commenced the Barlil and the Cooranga weirs, and we are investing in new and upgraded weirs on the Thomson River and practical projects that support communities and infrastructure.

We are investing more than \$41 million over five years to deliver vital upgrades to water and sewerage infrastructure in remote Torres Strait communities, and we are investing to deliver water supply improvements in infrastructure upgrades in the communities of Aurukun, Kowanyama and Woorabinda because all Queenslanders, no matter where they live, should have access to clean drinking water.


To support our farmers, the backbone of Queensland, we are investing \$51 million to deliver a 15 per cent discount on irrigation costs for eligible irrigators. It is about helping and building Queensland's primary production to a \$30 billion industry by 2030.

This is what industry groups are telling us. The CEO of the Queensland Farmers' Federation, Jo Sheppard said, 'The QFF welcomes the decision to extend the 15 per cent irrigator discount and appreciates the Crisafulli government, and in particular Minister Leahy, for their commitment to continue working with the QFF, our members and our Water and Energy Policy Committee to get this right for Queensland farmers.' Rachel Chambers, CEO of Queensland Fruit & Vegetable Growers, applauds the Crisafulli government's decision to extend the 15 per cent discount to eligible irrigators.

Where was the Labor Party when it came to water? It was the Labor Party who failed to deliver meaningful water infrastructure to the regions, even when they had a decade of being in government. It was the Labor Party who gave Queenslanders the most expensive water bills in the country. It was the Labor Party who knew about the Paradise Dam failure, yet they sat on their hands and they tore down a dam. They oversaw the blowouts in the billions and kept the figures hidden from taxpayers.

The Crisafulli government takes water security in our regions seriously and will be transparent with the costs. We are getting on with the job of safeguarding water supply for Queensland now and into the future.

### Customer Service

 **Hon. SJ MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (Minister for Customer Services and Open Data and Minister for Small and Family Business) (9.54 am): From the day we came to office, the Crisafulli government said we would deliver Australia's most customer service focused government, and now we have a dedicated customer service department to look after Queenslanders. Above all, it is a budget that supports our people-first framework. We will now go about building our capability to deliver nation-leading customer services in a calm and methodical manner and, in the process, we will end 10 years of Labor chaos and mismanagement. Under our plan, we are bringing together customer service agencies, upgrading digital equipment and delivering a dedicated and properly resourced complaints clearing house. Let's unpack some of our customer service initiatives.

As I announced earlier this month, from 1 July the customer services arm of TMR will transfer to the Customer Services portfolio. We are bringing together some key customer service functions, whether that is face-to-face, over the phone or online.


Speaking of online, the budget also provides a Queensland-first \$1 billion Government Digital Fund, established to better coordinate whole-of-government investment in ICT systems across the public sector. By working in a coordinated manner, we will support our public servants with the tools and systems they need to better serve and support Queenslanders. We will end Labor's piecemeal, short-term approach. That is Labor's legacy when it comes to delivering and upgrading digital systems over the past decade. It sounds sensible, but it is another first for Queensland.

This is a budget that delivers our customers with long overdue reform to the feedback and complaints process. While this is another first for Queenslanders, it should not have been. Those opposite received the recommendation almost three years ago to the day. It was called the Coaldrake report. Rather than let the sunshine in, they chose to hide in the shadows. They failed their customers. Professor Coaldrake identified 'a system difficult for users to navigate' and 'agencies "palming off" difficult or unwanted matters to another agency'. He made recommendations which Labor ignored. It is obvious why Queensland customers had had enough of Labor.

I am pleased to announce that this budget delivers a dedicated and properly resourced complaints clearing house. A team of five staff will manage the Complaints Clearing House, providing a single point of contact to lodge complaints with Queensland government agencies and departments and triaging complaints to departments. The Complaints Clearing House team will provide support and oversight to departments to investigate and respond to Queenslanders, working across all areas of government to implement a consistent management process. This is a complaints clearing house properly resourced and supported by technology to deliver for all Queenslanders. Under the new management model, departments will be held accountable to standardised timeframes to respond and acknowledge complaints within three days, and to provide an interim or final response to complaints within 30 days.

As Queensland's first Minister for Customer Services, my department will drive the Crisafulli government's customer service transformation. As can be seen from the budget that was handed down a couple of days ago, on this side of the House we are committed to tackling some of those longstanding frustrations experienced by customers: red tape, multiple phone calls, forms or websites, jargon-rich communication and siloed services. Now we will deliver a proper complaints handling process. The Crisafulli government is committed to our customers and now we have a budget that allows us to deliver.

### Primary Industries

 **Hon. AJ PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (Minister for Primary Industries) (9.58 am): The Crisafulli government has been supporting and delivering for primary industries, and Tuesday's budget continues that delivery. My department's budget of \$817.2 million—an increase of \$100 million from last year—demonstrates our strong commitment to Queensland's primary industries and the regional and rural industries they underpin.

We are protecting Queenslanders from biosecurity threats and safeguarding our primary industries through a \$60.9 million commitment. It is to deliver our promised 100 new biosecurity officers within this term of government.

On Tuesday I met with the three new biosecurity leads who will lead biosecurity teams in their regions and work with local governments and industry. We are currently recruiting for more positions. The budget has made the funding available for these biosecurity officers. Queensland Farmers' Federation CEO, Jo Sheppard, welcomes our investment in biosecurity saying—

With biosecurity risks expected to quadruple in the coming years, it is essential that Queensland's frontline biosecurity capability is strengthened today to anticipate, identify and respond to those threats. Colin Fruk, the CEO of Greenlife Industry Queensland said—

Minister Perrett and the Crisafulli government have put their money where their mouths are, backing in a strong biosecurity plan and strengthening the systems that protect our nursery and horticultural industries.

Fire ants are a serious threat. We are giving the eradication program the sound governance it deserves. We are listening to and implementing recommendations made by independent reviews which Labor ignored. Reece Pianta of the Invasive Species Council welcomes our commitment saying, 'The eradication efforts are working'. We have committed an additional \$24 million over two years to the Fire Ant Suppression Taskforce. It delivers aerial suppression activities to significantly reduce fire ant densities across affected areas. This funding is in addition to our eradication funding. Reece Pianta went onto say—

This is important leadership and action from Premier Crisafulli and Agricultural Minister Perrett ... They have understood that current levels of suppression funding have been woefully inadequate ... and shows the new Queensland government is listening and has clearly prioritised the fire ant threat.

**Ms Boyd** interjected.

**Mr PERRETT:** Thank you to the member for Pine Rivers for backing in what her husband is saying. We are helping primary producers to prepare for the future.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! I cannot hear the minister.

**Mr PERRETT:** They are excited, Mr Speaker, by the work that we are doing. Reece Pianta is a great supporter of fire ant work that we are doing.

We are helping primary producers to prepare for the future. We have committed \$4.5 million over two years for a bigger and better Beef2027. The commitment acknowledges the importance of our largest agricultural commodity. We are continuing to deliver our long-term plan for growing the prosperity of primary industries. This includes the development of the 25-year blueprint Primary Industries Prosper 2050. This blueprint is a critical component that will help deliver our ambitious target to grow the primary industry sector value to \$30 billion by 2030.

We have committed \$30 million through the Sowing the Seeds of Farming Innovation Fund to support the development of new technology and innovation. This \$51.9 million commitment over four years will support important programs like the Farm Business Resilience Program, the Regional Drought Resilience Planning program and Drought Preparedness Grants. This is about building resilience and preparation.

Last year Labor gave industry unfunded programs or programs where funding would cease at the end of the month. A \$200 million timber plan, which was announced two weeks after last year's budget, was unfunded and not budgeted for. We will deliver the Queensland Future Timber Plan. Funding was scheduled to cease for workforce programs where the department worked closely with organisations like the Queensland Farmers' Federation and Queensland Fruit & Vegetable Growers. We saved this program. We have been delivering for Queensland primary industries. The budget continues this delivery.

## Tourism



**Hon. AC POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation) (10.03 am): The tourism sector is alive and thriving in Queensland. The Crisafulli government's first budget commits more than \$1 billion over four years to tourism. This is a landmark investment in an industry that drives jobs and growth right across the state. Unlike those opposite, the Crisafulli government recognises tourism as the economic powerhouse it is. The Crisafulli government has restored Labor's cuts because we are serious about working hand in hand with the industry. That is why we are investing \$446 million in new funding to kickstart the delivery of Destination 2045, our bold 20-year vision for Queensland tourism. We have committed \$200 million in new funding for connecting Queensland and product development and \$100 million for the state's first ever dedicated mega events attraction fund.

Let me tell you what the industry thinks of the Crisafulli government's first budget. Townsville Enterprise CEO Claudia Brumme-Smith said, 'It's clear the government recognises tourism as a serious economic driver.' She thanked the government for the additional funding for aviation attraction, new product development and the \$4.9 million commitment to the Palm Island tourism master plan, which she then described as 'a game changing opportunity for our tourism sector and the community of Palm Island'. Claudia, I thank you for your continued advocacy. I assure you the Crisafulli government will continue delivering a fresh start for North Queensland. The CEO of the Queensland Tourism Industry Council, Natassia Wheeler, stated—

This year's State Budget brings investment to several areas that industry has consistently identified as critical—workforce capability, regional access, product development and experience-led growth.

...

The vision for 2045 has now been matched with funding that allows us to move forward.

...

The sector benefits from consistent engagement between government and industry, and we acknowledge the progress reflected in this Budget.

Mark Olsen, the Chief Executive Officer of Tourism Tropical North Queensland said—

To increase the spend for tourism from \$640 million to \$1 billion over four years is a big lift and it presents a significant opportunity for Tropical North Queensland aligned to the 2045 strategy around ecotourism, aviation and events including business events. The additional funding for regional tourism organisations is also welcome and is something that we have been calling on for a decade.

It is clear from the budget papers and from industry that the Crisafulli government backs operators and industry.

There is more. I am pleased to advise the House on a new daily service for Virgin Australia flying direct between Doha and Brisbane with the support from the Crisafulli government. Last week, the first Virgin Australia flight from Doha landed at Brisbane Airport. Operated in partnership with Qatar Airways, this route gives international tourists direct access to Queensland from one of the world's biggest global hubs offering one-stop connections from more than 180 destinations across Europe, the Middle East, Africa and beyond. The route is set to bring in up to 129,000 inbound seats annually and to inject more than \$90 million in visitor expenditure. This demonstrates our government's new 20-year tourism plan—Destination 2045—in action, building strong global connections, growing sustainable visitation and ensuring Queensland tourism thrives in the lead-up to the 2032 games and beyond. In partnership with airport corporations, we are making our state the most accessible and attractive destination in the country. More direct flights means more visitors, more tourism dollars and more jobs for locals. These new flights show what is possible when a government and industry work together. We are sending a clear message: Queensland is open, connected and ready to welcome the world.

I said at the start of my statement that tourism is alive and thriving in Queensland and I meant it. This week our government is celebrating a new milestone, setting a new record for international visitor expenditure at \$6.3 billion in the year ending March 2025. New data published this week by Tourism Research Australia shows international holiday visitors spend a record \$3.1 billion, surpassing pre-COVID levels for the very first time. Visitors from New Zealand, the United Kingdom, the United States, India, France and Indonesia led the charge, all spending a record amount while they holiday in Queensland. Queensland's regional drawcards have played a strong role in boosting international visitor spending, with the Gold Coast leading that large to boost their expenditure by 16.7 per cent over the year to \$1.3 billion. Tropical North Queensland was a runner-up at 10.08 billion, followed by the southern Great Barrier Reef, the Whitsundays, Queensland country and the Fraser Coast. This is despite the tough weather events which have impacted the sector right across the state.

I give full credit and appreciation to the mum and dads who show up every day, demonstrate their resilience and continue to showcase their part of the world through their small and family businesses. Tourism is thriving right across the state because of these operators. Queenslanders voted for a fresh start, and that is exactly what we are doing for Queensland's tourism sector.

### Star Casino




**Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (10.08 am): I rise to provide an update in relation to the Star Entertainment Group. Yesterday, the shareholders of the Star voted unanimously in favour of strategic investments from US

casino operator Bally's and Investment Holdings. The acceptance of the deal by the Star shareholders means Bally's and Investment Holdings will take a majority stake in the casino operator.

I am advised by the Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation that the appropriate probity checks are currently underway before representatives of the companies take their seats at the board of the Star. The deal will provide the Star with additional funds to help keep its doors open while it navigates a challenging financial and operating environment, noting there is a judgement pending in relation to civil proceedings launched by Austrac. It is important for the public to have confidence in the Star and we expect the Star to continue to make progress on its remediation during this time.


The Crisafulli government has made it clear to all parties involved that our focus remains on the workforce and the workers at the Star and on ensuring relevant parties are suitable to be associated with the ownership, management or control of a casino in Queensland. Our first priority remains with the workers and keeping the doors of the Brisbane and Gold Coast properties open.

## ABSENCE OF MINISTER

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (10.10 am): I advise that the Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training will be absent for today's sitting due to illness. I advise that the Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership will answer questions for the minister in question time.

## HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE

### Reporting Date

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (10.10 am), by leave, without notice:

I move—

That the date for the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee to report on the inquiry into improving Queensland's container refund scheme be extended from 21 August 2025 to 2 October 2025.


Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

**Mr SPEAKER:** Question time will expire at 11.11 am.

### Government Branding

 **Mr MILES** (10.11 am): My question is to the Treasurer. The Premier told Peter Fegan on 4BC, 'There is no logo change; we're simply changing our email signatures.' I table a document titled 'Changes to Queensland government branding from maroon to blue including microphones, bunting and website branding'. Has the Premier misled 4BC listeners?

*Tabled paper:* Bundle of photographs depicting government branding.

**Mr JANETZKI:** Today of all days when this House awaits the budget reply speech from the Leader of the Opposition that is the question he leads with.

**Mr Crisafulli:** Not up to it.

**Mr JANETZKI:** The Leader of the Opposition is just not up to it. He is just not up to it.

**Mr Miles:** The Premier lied. You don't think that.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition, I am going to ask you to withdraw that unparliamentary language.

**Mr MILES:** I withdraw, Mr Speaker.

**Mr JANETZKI:** The Leader of the Opposition is preoccupied with the colour of the cover of the budget papers. On this side of the House we are focused on the numbers inside the budget papers that include living standards for Queenslanders. That is what we are focused on.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The props can be put away, thank you.

**Mr JANETZKI:** While the Leader of the Opposition is preoccupied with the cover—

**Mr Crisafulli:** The colour palette.

**Mr JANETZKI:**—and the colour palette of the budget papers, Queenslanders want their government to be focused on the big issues that matter—

**Mr Crisafulli:** Of all the issues—youth crime, health, housing.

**Mr JANETZKI:**—housing, crime, cost-of-living and health. That is what the people of Queensland want their politicians to be focused on.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** We are halfway through the week. We have two big days to go. Everybody just take a breath.

**Mr JANETZKI:** It is an embarrassment. That is an embarrassing question. I do not think I have seen a more embarrassing question in a budget week ever. It is not just a question. It could have been No. 12 or No. 10 or something, but that was the first question. That was literally the first question the Leader of the Opposition asked in the minutes before the budget reply speech.

**Mr Crisafulli:** Look at their heads.

**Mr JANETZKI:** Look at all the heads. That is the first question the Leader of the Opposition asked—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** This is the third time I have had to rise to my feet in the first question. Treasurer, I will ask you to come to the question that was asked and address it because thus far you have not. I would ask you to touch on the question in the minute you have remaining.

**Mr JANETZKI:** The question was so daft I cannot even remember it, Mr Speaker. It is embarrassing. The Leader of the Opposition has an hour. He starts at about 11.15 am, so he has an hour. The Leader of the Opposition has an hour to come up with a decent line of questioning.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr JANETZKI:** What is the plan? Is he going to spend the hour of his budget reply speech talking about colours? Is that the plan? I think that after everything we have laid on the table regarding their legacy that we inherited, it will not be a budget reply speech; it should be an apology speech to the people of Queensland.

### Government Branding

**Ms ENOCH:** My question is to the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships. I table a copy of a Queensland government directive in reference to email signatures which states, 'Departments are no longer permitted to add additional departmental branding elements such as the First Nations acknowledgement with our Together artwork.' Did the minister or the government consult with First Nations communities before this directive was issued?

*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, regarding Coat of Arms and email signature templates.

**Mr SPEAKER:** It was a lengthy question, but I will go to the minister.

**Ms SIMPSON:** I acknowledge the question from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partnerships shadow minister. This comes at a time when we have just brought down a budget which addresses issues such as clean drinking water supplies in some of our most rural and remote communities—

**Ms Farmer** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Bulimba.

**Ms SIMPSON:**—when we are addressing housing where sometimes up to 14 people are living in a house who need a roof over their head; when we are working on solutions to give the dignity of safe housing—

**Ms Farmer** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Bulimba.

**Ms SIMPSON:** We are also delivering an opportunity for our First Peoples to own their own home on islands such as Palm Island. They wanted this; they responded to the consultation we engaged in that they want a roof over their head and one they can own. We have communities in this state that are on boiled water alerts which that mob opposite knew about but did nothing about. I cannot find anything

in the *Hansard* where my opposite number even mentioned clean drinking water in our most rural and remote communities, some of whom have been on boiled water alerts and that government did nothing. So what are they worried about? Email signatures and branding! They are so out of touch. When we have a real gap in opportunity and disadvantage in this state they want to talk about branding.

**Ms Farmer** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Bulimba, you are now warned under the standing orders.

**Ms SIMPSON:** They want to talk about colours. They want to talk about things that do not actually relate to the frontline services that make a difference.

We are delivering in our budget. Rather than having a tap turned on for the lawyers, we want to have taps turned on for clean drinking water for the people who need it. Those people were the most out of sight, out of mind people under Labor, who ignored them.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The question was about whether consultation occurred.

**Ms SIMPSON:** I will talk about consultation.

**Mr SPEAKER:** There was a point of order regarding the question. You have 52 seconds to finish your response to the question as asked.

**Ms SIMPSON:** I have been consulting with the communities of Palm Island about the fact they want to have the dignity of owning their own home. I have been consulting with communities such as Kowanyama. We held a meeting of mayors together with the cabinet where they were indicating that there is more than just a gap; there is a hole in regard to frontline services. These were the issues they were raising with us.

**Mrs Gerber** interjected.

**Ms SIMPSON:** Nobody brought up signature blocks; nobody brought up colour branding. The issues that they were raising with us related to issues where the previous government just was not listening. There is not a gap but rather a hole, because it did not listen to the areas of significant need. I see my opposite number laughing. Those people are not laughing. They want clean water and they want a house, and we are helping to deliver it.

## Budget

**Ms JAMES:** My question is to the Premier and Minister for Veterans. Can the Premier update the House on how the LNP Crisafulli government's first budget delivers long-term certainty for Queenslanders, and is the Premier aware of any approaches that fail to deliver for Queenslanders?

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I thank the member for Barron River for asking about addressing the challenges, and there are many. I talk about youth crime, health, housing and cost of living—the things that Queenslanders are demanding change for—as well as the largest infrastructure pipeline ever in our state's history, and we are determined to make sure that we do those things that we promised the people of Queensland. The budget also confirms an investment in the public sector workforce in this state. Let us look at the contrast of what would have happened if change did not occur in terms of the early childhood regulating authority—19 positions unfunded in the body that goes into our early childhood centres to keep kids safe, yet they were not funded. I refer to the environment and tourism department—125 jobs with a funding pipeline that was going from \$160 million to \$7 million. I refer to the victim liaison service in the middle of a youth crime crisis with 18 jobs unfunded, but that has changed because of this budget. I refer to the corporate graduate program, and I am pleased to announce today that there will be 100 positions for the next generation of our best leaders. Wouldn't it be amazing one day to see a future director-general of Premiers and Cabinet come through that graduation pipeline? That is a pipeline to success—not going to a political party and getting a former state secretary but rather getting somebody who comes through and makes sure they can lead the change.

This budget puts Labor's scare campaigns to bed and today the opposition comes in and its big attack point is the colour of the budget papers. I ask: how is this document that I am holding up offensive? How is this offensive, because this is from last year's budget?

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I look at the foreword from the former premier. There are—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Premier—

**Mr CRISAFULLI:**—some things in this document—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** Mr Speaker—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Stop the clock.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:**—there are some things in this document which are—

**Mr SPEAKER:** I should be counting how many times I have gotten to my feet this morning. You have 36 seconds left, Premier, to round out your answer.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** There was a health crisis in Queensland that left Queenslanders feeling blue—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Premier—

**Mr CRISAFULLI:**—but it was not the colour of Labor's document.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Premier!

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** Mr Speaker—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:**—my message to the Leader of the Opposition is do better. Do some research. The Leader of the Opposition needs to get up earlier, he needs to work a little harder and he needs to do a little research—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Premier!

**Mr CRISAFULLI:**—because if he forgot that the colour of his document last year was blue—

**Opposition members:** Props!

**Mr SPEAKER:** Once again—

**Mr CRISAFULLI:**—then the Leader of the Opposition is miles out of his depth and the Leader of the Opposition has his priorities all wrong.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! I will remind everybody in the House about the use of props.

### Queensland Treasury

**Mr MILES:** My question is to the Treasurer. On Tuesday the Treasurer announced a cap on non-frontline senior executives. Why on Wednesday did Queensland Treasury start advertising for a newly created position paying \$400,000 a year?

**Mr JANETZKI:** So the Leader of the Opposition has stepped it up now. We are not so much worried about the colours anymore. He has given up on that. I think the Premier has taken care of the Labor blue in its health workforce strategy from last year.

**A government member** interjected.

**Mr JANETZKI:** You stole my punchline! It is good to know that the Leader of the Opposition is busy on Seek. He is out there looking. It is probably going to be Christmas, but it is good for him to get an early run on looking for employment opportunities. Yes, yes—the Leader of the Opposition has got me: yes, we are capping non-frontline SES numbers as at the end of May for the next four years to 2028. He has got me, because we want to make sure that we are empowering the Public Service, that we are getting the most from it and we are going to be investing into it with thousands of new staff—more than 4½ thousand health workers and 1,600 coppers. We are investing into the Public Service across the forwards because we believe in it. We believe in it because we listened to the Coaldrake review and we are investing into the Public Service in Queensland.

We know what Coaldrake said about the Public Service in Queensland—that there was a gutting of capability, that there was an over-reliance on consultants. We know that those opposite used to be shouting and screaming at members of the Public Service. We respect the Public Service and we are investing into the front line with nurses, teachers and fires. We are absolutely committed to investing into them—absolutely committed.

I want to take just a little moment to thank the hardworking Treasury staff who prepared the budget, working weekends, late nights and doing the work that was necessary to support us in the delivery of the first Crisafulli government budget. The hard work of the Treasury shows that it is a

remarkable bunch of high-performing professionals who go above and beyond to give Queensland the service they need in delivering this budget. Yes, we are investing in the Public Service. We want more for it because we need a high-performing Public Service to deliver more and better services in the pursuit of a better Queensland, and we will not resile from that. We are going to keep investing in the Public Service and backing it in. Those opposite can criticise the Public Service.

**Ms Boyd** interjected.

**Mr JANETZKI:** We know their pedigree. We know their history. It is writ large in Coaldrake. We will be delivering a better future for the Queensland Public Service.

*(Time expired)*

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Pine Rivers, you made a comment that I have taken as disrespecting the chair. I am going to ask you to withdraw that comment.

**Ms BOYD:** I withdraw, Mr Speaker.

### Budget

**Mr G KELLY:** My question is to the Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership. Will the Treasurer outline to the House how the Crisafulli LNP government's first budget is delivering for Queensland, and is the Treasurer aware of any scare campaigns to the contrary?

**Mr JANETZKI:** Great question. I thank the member for Mirani for the question and I thank him for his service to this parliament. The budget has laid the scare campaigns of those opposite to rest. I am going to come back to that, but we set three clear marks for our budget: we said that we would fund the jobs and services across the line agencies that would have otherwise been lost under those opposite; we said that we would lay the foundation for long-term budget repair—both of those things we have done; and we said that we would provide targeted and responsible cost-of-living support for Queenslanders who need it most, and that is what this budget has delivered. We have honoured our election commitments. We have done those three things and we are doing exactly as we promised—exactly as we promised—and that is the hallmark of this budget.

If you think about those opposite and the scare campaigns that they have run for so long, they are gone, they are dead, it is over. You know it is over when the best they have starting question time today is to ask about the colour of the budget papers. Literally! I said during question time yesterday that I had never seen a more confused response to the budget than what I saw from those opposite on Tuesday evening. But it is getting worse.

The Premier has made clear our absolute commitment to our three promises and we are going to be delivering on them. That scare campaign those opposite sought to wage for so long, we have slayed it now. I think about what they said about their FairPlay vouchers. They were ending next week. We funded them in the forwards. They did not fund specialist homelessness services—we have. They did not fund Springfield Mater Hospital in the budget—we have. They did not fund the Crisafulli government's permanent 50-cent fares in the budget—we have. They did not fund victim support payments in their budget—we have. They were letting child safety fall off a cliff: a \$461 million black hole in this financial year. We funded it and invested more. Their scare campaign is over. What should happen in one hour's time is the Leader of the Opposition should not get up and give a budget reply speech, he should get up and apologise to Queenslanders.

*(Time expired)*

### Waste Levy

**Mr BUTCHER:** My question is to the Minister for the Environment. Yesterday I talked to the Rockhampton mayor who raised concerns about the LNP's new bin tax—

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** We will hear the question in silence. I will ask the member to start the question again.

**Mr BUTCHER:** Thank you for your protection, Mr Speaker. My question is to the Minister for the Environment. Yesterday I talked to the Rockhampton mayor who raised concerns about the LNP's bin tax. How much in a cost-of-living crisis will average Queenslanders and councils be slugged to make up for the LNP reducing advanced payments?

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! The question was to the Minister for the Environment. Let us allow the minister to answer it.

**Mr POWELL:** I thank the member for Gladstone for the question and I welcome him back to the chamber. It is great to have him turn up for work today. Welcome back. Good to have you here. As the *Courier-Mail* pointed out today, you have got one job and it is to be here.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! I just gave advice about props.

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Attorney-General, it is the Minister for the Environment who has the call.

**Mr POWELL:** While I am on the fact that the member is back in the chamber today doing the one job that the *Courier-Mail* believes he should be doing, I do want to point out that the member for Cairns, while he was also having a bit of a holiday from this place yesterday—

**Mr Langbroek:** He was working from home!

**Mr POWELL:** I take that interjection from the member for Surfers Paradise: the member for Cairns was working from home yesterday. When asked about it his response was, 'It doesn't matter how I vote, the government have the numbers.' He said it should 'happen more'. We can expect to see the member for Cairns working from home a bit more often.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member, as I heard the question it was around a bin tax.

**Mr POWELL:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I was coming to the question from the shadow police minister talking about the waste levy. I have a lot of time for the mayor of Rockhampton. I have met him on a number of occasions. We have had some very good discussions around a range of matters, including Labor's waste levy. Let me point out when the bin tax was implemented. It was implemented by those opposite in 2019. To the mayor of Rockhampton, the payments he is receiving were baked into the legislation itself in 2019. Since 2019 Rockhampton City Council has received nearly \$17 million to assist them in diverting waste from landfill and not having to pay the levy. That includes nearly \$4 million in advance payments in the coming financial year and the one after it, member for Gladstone. I will tell you the difference between those opposite and this side: we are actually going to work with councils, which is why we have announced \$130 million to assist them to divert waste from landfill because when you divert it from landfill you do not pay Labor's waste tax.

### Infrastructure

**Mrs YOUNG:** My question is to the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations. Can the Deputy Premier inform the House of how the Crisafulli LNP government's first budget invests in the biggest infrastructure pipeline in Queensland's history and is he aware of any alternative approaches that would have failed to deliver essential infrastructure?

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I thank the honourable member for the question and congratulate her not only as the local member but also as the assistant minister and the great work she is doing as my assistant minister across the state. To the answer the honourable member's question, yes, this Crisafulli government budget is a record investment in infrastructure, the biggest we have seen in Queensland history—in fact, over \$116 billion in infrastructure in the next four years. Add onto that the three years after that to 2032 and great things are coming for Queensland, many opportunities and job opportunities, in particular for the construction industry.

How does it compare to Labor's scare campaign and Labor's infrastructure budget? Theirs was an unfunded \$107 billion, ours is \$116 billion in black and white in the blue budget. I take the interjections from the Premier earlier: it was in their blue budget, but theirs was unfunded. To see the Labor government's priorities today—the colour of the budget—shows how desperate this opposition is getting. In under an hour's time the opposition leader has a chance to tell Queenslanders how he is going to fund his unfunded promises. Remember Steve's servos? How is he going to fund it? Is he going to re-announce it today? Remember Miles' mouldy Sunday sangers? Remember those mouldy sandwiches he was going to give every kid in school? How is he going to fund that today? How is he going to fund state-owned energy assets? Maybe he is going to buy all the power stations and take over the power grid. What a commie. The answer he owes to Queenslanders in his budget reply speech today is how much more tax will Queenslanders pay for his unfunded promises. We know the Deputy

Leader of the Opposition wanted to reintroduce the GP tax—the patients tax. Remember when Palaszczuk iced it and said, ‘No, it is on hold.’? He said, ‘For now.’ Look at him laughing. He absolutely wants the patients tax back. You have to show up. We see the shadows have finally shown up. Look at what John Mickel, a former Labor member, said—

I have an old-fashioned view that when the parliament is sitting, the executive is held to account, and they are held to account in the first instance in question time.

...

It is a better look if they’re all there, challenging the government.

Good on John Mickel. He understands this place. He understands the role of the opposition. It is a failure of leadership from former premier Miles and he has to show us today what taxes Labor are going to increase to fund his unfunded promises.

*(Time expired)*

### **Mackay, Road Infrastructure**

**Mr McCALLUM:** My question is to the Treasurer. Yesterday as shadow minister I visited Mackay where media reports indicate there is no allocated funding for the promised \$20 million Mackay—

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! I have said before we will hear the question in silence. Member for Bundamba, I missed most of that so could you please start your question again.

**Mr McCALLUM:** Happy to, Mr Speaker, thank you. My question is to the Treasurer. Yesterday as shadow minister I visited Mackay where media reports indicate there is no allocated funding for the promised \$20 million Mackay-‘Bucassa’ Road upgrade. Why is this funding not allocated in the budget?

**Mr JANETZKI:** First of all, it is pronounced ‘Bucasia’. Come on, do some work. Do some research.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The noise coming from my right every time a minister rises to respond to a question is way out of order. I ask that you show a little more courtesy to the member on their feet.

**Mr JANETZKI:** Perhaps the honourable member can head back up north, once the budget sitting is over, and try to get a better crack at understanding how to pronounce that. I remind those opposite of our record investment. It is in the budget. I remind those opposite of the commitment into capital projects that we saw outlined in the budget delivered on Tuesday. We have seen record investment. The Deputy Premier has just referred to the \$116 billion investment in our capital expenditure budget. That is a record. Transport and Main Roads has \$41.7 billion of that, which comprises 42 per cent of the entire capital expenditure investment that this government is making. We are investing in roads, rail and bridges and we have put that into the budget. That road is no different; the investment is in the budget. We are making those investments.

Those opposite really need to be doing the work, not just to learn how to pronounce the names of the roads that they are seeking to prosecute but also to read deeply into the budget papers. No longer do they have a coterie of advisers and hangers-on to help them. They have to do the work themselves now. They have to hustle harder. They have to put in the time. They have to work harder. They have to go through the budget papers. It is in the budget. I would expect that those opposite would look at budget papers Nos 2, 3 and 4. Even if they did not want to listen to my speech, Budget Paper No. 1, I would expect they would work through the other budget papers. You would think that they would have looked at QTRIP. The Minister for Transport and Main Roads has done a lot of work on QTRIP. If they had done the work and gone through the papers, they would know that it is on page 89.

### **Budget, Health System**

**Mr CRANDON:** My question is to the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. Will the minister detail how the Crisafulli LNP government’s first budget is delivering health services across Queensland and is the minister aware of any scare campaigns that attempted to convince Queenslanders otherwise?

**Mr NICHOLLS:** I thank the honourable member for the question. I know he has 21 years past experience in financial planning. Unlike those opposite, he does know how to read a budget and he knows where the dollars are. That makes a good start. He is a financial planner with lots of experience

and the members of his electorate are very lucky to have him. He has been advocating for them for a long time. We are lucky to have him on our cost-of-living and economics committee.

The member asked me about our first budget and our investment. After 10 years of Labor, the number of Queenslanders waiting for elective surgery in our hospital system has doubled since 2015, from 35,000 to over 66,000. That is Labor's record. This budget invests \$1.752 billion in Surgery Connect over the next four years to provide life-changing surgery for Queenslanders so that they can have surgery closer to home and get home faster. It builds on our first investment of \$100 million, which has seen more than 10,000 Queenslanders enrolled for surgery in the first six months of this year. That has led to the biggest reduction in the elective surgery waitlist since 2015. In April, we reduced it by more than 2½ thousand. Our record investment in Surgery Connect continues that.

I am asked about any possible scare campaigns. I have to inform the House that there have been a few. Let us start with the former minister for health who, before the election, said that we would be cutting Surgery Connect, but we have increased our investment to it. Queenslanders saw through the cheap political tricks of those opposite as we have put more than \$1.75 billion into Surgery Connect. That was a shameful scare campaign.

We started this session of parliament with claims about transfer initiative nurses. Those transfer nurses who are employed remain employed. Seventy of them are employed and funded through this budget together with an extra 4½ thousand nurses. That was another shameful scare campaign. They claimed perinatal mental health beds would not be funded. Two members have had to apologise for misleading the House, the Leader of the Opposition and the shadow minister for health. That was another shameful scare campaign. Today in his budget reply speech, the Leader of the Opposition should be apologising to Queenslanders and telling them what he is going to do to fix their health services.

### **Townsville, Health System**

**Mr J KELLY:** My question is to the Treasurer. Yesterday, I visited Townsville where frontline workers are concerned about the health care in their community.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Once again, we will hear the question in silence. Member for Greenslopes, please start your question again.

**Mr J KELLY:** My question is to the Treasurer. Yesterday, I visited Townsville where frontline workers are concerned about health care in their community. Can the Treasurer advise exactly how many of the 2,600 hospital beds will actually be delivered by 2028, including in Townsville?

**Dr ROWAN:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. This matter really relates to the health minister's portfolio. I seek your guidance on whether it is better directed to the health minister.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Yesterday we had an issue where a question regarding health went to the Treasurer. Obviously, the Treasurer distributes the money. Treasurer, if you are happy to answer the question then please do so.

**Mr JANETZKI:** I am very happy to answer it, Mr Speaker. It gives me a few more minutes to talk about the contrast between the decade of deceit of those opposite and a real budget. I thank the honourable member for the question, and I honour his services as a health worker in Queensland. Yesterday the member for Greenslopes stood in front of a road in Townsville that we are already funding. It was great for the member for Greenslopes to profile the great work of the Crisafulli government on the ground in Townsville. I am very appreciative of that.

**A government member** interjected.

**Mr JANETZKI:** How much? It is on page 95 as well, member for Greenslopes. I am very thankful that the member for Greenslopes stood in front of a road that we are already funding for the great people of the north. It is on page 95 of QTRIP.

We know the mess that those opposite left their hospital expansion capacity program in. In 2022, it was going to cost \$9 billion. We know that it has doubled. They could never properly scope a project. They could never properly cost a project. They could never properly deliver a project. There is no greater example of this than the hospital expansion capacity program.

The health minister has gone and done the work in a way that those opposite never would have. When all those projects were blowing out in scope, time and cost, the former health minister was sitting

around the CBRC. That is where the former health minister was, and volumes 1 and 2 of Labor's hospital failures, which is being held by the health minister, show that.

The health minister has now done the work. He has done the work and we have invested a record \$18½ billion into the Hospital Rescue Plan across the state to deliver those 2,600 beds in Queensland. In Townsville, the health minister has been doing the work. He has conducted the necessary review, which has outlined to us what we need to do. People are entitled to a world-class health system, no matter where they live. We are committed to healing the health crisis and providing those health services wherever and whenever Queenslanders need them.

In the north they need more beds and a health service that works, and we will be delivering 160 new beds under the Hospital Rescue Plan. That is what we will be delivering, as the health minister continues his work. That is 22 more beds than what those opposite ever promised. On this side of the House, though, we will properly scope, properly cost and properly deliver the health services Queenslanders deserve.

### Education

**Mrs KIRKLAND:** My question is to the Minister for Education and the Arts. Will the minister explain how the Crisafulli LNP government's first budget is backing in Queensland's education system, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches or scare campaigns?

**Mr LANGBROEK:** I thank the honourable member for the question. Her voice is suffering this week, as are the voices of many of our colleagues. Some would suggest it is husky and quite wonderful, but I would be the last to suggest that, struck down as I am by the lurgy.

I say to the Assistant Minister for Central Queensland: this budget is delivering in spades and providing the foundation for a fresh start in education throughout Queensland. No better example of that is in Central Queensland itself. We have announced that three of the 15 new schools that will be delivered will be in Rockhampton—a high school in Gracemere, a health academy and, of course, a school related to my colleague the Minister for Youth Justice's portfolio. They will also assist the member for Keppel and the member for Mirani because that region is important to this government.

We have had significant scare campaigns from those opposite not just in the lead-up to this budget but over the last year. In September 2024 the then education minister, the member for Bulimba, asked what the then prospective premier's plans would be for addressing behavioural issues in classrooms and was he going to ask for federal funding. That was seven weeks before the election. As I have said on numerous occasions in this House, the first announcement we made was about behavioural issues. We introduced the \$44 million Behaviour Boost initiative and a nation-leading \$33 million anti-bullying plan and made a commitment to reduce red tape by 25 per cent for our teachers.

We have also signed the largest federal funding deal. Over a year ago—in February 2024—the member for Bulimba accused the prospective government of planning to cut funding and close schools. Not only are we not closing schools; we are delivering 15 new schools. I could go on about the scare campaign, but they have not learned that their scare campaign is over.

I bring to the House's attention what Labor's scare campaign was around TAFE. Those opposite claimed that the Crisafulli government was going to cut fee-free TAFE. However, we are investing: \$10 million for free apprenticeships for under-25s, making trade training more accessible and affordable; \$78 million for a new TAFE Centre of Excellence in Caloundra; \$13.6 million to expand the Great Barrier Reef International Marine College; \$61.1 million for the new Rockhampton TAFE excellence precinct; and \$60 million for a new TAFE Centre of Excellence in Moreton Bay. We will have three new TAFEs, which will be a vast investment to expand vocational education and training. It is time for those opposite to swallow their words. It is time for the opposition leader to put up or shut up in about 15 minutes.

### The Savannahlander

**Mr KNUTH:** My question without notice is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. The Savannahlander is regarded as one of the top 24 train journeys in the world; however, part of the line from Cairns to Mareeba and Einasleigh to Forsyth remains closed due to the lack of urgency to fix damaged bridges and track. Will the minister urgently approve funding to immediately fix the line and get the *Savannahlander* back to full operation?

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I thank the member for Hill for his question, and I acknowledge his service with Queensland Rail. In fact, the member worked for Queensland Rail for the entire time I was in school. I think I was two years old when the member started in Queensland Rail, so he knows full well how important rail is to regional and rural communities and the challenges of maintaining some of our rail infrastructure in locations such as the gulf.

As the member would be aware, but other members may not, the Tablelands system is comprised of two separate corridors that run from Cairns to Forsyth and Kuranda and from Normanton through to Croydon. The Kuranda Scenic Rail and the *Gulflander* services on that line are operated by Queensland Rail. There is also a private service, the *Savannahlander*, which the honourable member referred to in his question.

The *Savannahlander* is an important economic driver for the gulf and the savannah. I understand how important it is to communities like Forsyth. I too have spent nights at Cobbold Gorge. I understand what it means to those communities to have tourists come in and spend vital dollars. I am advised that that particular line was damaged, as the member referred to in his question, by extensive natural disaster events over the last three years—by flooding associated with ex-tropical cyclones and by a significant bushfire event last year. The advice that I have received is that repairing that damage, which was not addressed by the former government, will cost approximately \$152 million. I am further advised that to adequately maintain that line over the longer term, over the next 10 years, will cost up to \$300 million—a considerable commitment in order to operate that line.

The *Savannahlander* is currently operating, as the member is no doubt aware, albeit with bus services around the damaged sections. I would also point out that Queensland Rail do not operate any services on that particular section of the line. Queensland Rail currently provide \$4½ million a year to help support the maintenance of that line to keep the private operation running. We will continue to do that.

In the budget this year there is \$15.3 billion for investment in rail across Queensland. That is a considerable commitment that recognises the importance of rail. Queensland Rail and the Queensland government are committed to working with the operator of the *Savannahlander*. It is not an easy issue to solve because of the funds required to address it, but we do recognise its importance to the community and we will continue to work with both the operator and the broader community to try to solve this problem in the near term.

### Manufacturing

**Mr BAROUNIS:** My question is to the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development. Can the minister share how the Crisafulli LNP government's first budget will back manufacturing jobs in places like Maryborough, and is the minister aware of any scare campaigns?

**Mr LAST:** I acknowledge the member for Maryborough for that question and his fierce advocacy on behalf of his community particularly when it comes to jobs in the manufacturing space. We talk about the Queensland Train Manufacturing Program and the jobs that that program is delivering for that community. Under those opposite, that program was plagued by delays and budget overruns and put in jeopardy the delivery of the trains for Cross River Rail. We have pulled it back on track. There are 1,300 construction jobs at Torbanlea while that facility is constructed. We have heard from the member for Bundaberg and the member for Woodridge the scaremongering, the fear and the lies.

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

**Mr LAST:** I withdraw. We have now progressed and I am pleased to be able to table these two documents where QTMP is advertising for jobs at that facility.

*Tabled paper:* Documents, undated, titled 'Queensland Train Manufacturing Program: Come work at QTMP!'.

Those jobs will come online later this year. Interviews will be taking place later this year—200 blue-collar jobs and 100 white-collar jobs at Torbanlea; jobs that the member for Maryborough has been fighting and advocating for. I also acknowledge that we have up to over 136 local businesses in that community that are now involved in that project, creating jobs, creating employment opportunities, in that community.

The member for Maryborough is not going to rest on his laurels because he wants more. I have no doubt that he will deliver more because that is what he is about. He believes in his community, he is passionate about his community and he will continue to advocate for those jobs in the Maryborough community. I want to acknowledge that here today.

We talked about fearmongering from those opposite. To add to the comments of my colleague the education minister when it comes to TAFE, we have six manufacturing hubs across Queensland linked in with our TAFEs. That is why this budget includes \$201.1 million for new TAFE centres of excellence, including \$40 million this financial year to train the tradies of tomorrow from electricians and carpenters to chefs, welders and mechanics who will help build the infrastructure that we need in Queensland not only now but going forward for the Olympics in 2032. It underlies our commitment to delivering the jobs and the training that Queensland needs. We will continue to deliver going forward.

### **Bundaberg Police Station**

**Mr SMITH:** My question is to the Treasurer. Bundaberg locals are angry that the Crisafulli LNP budget has removed the \$20 million line item for the new Bundaberg Police Station. Will the Treasurer explain why this critical project for my community has disappeared from the Capital Statement in the middle of the Crisafulli crime crisis?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Once again, the Treasurer is in charge of the finances in terms of the specifics. The question would probably go to the police minister but, Treasurer, if you are happy to answer that—

**Dr ROWAN:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I believe there was an imputation in the question as well. In relation to your ruling, I would still submit to you that this question is best directed to the police minister.

**Mr SMITH:** I am happy to rephrase.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I would like to submit an alternative view. The Treasurer tabled the budget papers during his speech which referred to these matters. The question is specifically about the contents of those papers.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. There was an imputation directly addressed at a member's surname in this House. There are many rulings where former Speaker Pitt ruled questions out of order based on imputations. There is a deliberate political strategy from those opposite. I am sorry, but I would submit to you, Mr Speaker, that reframing a question should not be afforded to long-serving members. They should be ruled out of order, as former Speaker Pitt ruled questions out of order when we were in opposition.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Deputy Premier, I will make the ruling. You will not instruct me on how to make a ruling. I am going to ask the member to rephrase the question without any imputations.

**Mr SMITH:** My question is to the Treasurer. Bundaberg locals are angry that the budget has removed the \$20 million line item for the new Bundaberg Police Station upgrades. Will the minister explain why this critical project for my community has disappeared from the Capital Statement?

**Mr JANETZKI:** I thank the honourable member for Bundaberg, who was busy working from home yesterday. It is great that he is here today.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. In November, you issued a very clear statement to this House in respect of the absence of members presumably because it is so commonplace. It happens every day. It happens in every parliament.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr de BRENNI:** It is so commonplace that your ruling said that you would not allow reference to the absence of a member and that you intended to enforce that. I submit to you that those opposite should abide by your ruling.

**Dr ROWAN:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. In addressing the issues raised by the Manager of Opposition Business, I refer to the censure motion yesterday which was passed by this House which reflected the displeasure of the House with respect to what occurred yesterday. The Treasurer was referencing that. Therefore, I would submit that he is being responsive.

**Mr SPEAKER:** My ruling on this is that yesterday absence was the subject of a censure motion. It has been widely reported across all media outlets. Treasurer, you have the call.

**Mr JANETZKI:** It is commonly done once every 150 years! The Bundaberg Police Station is in the forward planning and there is \$5.5 million in the budget for a police station at Bargara.

I am going to take my remaining two minutes and 20 seconds to reflect on what is to come. This is the final question that they have asked this morning before the Leader of the Opposition's budget reply speech. We have seen their scare campaign fall apart. It is over. It has ended. For years now we

have seen their attempts to scare the people of Queensland. All of the promises they made before the election have fallen over. Now it is up to them to explain how they will fund all of their new promises—all of their new initiatives they are talking about, all of the things that they make up on the fly. The moment is here for the opposition leader to lay out his plan. How will they raise tens of billions of dollars more for Pioneer-Burdekin, for their cost-of-living relief measures—

**Mr Smith** interjected.

**Mr Purdie** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Bundaberg and member for Ninderry, stop quarrelling.

**Mr JANETZKI:**—for their school sliced lunches, for their state owned general practitioners, for their new state owned energy retailer, for their new state owned servo stations. How will they pay for it?

There is only one way they can pay for it—by my back-of-the-envelope calculation it is more than \$50 billion and counting, day after day—and we are about to find out. They have to make a choice. What will their choice be? It is a test of leadership for the Leader of the Opposition. We know what they will do. They have a secret tax plan. What is on the table? Stamp duty? Land tax? Will they seek to tax unrealised gains on the family home? Is that really what they want to do? We know that the member for Woodridge is next door to the federal Treasurer, but the hour is upon us. They should not give a budget reply speech; they should simply give an apology for their decade in government.

### Housing Supply

**Mr WATTS:** My question is to the Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth. Can the minister inform how the LNP Crisafulli government's first budget is allowing more Queenslanders to find a place to call home, and is the minister aware of any campaigns that attempt to generate fear?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister, you have one minute to respond.

**Mr O'CONNOR:** Our housing budget included the biggest ever investment in social and community housing in our state's history—the first ever ongoing baseline funding to get those homes out of the ground. It is in stark contrast to the record of those opposite. The first thing the Leader of the Opposition should say in his budget reply speech is that he is sorry—sorry to the 52,031 vulnerable Queenslanders who are on the social housing waitlist, an 81 per cent increase over their decade in power; sorry to those having to deal with skyrocketing rents from the chaotic system those opposite presided over for the last decade; sorry that they were too busy focusing on delivering headlines, not housing; sorry that they built an average of only 509 social and community homes a year, barely a third of our population growth. This speech should be an apology to Queenslanders, not a budget reply.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The period for question time has expired.


## APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

### APPROPRIATION BILL

### REVENUE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL


Appropriation (Parliament) Bill resumed from 24 June (see p. 1860), Appropriation Bill resumed from 24 June (see p. 1872) and Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill resumed from 24 June (see p. 1873).

### Second Reading (Cognate Debate)

 **Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (11.11 am): I move—

That the bills be now read a second time.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Before I go to the opposition leader, I wish to advise the House that television pool cameras will remain in the chamber following question time to film the budget reply speech.

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.12 am): I rise to speak to the 2025-26 Queensland state budget, the first delivered by the Crisafulli LNP government. It is a blue

budget of broken promises from a government of broken promises. Members might have expected me to say that this budget is all bad, but it is not. There is a lot in this budget we agree with. That is because everything good in this budget was a Labor plan—some of it watered down or delayed but not a single new initiative that will make a positive difference to Queenslanders. It is just a Temu version of what we had planned. Labor's 50-cent fares were our signature transport policy. Help to Buy is a Labor initiative. All of the capital program is Labor's, just less of it and delivered later. Health checks for kids is Labor policy. FairPlay vouchers was ours, too. We welcome all of those things.

I have heard some describe this budget as a boring budget, but it is anything but. It is a bad budget, defined by what is missing, cut, delayed or pushed off into the never-never. The most obvious thing missing is cost-of-living relief for every Queenslander. Before the election, the member for Broadwater said that he would deliver cost-of-living relief for as long as there remained a cost-of-living crisis. In this budget the government is telling Queenslanders that the cost-of-living crisis is over—that is the only way to interpret what they have done here—but that is not the experience of Queenslanders. When I talk to them they tell me that it is far from over, that their costs have continued to rise.

Unfortunately for the LNP, you cannot just say something and make it be true; you have to back it in with real action—like I did when I had the chance. When I did, the now Premier said that he agreed with all of it. 'We agreed that energy bill relief was needed—not just needed; it was critical,' he said. The now Premier even said at the time that if Labor's budget did not deliver real cost-of-living relief then the LNP's budget would. That is a pretty fair dinkum endorsement, I would say. Of course, last year's budget was the biggest ever cost-of-living budget in Queensland's history. It was a budget specifically targeted at lowering household bills and fighting inflation. How did we do it? We made sure Queenslanders got their fair share.

There is nothing fair about this budget. Treasurer Janetzki has been forced to lay out Premier Crisafulli's plans, and it is a budget full of broken promises. He is the Premier of broken promises. The Premier said that he would lead a government built on openness and transparency. He said that he would lead a government that delivers projects on time and on budget. The first budget was the Crisafulli LNP government's opportunity to ease the pressure on families. It was their opportunity to deliver for workers and their families and invest more in jobs for Queenslanders. It was their opportunity to provide certainty for the industries of the future that will help transform our state. Instead, we saw the ignorance of this new government on full display as the challenges that everyday Queenslanders face go by the wayside.

Let me walk Queenslanders through this budget—what it says, what it hides and what this means for the future of our state. Queensland is a rich state—rich in culture, in history, in spirit. We are a state rich in resources and in opportunity, a place where aspirations can be realised—aspirations not just for LNP mates and donors but for everyone. Globally, these are times of change and times of uncertainty. Nations around the world are moving forward at a rapid rate, reading the room and maintaining pace with development with drive and with investment. Queensland has that opportunity—so much opportunity. We have what the world wants—not just the coal and critical minerals but the skills, smarts and people too. Queensland is in demand, but it is clear that this government has no interest in driving that demand. The LNP has no interest in lending a helping hand or doing what matters for young people, students, families, workers or vulnerable people. It is a great shame.

This budget is not even worth the blue glossy paper it is printed on, because it does nothing to help with the here and now; nor does it set out our state's vision. Good governments address the problems of the day while delivering a vision for the future. This government has chosen to do neither of those things.

Queenslanders want a government that listens, that acts and that delivers, no matter where they live. Whether it is here in the south-east or as far north as the cape, what matters most remains the same: a fair go, reliable services and a secure future. A fair chance to realise your aspirations: I do not think that is asking the world. These are not abstract ideas never heard before. It is pretty simple: it all boils down to opportunity. Queenslanders are not being unrealistic when they say they want opportunity—for themselves, for their kids. Good governments deliver that opportunity and create it.

When families cannot put food on the table or pay their electricity bill, when kids go to school hungry and when workers are left behind, good governments step up and do more. When the world is searching for new ways to power, to innovate and to create, good governments step up and do more. Labor has always understood the assignment. We stand up, we do more and we put people first. Whether that is building hospitals, schools, houses or supporting good, local jobs, even investing in research, new ideas and new industries, Labor shows up, we listen, and we stay true to our values.

We bleed maroon because that is our state, our colour, yet this government has, without consultation or explanation, tried to 'bluewash' our identity. While the Premier has labelled this a 'silly little game', I do not think it is silly at all; neither do Queenslanders. Maroon has always been, and will always be, quintessentially Queensland. Our Maroons will soon line up to fight for our state in a decider. Meanwhile, the member for Bluewater—I mean, Broadwater—is painting the town blue. I wish it was a joke. Sadly, this is the reality now. Our state identity and logo appearing on TV screens, letterheads, billboards and budget documents will now so closely align with LNP branding that you would easily get the two confused. Earlier this week the Premier said the rebrand was just a few signature blocks, but today we have already seen new bunting, microphones, booklets and websites dripping in his favourite colour.

Which makes you wonder: did the new colour pallet go to a focus group for testing, and was that paid for by LNP headquarters or Queensland taxpayers? Was the new branding template part of the secret polling the Premier is hiding from Queenslanders? More than half a million dollars was spent on polling with three different agencies, and to date we have not seen a single page of it. I mean, why do we have a government so focused on its own survival rather than on what Queenslanders are experiencing in their lives? This government's focus is on how it can get secret polling to save itself from facing its date with destiny. Those are not my words: those are the Premier's words at a time when releasing polling suited his political narrative. Now we live in a post-truth world where there is one set of rules for everyone else and another for this Crisafulli government. It speaks to what we can expect from this government; that is, a whole lot of double standards, tricky and downright dodgy decision-making.

At our core, Labor is the party of jobs. We are proud to be founded in the union movement and to be a party that is built by workers, for workers. For us, creating secure, safe, well-paid jobs is what drives us. That is why it is our proud Labor achievement to have added more than 650,000 jobs over our time in government. The unemployed rate fell from the 6.6 per cent we inherited from the Newman LNP government to just 3.7 per cent. That was the lowest year average unemployment rate since ABS began recording monthly data. Debt was lower. In fact, net debt was almost half that of the \$11 billion in the Newman LNP government's last budget.

We introduced progressive coal royalties to capture windfall profits from multinational coal companies. Those profits—Queensland profits—delivered vital cost-of-living relief to Queenslanders. In contrast, the LNP have made excuses. At the midyear update the Treasurer forecast that gross debt would hit \$218 billion. This was well above the \$171 billion projected by the LNP's own election costings. MYFER included \$23 billion in operating expenditure that ministers could not explain. It was clear that the LNP cooked those books, and rating agencies agreed it was more politics than proper accounting. That stunt put our state's credit rating at risk and cost Queenslanders more in interest.

This week we see that borrowings will now reach \$205.7 billion, so not only has the Treasurer broken his promise to deliver lower debt once; he has broken it twice. S&P Global warn that the risk to our state's credit rating remains elevated because of this LNP government. That downgrade could happen at any moment on this Treasurer's watch. A fact is a fact: debt is higher under the Crisafulli LNP government than was projected in October, and that is a broken promise.

In just seven months this government has broken just about every promise they made to Queenslanders. This government was elected on the back of promises made to Queenslanders—promises they have not even tried to honour—more than 30 broken promises. That is more than one a week. The LNP's broken promises are too great to list here in the time I have to contribute to this debate, but you can read them all on our new broken promise tracker website. I will be updating that list to hold this government and this Premier to account so they cannot sweep these broken promises under the rug. There are some pretty big ones already. Let me explain.

The Premier promised Queenslanders that their energy bills would be lower, but in fact they will be \$77 higher in the south-east and even more in the regions. He promised energy bill rebates, but most households will get none. The Premier promised to deliver 2,200 new hospital beds by 2028. Instead, they have torn up that plan, with Queenslanders left to wait to find out the timeline for their hospital to get upgraded—the government's future health capital program pushed off into the never-never. In the meantime, workers have been laid off and waiting lists have exploded. He promised debt would be lower; instead, it will be higher. He promised to deliver the Olympics within the \$7.1 billion envelope; now we expect it to be billions more. He promised trains to Maroochydore, but all the people of the Sunshine Coast will get is a bus, and there is not a single dollar more in the budget for it than what was already committed by Labor. He promised that road projects would be delivered on time and on budget, but he failed to mention that would be because the majority of their timing and costs would

be kept secret from Queenslanders. He promised to govern with integrity, but that was undermined by the LNP's decision to appoint hand-picked LNP director-general John Sosso to the Redistribution Commission. This commission is one of the most important post Fitzgerald duties that can be undertaken to ensure our electoral boundaries remain unquestionably fair.

He promised that he believed climate change was real and that he would reduce Queensland's emissions. Instead, the LNP have reverted to the climate change culture wars, cancelling billions of dollars in private sector funded renewables projects with ideological zealotry. He promised to deliver more homes for Queenslanders and reduce the number of people waiting for social housing; instead, the LNP is cancelling housing projects and there are more people on the waiting list quarter on quarter. Their plan to reduce the waiting list is not about getting more people into houses; it is about kicking more people out of them. That might help to fudge the figures, but it will not solve our state's housing crisis. Their housing plan is reminiscent of the Newman LNP government era. Who could forget his signature promise to fix crime by Christmas last year? While his ministers desperately cling to cherry-picked data to claim supposed green shoots, Queenslanders know the truth: overall, crime has gotten worse under this government. Queenslanders were promised they would feel safe where they live, but that is not the experience of people I speak to.

Just two days ago, as the Treasurer delivered his budget speech, he committed to capping the number of public servants who were not on the front line, capping the number of senior executives, of corporate fat cats. Yet we understand barely 12 hours later the Treasurer's own department was advertising multiple such high-paying jobs—one even paying more than \$400,000. This government cannot even stick to the promises they have made this week, let alone those they made during their time in opposition. It would be quicker for me to list the promises they have kept than the promises they have broken—so many broken promises, so much disappointment.

The biggest broken promise of them all was the promise there would be no cuts or delays. How gullible does the Premier think Queenslanders are? How fickle does he believe us to be? The Premier said there would be no cuts to health. He repeated that again and again and again in places like Rockhampton, Mackay, Bundaberg, Brisbane and the Gold Coast, even in this very House. Yet hiding behind the phrase 'record health budget' is a question mark over what will be delivered and when. Instead of an open and transparent analysis of what health projects will be delivered, the budget simply promises a total bed number, but Queenslanders want to know when.

Budget Paper 3 outlines a pipeline of capital expenditure for Queensland Health for the three new hospitals and 10 expanded hospitals. Under Labor, Queenslanders would have received three new hospitals at Coomera, Bundaberg and Toowoomba, a new cancer centre in Brisbane and 11 expanded hospitals. Now we do not know when Queenslanders will get a dedicated cancer centre and 114 new hospital beds at Robina on the Gold Coast have been cancelled. All we get is no explanation, no breakdown per facility and, critically, no timing for funding.

While we will continue to unpack the true depths of cuts made in this budget, what is of growing concern is the sharp drop in employee expenses in this budget. Somehow, since delivering their budget update in January, the LNP have discovered that employee expenses will be lower than they thought, \$2.5 billion lower from 2026 to 2028—first, \$669 million in 2026-27 and then a massive \$1.8 billion in 2027-28. It raises the question of whether the Premier can possibly deliver the frontline staff numbers he promised Queenslanders. It certainly casts doubt on whether frontline workers will be delivered the nation-leading wages they were promised.

This Premier has not valued the workers who serve our state. Well, I value them. I know how hard they work and how well they do their jobs. For that commitment to Queensland and to Queenslanders to be so devalued by this Premier is appalling. Outside of the Public Service, our community-based organisations have also copped a thumping in this budget, and we know that they are too scared to voice their concerns and opinions in fear of retribution by an ideologically bent LNP government.

Then we turn to one of the biggest budgets and arguably one of the most important—transport and main roads. That is something any person who drives, catches a bus, rides a bike or hops on the train should care about. The Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program is supposed to be the government's big, congestion-busting plan for building new roads and new rail and upgrading our major transport infrastructure. It is where details of every road project—from the roundabout around the corner to the big Bruce Highway builds—are broken down line by line, at least that is what we have traditionally seen since its inception 15 years ago. Every year it lays out how these road, rail, active

transport and marine projects will be funded and delivered, how much each region and council area will receive. Now the details of how that will all be delivered are scant at best.

The Crisafulli LNP government have also outlined their new contracting model. What it really means is that, instead of outlining the real cost of an infrastructure project up-front, the actual funding arrangement is hidden. Why is that a problem? It means Queenslanders cannot tell how much is really being spent and it makes it easier to hide cost overruns on big builds across the state. Last week the transport minister admitted that projects would be delayed—pushed out beyond the forwards. That statement jogged my memory, with a flashback to 2020 when then shadow treasurer, David Janetzki, said—

I don't want to see projects put into the Never Never. I want to see them delivered now. It's our state's hour of need.

Pushing projects into the never-never is exactly what has happened. Apparently, we do not need: the Cairns western alternative, that congestion-busting solution for the Cairns region; the Albion train station upgrade in the electorate of Clayfield; the Coominya Connection Road timber bridge replacement in Nanango; the Townsville western access rail corridor that cuts through the electorates of Townsville and Mundingburra to connect the growing Townsville port; or the Lansdown Eco-Industrial Precinct road and rail upgrades through North Queensland. That is just a taste of the delays lurking in this year's QTRIP; it is just a selection of the projects that have been pushed out and off the books.

The *Gold Coast Bulletin* has reported today that millions in critical road funding for the region have vanished. The transport minister at his own press conference admitted that not a single transport project within the transport plan is coming in on budget. Instead of being honest about that, the minister has found a creative way to hide it. Take the Bribie Island bridge, for example. This is a project that was valued at \$700 million by the LNP during the election, supposedly costed down to the dollar. QTRIP instead says it could maybe be between \$250 million or \$1 billion. If the Crisafulli LNP government have tried to build trust here, they have failed spectacularly, because how can we really see what is going on without clear, honest reporting?

When the funding profiles are like this, it becomes much easier for the government to hide budget blowouts or delays. That means Queenslanders do not get the full picture on how their money is being spent, or as the LNP say respected. This is not about saving money; it is about saving face. It may make their budget look better now but what is the real cost in the long run?

The transport minister must today release the real line-by-line breakdown of the Crisafulli LNP government's transport plan. It is simply not good enough that, for the first time, Queenslanders are in the dark through a sham QTRIP document. Not even Campbell Newman and Scott Emerson so brazenly tried to hide from the truth like this LNP government is doing. The promise made at the election was to deliver projects on time and on budget. That is much easier to do where there are no time frames and no budgets for so many of the projects listed. This government has attempted to pull the wool over our eyes but the real result will be every one of us spending longer sitting in traffic, taking longer to get to and from work.

My Labor team has continued to elevate our concerns with the integrity of this government. I have said this before: for the LNP integrity is just a slogan, but for me it is a standard. It is a line we will not let this government cross—not without a fight. The people of Queensland are not fools; they can smell a stitch-up, and that is exactly what this is—a bad budget—but here is the thing. You can only get away with this if people stop paying attention. Well, we are paying attention and we will not let this go.

Integrity in government is not a catchphrase; it is a commitment. We have seen this government hide behind panels, not release reports, not release cabinet documents, sack people that do not agree with them, and this week we learned that this budget is shonky. We all had to sit through a budget speech filled with more waffle than an American diner. It was more of a train wreck than the Treasurer's big energy speech. It was worse than his very occasional press conferences. He declined to use the pulpit of his budget speech to outline any vision for our state. Instead, he spent his time talking about Labor. It was extraordinary. The Treasurer's speech mentioned Labor 12 times. How many times did he talk about the cost of living or jobs? It is like they have no interest in delivering for our state when times are tough.

But the problem for them and for Queenslanders is the LNP is the government now. The LNP cannot keep blaming us for their broken promises. These are the decisions they are making, decisions that prove to Queenslanders that their word means nothing at all. This is the line in the sand for the LNP, an end to the blame game, because from Tuesday, the decisions of this LNP government are exactly that—their decisions, theirs to own. Behind their slick slogans and press conferences lies the same LNP values Queenslanders saw the last time when they cut and sacked and sold off our assets.

We have already seen the signs: the politicised reviews, the unexplained delays, the secret polling. I suspect they will quietly dismantle all that is good about our state to feed their ideological agenda. This budget lays the foundation. They will not say it out loud, but their actions so far speak volumes.

Queenslanders did not vote for secrecy. Queenslanders did not vote for cuts or delays. They trusted this LNP government would be different. Instead we are seeing more of the same, if not worse.

The Treasurer and this LNP government have been trying to paint this budget as pretty boring, but it is not just boring, it is downright bad because it does nothing for you. By and large, I think Queensland households see themselves as pretty normal households. You often have a family of four or five with working parents. We try to convince the kids to catch a 50-cent train to school, only for them to ask us to drive them instead. Weekends are spent running between the footy field, the netball courts and the cricket pitch—at least that is what it is like at my house.

You have always kept an eye on the bank account, but in recent years there is less and less left at the end of the pay fortnight, and over time disposable income is now being chewed up by a high grocery bill, mortgage repayments or rent. You might even find yourself unable to pay off the credit card at the end of the month. Those are the kinds of stories I hear everywhere I go around the state talking with people. Of course, some of us are fortunate to be a bit better off than the average household. Just as many people though are less fortunate, and more Queenslanders than ever are experiencing poverty, housing stress or homelessness. It is regular Queenslanders who are feeling the pinch, who work hard but are struggling nonetheless.

If that sounds about right to you, then this budget actually has nothing for you. The signature budget and cost-of-living announcement made by this government was a Labor initiative—the \$200 FairPlay vouchers rebranded as Play On! It was Labor who increased these vouchers to \$200 to reflect increased club membership costs and Labor who made sure every Queensland family could access it in recognition that all households were doing it tough. By all measures, it was one of our most successful initiatives. Don't take my word for it. You should hear what families and sporting clubs said about it in response to Labor's campaign to lock in FairPlay for good. Paul from the Glass House Mountains said—

A large percentage of junior participation was funded with vouchers as part payment. Our entire club viability depended on allowing people who could otherwise not afford to be involved to engage with the club community and see their children active and involved. In my opinion, the benefits far outweigh any costs associated with the program.

Well, Paul, I agree. Deborah from Toowoomba South said—

My daughter is a single mum with three boys suffering PTSD due to domestic violence. FairPlay has enabled my grandsons to play sport, channel their fears and anxiety into positive experiences and enjoy being in a supportive atmosphere. Without FairPlay, this would not be possible.

Heidi from Texas said—

Families need this support. We have a huge expense each week just getting my son to football training. The FairPlay voucher covered his levy at least, so that was one expense we didn't have to find money for—a massive benefit. When our daughter was playing, too, it saved us two registrations.

These are real people, real stories and real impact. That is why I commend this LNP government for quietly bowing to pressure, adopting Labor's policy and keeping a good thing going. I know they tried to hide their capitulation by announcing it exclusively on 9News on a Saturday night, but, rest assured, I am making sure Queenslanders hear about it, even if those opposite do not want them to.

I want to thank the almost 5,000 petitioners who supported our campaign. This is your win. Labor is proud to have helped you do it. It is a demonstration of what we can do together. We will keep fighting to force this LNP government to help, especially when the government thinks they have avoided a grilling from the media.

I, of course, commend the government for also adopting another Labor policy—my 50-cent fares initiative. It is one of those things that I will forever be proud of delivering, one that has made such a material difference to so many people—so many families—and the patronage numbers speak for themselves. The LNP might want to continue to label them as their own, but even they know they are not getting away with it. We will be watching for the moment this government attempts to lift fares. Labor's 50-cent fares forever bill might have been tossed out of the parliament on a technicality—a technicality because at the time the LNP could not actually demonstrate that 50-cent fares had ongoing funding. If it really was permanent, you would think that funding would be locked in and they would have supported our bill on the very day it was introduced. So, we will be watching and Queenslanders will be watching, too. 50-cent fares have fundamentally changed the way Queenslanders travel. Knowing the monumental impact it has had on everyday people reminds me of why I got into politics: to change lives for the better.

I also welcome the government's shared equity scheme announcement. Shared equity is a Labor initiative, one the Albanese Labor government championed, despite attempts to block it by the federal LNP. It was our Labor government that put in the legislation needed to enact the scheme in Queensland. Labor has always supported shared equity. However, I note this scheme will only help a handful of Queenslanders—half what the federal government will deliver to Queensland in a single year. About 25,000 Queenslanders buy their first home each year, so this scheme will help about one in 100 of them—about one per cent. Experts say it will not distort the market because it is too small to make any measurable difference. There are millions of Queenslanders struggling right now who need a helping hand. It is disappointing to see the signature policy of this LNP government, copied from Labor, be so selective, so exclusive. I do not think a helping hand into home ownership should be exclusive. Maybe this was an attempt at capping eligibility to keep the LNP backbench at bay. Let's not forget it was the member for Oodgeroo who labelled shared equity 'a really dangerous path to head down', even saying it was like 'strings into everybody's personal investments'.

Labor will always be standing with Queenslanders, through the good times and the hard times. Overwhelmingly, as I travel this state, people tell me their No. 1 concern is still the cost of living. While interest rates have begun to ease and families feel some relief on mortgages, the price of things is not coming down.

Even with the wages growth delivered by federal Labor, it will take some time for wages to catch up. The global and economic pressures that have lead us to this point have not subsided so it is the responsibility of a good government to do what matters—to provide relief where relief is needed. It is my commitment to Queenslanders that Labor will always be there. We will always provide the funding that is needed so that hospitals, schools and the Police Service can do what matters without fear and so that our community organisations can do what they do best—help people.

Food equity is something I am passionate about. I know how important it is for a child's development that they go to school with a full belly. I know how important it is that our older vulnerable people have the nutrients they need. For those families doing it tough, our community-led food organisations are the lifeline that saves them from starvation. I have had the privilege of joining the member for Bulimba at FareShare in Morningside a number of times over the past year. I have seen firsthand the important work they do in cooking meals for those in need. Did you know that they cooked, packed and delivered 1.2 million meals to those in need last year? That food is made with stuff that would otherwise end up in landfill. This makes them one of the biggest charity kitchens in the Southern Hemisphere. FareShare has seen a 40 per cent increase in demand for their meals.

During the North Queensland floods, volunteers in Brisbane helped to ship seven pallets of food up to the people of North Queensland. That is on top of their usual community and school-based programs which includes delivering lunches as far north as Morningside Island State School. It is important work, just like that of the volunteers next door at Foodbank, SecondBite, Meals on Wheels and OzHarvest. I have joined a number of Meals on Wheels kitchens and delivery drivers on their runs this year. In my own community of Moreton Bay, right as the cyclone was bearing down on us, and again in Hervey Bay, where I hopped in the car with Anne. Anyone fortunate enough to be on Anne's delivery route can consider themselves very lucky. She was quick enough to give Oscar Piastrini a run for his money! Those meals were in kitchens before they even had time to cool down. Just last week I joined the member for Gladstone for a Meals on Wheels delivery run in Rockhampton. Seeing the happiness on people's faces on those delivery routes proved to me how big a difference these community groups make every single day.

I commit that a Labor government I lead will support our community-based food programs to be there while times are tough. In Labor's last budget I committed almost \$9 million to provide critical food relief, including for OzHarvest, SecondBite and Meals on Wheels. That funding helped to support those organisations in providing the critical, on-the-ground response that so many vulnerable people rely on. Part of that funding also helped Foodbank to establish a second warehouse in Brisbane and support food distribution in North Queensland. This was important so important to me at a time when grocery prices have soared.

The big supermarkets have not shown any sign they are relenting on their reckless price gouging. Seventy-three per cent of households accessing food relief from services like FareShare were accessing them for the first time in 2024 alone. That tells me that there is more to do. If we can help organisations scale up their food production and distribution, we can help to meet that demand. It is why providing an ongoing stream of funding will support millions of additional kilograms of food to be distributed right across the state to kids, to the elderly and to the vulnerable. Just like we helped Foodbank with their warehousing and operating costs, we will work with the community services sector

to navigate the challenges of storage, refrigeration and logistics. That includes neighbourhood centres, community services and charitable organisations. This will be backed in by \$10 million in funding. It is not the answer to the growing problem that is food insecurity but it is one way I know we can make a practical difference.

Food equity, access and opportunity often boils down to secure housing. That is something I have also spoken about at length during my time in this House. I know how lucky I am to have gotten a foot in the door early when house prices reflected wages and a home was more affordable, but I know those entering the market these days are not so lucky. It is why pulling every lever to get young people into the market is so important and why I commend the government for continuing the supercharged First Home Owner Grant that commenced under Labor, even if it is just for one more year. We know it can make a difference for those wanting to break into the market.

In government, my team and I took the bold steps forward that our state needed to tackle the housing shortage because it is my firm belief that every person deserves a secure and affordable roof over their head. The answer to that call is not just about bricks and mortar; it is about long-term vision and a stable approach to delivering the supply we need, not only to catch up with growth but to get ahead.

Population growth in Queensland is not going to slow any time soon and who can blame people for wanting to live here. Now this government has committed to delivering one million new homes by 2044. That is an ambitious goal. If the government is not looking at all of the options on the table, then they are not working hard enough. I have to say: what we saw in the early days of this government has been nothing more than a display of selfish nimbyism. The housing minister's first move was to axe a housing project in his own electorate. Since then, the LNP has refused to facilitate new housing and has actively dismantled projects that are already underway. They have effectively abandoned the state facilitated development process, a tool specifically designed to accelerate housing in high-need areas. It is like they think the state's planning powers should never be used to build homes, only to fast track luxury tourism developments for their donor mates, even when local councils say no.

Under Labor, 276 expressions of interest were received through the state facilitated development process with the potential to deliver over 30,000 new homes. This included a guarantee of 15 per cent affordable housing. Labor progressed 11 of the best proposals. Since coming to office, the LNP has approved just five of those. They have let four sit idle, including 2,750 homes in Robina, and they have revoked two entirely. They have not declared a single new project of their own. Now we understand they have stopped assessing or progressing state facilitated development proposals altogether. That is not just neglect; it is a deliberate choice to scrap a pipeline of 30,000 homes. That is 29,000 more than the LNP's shared equity scheme will supply. That is the real cost of the LNP's inaction.

How can we expect to deliver the homes of the future if this LNP government is standing in the way of progress? Literally cancelling projects and winding back planning shortcuts. It is like the government is playing a game of snakes and ladders with itself but removing all the ladders. That is why this government should direct the planning department to continue to pursue state facilitated development as one mechanism to increase housing supply.

We want Queensland to continue to be a competitive destination for build-to-rent projects. Our 2023 commitment reduced land tax by 50 per cent for build-to-rent developments that include at least 10 per cent affordable rental homes for a period of 20 years. At the time we made that announcement, the Property Council of Queensland said the announcement will help Queensland's emerging build-to-rent sector overcome many of the financial hurdles it traditionally faces and will spur on a wave of new housing, providing better outcomes for tenants. They commended the initiative as a positive step towards increasing supply. The rental market is continuing to tighten and vacancy rates remain incredibly low. That is why driving this kind of investment is what we need. In their budget this week, the New South Wales government extended the same tax concession indefinitely. At the next election a Labor government will also extend that tax cut indefinitely. That is how we will match New South Wales, not through stealing their colour. It is about offering a mix, a choice, for people who want to buy or rent.

Federally, the Albanese Labor government has backed in build-to-rent concessions to encourage more diverse investment in the housing sector. It is expected to support the construction of about 80,000 new homes to rent nationally. Thousands of those will be here in Queensland. That is thousands more homes for Queenslanders in need. By extending the land tax concession here in Queensland we will further cement the Sunshine State as the place to invest. To build those homes, we need the workforce and the tradies to do it. That is why under Labor the free TAFE and core apprenticeship programs will

continue. It is something that Labor started in 2021. It is something that Labor will see continue. Unfortunately, young Queenslanders researching TAFE training today are faced with a webpage telling them that free TAFE has run out under this government. I table a printout of the website for the benefit of the House.

*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, depicting an image of the TAFE Queensland webpage, titled '2025 Fee-Free TAFE places full'.

That is another broken promise. Labor is the party of free TAFE and we will make sure it is there for people looking to upskill to get ahead in life and to make sure our state's workforce has the skills we need for the future, and we will do more. To support an increase in the skilled workforce, I will be advocating to my federal colleagues in Canberra to adopt the Activate Australia's Skills campaign. This is a campaign aimed at boosting the recognition of national and international skills accreditations to get more qualified people on the tools. Activate Australia's Skills expect that implementing their blueprint for reform would quickly boost productivity. The Productivity Commission reports that nine out of 10 new jobs will require post-secondary qualifications where advancements in technology will demand increases in skill levels. So why not advocate for a better system that helps to close that gap? It is something the skills minister should also be advocating for at a federal level. Some things should be above politics, and building a better Queensland is one of them.

This budget falls short of addressing the critical needs of Queenslanders. It lacks vision, it lacks delivery and it fails to prepare our state for the future. It is a sad state of affairs if this is what we can expect from the Crisafulli LNP government. In his previous budget reply speeches, the Premier—then opposition leader—said that the job of a good government is to leave Queensland in a better place. It is hard to fathom how Queenslanders will be better off under this regime with fewer services, fewer resources and major delays for infrastructure. With no plan, no progress and fewer services, that is the Crisafulli LNP government's budget.

I know this Premier is obsessed, because of his ego, with not being a one-term LNP Premier. Instead of focusing on his re-election campaign in 2028 though, I call on the Premier to focus on the now—here today. When people are struggling to pay the rent or turn the lights on, he should focus less on the ego of rebranding our state in their political team colours and more on how to practically do what matters for Queensland. This is not the budget of a good government that cares about the Queenslanders. This is the budget of a government that cares only about itself and its longevity. It is a budget that only cares about one person who is too slick for his own good, untrustworthy and slippery—a Premier pretending he is something he is not. That one person is the LNP Premier of broken promises. Imagine being in opposition for 10 years and releasing this as your first budget. Imagine releasing a budget that they proudly call boring, a budget that does not do anything to help everyday Queenslanders. The Treasurer even said budgets should be boring. A good budget is not boring to the Queenslanders it helps.

I am always heartened when people come up to me and tell me how 50-cent fares have affected their life and their finances. I grew up in Petrie in the outer northern suburbs. My family, just like those around me, sometimes struggled to make ends meet. I really believe it was Labor initiatives that gave me the opportunities I have had in my life. It also proved to me how valuable education and free health care are. I chose politics because I wanted to help people. In comparison, I look at this Premier and I truly wonder what drives him. What about this budget really tells us what his priorities are? His community, I will admit, is very different to my own and so maybe he just does not realise there are people out there doing it tough. Maybe that is why he is so comfortable leaving out cost-of-living relief for millions of Queenslanders. Perhaps it is because the wealthy donors he surrounds himself with tell him that is a good idea. Sure, doing things does put him at risk of criticism. Delivering big projects opens him up to having to deal with volatile markets and labour shortages and rapidly changing global market conditions.


It feels like there is another world war breaking out overseas, but does the Premier really think it is better to just hide, to do nothing—to hide and generalise the budgets and timeframes of road and transport projects so he does not have to answer difficult questions? It strikes me that the Premier has gotten so good at being a small target that he does not even know what he stands for anymore. He has mastered the art of saying nothing so well I am not even sure he remembers what he believes in. He cannot be a small target in government. He cannot fix big problems by playing small, but that is all he knows how to do. He cannot show up here just because he likes the sound of his own voice. I am really starting to think that is all that drives him because he and his deputy and his Treasurer talk more about Labor than about Queenslanders. That is okay. I have broad shoulders; I can take it, especially if that is what it takes to stand up to them and demand Queenslanders get a fair go. Globally, we are

witnessing what happens when governments give up on delivering for their people. We have seen the rise of the oligarch and what happens when rampant, unchecked greed takes the place of good government policy. The world is a scary place right now. I think the answer is to stand up and lead with heart, to be unashamedly committed to serving the people in our community and to remember it is the people who put us here and it is the people we serve.

I say to Queenslanders: do not let those opposite treat you like this. They say that you do not deserve energy rebates, but I do. I will lead an opposition that champions good ideas, and this budget has many of them—those that are Labor initiatives like 50-cent fares, Help to Buy and new hospitals in Bundaberg, Coomera and Toowoomba. Today I have outlined our ideas to deliver a better Queensland, including \$10 million towards community-based organisations for food equity solutions, an indefinite concession on land tax for build-to-rent projects and more skilled workers through free TAFE and free apprenticeship programs and Activate Australia's Skills campaign. These are solid steps forward for our state—steps a government I lead would be willing to take. Given this government's propensity to steal good ideas and rebrand them as its own—change their colour—I am happy if it wants to steal these ideas too, because my opposition team is not focused just on opposing the ideas that this government puts forward; we want to deliver for Queenslanders.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Before I go to the member for Kawana, Leader of the Opposition, you used an unparliamentary term to reference the Premier. I would ask that you withdraw that unparliamentary term.

**Mr MILES:** I withdraw, Mr Speaker.

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (12.10 pm): Opposition leader Steven Miles has just delivered his first budget reply, and his last.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** That was not a budget reply speech; that was a valedictory speech! That was a valedictory speech because let me quote what he said in the media yesterday in anticipation for his great budget reply speech. He said this will be—

... the most detailed ever delivered by a first-year opposition and will outline a plan to improve housing affordability and investment.

He said 'the most detailed ever'. Where were the details of the 'most detailed ever' budget reply speech? I counted one initiative—one new thing—when he said that he was going to give \$10 million to food groups across Queensland.

**Ms Camm** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I take the interjection: it is not new; it is being funded. The minister opened the facility last week. During the election campaign the member for Nicklin announced a million dollars for the Everyday Foundation. I announced \$5 million for Gateway Care. Supplying support to food companies for the most vulnerable is not a new initiative; it has happened and it is happening under this government. For the 'most detailed ever' budget reply by a first-year opposition, I have to say it was underwhelming to say the least. The opposition leader talks about a boring budget. That was what Annastacia Palaszczuk said about the budget, so again this shows the internal conflict and war with the Labor Party and the very person commenting on our budget. I note that she did not attack the budget. She did not attack any of the initiatives in the budget; all she said was that it was a boring budget. When we look at the stakeholders and Queenslanders commenting on our budget, they say that it is a responsible budget.

This is what we missed from the opposition leader's budget reply. It talked a lot about what he did in government, because he has not learnt any lessons. Do members know what? That budget reply speech was history repeating itself: it was election night all over again when he refused to accept the result of the election and he essentially said again today, 'Queensland Labor knows best and Queenslanders got it wrong.' That is what he was saying again today, just as he denied the election result on election night, just like he could not phone the leader of the opposition at the time and concede the election on election night. He is saying through his arrogant tones today that he and Labor know best and Queensland has it wrong. That was the theme of that budget reply speech.

What is interesting is what was missing from the budget reply speech—that is, how he is going to pay for all of the stuff that he promised during the last government and in the election campaign. He said that every kid was going to get sandwiches and lunches, but he did not say how he was going to fund it. He did not say that he has changed that policy, so I submit that it is still there. That is Labor

Party policy, but how is he going to fund it? He was going to buy all of the service stations in Queensland. He did not mention that today, so I suspect that that is still his plan. He always says in his 'heart of hearts'. He always says, 'Since I've been a little Labor kid, I've always wanted to do this sort of stuff.' What absolute rubbish! He still supports the socialist policy—the commie policy—of service stations owned by the state government. He still supports it. What he did not say is how much it is going to cost.

We know that the Labor Party says all of these policies: 'We're going to buy all the service stations, we're going to buy all of the power grid, we're going to give every kid school lunches.' Someone has to pay for it, and it is the Queensland taxpayers. How are they going to pay for it? Taxes. Labor taxes will go up. That is what was hidden in his budget reply speech. I say to honourable members: it was not what he said in his budget reply today; it is what he did not say, and what he hid from the people of Queensland is the taxes. We know that those opposite have a secret plan to reintroduce the Queensland patients tax. They are going to do that. How else would they fund the \$37 billion budget blowout on the Pioneer-Burdekin pumped hydro scheme, which he still says he supports? He did not walk away from it today.

Today the opposition leader had an opportunity to stand in here and say that they got it wrong at the election and that this is their plan for the future and the next four years, but he did not do that. He did not do it. He spent his whole time—an hour—attacking the personality of the Premier. That is all the opposition leader did—personal attacks. That was not a vision and that was not an alternative government, but I suspect why he could not deliver an alternative plan for Queensland is because to deliver an alternative plan for Queensland you have to show up. You have to show up to work and they did not yesterday. Not only that, let me remind honourable members how many times this opposition leader has missed votes in this House because he did not show up to work but then he has the hide to tell people, 'Labor steps up. Labor shows up.' No, it does not. It does not show up and he does not show up because he is the laziest opposition leader I have seen in a generation in the state of Queensland.

Responding to a few of the issues that he raised, there was his big plan for rent-to-buy schemes. Let me tell members this: the former Labor government had years to progress these build-to-rent projects. The Queensland Housing and Homelessness Action Plan 2001-2025 was meant to deliver 750 new dwellings by late 2023 across three sites. How many of those build-to-rent units now have Queenslanders living in them from that build-to-rent promise? Zero! He said that from his humble beginnings housing was his priority. They promised to deliver 750 and they delivered none. Let me table a copy of an article from Hayden Johnson titled 'Treasurer Cameron Dick criticised over unfinished build-to-rent Brisbane apartments'. Give me a break!

*Tabled paper:* Media article, dated 6 February 2024, titled 'Treasurer Cameron Dick criticised over unfinished build-to-rent Brisbane apartments'.

Those opposite say a lot but they never delivered. We had a housing crisis because of his policies, we had a health crisis because of his policies, we had a cost-of-living crisis because of his policies and we had a crime crisis because of Labor policies. That is the reality that we saw. The opposition leader also says that this budget has no new initiatives. What a mistruth and misrepresentation. Let me go through a few of the budget highlights. He talks about copying policies like the game vouchers. It was the LNP that started Get in the Game vouchers when we were last in government and then Labor copied them and ran a scare campaign. What he did not tell the people such as the lady from Texas that he quoted was that he did not fund it after the election. It was going to stop—it was going to end—but he did not tell any of his petitioners that little story, did he?

There were other initiatives that the former Labor budget did not fund. In this budget we have funded new special schools; Making Queensland Safer Laws; Adult Crime, Adult Time; \$50 million for two new mental health step-up step-down services; a \$100 Back to School Boost for kids for stationery and uniforms—that is a real cost-of-living crisis initiative; \$20 million for a Returning to Work package for women; \$25 million to roll out GPS trackers for violent DV offenders; resourcing the police with tasers, body worn cameras, tactical first-aid kits and ballistic vests; \$50 for a victims advocacy services; the patients tax abolished by the Crisafulli government; scrapping stamp duty for first home buyers buying or building their first home—another Labor tax abolished by the Crisafulli government; \$560 million for early intervention and rehabilitation; a \$2 billion Residential Activation Fund for supply, supply, supply—so oversubscribed we have had to bring forward \$500 million to \$1 billion, and at least 50 per cent will be spent in regional Queensland; and a \$165 million Boost to Buy program, which the Leader of the Opposition talks about being a Labor policy. How many homes were delivered under their policy? Again, zero in 10 years. You cannot come in here now as opposition leader and try to rewrite

the history of the 10 years of the Labor Party that had failed housing in this state. The dream of home ownership by young Queenslanders had gone. It has come back because of the LNP government's budget and our policies.

The budget contains funding for the Wave all the way to the Sunshine Coast Airport. Again, for the record I note a conflict of interest—again and again and again. The child safety royal commission is another new initiative to fix the issues of the former failed child safety minister, the member for Waterford, who saw so many young children die under her watch when she was watching music at Splendour in the Grass. That is her history, that is her record, and now she is the shadow treasurer of the state.

There is also in the budget \$50 million to end Labor's DNA debacle. That is but a few of the initiatives in this Crisafulli government's first budget. The opposition leader has the hide to come in here and say there are no new initiatives. Those are real initiatives for real people dealing with the real issues in Queensland. Queenslanders made their choice known at the election. They voted for a fresh start. They did not vote for the whingeing, the whining, the negativity that we just saw on display for the first hour of the budget reply speech. As I said, that was his first budget reply speech and it will be his last budget reply speech. I saw his honourable colleagues sitting over there with their heads down. It was embarrassing. It was an embarrassing budget reply speech with no new initiatives, no funding and secret Labor taxes.

When it comes to the great electorate of Kawana, the Sunshine Coast is now being heard by the government because we have an LNP government. We will have the Wave all the way to Maroochydore; a Caloundra congestion-busting plan; the Mooloolah River interchange; \$20 million for the Bribie Island breakthrough urgent measures; \$10 million to upgrade the Kawana Waters Surf Life Saving Club, supporting veterans as it is co-located with the Kawana Waters RSL Sub Branch; the Sunshine Coast stadium upgrade that will go from 1,046 seats to 10,680 seats; \$5 million for Gateway Care to expand their food rescue activities on the Sunshine Coast; \$1 million shared between six Kawana schools for new air-conditioning and audio visual equipment in our halls—Meridan, Talara, Pacific Lutheran College, Buddina, Currimundi and Kawana Waters State College; \$1 million for the new Currimundi Community Hall for disability amenities in the toilet blocks; \$866,000 to refurbish block B at Currimundi State School; a new Sunshine Coast arena and convention centre that we have never had before on the Sunshine Coast—it is happening because of an LNP government and because we have sorted out the chaos and crisis of the Olympic and Paralympic Games; \$1 million for DV Safe Phone, a great Sunshine Coast charity we all know funded by the LNP government; millions of dollars for Mark and Gay Forbes to build tiny houses to support people with eating disorders; and \$1 million in the Games On! program for Currimundi United Football Club for a new amenities block.

This funding is what a good local member delivers for the people of Kawana. I want to thank the schools, the community groups and the small business community for their advocacy. If it had not been for their advocacy I could not deliver these funds through the Treasurer in this LNP budget. This is a great budget for Queensland. This is a great budget to deal with the four crises created by the Labor Party. We have said all along it is not going to be fixed overnight; but, goodness gracious, in eight months we have given it a good start. In my portfolio we are resetting the planning partnerships with local government, ending the blame game, getting supply up. Those opposite are whingeing about housing. They are saying we should be using the planning powers to increase supply and yet they have referred me to the Crime and Corruption Commission for utilising the planning powers as planning minister. They cannot have it both ways.

They have no leadership. They failed after the election to appoint a fresh start for the Labor Party. They have just gone back to their whingeing and whining. The person who is occupying the opposition leader's seat at the moment wants it. He is there to back his left-wing comrade, the member for Waterford. Apparently that is Labor's dream team. Look at them go. Not even the opposition leader can afford the time to support his shadow treasurer delivering her first budget reply speech in opposition. She cannot even get the shadow cabinet to back her. What a disgrace. They were a disgrace in government. They have no vision for the future of Queensland. The Leader of the Opposition has no new policies. All he has is secret Labor cuts and secret Labor taxes. Queenslanders voted for a fresh start and this budget delivers it in spades.



**Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (12.26 pm): If one needed any further proof that what was handed down by the Treasurer on Tuesday was a bad budget it was the contribution from the Deputy Premier who spent all but probably two minutes talking about Labor. As the Leader of the Opposition said, what do those opposite stand for? What are their values? They could not even speak

for 15 minutes on what their budget delivers for Queenslanders. They were too caught up in the politics, which sums up this budget perfectly.

I rise to speak on behalf of Queenslanders—the families, the workers, the small business owners, the students—who were hoping that this budget might bring them some relief, some direction or at the very least some honesty. Instead, what they got was a budget full of broken promises and bottlenecks delivered by a bumbling Treasurer—a budget that absolutely slashes cost-of-living help, a budget that guts infrastructure to the tune of \$13 billion, a budget that builds stadiums and venues without the roads, trains or transport infrastructure to help Queenslanders get to them. It is a budget that is literally taking Queenslanders nowhere except deeper into debt and deeper into traffic. This budget will literally make it harder for Queenslanders to get ahead and get around. This should have been the moment that the LNP stepped up and finally delivered on their promises, their chance to show Queenslanders they understand the pressures families are still under and outline a plan for Queensland's future. Instead, their pile of blue documents exposes their true priorities: cutting support for working families, delaying infrastructure and hiding the true state of Queensland's fiscal position. I must say that this is absolutely not a boring budget as some have described or as they would want you to believe; it is a very bad budget.

The future of our great state is not looking particularly bright under those opposite. In their first budget, delivered by the Treasurer on Tuesday, they had said to Queenslanders they would deliver cost-of-living relief for as long as there was a crisis. Clearly, they now think the cost-of-living crisis is all over, but I would urge them to talk to families who are struggling to pay the power bills, to the single mum rationing groceries, to the pensioner wondering if they can afford both medication and their rent this week. So many people have told me how disappointed they were that energy rebates were not continuing, including Shaydee, who said—

I was hoping the LNP government would deliver some energy rebates but, nope, we will still struggle.

Unfortunately for the Premier and Treasurer, you cannot just declare the cost-of-living crisis over and expect everyone to agree. This budget rips away energy rebates, it abandons rego discounts and it walks back investment in essential services. It slashes the infrastructure pipeline by \$13 billion and delays congestion-busting infrastructure projects. It provides more questions than answers when it comes to health. There are no timeframes for delivery of our major hospital builds and expansions. Why should local communities be left in the dark about when they are getting the beds they need? Let us be clear: this budget will leave Queenslanders stuck—stuck in traffic, stuck in emergency department waiting rooms and stuck struggling to make ends meet.

We must also speak about debt. I know those opposite have not wanted to speak about debt. When it suits them they will tell you that they are fiscal conservatives, that they are bringing spending under control and that they are managing the books responsibly. They promised debt would be lower under an LNP government but now the debt projections are higher than when Labor left office. At the heart of this budget is a ticking debt bomb. It was always going to end this way. The LNP promised that they would lower debt, that they would get to a surplus, that there would be no new taxes and that they would not cut anything. It was a magic pudding. We always said that and the budget confirms it.

The warning that S&P Global released about Queensland's financial health after the Treasurer handed down his budget underscores the gravity of this situation. The state's deficit has surged by \$1.7 billion, reaching \$8.6 billion for the next fiscal year, raising concerns. S&P's government ratings director said that this budget 'highlights a sharp deterioration in the state's finances' and the risk to the credit rating 'remains elevated'. The government is now projecting that in 2028 gross debt will be \$27 billion, although that is actually lower than projected in MYFER because there is now a smaller infrastructure pipeline than the Treasurer outlined back in January. The government's deception is not just reckless; it is expensive.

Talking about deception in MYFER, let us not forget the Treasurer's \$23 billion black hole scare campaign from MYFER in January. He claimed Labor left \$23 billion in underfunded legacy issues, but five months later that figure has magically dropped to \$16.6 billion. Where did it go? No-one knows. No minister could tell us whether they have received any of that money. It was clearly funny money. We said that at the time and economists and rating agencies agreed. Queenslanders paid the price literally, with a ratings outlook downgrade and millions in extra interest repayments. We all had to sit through a lot of whingeing, whining, finger pointing and excuses in the Treasurer's budget speech, but when Labor left office Queensland had a stable credit outlook and lower debt projections. The ratings agencies did not believe the Treasurer when he delivered MYFER and Queenslanders should not believe him now

when he says the budget delivers for them. If the LNP want to talk about economic vandalism, they need to take a long hard look in the mirror.

Let us talk about the so-called savings target from this out-of-depth Treasurer. In a bumbling attempt to make the LNP's spending promises balance, he told Queenslanders he could save \$7 billion through Queensland Government Consulting and that included \$757 million in the financial year about to end, yet he has not even established the consulting firm. Now he is trying to move the goalposts through bizarre assumptions and future growth, rather than deliver real savings. Instead, he managed to find \$2½ billion in savings from employee expenses between 2026 and 2028 compared to his budget update. As the *Courier-Mail* reported today, the LNP's projected growth in employee expenses does not accord with what they are telling frontline public servants. They keep saying they are going to grow the front line and provide nation-leading wages but none of that is in this budget. It is not just a joke around the Public Service; it is becoming a joke across the whole state.

One of the most telling features of the budget is what it does not say, particularly when it comes to women. I was very interested to see the Women's Economic Security Statement. It is four pages long and includes a single image of a woman in a caring role. I compare that to Labor's 46-page women's economic security statement. While they have been able to put together only four pages, all of the good ideas in there are Labor policy anyway. It is a complete copy and paste of Labor policies. I suppose we should give them some credit for continuing a women's economic statement, unlike Tony Abbott who, as the federal minister for women, scrapped it altogether.

Make no mistake: this is not a genuine statement of policy. There is no plan to close the gender pay gap, there is no targeted support for women in male dominated industries and there is no real vision for women's economic security. In fact, in their service delivery statement for the Office for Women, the words 'gender equality' have disappeared. It would seem that those opposite do not consider achieving gender equality in Queensland a priority anymore. Welcome to Queensland in 2025 under an LNP government.

The LNP do have one policy: a \$20 million program over four years to support women returning to work. What will this mean for Queensland women? It is estimated that around 35,000 Queensland women access paid parental leave every year and we assume that most of them, at some point, will return to work, yet the LNP have allocated only \$5 million each year for this package. That works out to be a payment of around \$140 per woman per year. That is not even enough to buy one cup of coffee a week. That is not a plan; that is an insult. They say that you can buy a laptop with that. I do not know where they shop! That shows just how out of touch they are. Women need real policies that reflect the value of their work, support their ambitions and remove barriers.

Like the Leader of the Opposition said today, there is a lot in this budget we agree with because a lot of it was our ideas. They are always buckling under pressure from us. It took a leak and pressure from our Labor team for the LNP to reverse their decision to cut puberty health education, which teaches consent and talks about red flags and relationships for kids in years 5 and 6. I am very glad that they intervened to continue that.

I am glad they have committed to or, let us say, repackaged our Labor women and girl's health strategy. I have to say that I remain concerned given that we found out about the puberty health program being cut from an email from a director of Queensland public health outlining an internal review by the Department of Health into the initiatives, which was leading to a shift in government priorities and funding. What else have they reviewed and what other priorities have shifted? What else has been cut? I am glad that, on paper at least, they still seem to support the majority of the voices of the 12,000 women and girls who contributed to our women and girls' health strategy. We have that, we have 50-cent fares and we have \$200 FairPlay vouchers, which are all Labor initiatives. The Premier may have finally buckled under public pressure to keep those initiatives, but let us not pretend that they were his ideas.

Talking about Labor's commitments, I was pleased to see a couple of projects in my electorate of Waterford maintain their funding. In my 10 years as the local member for Waterford, one of the things I am most proud of is the huge Logan Hospital expansion. It is good to see that continuing although I would like to see more detail. It is also good to see the Loganlea Train Station relocation will continue, but again I would appreciate more detail. All of these are Labor projects. Thank you, Queensland Labor, for always delivering.


While the LNP delivers a budget of broken promises and bottlenecks and leaves people behind, Labor will always put Queenslanders first. We will continue to fight for real relief, practical support, energy rebates, FairPlay vouchers and affordable housing. We will invest in transport that gets people

moving to where they need to go, not stadiums that sit empty because people are stuck in traffic trying to get there. I do not know how many times I have heard the Premier talk about generational infrastructure; In fact, their first budget delivers generational congestion. The LNP has delivered cuts and chaos, but today, through our opposition leader, Labor has laid out a plan to tackle the real pressures facing Queenslanders. The initiatives announced by the Leader of the Opposition today are part of Labor's commitment to delivering a fairer and more secure future.

We will extend the build-to-rent land tax concession indefinitely, building on our original 2023 announcement to drive investment and increase housing supply. I am so pleased that we are matching the New South Wales government's commitment so that we can really try to encourage investment here in Queensland to deliver the housing we need. I was also pleased to see the announcement of \$10 million in new funding for our community services sector, helping neighbourhood centres and charities meet the growing demand for families doing it tough. If you spend time with any of those organisations doing emergency food relief, they will all tell you they are seeing unprecedented numbers of families, many of whom are seeking support for the first time. They might like to declare the cost-of-living crisis is over, but if you go to any neighbourhood centre or talk to anyone at Meals on Wheels or anyone delivering emergency food relief, you will see that the cost-of-living crisis is far from over.

We also know that to build the housing we need we first need the skills. We will guarantee free TAFE, which is something that I was proud to do when I was the skills minister, as well as the core apprenticeship program because skilling Queenslanders for the future should never be up for debate. We will advocate nationally for the Activate Australia's Skills campaign to fast track the recognition of qualifications and get more qualified workers on the tools faster. Labor stands for action, not excuses; delivery, not delay.

Our vision for Queensland is clear: where no child misses out on sport or lunch because of the cost; where women are safe, respected and economically secure; where health care is accessible and affordable; and where regional communities are backed with real infrastructure, not empty promises or an empty QTRIP. Queenslanders deserve fairness, opportunity and a government that listens. Instead, they have a Premier who is obsessed with spin, a Treasurer who hides from scrutiny and a budget that fails to meet the moment. They promised a fresh start and they have delivered a stale re-run of broken promises. Queenslanders, though, are paying attention, and so are we. This budget might take us nowhere, but Labor has a plan to take us forward and we will not stop fighting until we do.

 **Mr HEAD** (Callide—LNP) (12.41 pm): It is fantastic to see a few more members turning up to work in the House today. Neither of the two contributions we have heard from the opposition so far have offered an apology to Queenslanders for the crisis that they left this state in. They have said, though, that we have delivered a bad budget. I do not know how restoring maternity services to rural communities is a bad thing for Queensland. I do not know how delivering the Electricity Maintenance Guarantee for our coal-fired generators and building the peaking gas plants that we need to restabilise the grid are bad things for Queensland. The workers at the Kogan Creek Power Station and the Callide Power Station very much welcome the investment that we are delivering for Queensland.

I do not know how axing the patients tax—a tax that the former Labor government were trying to sneakily introduce—is a bad thing. We are axing stamp duty for first home buyers buying a new home, but the Labor members in their contributions today have said that that is a bad thing. That is their message to Queenslanders: they do not support the important initiatives that the LNP government were elected to deliver. It shows us that the opposition are tone deaf and do not listen to Queenslanders.

They had no plan to outline to Queenslanders what they would have done differently and how they would have reduced the debt burden in Queensland. As one of the youngest MPs in this House, the reality is that it will be my generation and those younger than me who will bear the burden of Labor's debt. The former treasurer, Cameron Dick, received \$70 billion more in revenue than was originally forecast. What do we have to show for it? We should have \$70 billion of new infrastructure and legacy projects, yet it hardly paid for the budget blowouts of those opposite. The reality is: they are in denial about the crises that they left Queenslanders in. It is simply not good enough.

On the other hand, the budget that the Treasurer handed down will fund every single election commitment across the great electorate of Callide. We have the Moura multipurpose aged-care extension project, which is an important project in my backyard. It was meant to have been started back in 2019 when the then LNP federal government secured money for that important project. Six years on, it still has not been delivered but we are getting on with that job. I thank the Moura community for their

steadfast advocacy for this important project. Construction will start imminently under an LNP Crisafulli government and health minister Tim Nicholls.

As part of the Hospital Rescue Plan, we are delivering by progressing the Chinchilla, Jandowae and Biloela hospital upgrades and delivering staff accommodation units at Biloela as well. It was fantastic to have the minister in Biloela recently to talk about those plans and to talk to the fantastic staff at that hospital. This budget also delivers more frontline health workers for the Darling Downs, Wide Bay and Central Queensland regions.

This budget delivers important water security and local infrastructure for Queensland. The Cooranga Weir project on the Boyne River, south of Mundubbera—a project that the community has fought for for decades—will be delivered under the LNP Crisafulli government. I thank Mark, Russell, Graham, Troy, Ken, Cindy, Paul and Mary for their decades of fighting for this project and everyone else in that great community who has wanted to see this get off the ground. We will see shovels digging in the not too distant future, I am sure.

The electorate of Callide has the single biggest infrastructure spend of any electorate in this budget. Unfortunately, a lot of that is thanks to the Paradise Dam improvement project—a project that we have to do. I would prefer we not do it, but we have to fix Labor's failures. This budget allocates \$4.4 billion to deliver this important project, but Queenslanders should not forget why we have to spend that money. I would much prefer that money be spent on new projects, but we are getting on with the job and fixing yet another Labor failure.

The electorate of Callide has an abundance of great community groups and sporting clubs. The Calliope Football Club, whose home ground is Liz Cunningham Park in Calliope, is one of these and this budget delivers \$30,000 to upgrade that club's fields and facilities. It was fantastic to have the Premier at that club only last week talking with Morgan and Louisa, who are fantastic locals in that community and doing great work. That football club is steaming ahead and I congratulate them for their efforts.

We also have \$25,000 for the Gin Gin sports ground, which is utilised all year round by four local sporting clubs, including Little Athletics, Rugby League, soccer and touch football. Muppi Dean, who is a strong advocate and a great champion for the Gin Gin community, came to me wanting some more investment there and the LNP Crisafulli government is delivering it.

We are also delivering \$40,000 for the installation of security cameras in Miles and Jandowae. These security cameras will be very welcomed by local business owners, such as Paula from the Miles Creek Cafe, who makes fantastic coffee.

We have \$1 million to deliver the Bell Rural Fire Brigade station. It is a station that was meant to be built under the previous government, but it never happened. We will deliver that. There is also \$800,000 for the Biggenden Rural Fire Brigade. Tony has been persistent, and I respect him for that. I am glad that he has been because we are making sure that we are getting on with the job of fixing Labor's mess and building this rural fire station for the Biggenden community. It was meant to have been built many years ago, but it will happen under this government. We are getting on with the job to deliver that project.

There is plenty of investment across the many schools of Callide. We have 60 schools in total, both public and private—the most of any MP in this House. We are delivering a record investment for the great schools of Callide. Some of the schools that are receiving funding for projects in this budget are: Bell, Biggenden, Biloela, Gayndah, Miles and Thangool. We also have significant funding allocated for maintenance and minor works across the electorate. I have mentioned in this House previously that maintenance was simply not happening at our schools. We had schools in a state of disrepair with paint flaking off the walls under the previous Labor government. It is simply not good enough. We have \$300,000 for the Calliope State School pick-up and drop-off zone. That was a commitment that we made and the money is there in the budget. We will be delivering this. It was fantastic to meet with stakeholders about that project recently.

I have mentioned some of the energy investments we are making, and they are incredibly important for the electorate of Callide. The electorate of Callide produces a quarter of Queensland's electricity. I want to see the electorate of Callide be the powerhouse electorate into the future, and we are delivering that through significant investment in this budget. Over \$1 billion has been allocated to the Brigalow gas peaking plant in the budget, and we will be getting on with delivering that project.

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—*

This is a budget for all of Queensland with funding allocated throughout the state, stretching far and wide, providing the foundation for the fresh start for Queensland.

This budget key funds for the Copper String transmission line from Townsville to Mount Isa, to connect the Queensland North West Minerals Province to the national electricity grid. Copper String is the biggest energy project in North Queensland's history and one that will create lasting benefits for the region. We are also building the Queensland Resources Common User Facility in Townsville, and funding its operation. This development will help unlock economic opportunities within the resource sector, particularly within critical minerals. We have recently unlocked more gas exploration areas, helping drive investment into an industry that generates significant wealth for our state.

The Crisafulli LNP Government wants Queenslanders to live a healthy and happy lifestyle, and as such we have delivered a record budget allocation for \$200 Play On sport vouchers. The LNP has also put a stop to the previous discrimination on the former program—which was not funded into the future—by providing a dedicated allocation for children living with a disability or living in regional or remote areas. Importantly, these vouchers can now be used for both summer and winter sports.

Fixing the Bruce Highway is of importance to all Queenslanders, especially regional Queenslanders who rely on it to travel to and from work or to access services. This budget brings back eighty-twenty funding that we said we would fight for. This means Canberra is once again paying a bigger share, delivering a \$9 billion program to upgrade this road thanks to the Crisafulli Government.

This budget delivers on all local election commitments, but it would be remiss of me not to mention some of the numerous projects that are still in want of funding across Callide.

Now I have successfully fought for the full sealing of the Monto Mt Perry Road, my next top priority road for significant upgrades is the Mundubbera Durong Road. The widening of the remaining 11km section of this road would allow road train access to the North Burnett, creating freight hub opportunities. Importantly, it will drastically improve safety for the users of this road.

There are many other road concerns across that require future attention including but not limited to Gayndah Mount Perry Road, Chinchilla Wondai Road, Dogwood Creek Crossing on the Warrego Highway, Maryborough Biggenden Road, Gladstone Monto Road, Jackson-Wandoan Road, Jandowae Kingaroy Road, Gin Gin Mount Perry Road, slow and heavy vehicle passing lanes on the Leichhardt Highway, Burnett Highway, and turning lanes from major highways for rural access roads like Dawson Gates Road on the Warrego Highway.

The Bruce Highway runs directly through the main street of Gin Gin and as such I would like to see 'Slow for Sam' signs installed along the main street to alert vehicles of the speed that they are travelling, reminding them to slow down. I will also continue to advocate on behalf of the Gin Gin community for the reinstatement of the local driver reviver, as it was ripped away by the Labor Government in 2023 from passionate locals like Pam who dedicated their time to running this vital rest stop on the Bruce Highway.

This budget restores safety for Queenslanders by delivering more police and new equipment. The Chinchilla Police Station has been outgrown, and to meet the needs of increased staff numbers I will continue to advocate for the upgrade that is needed here.

Raised with me on numerous occasions is the need to upgrade many of our rural police stations so that they have all ability access, this includes Police Stations at Theodore and Wandoan. There are known space constraints, however, if solutions can be found, installing all ability access ramps will allow equal access to the essential services provided by these regional Police Stations.

Throughout the electorate of Callide there is a dire need for more designated housing for departmental staff, this includes housing for our hard-working police, teachers and doctors. A decade of underinvestment from the previous government has left our departments with crippling housing shortages, and at times, an inability to attract staff.

Agricultural Shows are a highlight in the calendar for the local community and play an essential role in fostering community spirit and social engagement. They are often recipients of the Gambling Community Benefit Fund, thanks to the tireless work of their committee. Additional support for these would be very much welcome in future budgets. I know Gin Gin would very much appreciate funding for a new grandstand.

This budget importantly provides additional funding for the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme. A scheme that the people of Callide need to use far too often. The previous government did not have this program keep pace with inflation, and I will continue to advocate for this program to provide more to those who rely upon it.

I would also like to see future support of fantastic initiatives like the Calliope Community Hub and further support for lighting for sporting groups like the Biloela Touch Association.

There is much more potential to unlock water supply in Queensland. Various projects are important to constituents in Callide and need to be fully explored and considered in the future, such as the Nathan Dam project near Taroom. This will provide long-term, reliable water to the Dawson region in Central Queensland and the Surat Basin Coal Basin. The Coalstoun Lakes Pipeline from Paradise Dam would provide water security to growers within the North Burnett Region, unlocking a new food bowl.

The Crisafulli Government listens to Queenslanders. It is a privilege to serve alongside my colleagues and work with the people of Callide to deliver for Queensland. This is a fantastic budget and one that delivers the foundation for the fresh start that Queenslanders voted for.

I commend this budget to the house.



**Mr SMITH** (Bundaberg—ALP) (12.48 pm): First, on indulgence, on Monday just past the broader Bundaberg community commemorated the 25th anniversary of the Childers Palace Backpackers Hostel fire. I want to acknowledge the presence of the shadow minister for fire and all those who commemorated what was a tragedy that still lives on in the hearts and memories of many across the community.

Overall, this is a full budget that is so very, very empty. It is a full budget that is so very, very empty of cost-of-living support at a time when Queenslanders need that cost-of-living support. This government has made a decision not to continue the electricity rebates for every single Queensland household, not to provide the support that working families need, that seniors need and that young people who have moved out of home for the first time need as they go about their day and are preparing for their future.

That also applies to the vehicle registration rebate. It affects the same demographics. Whether it is our seniors who maybe have a couple of extra cars and a caravan, the 20 per cent rego rebate is now no longer a thing because of the LNP Crisafulli government. I wonder about the young people I spoke about previously. They have had their electricity rebates taken away from them. They are having to pay rent at a higher rate than ever before. Now they are going to have to pay more for rego as they try to get to university, to TAFE or to their job.

The LNP Crisafulli government have delivered a budget that refuses to deliver for everyday Queenslanders. No more do we see that than in the regions where people are already doing it harder because of this LNP government.

This budget delays infrastructure projects that were on track to be delivered in this term of parliament by the Miles Labor government. What we know is that many of those projects will now not be delivered in this term. They will not be delivered in the next term. In fact, there is no clarity whether some of the projects that have now been delayed will be delivered before the last gold medal is handed out at the Brisbane 2032 Olympics. There is simply no clarity. A part of that is because of what we have seen from those opposite. They are hiding the figures, whether it is hidden figures in QTRIP or hidden figures in their so-called Hospital Rescue Plan. They are refusing to identify the costs of line items for critical projects right across our state. Whether it is all with way to the north, south, east or west, they have hidden figures in these budget papers. That is something that the people of Queensland cannot afford to suffer when we talk about state budgets moving forward. It is very disappointing.

That disappointment carries through to the Bundaberg electorate where there is no line item for the new Bundaberg Hospital. There is no line item that explicitly states how much money will be spent in this financial year to continue the works that our Labor government started—the Labor government that delivered the land for the hospital and began the works that those opposite opposed. Those opposite even called for the works to be stopped and removed from Bundaberg. That is what the LNP stand for. There are no line items for those new hospitals. There are no line items for those capital expansions, so Queenslanders do not know how much money will be spent each year and when our new hospitals will be completed. Again, will it be after the last gold medal is handed out at the 2032 Olympic Games?

We have seen no mention of the Bundaberg East flood levee in the budget papers. Again, what is the LNP trying to hide? Twice I have written to the Premier and twice he has refused to write back as to his position on funding the Bundaberg East flood levee. I wrote to him on the day of the United States election last year. He still has not responded to that first letter, let alone the second letter that asks what the position of the LNP is when it comes to funding that important piece of flood mitigation for my community.

We heard today in question time that the \$20 million upgrade to the Bundaberg Police Station is no longer in the Capital Statement. It has been removed. The \$20 million was in last year's budget Capital Statement as a line item. That means it is a rolled gold guarantee that our government was going to deliver those vital upgrades. It has since been removed from the Capital Statement. What is even more concerning than the Treasurer's attempt at an answer this morning is what the police minister said overnight to the media in regard to this particular part of the budget. He said that that \$20 million commitment was simply a stunt to win votes. Funding the front line, funding those officers who go to work every single day to keep our community safe, is just a political stunt according to the police minister. It echoes the words of their spokesperson for Bundaberg during last year's election. That is what the LNP think when it comes to keeping our frontline heroes safe, when it comes to upgrading the police station, when it comes to upgrading parts of the Vulnerable Persons Unit where

victims of domestic, family and sexual violence go to make serious allegations of crime. The LNP have removed any trace of the \$20 million upgrades from the Capital Statement.

We have heard the Treasurer say today that that money has gone into the forwards, but then we have also heard from whistleblowers within the QPS that money has been taken from that \$20 million commitment to the Bundaberg Police Station and is being redirected instead to the Bargara Police Station. Senior whistleblowers within QPS have told the opposition that money from that \$20 million commitment to the Bundaberg Police Station is being redirected to the Bargara Police Station. Why can't the LNP just fund both? Why can't they look after all of our police across the Bundaberg region? Why can't they look after all of our community?

This now extends to another arm of our emergency services with not even a single mention of the second fire station for the Bundaberg community. This second fire station would service the eastern suburbs of the Bundaberg CBD and along the growing coastline—something that those opposite foolishly tried to claim was their own doing last term. When they tried to claim that, it was the firefighters themselves who actually called out members opposite about how they had deceived the community. That is absolutely outrageous. There is not even a mention. Fire stations are mentioned in each of the other key Wide Bay cities but there is nothing in terms of Bundaberg. The LNP have failed our emergency services and have failed to keep our community safe with this budget. As I said, it is a full budget that is very, very empty, especially for Bundaberg.

It is disappointing that there is no funding for the Angels Community Group and no funding for the Bundaberg East State School for their security fence. There is nothing for the Brothers Bundaberg Bowls Club, nothing for Bundaberg Basketball and nothing for Bundaberg touch football either. These are critical elements of our community, critical community clubs and organisations that have been dismissed by this LNP budget. I will say how good it is to see the funding commitments of both the LNP and the former Labor government for the Burnett Bowls Club and for the Bundaberg Netball Association have been honoured. That is a positive thing. I congratulate those two organisations for their hard work in making sure they were able to secure that funding through both sides of this chamber.

I will also touch on Paradise Dam. My commitment to Paradise Dam has never, ever waivered. I have made sure to look farmers in the eye, to shake their hand and to say from day dot that I would deliver for that dam.

**Mr Head:** Get your federal colleagues to cough up.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Furner): Order!

**Mr SMITH:** What we found out from the original works to rebuild Paradise Dam was that it was not going to be safe to do so. We said through SunWater that we needed to deliver a brand new dam. Funding of \$4.4 billion is a line item in the budget—hear, hear! What is disappointing is that the LNP were kicking and screaming in the media about why they did not need to put it in as a line item in the budget. You only have to read media reports from as late as last week where three of their members said that it was unnecessary to put the total cost in as a line item in the budget. The reason I fought so hard in the media to ensure that that total cost was there is that now they are stuck with it.

**Mr Head:** Why didn't you put it in the budget last year?

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr Head:** Why didn't you put it in the budget last year?

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Callide, you are now warned.

**Mr SMITH:** Why wasn't it in the budget last year? It is because SunWater had not given the total cost. In fact, they are still going through the detailed business case that the LNP has pushed back, extending into next year. I heard the member for Callide. He does not know anything about Paradise Dam. He has no idea. That is why he sounds like a buffoon.

**Mr HEAD:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at those grossly misleading comments and I ask the member to withdraw.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Bundaberg, you will withdraw those comments.

**Mr SMITH:** I withdraw. I also love fishing. Sometimes I throw a line out and catch one as well. I will get to fisheries later on. It is good for all of our farmers across Bundaberg: \$4.4 billion is a line item. That means it is committed to and will be delivered, regardless of the colour of the government in the future. That is a great win by the farmers of the Bundaberg community.

I want to touch on primary industries as well. I welcome the investment into biosecurity and the continuation of the work on fire ants. I acknowledge the former minister for the great work he did in terms of continuing to fund what was then the department of agriculture and fisheries. The LNP have said that they want to achieve \$30 billion by 2030 in terms of GDP. What is very interesting is that there is no clear evidence how. The question for the minister is: what percentage growth is needed year on year to achieve that? Does he know that it is not by 2030-31 but by 2029-30? By the way, he needs to increase GDP by more than 2.8 per cent year on year. At what point does he say it is unattainable and when will he resign? I will spend two minutes talking about Mossman before I finish.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Bundaberg, I will ask you to start winding up.

**Mr SMITH:** I will, indeed. There is no money in this budget for the continuation of Mossman in terms of the future years of crush. There is only funding for this season. There needs to be more. It is disappointing. Of course, there is no relief package for the workers at Downer at Maryborough. This is a full budget that delivers very, very little.

Sitting suspended from 1.01 pm to 2.03 pm.



**Mr LEE** (Hervey Bay—LNP) (2.03 pm): I rise to speak to the Appropriation Bill 2025 and to the Crisafulli government's first budget. We are restoring respect for Queenslanders' money after a decade of Labor's magic puddings. Our first budget is truly a fresh and invigorating start for Queensland and great news for our Hervey Bay community. I commend the Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership, David Janetzki, for his diligence and tireless work in preparing this groundbreaking budget. Our first Crisafulli budget is about calmly and methodically laying a solid, measured and enduring foundation in Queensland and, by implication, my electorate in Hervey Bay. What a contrast to Labor's previous budget, which the *Australian Financial Review* on 11 June 2024 described as a 'populist clown show that ... trashes Queensland's traditional reputation as a low debt, lower taxing, business-friendly jurisdiction'.

On the subject of clown shows, do members remember Labor's desperate and panic-stricken pre-election bid to lower energy prices and buy back Powerdirect Australia after they sold it off for \$1.2 billion in 2007? Let's never forget the truth about who sold Queensland's assets. I table a copy of 'The truth about who sold Queensland's assets'.

*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, titled 'The truth about who sold Queensland's assets'.

The former Labor treasurer in his 2024 budget speech said—

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

Well, Queenslanders certainly did just that and decisively rejected Labor's legacy of debt, deception and deficit. The Crisafulli government is restoring respect for Queenslanders' money.

When it comes to Labor's economic agenda, it is all about superficial and deceptive slogans. Labor is all form and no substance. In Hervey Bay, the previous Labor government had a vacuous slogan of 'building a better Hervey Bay'. Predictably, no-one knew what that slogan meant. It could not have been about tackling youth crime, because Labor said it was a media beat-up. It could not have been about housing, because Labor said that was a council problem, while social housing waiting lists ballooned. It could not have been about lower energy costs, because Labor is always tilting at windmills. We all remember Labor's negligent oversight of the Callide C4 coal-fired power station. It could not have been about access to health care when and where you need it, because the second level of the Hervey Bay Hospital ED remained empty for nearly a decade and elective surgery and medical specialist waiting lists were bloated. It could not have been about elevating the status of TAFE Queensland, because the former Labor member for Hervey Bay and the member for Bundamba stood outside the Hervey Bay TAFE site with a sledgehammer. Labor's plan for Hervey Bay was a straw house, a house of cards—a metaphorical house desperately and reactively constructed on deceptive and unfunded budget promises.

I am delighted to be part of a Crisafulli government that is all about substance over form. We are laying the firm foundations for a healthier and stronger Hervey Bay. We are slowly, proactively and methodically constructing an enduring legacy. Brick by brick, we are building a solid foundation for a healthier and stronger Hervey Bay. The philosopher and great conservative thinker Edmund Burke speaks to the concept of a social contract. He said—

Society is ... a contract ... not only between those who are living, but between those who are living, those who are dead and those who are to be born.

This statement raises the importance of legacy. I understand the importance of leaving an enduring infrastructure and service legacy to my community in Hervey Bay. That is why I am delighted

to be part of the Crisafulli government's first budget. We are carefully building a healthier and stronger Hervey Bay, and that is why I have been actively collaborating with the Fraser Coast Regional Council to release more land for future housing development. Labor's legacy in Queensland's social housing is a waiting list of over 52,000. I welcome the \$14.7 million investment into social housing and a further \$2.3 million to address the challenge of homelessness. Hervey Bay is not immune to the housing crisis. I know that we have many seniors in my community living on the verge of homelessness. Some are and have been the victims of unconscionable conduct. I made a submission to that effect during the recent elder abuse inquiry.

The Crisafulli government is delivering the right care at the right place and at the right time for Queenslanders. Dr Nick Yim, a local general practitioner and president of the Queensland AMA, has said that our \$33.1 billion healthcare expenditure shows that the government recognises the urgent need to invest in our healthcare system. Dr Yim said—

It is a relief to see that health remains a high priority. Patients are waiting far too long for life-saving healthcare and this funding is essential to turn that around.

Ambulance ramping under Labor hit a catastrophic 45 per cent. In my electorate of Hervey Bay our hardworking paramedics could be tied up most of the day in the hospital's ED. The Crisafulli government has set a benchmark to get ambulance ramping down to 30 per cent by 2028, and we have invested \$1.7 billion to achieve this target. We have also abolished Labor's patient tax to improve timely access to health care. Labor's patient tax put substantial pressure on our hospital ED and potentially compromised the health and wellbeing of my community.

We are delighted that the Crisafulli government is providing \$94 million to finally fit-out level 2 of the emergency department and construct a new state-of-the-art helipad. It comes after 10 years of Labor's neglect. The LNP started this project and we will finish it. This announcement is a fresh start for health care in Hervey Bay, with 25 medical and 10 ICU beds. We are also delivering 167 new car parks for staff, visitors and carers.

A healthy community requires investment in sporting infrastructure, so I am delighted that we are receiving \$190,000 to upgrade the LED night lights at the Hervey Bay AFL Bombers football ground. This means Friday night games. The Bombers also have 220 juniors who are embracing AFL. Many will no doubt avail themselves of the opportunity under our \$200 Play On! sports vouchers.

Our local hardworking Queensland Police Service does an amazing job keeping our community safe. The Crisafulli government is providing \$28 million for a replacement police station. I look forward to engaging with the local QPS leadership to ensure that we get a fit-for-purpose and strategic solution to law enforcement in Hervey Bay. It is not possible to exhaustively identify all of the 2025 Hervey Bay budget items today. That is because there are so many of them. I will continue to calmly—

**Ms Boyd:** What about the fire station?

**Mr LEE:** I will take that interjection from the member for Pine Rivers. Yes, what about the fire station? On your watch it was completely unfunded. It was a mirage. You got the land. Purchasing the land does not constitute building a new fire station.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McDonald):** Member for Hervey Bay, direct your comments through the chair, thanks.

**Mr LEE:** It is a great example of Labor's slogans. The former member said, 'I delivered it for you.'

**Mrs Poole:** Smoke and mirrors.

**Mr LEE:** Yes, smoke and mirrors—*Pink Panther* stuff. It is all another Labor mirage, an illusion. We called you out on it, member for Pine Rivers. I am currently working with the local fire brigade to ensure that under the LNP government this fire station will be delivered. As the local member, I have given an undertaking to advocate strongly for a new fire station. Labor neglected the fire and rescue station on that current site since 1962. Those opposites have real form when it comes to economic literacy, because purchasing a block of land does not constitute building a new fire station. You can put up pre-election fences and banners; that does not mean anything. Our local community saw through those express and implied misleading misrepresentations.

I will continue to calmly and methodically lay the firm foundations and, brick by brick, build a healthier and stronger Hervey Bay community. That is the Crisafulli government's enduring legacy to the Hervey Bay community—not Labor's legacy of smoke and mirrors.

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 in the *Record of Proceedings*.

*The speech read as follows—*

Hervey Bay has a population of 58,000 and is growing at a rate of 2.1% per annum. We have numerous over 50s lifestyle villages and several high-rise development approvals including the 18-storey Sheraton Hotel. I am determined to continue advocating for a new Hervey Bay Fire and Rescue Station. Labor misled our hardworking firefighters into believing that a new fire station had been delivered. Labor will say and do anything to stay in power. The new fire and rescue station was yet another unfunded and broken promise. Our hardworking firefighters deserve better and that's what they will get with a Crisafulli Government.

Our approach to the budget process is exemplified in a commitment to fiscal responsibility, transparency, accountability and a focus on delivering tangible and sustainable results for Queenslanders.

In contrast, Labor's recklessly reactive and irresponsible management of our Queensland economy, knew no bounds.

In September 2023, the Standards and Poor's (S&P) Global Ratings Agency affirmed Queensland's credit rating at AA+ with a stable outlook. However, in February 2025, the S&P revised the outlook to negative, due to factors such as weakening fiscal discipline and a growing infrastructure pipeline. This was Labor's legacy to the incoming Crisafulli Government.

Queensland Labor's fiscal profligacy was evident in their frantic pre-election manifesto of \$1.4 billion for school lunches, state-owned servos and a proposal for 50 state-run bulk-billing medical practices.

In desperation, Labor then aired a desire to re-purchase an energy retailer, ostensibly to reduce retail energy costs. It was Labor who sold the retail arm of Ergon Energy (Powerdirect Australia) in 2007 for \$1.2 billion.

Since the 2024 election, the Crisafulli government has calmly and methodically identified Labor's capital project blow outs and overruns across all areas of government, including but not limited to:

- Cross River Rail—up \$494 million.
- Gold Coast Light Rail—up \$330 million.
- Hospital Capacity Expansion Program—blowouts pushed \$9.785 billion to 16 billion.
- CopperString—up \$2.8 billion.
- Pioneer-Burdekin—up \$24.8 billion.
- Bumba Pumped Hydro—up \$3.8 billion.

The Queensland Treasury's economic modelling over the term 2024 to 2030 estimated Labor's Best Practice Industry Conditions tax would have likely increased project costs by up to 25 per cent and created a net economic cost of \$17.1 billion. Talk about a drag on our economy!

Queensland was forecast to be \$218 billion in debt by 2027/28. It's now \$190 million (\$27.5 million) less than the 2024/25 Mid-Year Fiscal Economic Review.

The Crisafulli Government is taking a fiscally responsible approach to the management of our economy and that is why we have established the Queensland Productivity Commission. The Commission's first task is to review the building and construction industry, including the Best Practice Industry Conditions (BPIC) the CFMEU tax.

Small business is a major pillar in our Queensland, regional and local economies.

There are 495,000 small family businesses in Queensland that employ one million Queenslanders and contribute an estimated \$131 billion per annum to our Queensland economy. Small businesses create jobs, pay taxes and stimulate economic growth.

In and about my electorate of Hervey Bay, there are 6,726 registered businesses with 21 per cent of these in the construction industry. The construction industry represents the largest share of small businesses in Queensland.

Fraser Coast Regional Council has valued 2024/25 building approvals at \$641 million. So, it should come as no surprise that we need a stronger construction industry to support housing construction.

The Crisafulli Government is committed to partnering with Fraser Coast Regional Council to release more land for the development of affordable housing.

I encourage Fraser Coast Regional Council to apply for funding through the Crisafulli Government's Resident Activation Fund (RAF). The \$2 billion RAF is set to deliver critical infrastructure to get more homes built sooner.

Many young Hervey Bay families aspire to own their own home and welcome the Crisafulli Government's stamp duty exemptions for first home buyers and the \$30,000 first home buyer grant.

Homelessness in Hervey Bay is a challenge just as it is in many other Queensland locations.

The causes of homelessness are many and varied. The Crisafulli Government has committed \$365 million for crisis accommodation to address homelessness, and I am exploring accommodation options for victims of domestic violence.

Did you know the Fraser Coast Region has the highest rates of chronic disease, as a total proportion of the Fraser Coast population, in Australia? Thirty-one percent of our population is aged 65 and over. The median age of a Hervey Bay resident is 52, against a Queensland median age of 38. This is a challenging demographic.

Let's not forget Labor's tragic record of the highest ambulance rates in Australia; a doubling of elective surgery waiting lists over 10 years and 300,000 Queenslanders waiting to see a medical specialist.

However, our Hospital Rescue Plan is about easier access to healthcare by lessening elective surgery and medical specialists waiting lists and reducing ambulance ramping.

Labor's health cost blowouts are hurting Queenslanders. The Sangster review into Labor's Capital Expansion Plan (CEP) concluded that it was "deeply flawed" due to significant cost overruns, budget blowouts, and flawed procurement strategies. The initial \$9.8 billion plan was forecast to reach \$17 billion.

In Hervey Bay, Labor's mismanagement of the Hospital's Emergency Department level 2 fit-out and helipad resulted in a capital cost blowout of \$56 million (from \$40 million to \$96 million).

I will stridently advocate for a Hervey Bay Hospital construction pipeline that meets the rising healthcare needs in my community.

Nearly 5% of our population are under the age of 5 and are set to benefit from the Healthy Kindy Kids program.

The Crisafulli Government will commit \$37.5 million over 5 years under the Healthy Kindy Kids program. Did you know that 60,000 Queensland kids are set to benefit from free health checks at Kindergarten in the Crisafulli Government's first Budget?

The free health checks will assess the vision, hearing and speech of children before they start prep or school, in order to identify the need for early support, so children are better prepared for long-term success.

Hervey Bay is the whale watching capital of Australia. We also have Fraser (K'gari) Island, a UNESCO world heritage listed site that includes nearly 1,840 square kilometres of national parks on our doorstep.

The Crisafulli Government's Destination 2045 Tourism Plan is fantastic news for Hervey Bay.

Tourism in our Fraser Coast region is big business, and according to Tourism Research Australia, in 2023/24 generated just over \$1 billion in gross value to our regional economy and supported nearly 7,000 jobs.

I will continue to advocate for Fraser (K'gari) Island infrastructure improvements including establishing an emergency management precinct in Happy Valley. In 2021, devastating bush fires affected nearly half of the island, threatening residents, visitors, flora and fauna.

The Crisafulli Government is dedicated to the provision of consistent, reliable and cost-effective baseload power supply. We are committed to ensuring that our coal-fired power plants have maintenance guarantees in place.

Hervey Bay small business owners and pensioners are struggling with Queensland having the highest energy prices in Australia and we are committed to having the lowest energy prices in ten years' time.

Hervey Bay families have welcomed the Crisafulli Government's cost of living relief for Queensland families with new \$200 Play On! Sports Vouchers, for summer or winter sport.

Our Queensland Budget allows kids to Play On! In their favourite sport and stay active, with a \$62.5 million investment each year. These new sports vouchers will boost participation for children living in my community.

The Crisafulli Government continues to strengthen the frontline, with 130 new officers to graduate from the Queensland Police.

There are more than 680 recruits currently in training at QPS academies and there are more than 1,880 applicants in the recruiting pipeline.

The Crisafulli Government is reversing the declining police numbers and has delivered a net increase of 283 officers in just over six months, compared to Labor which only increased the headcount by 174 police officers over four years.

In closing, the Crisafulli Government's first budget is about setting the foundations for generational government. A fresh start for Queensland! I commend the Appropriation (2025/26) Bill 2025 to the House.



**Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.13 pm): Let me say this about the L-plate LNP Crisafulli government's first state budget: this is not a boring budget. This is a bad budget by a bumbling LNP Treasurer; an LNP budget of broken promises; a budget with big, big debt that does not deliver any benefits for Queenslanders; a budget that blows away cost-of-living relief for millions of Queenslanders; a budget that cuts billions from congestion-busting projects; a budget that will make people wait longer for medical treatment; a budget that does nothing to solve the shortage of social and affordable housing. It is a budget that will make it harder for Queenslanders to get around; it is a budget that will make it harder for Queenslanders to get ahead. So it is not a boring budget; it is a bad LNP budget from a bad LNP government.

It is a budget that reveals a \$13 billion reduction in funding for congestion-busting road and transport projects. It means that it will be harder for Queenslanders to get around. They will be waiting around more often and for longer. Bizarrely, there are projects in the budget that have no timeline for delivery and no projected costings. This is the LNP's road to nowhere: no idea when or where it goes and no idea how much it will actually cost. It is a slippery way for a slippery LNP Premier to dishonour his commitment to deliver projects on time and on budget—something that is easy to do when there is no timeline and there is no budget.

Under the LNP, it seems projects can be delivered anytime, at any cost. It is like playing tennis with no line markings on the court. No matter where you hit the ball, no-one ever calls it out. I say to you, Mr Deputy Speaker, that Labor is always willing to call the LNP out. Queenslanders are waking up to the slippery tricks of this slippery LNP Premier.

At the heart of this budget is big debt of \$205 billion by 2028; a budget deficit this year of close to \$8 billion. But here is the thing: there is no payoff for Queenslanders. All that debt and no comprehensive cost-of-living relief for Queenslanders. All that debt and delays to congestion-busting road and transport projects. All that debt and no real action on social and affordable housing. All that debt and yet crucial health infrastructure projects are being delayed. For Queenslanders, under the LNP it is all pain and no gain.

In the coming weeks car rego is set to jump around 24 per cent. That will mean that rego for a typical four-cylinder car on Queensland roads will jump by around \$88 a year. That is a big hit that will hurt the majority of Queenslanders squarely in the hip pocket. Following Labor's freeze on increasing fees and charges, from 1 July the Crisafulli LNP government will impose a 3.4 per cent increase on all fees and charges, including car rego, each and every year. In August, the previous Labor government's 20 per cent reduction in car rego bills will not be renewed by the L-platers in the Crisafulli LNP government. At least the L-platers in the LNP government have adopted Labor's First Home Owner Grant in its entirety, which was doubled by me in Labor's last budget, but it is not enough.

The issue the LNP will not address in any meaningful way is social and affordable housing. The Deputy Premier and housing minister have axed projects that would have delivered nearly 1,000 new homes, and this budget does nothing to support real action. The budget confirms what Queenslanders have known for some time: the LNP is not committed to building the health infrastructure, particularly the hospitals, Queenslanders need in a timely fashion. The LNP's budget raises more questions than it answers. Queenslanders still do not have full details on which health facilities will be built by the LNP, when they will be built, how many beds they will provide or how much they will cost.

On crime, well, the LNP only ever had a four-word slogan to fix crime, and Queenslanders are now seeing through that too. All we have seen is botched youth crime laws. There are no details on so-called rolled gold early intervention and no proper planning for the facilities needed to hold more young offenders. The Minister for Youth Justice is just so far out of her depth.

I will now address the elephant in the room for those opposite—the issue which they dare not speak about; the issue which they are all too timid to address; the issue upon which the LNP has absolutely squibbed it; the issue upon which the LNP has so profoundly disappointed all of those people who funded and supported their campaign: Labor's progressive coal royalties. It is a simple equation; it is a simple challenge. I say to the LNP that, if they do not like Labor's progressive coal royalties, come into parliament and repeal them. Have the courage of your convictions and do what you actually believe. I do not agree with the editor of the *Courier-Mail* when it comes to this issue, but he makes a good point. The Premier, the Deputy Premier, his Treasurer, his resources minister and the rest of the LNP L-platers do not have the courage of their convictions. On this issue, the LNP has absolutely no ticker. They have squibbed it. Yet again, it is not a matter of what they say; it is what they do.

Even their strongest supporters are now learning this painful lesson. It is a cowardly refusal to do what the LNP actually believes. State Labor believes in progressive coal royalties. We introduced them. In their heart of hearts, in the backroom chatter, the LNP believe in repealing progressive coal royalties but they cannot admit it publicly let alone act on their belief.

Politics is meant to be a contest of ideas, but on coal royalties only one side is showing up. I really sympathise with the Queensland Resources Council. The Queensland Resources Council genuinely thought the LNP would repeal progressive coal royalties but the LNP is not delivering. They have every right to be disappointed in the LNP. I had my tangles with Ian Macfarlane but we respected each other as opponents. These L-platers in the LNP, what are they? They have no ticker whatsoever and no conviction. They have made no effort whatsoever to undo the tax policies that our government put in place, let alone come up with a genuine economic reform agenda of their own.

It is clear that the LNP L-platers want Queenslanders to go to sleep and not notice that they have got a new government that has no idea what it is doing. The trouble is that it is the LNP government that has gone to sleep. So much for a fresh start by the LNP. It is a false start. Do not for a moment believe the spin the Premier's people tried to put on the budget—that it is a boring budget and nothing to see here. There is plenty to see in this budget and it is all bad.

It was very apparent in question time yesterday and today that the Treasurer was very uncomfortable talking about the budget or defending it. I do not blame him. A bumbling Treasurer and

a bad budget is a bad combo, especially when you have a Premier that says one thing and does another. The Premier promised electricity rebates for Queenslanders. He and the Treasurer have not delivered. The comprehensive, universal electricity rebates the previous government delivered are gone. Instead Queenslanders will be zapped in the hip pocket by higher power prices.

The Premier also promised there would be more police. The Premier has crowed about the extra police officers delivered this year. Well, here is the reality check—every one of the new police officers delivered so far this year were funded by Labor; every one of the police recruits undergoing training in Queensland's police academies were funded by Labor. This looks like what we often see from those opposite: say one thing, do another. The Premier promised there would be no cuts but, as this budget demonstrates, there are cuts. This budget cuts Queensland's future—cuts and curtails the future of this great state.

In stark contrast to those opposite, Labor is offering Queenslanders support and hope for a better future. As the opposition leader has stated, we would extend the build-to-rent 50 per cent land tax concession indefinitely. This builds on our announcement in 2023 to implement that concession for a period of 20 years. Now we pledge to extend that concession indefinitely. It is worth noting that the Property Council called for this. The Property Council identified this as a positive step to increase supply and drive investment.

Labor also commits to providing \$10 million in additional funding for the community services sector. This funding would include support for neighbourhood centres and community service and charitable organisations. The aim is to provide them with the support to navigate the challenges of storage, refrigeration and logistics when they provide food to Queenslanders who are desperate for food security. The LNP has delivered those desperate Queenslanders absolutely nothing. Labor also promises to guarantee free TAFE and core apprenticeship programs. These are Labor initiatives that Labor will guarantee to continue to drive the skills of the future.

Representing one of the most multicultural electorates in Australia, I am just so proud that Queensland Labor will advocate for the Activate Australia's Skills campaign to be adopted nationally. This is a blueprint aimed at boosting the recognition of national and international skills accreditation to get more qualified people who migrate to this country on the tools and in jobs working at their full skills capacity. The measures Labor commits to are real-world initiatives that make a real difference in the lives of people in our community. These are measures that address very real challenges that our community faces. Housing supply must be boosted. We desperately need people with the right skills working in the right jobs for Queensland's future.

While Queensland Labor looks to the future and looks for ways to make Queensland's future better, stronger and more prosperous, those opposite cut the future potential of our state. That is because the LNP always governs for the few. The LNP always governs for itself, its mates and its donors. Witness our dodgy Deputy Premier, the member for Kawana. A dodgy Deputy Premier who gives special treatment to his LNP mates—

**Ms SIMPSON:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member's language is clearly unparliamentary and I would ask that it be withdrawn.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr McDonald): Member for Woodridge, I would have pulled you up at the end of your contribution, but if you would withdraw now that would be appreciated.

**Mr DICK:** I withdraw. Whatever you call him, he is a Deputy Premier who gives preference to his dodgy mates and donors, a Deputy Premier who magically got his department to intervene in a property development in Maleny that the Sunshine Coast Regional Council had opposed—by absolute magic. One person who was involved in that decision-making process was John Sosso.

**Ms SIMPSON:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I draw your attention to the fact that withdrawals should be unqualified. It sounds like a qualified withdrawal from the member opposite.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Woodridge, if you could proceed without using any unparliamentary language, it would be appreciated.

**Mr DICK:** To clarify, it is the Deputy Premier who is supporting dodgy LNP mates and donors, and that is what we see. That is why we see what we see—

**Ms SIMPSON:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. That still appears to be a qualification of a withdrawal, which is against our protocols in here.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, member for Maroochydore. I will look after the behaviour in the House.

**Mr DICK:** That is why we see what we see from this dodgy LNP government—a bad government that makes bad decisions, a bad government that has delivered a bad budget. It is a toxic combo, all overseen by a Premier who is slippery and deceptive, a Premier and government who faces serious questions about their integrity and character. From this week, this slippery Premier will find it much harder to evade scrutiny. His bumbling Treasurer has delivered the LNP's first budget—

**Ms SIMPSON:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I draw your attention to the fact that the member is still using unparliamentary language and I ask that he withdraw it.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I will seek some advice. Member for Woodridge, a couple of those terms you are using are on the list as unparliamentary language so please make sure any use is not attached to a person.

**Mr DICK:** This bumbling Treasurer has delivered the LNP's first bad budget.

**Ms SIMPSON:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I think the member is offending again and I would ask that he withdraw his unparliamentary language.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Maroochydore, I heard the member's contribution and the word was not unparliamentary.

**Mr POWER:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. This is getting to the point of frivolous interjections in order to interrupt. I want to counsel that—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, member for Logan. I will look after it.

**Mr DICK:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on the same point of order. It is a deliberate attempt by the honourable member opposite to interfere with my speech and I would ask you to bring her to order.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Woodridge, that is not a point of order. You have the call and you have two minutes and 35 seconds left.

**Mr DICK:** What do we know? This bumbling Treasurer has delivered the LNP government's first bad budget.

**Ms SIMPSON:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. This is clearly unparliamentary in regard to the way the member is using it, by referencing people. I believe he is actually outside the standing orders.

**Mr POWER:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I am seeking some advice, member for Logan. Member for Logan, you can resume your seat. The member for Woodridge has the call.

**Mr POWER:** I have a point of order.


**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** What is your point of order?

**Mr POWER:** You had previously ruled on this. We had made the point that the member is being frivolous in her attempt to undermine the rights of the member who is speaking.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Logan, I hear your point of order. The member who made the point of order clearly understood or believed that the word used was unparliamentary. It is not on the list, and in the context it was used I do not believe it has been, thus I am giving the member for Woodridge the call.

**Mr DICK:** I appreciate your protection, Deputy Speaker. What do we see this week? A bumbling Treasurer delivering the LNP's first bad budget. It is one thing: it is their document. The priorities and decisions of this budget belong to the LNP. The Premier, his bumbling Treasurer and the rest of the L-plate LNP members of parliament will now be held accountable for that budget and all the decisions contained in it. As I have said previously and as I will say over and over, I can hardly believe this bumbling Treasurer who looked so uncomfortable when he was trying to defend what this government has done to the people of Queensland.

Let me conclude by saying this: the bumbling Treasurer and his Premier and all the LNP L-platers will have to wear the consequences that come with this bad budget—a bad budget from a bad government.

 **Mr BAILLIE** (Townsville—LNP) (2.30 pm): That was extraordinary! I rise to respond to the budget, the first delivered by the Crisafulli government, and I do so with strong support. Queenslanders voted for a fresh start and this budget delivers it. In the lead-up to last year's election, the LNP did not run fear campaigns like those opposite or needed focus groups to tell us what was broken.

Queenslanders told us and we listened: crime out of control, a health system on life support, a critical housing shortage and the cost of living rising faster than anywhere else in the country. So, we made a commitment to fix the mess Labor left behind and get Queensland back on track. This budget is the first step. Let's talk about what it means for the Townsville electorate.

In regards to crime, in addition to the multiple changes we have made to strengthen the laws, we are investing in our commitments to increase the number of boots on the ground and provide our police with the resources they need: a dedicated rapid response unit—the Flying Squad—has already visited Townsville six times since being established in January, taking 180 juvenile offenders into custody; a second Polair helicopter to enable 24/7 availability and ensure police have the resources they need when they need them; upgrades to Townsville watch house which are well overdue; an additional district court judge with staff and two new courtrooms to deliver faster justice; and investments to increase security for small businesses with additional lighting and surveillance in public spaces which has been welcomed by the small business community in Townsville. I would like to acknowledge Heidi Turner from the Townsville Chamber of Commerce who joins us here in the gallery today.

As we have said since day one, to address crime we need to do more than catch offenders and put them before the courts. We need to focus on early intervention and rehabilitation, and we are doing that, too, with: investment in the Staying on Track program to provide one year of focused rehabilitation for every young offender released from detention; the Regional Reset program which is a short-stay program targeted at youth demonstrating high-risk behaviours; a crime prevention school to be established in Townsville to re-engage youth who have been disengaged from mainstream education at risk of falling into a life of crime; and investment into local, early intervention programs like Community Gro in Garbutt where we are investing \$1.8 million over three years to support their youth hub and provide a safe environment for young people to attend out-of-school hours, and is an opportunity to grow positive relationships with each other, staff, volunteers and mentors. We are taking real steps and allocating significant investment into early intervention and rehabilitation.

Even those opposite recognise the great work we are doing. Just last week, we had a member of the shadow ministry visit Community Gro, an advocate for the program we are funding saying—

Community Gro in Garbutt do an amazing job supporting the community in Townsville through multiple programs including the youth hub.

I thank the shadow minister for their advocacy in the Crisafulli government's funding of this early intervention program after they had previously had their funding cut by the federal Labor government and was then left on life support, only able to operate on half capacity for several months until we took government and delivered the funding they needed to provide that service to our community.

I turn our attention to health. We are delivering on health with the hospital expansion plan and more health workers. The expansion to Townsville University Hospital with 165 new beds, eight perinatal beds and a new multilevel car park delivering close to 700 spaces can now be delivered by local contractors. We are adding more healthcare workers as well, with additional funding in 2025-26 to grow the workforce to 6,378 FTE in the Townsville Hospital and Health Service.

On housing, the Crisafulli government is focusing on driving up supply with the Boost to Buy program for those who do not have access to the bank of mum and dad and removal of a tax. You heard that right—removal of a tax. No stamp duty for first home buyers on new homes focuses on a new supply and allows those new home buyers to rent out a room to increase occupancy and further reduce overall housing demand without risking their eligibility for concessions. In particular in Townsville, we are excited about the Residential Activation Fund, a \$2 billion fund that will prioritise shovel-ready projects focusing on construction and critical trunk infrastructure needed such as water, power, sewerage, stormwater and roads needed to unlock new residential developments, and \$1 billion of that fund will be spent in the regions—regions just like Townsville. Along with my colleagues, we have been working with our local councils as well as developers to apply for the fund and try to attract as much of that fund to Townsville as possible and deliver more homes into our region to satisfy demand.

In regards to cost of living, we are providing real cost-of-living relief for households. On the power front, we have the Supercharged Solar for Renters Program and we are reintroducing indexation to the electricity rebate scheme for vulnerable households. Along with a maintenance guarantee on our state-owned, power-generating assets and investment this year into the Brigalow gas peaker project, this investment to secure the reliability and capacity of our power-generating assets will put downward pressure on the cost of power.

Further on cost-of-living relief, there are the new \$200 Play On! sports vouchers and the \$100 Back to School Boost for every school student from 1 January. Health checks for kindy kids, which we announced last week, will be starting in Townsville, providing hearing, speech and vision checks for students as they enter primary school and may identify unknown barriers they may face as they take their next steps on their learning journey.


While we are talking about schools, we are investing in schools, too. Hermit Park State School will benefit from various ground enhancements across the school site. There will be investment into Pimlico State High School to refurbish the science block and upgrade the water reticulation system, as well as refurbishment of some classrooms. Townsville South State School will have a refurbished prep space in P block. Townsville State High School will have their existing hall upgraded into a performing arts centre. We love the arts on this side of the House. There are funds to Townsville West State School to install a permanent shade structure to the existing playground.

On Magnetic Island, my advocacy helped secure funding to replace the Sooning Street Bridge after it was damaged in a weather event prior to Christmas and sustained further damage during the February rain event. I am looking forward to restoring the road access to Radical Bay, and works are already underway on the new amenities block at Picnic Bay after the previous block was 'temporarily unavailable' for years.

On Palm Island, in addition to commitments to provide a pathway to home ownership for Palm Island residents and funding to kickstart the Palm Island tourism masterplan, we are investing in a multi-agency community safety facility on Palm Island.

Then we look at the big-ticket items across the state: the Olympic and Paralympic Games, with investment in infrastructure coming to regions hosting events, as well as in grassroots sports right across the state, like the Western Suburbs District Cricket Club which is benefiting from the Games On! Program. Thanks to the Crisafulli government, Townsville will be an Olympic city in 2032. CopperString, with \$2.4 billion being invested next year alone, will secure the economic future of Queensland and unlock North West Minerals Province from Mount Isa to Townsville and straight through our port. For the Bruce Highway some \$9 billion has been secured by the Crisafulli government, in an 80-20 split with the federal Labor government, just two months into government. The Bruce is critical for Townsville and the Crisafulli government already has five projects underway to begin restoring the Bruce Highway to a standard that Queenslanders can be proud of. After years of mismanagement, Queenslanders finally have a government that is focused on delivery and not excuses—a government getting on with the job.

This is a budget that lays the groundwork to clean up the mess Labor left behind and to give Queenslanders the services, safety and opportunities they deserve. This is what a good government looks like—listening to locals, acting on their concerns and delivering real outcomes. This is a budget for safer streets, better health care, more homes and real cost-of-living relief. We are ready to deliver and with this budget, that work begins. I commend this budget to the House.

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (2.40 pm): This budget is a massive disappointment to the people of Pine Rivers. Described by the *Courier-Mail* as as boring as 'Weet-Bix with no milk' it is just as hard to swallow. Queenslanders are gagging on it. This is worse than boring; this is a bad budget—a bad budget made by a bumbling Treasurer. It does not put the people of Queensland first. It prioritises blue political ideology over hip pocket relief for families, minus cost-of-living relief and an actual focus on Queenslanders—the people who bleed maroon. This takes much of last year's budget, reheats it, chops it up, sprinkles it in smaller pieces over the forward years and prolongs transformative infrastructure, congestion-busting projects that we are in desperate need of, medical treatments that people are crying out for and essential services that we rely upon every single day.

The road projects in this budget—in a first for Queensland—are hidden with uncertain expenditure and hidden timeframes. There are a few I know the people of Pine Rivers are really keen to know more about. They are keen to know more about an election commitment the LNP made at Samford for roundabout at School Road and Mount Glorious Road. They committed \$500,000 for a Samford Village concept plan—a plan to install a roundabout that the Department of Transport and Main Roads has long maintained is an entirely unworkable solution and would make that juncture less safe. Half a million dollars has been committed by this government—not that you can find it in the budget papers—at the last election and the people of my community want to know what on earth is happening with that. They also want to know what is going on with the \$2.5 million that was committed for Terror's Creek. There is no clue around the timeframes with that project. When I talk to the regional director of TMR and say, 'Hey, what is the plan with this one?' 'Oh, we do not know yet.'

On top of that, the people of Pine Rivers are suffering under the bungled project that we have now been enduring for years. We were promised a safety upgrade on Eatons Crossing Road and it is finally coming to fruition. A project that was intended to have more turning lanes to make the road safer is actually removing a turning lane at a major junction of Mount Samson Road and Eatons Crossing Road—absolutely bumbling—but then, they have put in a bike lane that road users are actually using as a second turning lane anyway. Just last week I was contacted by a constituent who almost had a crash there—a crash she claims would not have happened if there was still the same infrastructure in place prior to the upgrade.

**An opposition member** interjected.

**Ms BOYD:** it is indeed slippery. It was actually an intersection that was functioning very well prior to the upgrade. Now, the Department of Transport and Main Roads is saying, 'If you want to fix that, we are happy to put traffic lights in there.' My community is not happy for that to happen. My community does not think that is a good use of taxpayers' money. That is not an expenditure that my community is willing to foot the bill for. It is a problem that should not have happened. It is a problem that only came to light in May this year, and it is a problem my community wants to see fixed right now while there is still construction on that road.

When it comes to schools, I was delighted to open the budget papers and find that there will be a Moreton Bay South special school. I have been advocating heavily in my region for an additional special school. I know that the Pine Rivers Special School is bursting at the seams. As much as we are endeavouring to get additional infrastructure, that school is being outstripped by enrolments. That is a project that is now all bundled up with a bunch of other projects—an \$800-plus million price tag put on it. No-one actually knows how much money is going to that school and no-one actually knows when that school will be delivered.

**Mr Power:** It is hopeless.

**Ms BOYD:** it is hopeless, member for Logan, I take that interjection. To add insult to injury, when you look at the Regional Delivery Plans map for the Moreton Bay South special school, the map pins it directly on top of the Pine Rivers Special School at Lawnton Pocket Road. That is not going to work and it does not inform my community about the things that are important to them. There are important details in this budget that my community ought to know. There ought to be transparency around this. Of course, the parents from other schools in my electorates want to know about how their schools are being supported. There no details at all about them in this budget. There is just one reheated upgrade that I have already committed to for Pine Rivers high that is in there.

When it comes to the \$100 Back to School Boost, what a massive anticlimax. I have a primary school kid, and I will have to buy two pairs of school shoes this year because her feet just keep on growing and 100 bucks will not get me there. Not only that, I cannot access that \$100. It goes to the school and then there is some kind of convoluted system that we have only learnt about days after the budget has been handed down. This will not go far for families. This will not go far in a family budget to cover the increasing costs of living. At a time when we are seeing a global increase in the cost of living, this Crisafulli government is stripping back cost-of-living relief for power bills and stripping back cost-of-living relief for registrations. Queenslanders are slipping further and further behind under this government.

I want to talk about the fire portfolio in this budget. It is a disgrace that fire and rescue services in the Queensland Fire Department will see a three per cent decrease in capital. What that means is fewer trucks and stations across our growing state and across our growing communities. I know the communities of Hervey Bay and Bundaberg need new stations. I know in Mackay they need new stations, too. Growing suburban populations in the south-east need new stations. Every fire on our front line knows this. The government needs to stump up the money to service a growing population because if you are not investing in the appliances, if you are not investing in the stations in growing communities then you will have less of a frontline response. You will have communities that are less safe. That is not something that we want to see across Queensland. That is what this budget will do.

The member for Hervey Bay was in here a minute ago saying, 'I will keep on jabbering on about this.' I was talking to a firey from Hervey Bay as he was making his contribution and the feedback I got from that firey was that the LNP pushed for a stronger Queensland but they are actually making us weaker; they need to put their money where their mouth is. Fireies do not want lip-service from this government; they want a government that will build the infrastructure that they need to service our community properly.

This needs to extend also to rural fire brigades. We need unfilled positions filled. We need the orders to be placed for the resources that our rural fires are telling us they need right now. We need them to be able to have the safety equipment that they are requesting to come down the line to them—that has come to a grinding halt under this LNP government. It is little wonder that Yellow Ribbon Day came into being under an LNP government. Rural fires had to march on the gates of this place because the LNP was stripping their funding. They failed to respect and failed to fund and support our rural fire volunteers appropriately. All this Minister for Fire knows how to do is to play politics. The Greater Springfield Fire and Rescue Station is a great example of this. It became clear to the world when we saw actual footage of the Minister for Fire trying and failing to use a shovel. She could not dig and she could not pick up soil in a shovel.

**Ms LEAHY:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence and I ask the minister to withdraw.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr McDonald): Member for Pine Rivers, will you withdraw?

**Ms BOYD:** I withdraw. There is not much hope for building the infrastructure that our fires need in this budget under this minister. We have heard a lot of lip-service from the LNP about volunteers, but there is not a single dollar in this budget, there is no plan and no ideas, and there is very little goodwill left with the volunteer sector right now.

In local government there is the so-called equal partners agreements, but what we are seeing is a \$132 million bin tax that is flowing on to local governments as a direct result of this budget. That will flow on to ratepayers in those local government areas. If ratepayers see that there is a charge on their rates, I want them to know that it is not their local government that is instilling that charge on them, but that it is actually this LNP government that is doing that. These local governments have asked for the environment minister, the Treasurer and the Premier to intervene in this and to turn the tide on it. Instead of treating them like equal partners, this government and this environment minister have decided to use this issue as a political battering ram because this is a government that cares more about playing politics than it does about serving the people of Queensland.

Not only is all of their cost-of-living relief being torn away under this LNP; in Cairns, Rocky, Gladstone, Bundy, Fraser Coast, Townsville and Mackay people will be paying more on their rates under this government. The environment minister said, 'This is a charge that came into place in 2009.' How many budgets have there been when those ratepayers have footed the bill? I will let honourable member know: zero; there have been absolutely no budgets under Labor where those costs have flowed on to ratepayers. This budget under an LNP government will be the very first time we see that.

If the LNP are fair dinkum about being equal partners, they will take their grant funding packages for local government and they will actually deliver \$100 million a year, like they promised in permanent Works for Queensland funding, not just scurry it about in a way that is convenient for them in this budget. They would actually get it out the door and deliver it for their sector. If they are fair dinkum about grant funding in local government another day would not go by without these new grants and funding packages that have been rebadged and, I dare say, rebranded in blue, unknown to the sector—let's have a minister who fronts up and explains to them what they are and what this means for local government and who actually provides an analysis for councils as to whether they are getting more or less or whether or not there has just been a cost shift in this space. It just looks like this is another move from a hapless minister who is cooking the books.

I welcome the continuation of Labor's water funding and more localised projects in this budget and I call on this government and this water minister to release the local council water infrastructure report. In terms of the cost-of-living rebates, we know that prices are going up; people are paying more for groceries and power. That will continue under the LNP because they have no plans in place to actually alleviate any pressure on local families.

I will turn for a second to sports because I know that time is ticking down. I congratulate and thank the members of my community who fought for and won sports vouchers. We know they make a real difference in the lives and the budgets of people in my community. There were some big commitments made last election: \$4.1 million for Pine Rivers United netball, a project that is already funded and underway with federal and local government funding. I am keen to know where that is at. I am also keen to know where the \$3.8 million is for Pine Rivers football club.

**Mr Mander:** Read the letters that I sent you.

**Ms BOYD:** The minister keeps on coming in here—I hear him chirping on—and yelling.

**Mr Mander:** What else do you need?

**Ms BOYD:** What else do I need? I need some clarity. He comes in here yelling. There are regional highlight documents that are part of this budget, regional highlight documents that have smaller projects than the \$3.8 million that the LNP committed to this club. Why on earth is this not in a highlight document? Why on earth is this not something—

**Mr Mander:** It wouldn't be a nice surprise for you.

**Ms BOYD:** I am sure there is going to be a big surprise under this minister! A smaller PCYC upgrade and the even smaller, meagre Scouts commitment has been highlighted in these documents, but the bigger sporting facility—

**Mr Power:** I wonder why.

**Ms BOYD:** I wonder why, too. The bigger sports facilities have no clarity around them and for a minister who has been so outraged and so offended that he has even been questioned on these things, I would have thought he would be rushing to provide clarity and certainty of funding on these things—important commitments for my community. This club was good enough for the LNP to roll in and to announce their signature Games on! funding app, but not good enough to feature in this, not good enough to have a funding commitment. I am reminded, too, that this is not new.

**Mr Mander:** I can't wait to cut the ribbon.

**Ms BOYD:** I cannot wait for the Minister for Sport to cut the ribbon, either, because I want to see him actually deliver the money, and right now there is no certainty of that happening. There is no certainty at all. I would welcome that upgrade for the club. The reason I am fighting so hard for that is I want that to come sooner rather than later. When you have a minister and a government that do not actually put these things as line items in the budget, when you do not have transparency, when you do not have disclosure around this, when you have a record of a Treasurer who in a few short months has already been cooking the books, everyone is left wondering. Absolutely everyone is left wondering.

This is not a budget that delivers for Queensland and it is not a budget that delivers properly for the people of Pine Rivers.



**Mrs YOUNG** (Redlands—LNP) (2.55 pm): I rise to contribute to this debate on the budget on behalf of the people of Redlands, a community I am proud to represent in this House.

This is a budget that delivers what we said we would deliver. It is a budget that honours the trust Queenslanders placed in this government and that Redlanders placed in me as their local representative. It delivers on the local commitments I fought for and it delivers on the priorities that matter most to Queensland families. This budget is built around safety where you live, health services when you need them, a plan for Queensland's future and a better lifestyle through a stronger economy.

These are the issues that matter around every kitchen table in the Redlands. They are priorities that people in the Redlands and right across Queensland talk to me about every single day. They want to feel safe in their community, they want health care when they need it, they want a sensible plan for growth and they want the lifestyle and opportunities that come with a strong economy. This is a budget that delivers on those priorities.

Keeping our community safe is, and always will be, a top priority. That is what this budget delivers with more police, stronger laws and safer streets. For Redlands, that means more resources for local police services, it means backing the brave men and women in uniform who serve our community from the mainland to the Southern Moreton Bay Islands.

As I have said before in this House, Redlanders expect to see action on community safety. They want to see more police visibility and they want to know that serious crime will be met with serious consequences. That is why this government has delivered stronger youth justice laws. It is why we made Jack's Law permanent, giving police the powers they need to detect and deter knife crime and it is why this budget funds more police on the ground. Locally, we are already seeing the results of our action with crime starting to come down under our Adult Crime, Adult Time laws.

For every Queenslanders, few things matter more than knowing they can get health care when they need it. That is why this budget delivers record investment in health right across the state, and it is a budget that delivers real outcomes for Redlands. Too often Redlanders have to travel out of the Redlands for medical appointments or specialist services. That is changing. This budget delivers \$150 million for the Redland Hospital expansion, which will deliver a new 43-bed mental health and allied health building and consolidate services from current sites as part of the Hospital Rescue Plan; major investment in alcohol and other drug and psychological support services; and funding to support women's health initiatives, mental health care and early intervention services across the region.

This is about delivering better health care closer to home. Queensland is growing and Redlands is growing fast, but growth must be planned. It must be supported by housing, transport and community infrastructure. This budget does exactly that. We are unlocking housing through priority development areas like Southern Thornlands and Weinam Creek and we are backing those developments with infrastructure investment.

There is \$49.5 million for social and community housing in the Redlands, with 140 homes under construction or contract—part of our commitment to deliver 53,000 social housing homes across Queensland by 2044; a \$4 million intersection upgrade for Springacre Road and Boundary Road, supporting the Southern Thornlands PDA; stage 2 upgrades to Cleveland Redland Bay Road from Anita Street to Giles Road, ensuring that we keep Redlands moving; on the Redlands doorstep we will see an upgrade to the Mount Cotton Road and Valley Way intersection, making moving in and out of Redlands easier at the times people need it most; a \$2.4 million new boat ramp at Wallaby Road in Redland Bay, increasing access to recreational options for our bayside lifestyle; and a Scenic Shores State School expansion and new learning spaces for the Redland District Special School, backed as a part of our \$815 million investment into new and upgraded schools. A commitment that I am incredibly proud of is the \$12 million for the new RSPCA Wildlife Hospital in Redland City—providing a training facility and a career pathway for aspirational youth—which will serve the incredible wildlife carers and conservationists who support our region's biodiversity. A major step forward for Redland's SMBI residents is the SMBI parking relief package. I am proud to officially announce that the SMBI vehicle ferry subsidy is being delivered, just as we promised.

**A government member:** Hear, hear!


**Mrs YOUNG:** Thank you. This is a major milestone for Southern Moreton Bay Islands residents and is happening right now. From today, residents can register for their 50 per cent subsidy. I encourage all Redlanders living on the Southern Moreton Bay Islands to get registered to be ready to start using their subsidy in just a matter of weeks. This initiative will give islanders greater choice, making it more viable to take their vehicle home rather than relying on foreshore parking. It is about easing pressure on parking at Weinam Creek, giving island residents back their time and improving how our community connects across the bay. This is real parking relief delivered for the islands, delivered for Redlanders. This is something that I fought for because I listened to islanders and I heard them loud and clear. Parking on the foreshores needs to become more accessible. This subsidy forms part of our broader SMBI parking relief package, which also includes a new car park at Weinam Creek to provide an increased number of parking spaces at the ferry terminal; fully subsidised membership for bay island car share, giving residents more flexible travel options on the mainland; and permanent 50-cent fares with improved public transport connectivity. It is a big win for our island communities and proof that when you raise your voice and your local MP listens real change can happen.

Alongside these important projects and initiatives, we have also taken action to restore integrity to the planning system, overturning poor approvals that ignored community voices, because planning must reflect the people it impacts, not just bypass them. But we are not stopping there. I am proud to highlight our \$2 billion Residential Activation Fund—a game-changing investment that will support local councils to deliver the trunk infrastructure needed to unlock housing supply right across Queensland. This is how we plan for growth properly—with the right infrastructure in the right places, including in the Redlands, and, yes: we are proudly delivering the Redlands Whitewater Centre as a part of 2032 Olympic legacy. It will be fully funded through state and federal support, not local rates, and it will bring long-term benefits through jobs, tourism, green space and year-round recreational opportunities. These are not just announcements; these are projects shaping the future of Redlands, and we are getting on with the job. Redlands is a vibrant, growing region and this budget backs the economic potential there.

As a former small business owner, I know the difference a strong economy can make on the ground. This budget delivers for Redlands by reducing red tape for small businesses; investing in skills and training, creating more opportunities for locals to work close to home; and supporting industries like construction, tourism, education and clean energy that are vital to our local and state economy. This investment includes \$2 million to support the Marine Centre of Excellence on the Southern Moreton Bay Islands in partnership with industry and TAFE Queensland—part of the local infrastructure improvements. This budget delivers what we said we would deliver. It is a budget that puts people first and that is focused on the real priorities of Queenslanders. I have already received some fantastic feedback from our community since the budget was handed down. I want to share this message I received on Tuesday from Jan from Coochiemudlo Island, where we are delivering the conservation management plan for the Coochiemudlo Emerald Fringe in partnership with the Redland City Council—

I congratulate the Crisafulli Government on the 25-26 budget. I further congratulate the Government and you on separating the Redlands from Brisbane south. The list of budgeted items shown in your document 'Delivering for Redlands' promises much needed services and help to the constituents of the Redlands.

Redlands asked for change, and we are delivering it. Redlands, I am proud to be your local MP and I will keep listening, keep fighting and keep working to deliver even more for our community.

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (3.05 pm): The budget handed down by the government this week was pretty unexciting. However, there were a few bright spots which I was pleased to see in the budget. Abolishing the stamp duty for first home buyers purchasing a new home and boosting the First Home Owner Grant to \$30,000 is a great initiative. However, the member for Hinchinbrook has lobbied heavily that this grant should also apply to the purchase or refurbishment of existing homes in rural towns. This would stimulate smaller regional economies and stop the drain of our youth to the larger cities. I hope that the state government will adopt this initiative.

I congratulate the minister for the government's long-term commitment to Play On! vouchers. These are a big help to parents struggling to pay for registration fees and equipment in my electorate. I had raised this numerous times with the minister and it is great to see that these vouchers have come through. I give the previous government a bit of kudos for the FairPlay vouchers, so well done to it for putting that forward and well done to the current minister for keeping it going and further advancing that.

The \$79.1 million investment into the Transforming Queensland Manufacturing Program is welcome news. The Premier is well aware of the issues facing the 90-year-old Northern Iron & Brass Foundry in Innisfail which employs over 70 people and I am hopeful that this fund will contribute to ensuring the long-term future of this business in Innisfail.

Investment into roads is always a big issue in regional Queensland. Some \$43 million in ongoing funding is being invested in my electorate on reconstruction works on roads after the flooding events over the past couple of years. This includes the Palmerston Highway overtaking lanes on the Kennedy Highway from Mareeba to Ravenshoe and safety improvements on Lake Barrine Road. There are many roads that need urgent attention in my electorate, but I want to bring to the House's attention Whiting's Crossing on the Tully-Mission Beach Road about which I have received numerous complaints on flooding issues, blocking of access and many serious safety issues. I have brought this to the minister's attention in the hope that we can get action on Whiting's Crossing, which is a dangerous area that also floods every year and blocks off a whole community. Another dangerous section is the turning lane at the intersection of the Bruce Highway on the Tully-Mission Beach Road where vehicles are backed up so far from the intersection that it creates a safety issue for traffic on the Bruce Highway.

On a broader basis, while the \$9 billion to be spent on the Bruce Highway is welcome, more is needed to be spent to flood proof the Bruce Highway in order to stop Far North Queensland from being cut off and businesses and supermarkets going without supplies. I refer in particular to the Seymour River—which the member for Hinchinbrook constantly brings up—and the Gairloch flood plains. When the coast is flooded, people will look to go the inland highway from Charters Towers right up to the Atherton Tablelands, but I can guarantee that there will be two rivers or creeks that will be flooded in that area—Hann Creek and Clarke River. If the government were to upgrade those four rivers and flood plain areas, 90 per cent of the flooding problem in North Queensland would be resolved and that would mean that those areas will not have to go through the continual drama year in, year out of shop closures because the shelves are empty. If those issues are fixed first, most of the problems will be resolved.

There was a big announcement about record health expenditure. However, we heard the same announcement from the previous government last term and nothing seems to have changed in regional health services. For example, in Far North Queensland we have one paediatric cardiologist looking after the entire region, with families waiting 12 to 18 months to get an appointment. This professional is doing their best. The region has the highest rate of heart disease in the state and in some areas of the world. It is simply not good enough that we have only one cardiologist. Something has to be done about this. The government is well aware of this situation.


Queenslanders want a government with a vision for the future, earmarking projects that will grow the state and provide an attractive base for mining, agriculture and manufacturing. The member for Traeger spoke about a number of projects, including CopperString, Hells Gates Dam and HIPCo, all of which will deliver incredible economic opportunities for the state. In my own region we are crying out for projects which will open up the Tablelands' agriculture industry. One of those projects is the North Johnstone Transfer project, a project that kicked off back in the 1950s when they constructed the Tinaroo Falls Dam. Engineers at that time recognised that with increased agriculture there needed to be a supplementary water supply so they designed what they called the North Johnstone Transfer,

which would transfer water during floods. The gates would open only during flood periods and transfer water from the North Johnstone River into Lake Tinaroo, and that would provide that supplementary water. Once the water went back to its original flow the gates would shut off. It is a great design that was pushed strongly by leaders in North Queensland that we need to continue to pursue.

I want to also bring up the fast-track inland highway from Cairns to Mareeba. This was put forward 40 years ago by some great leaders of the past, Martin Tenni and mayor of the Mareeba Shire Council Mick Borzi. The Kuranda Range is closed 48 times a year for up to six hours at a time. Do members know how much that frustrates people? There is no access to B-double routes. People are frustrated at not being able to get to the airport or appointments on time because of continued closures. An inland highway from Mareeba, straight through the range to the southern part of Cairns would take 30 minutes. At the present time it takes an hour and 20 minutes. Sometimes you do not get through because the Kuranda Range is closed.

The previous government came up with a great idea to build a new bridge. The federal government has chipped in \$250 million. The state government has also chipped in to build a bridge that will take until the year 2032 to be built. That fast-track inland highway bypasses the Barron River so we do not have to waste \$500 million on a new bridge. We could construct a new bridge at the Barron River by 2032, but we will still have the 48—probably 50—closures that confront us week in, week out and the problem will still exist. It is a complete waste of \$500 million when we could have a highway directly through the range leading out to the Bruce Highway south of Cairns. I hope that common sense prevails and the federal and state government can take that initiative on board rather than waste money on a white elephant.

I also want to bring up the *Savannahlander*. I put a question to the minister about it today. It is among the top 24 train experiences in the world where rainforest meets savannah country. It is the lifeblood of those rural communities. Everybody loves trains, and the *Savannahlander* brings thousands of visitors per year to those regions. We note that Queensland Rail has said it is going to cost \$150 million over 10 years. Since time began, Queensland Rail has been trying to close down this railway track. There have been massive protests, frustrations and rail closures. It is an amazing rail journey. The region wants it. Cross River Rail started off at \$3 billion and then jumped to \$17 billion, which is \$170,000 million, and at this present moment Queensland Rail is worried about putting \$150 million into an epic rail journey that supports rural and regional Queensland towns. It is a wonderful tourism venture. We have seen a number of bridges wiped out. This is a light rail; it is not hundreds of thousands of tonnes of ore going over that railway track day in, day out. That \$150 million is an exaggeration, but if it is going to cost \$150 million it is only a pittance in comparison to what is being spent on Cross River Rail. It is a small train so it can go over those bridges. One in four steel sleepers fasten the track. The track is very secure. The advice I have received is that if no maintenance was done on that track that train could run over it for almost 10 years. I am asking the government to fix those bridges and the problem will be resolved and we will have one of the most iconic rail journeys in the world. We do not want to see it closed down. I ask the government to invest a lousy \$150 million into that railway.

 **Mr HUTTON** (Keppel—LNP) (3.17 pm): Having participated in 10 local government budgets, there are three things that I think all budgets reflect. No. 1 is that all budgets are about people. We talk about money and we talk about service delivery, but budgets ultimately are about people and, in our case, this budget is about the people of Queensland. Also, all budgets have to temper the ambition of the government of the day with the responsibility to balance and to maintain the services that a community relies on. Thirdly, and the one that is the most pressing for many people to learn when they open up their rates notices, is that, while not every line in every budget will be important to everyone, every line that is in a budget will be important to someone from some community somewhere. When we look at this budget we can see the investments that are being made right across Queensland are important to someone in their community, that invests in their backyard and serves communities that may or may not have missed out over the last decade.

Budget 2025 sets the strategic framework for the Crisafulli government to deliver on the promises that were made in 2024. It lays the foundation for a fresh start for the finances of Queensland. It was a fresh start that was desperately needed, remembering that Queenslanders, after a decade of the Palaszczuk-Miles Labor government, had a debt that had gone from \$72 billion to a forecast \$218 billion by 2027-28. Luckily for Queenslanders, under our new government, with a sensible and serious approach to financial management, debt will be \$27.5 billion lower over the forwards.

With a projected growth rate of just over two per cent, Queenslanders need their Treasurer to take a calm and methodical approach to the management and monitoring of taxpayers' hard-earned

dollars. I believe that in the member for Toowoomba South we have the Queenslander for the job. This is in stark contrast to the economic vandalism that we have experienced over the past decade.

The Crisafulli government is made up of Queenslanders who, each and every day, turn up to work. It is made up of people who understand how hard it is for members of our communities who work day in and day out. It is made up of people who understand the value of the tax dollars that we collect from Queenslanders. Those dollars are raised; they are not earned. They are the valuable contributions of Queenslanders and should not be considered government money but taxpayers' money. Our government respects the hard-earned dollars of Queenslanders. This budget is the instrument of the government of the day to invest taxpayers' money in the causes, the work and the infrastructure of the state. To my mind, it is no accident that in October 2024 the people of Queensland chose hope over fear, people over politics and respect over scare campaigns.

This budget, the first Crisafulli budget, is working for Central Queenslanders to address the issues that lay at the heart of my community's concerns. Today I will speak to just a few: crime and health. Our budget is delivering safety where you live, it is making our communities safer and it is turning the tide on Labor's youth crime crisis.

The budget includes funding for more police and more investment in the resources our police need such as new tasers, vests and safety equipment. This is incredibly important to my local police. They have been doing the hardest of jobs in the hardest of circumstances yet, each and every day, they have kept turning up. I offer my thanks to those officers and, as is seen in this budget, I want them to know that we have their back. This budget funds 1,600 police recruits who will help our thin blue line become a little bit thicker, allowing our brave men and women to continue to work to keep our communities safe.

The budget also invests \$560 million in comprehensive early intervention and rehabilitation programs across the state to reduce youth offending and to reduce the number of victims in Queensland. This includes the Regional Reset programs, one of which will be hosted in Central Queensland. That program will give our young people yet another opportunity to re-engage and to chart a new course. I am a strong believer in these programs and have seen the impact that they can have on the lives of young people. We will give them a second chance and an opportunity to see a future for themselves beyond what they may have today.

Further, the budget includes funding for the Secure Communities Partnerships Program. As we know, small businesses and local governments have faced many of the financial consequences of the crime crisis we have seen over the past decade. These grants aim to give those same small businesses and local governments the opportunity to implement measures that improve community safety and add to the prevention of crime in public, commercial and business precincts. This investment helps and I commend it to the House.

Central Queenslanders were the front line of the health crisis. We had record ramping and we had growing surgery waitlists. The Rockhampton Hospital was bursting at the seams due to a lack of clinical space and there was a demonstrated need for a health workforce pipeline. Our budget sets out to heal the health crisis by providing health services when you need them. There is \$1.7 billion to provide more paramedics and hospital ramping reduction initiatives. That is especially important to the residents of Rockhampton. We saw huge increases in ramping under the former government and lived those experiences. It is also incredibly pressing when so many of our local paramedics have been working extraordinary hours to try to meet the needs of our community, often to the detriment of their own long-term health. They do so because they want to be healers; they want to help in times of crisis. Further, this budget includes \$1.7 billion to ensure more elective surgeries occur. Those surgeries change the lives of Queenslanders.


There is \$8.7 million to recruit more security officers for our health facilities to ensure that our frontline workers can focus on healing the sick in safe work places. If you work in a regional hospital where just two or three members of staff work during the evening or overnight, the capacity for extra security is incredibly important. That is something that I have heard about directly from the people in my community. I am glad to see that investment in this budget.

The \$61.1 million Rockhampton TAFE Excellence Precinct adds capacity to the Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service. It adds capacity by creating more space on the hospital campus for clinical activity. It allows nonclinical activities to occur in the former southside TAFE campus. It is not a long-term fix but it does make a difference in the short term. It is vitally important that we add that space to reduce the burden on the health facility.

Most exciting for the future of our health services in Central Queensland is the budget commitment to the CQ Health Sciences Academy. That \$95 million facility will allow more young Central Queenslanders from schools across the region to access the subjects and the skills they need so we can build our own homegrown health workforce for the future. With early-year medical studies and very successful registered nursing, enrolled endorsed nursing and enrolled nurse training as well as paramedicine and allied health training, we are providing opportunities for our local kids to grow and to learn in CQ. We are allowing more of our homegrown talent to gain the skills that they need without needing to leave the region and the support and comfort of their families, and without the extra costs. We know that students who train in the regions stay in the regions. That is how we will grow the workforce of tomorrow in CQ.

This budget provides the foundations for the fresh start that Queenslanders voted for at the 2024 election. I commend the Treasurer, the LNP team and all of the hardworking Queensland public servants who worked diligently to make sure that, as they developed budget 2025, we could provide a clear closure to the final chapter of the Palaszczuk-Miles Labor government's economic vandalism, economic incompetence and, ultimately, economic mismanagement. I have said it before and I will say it again: I believe that Queensland has great potential and it is the greatest place to live. However, we were let down by the former government. It was desperate and it said and did anything to try to cling to power. Alas, in the end, they had no respect for our money, they had no plan and Queenslanders were left with the bill to cover up for their mistakes.

I commend the first Crisafulli government budget to the House. I commend the Crisafulli government for working each and every day to ensure that Queenslanders get the fresh start that they voted for. Finally, they have a government that respects their money.

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (3.28 pm): I rise to speak to the budget. I want to make an initial point following the last speaker. For a government that had no plan there sure are a lot of our plans copied and reproduced in this budget. It must have been some 'no plan' because I see the same plan repeated here, but I digress.

This budget reduces the cost-of-living support for millions of Queenslanders. It is a budget that cuts billions from congestion-busting programs. It is a budget that will make people wait longer for medical treatment. It is a budget that does nothing to solve the shortage of social and affordable housing. It is a budget that will make it harder for Queenslanders to get around. It is a budget that will make it harder for Queenslanders to get ahead.

I do agree with the Leader of the Opposition: all that is good in this budget has come from Labor. We welcome that. It is the same with the capital program—as the Leader of the Opposition said, it was ours but now there is less of it. I agree with the Leader of the Opposition that the biggest things missing from this budget are the comprehensive cost-of-living relief measures. There is no doubt that costs are continuing to rise for ordinary working Queenslanders. As the Deputy Leader of the Opposition said, car rego is set to jump 24 per cent soon. Energy bill relief was critical—it is still critical. I remember that people lit up when we introduced the \$300 electricity bill relief. They were so happy about it. Then we brought in that extra \$700 a year. There was genuine relief. People sighed with relief when they heard that. Some people were overjoyed. Ordinary working Queenslanders were really happy to have this structural support. When ordinary working Queenslanders need someone to back them, to open up the opportunity they need, to make sure there are good hospitals, to make sure there are good schools for their kids, it is Labor who will stand with them, not the rich donors who want to control the movement of government that we see with the other side.

This is a government built on broken promises. The Premier said that his word would mean something. He said, 'When I say something, it means something.' He also said that energy bills would be cheaper. He said that debt would be lower. He said that there would be 2,200 new hospital beds by 2028. He promised that heavy rail would be delivered all the way to Maroochydore by 2032—no ifs, no buts, no shortcuts. The Premier also promised to treat First Nations people with respect. He promised there would be no new stadiums. As I said, this is a government and a budget built on broken promises.

This budget confirms what Queenslanders have known for a while: the LNP is not truly committed to building the health infrastructure—the hospitals—that Queenslanders need now. This budget provides more questions than answers. There are no timeframes for the delivery of major hospital builds and expansions—no timeframes. All over the state the question is being asked: when will the new and expanded hospitals be built? There are no answers in this budget.

I also want to talk about what this budget means for my community. The word that I have here is 'disappointment'. It is clear that we will not see the widening of Deception Bay Road anytime soon. The

Deception Bay Road widening project will be pushed back years under the LNP, following their decision not to include it in any future roads programs. This is the second time that an LNP government has either cut or ignored this project. The Campbell Newman government removed it from QTRIP entirely. About \$400 million worth of projects were cut, and that was after planning work had already commenced. When I was a councillor, they showed me concept plans of what it would look like. When I became an MP, I asked, 'Where are we with the Deception Bay Road widening program?' and they said it had been cut; it was gone. Can you imagine how much it would have cost to build back then? Certainly it would have cost a fraction of what it will cost now.

**A government member:** What about the last 10 years?

**Mr WHITING:** I am getting there. Goodness me, do I have a story for you! It meant that this project needed to go back to the end of the queue. As the local member, I have fought for years for this project and last year I secured a \$20 million commitment for the detailed design and early works if Labor were re-elected, and that was on top of a commitment for funding four years earlier for the preliminary planning and design. After years of work and getting it closer to being on the roads program, I have to do it all again because this project has been ignored by the LNP. Once again, this project is back to the end of the queue.

It is not just my constituents who have been disappointed about the transport projects that they will not see; Sunshine Coast residents who voted for the LNP are still processing why they are getting a bus route instead of a rail line. The Premier promised that heavy rail would be delivered all the way to Maroochydore by 2032—no ifs, no buts, no shortcuts—but all they have is a bus route. The member for Kawana may dress it up any way he likes, but they made a promise and they broke it. I have a document here with some lovely social media tiles that shows this. On 13 May 2024 David Crisafulli said, 'No ifs, no buts, no shortcuts—only the LNP will build Sunshine Coast heavy passenger rail all the way to Maroochydore.' On 29 January 2025 the *Courier-Mail* stated—

... Jarrod Bleijie has walked back on a commitment to finishing the Sunshine Coast Rail ...

I love this picture of the member for Buderim with some DL flyers that say, 'Heavy passenger rail all the way to Maroochydore.' That is something the new transport minister will need to deal with. I table that document.

*Tabled paper:* Bundle of extracts from articles and social media regarding election promises.

The LNP have boasted about their investment in housing and homelessness, but homelessness is getting worse in my area under the LNP government. More and more homeless people are coming into my office because they cannot get help from the LNP government. It is because of the cruel and harsh criteria they have introduced to deny homeless people emergency accommodation. People are being forced back into tents and back into parks because they have been booted out of their emergency accommodation under the LNP's new threshold for accommodation.

I recently spoke to one person in Deception Bay who was homeless and living in their car or couch surfing. This person has been on the housing list for over 12 months. She cannot afford current rents because she is on JobSeeker. She was provided emergency accommodation in a motel for two weeks a couple of months ago. When that time ran out, she had nowhere to go so she ended up living in her car. She was told by the department recently that the rules have changed and they can no longer find her accommodation. They could only refer her to a local service provider. She was referred to all the homeless service providers in the area, but they have been inundated by people who have been booted out by the LNP. One of our services has 500 people who have been shuffled off by the LNP on its waiting list. That is only one story of homeless people being forced out of emergency accommodation. I have many more.

This is not the only barrier put up by the LNP that is devastating for local people. The threat to kick housing tenants out of their homes according to an earning threshold—whether it be \$50,000 or \$80,000—is scaring local public housing tenants no end. I will give one more example of another local I met. When I met her she was very upset. She could not sleep properly. She could not even go to work because of what she had heard. She fears she will be forced out of her home of nearly 20 years. She is a DV survivor as well.

**A government member** interjected.

**Mr WHITING:** This is not scary. This is what people are actually experiencing because of the LNP. A DV survivor who has a lower level job in the government and whose child has just started in an entry-level job fears that she will be forced out without adequate notice or support. She fears that she could not get a home at her age. She fears trying to find private rental in a market with nearly zero vacancies.

She said to me that the announcement by the government was ‘uprooting our lives without prior communication’. Said she was upset about the ‘condescending’, impersonal tone of the minister. She said, ‘All I want is somewhere safe and stable to live—that is all I want.’ She said, ‘I am terrified about the future.’ She said, ‘The Liberals just don’t care about people.’ These are the effects that this new LNP regime is having on homeless people and public housing tenants in my area.

Another issue that local residents keep talking to me about is the Redcliffe Hospital. People keep stopping me at the shops, or wherever I am, to ask what is happening. All I can say is nothing—nothing is happening. The Redcliffe Hospital will remain overcrowded and staff will remain stretched with no start in sight for the next stage of expansions. I am hearing reports of no beds being available and staff being crammed into any available space they can find. It is very clear that we need this expansion now to cater for the expanding and growing area, but the expansion site remains abandoned. I think it will be years before anything happens on the Redcliffe Hospital expansion site. The budget gave no details about what is happening and when. It is a mystery. It is a mystery to me. It is a mystery to everyone. It is a mystery to all of the people in our Moreton Bay region.

Construction was actually underway before the LNP halted it. As I said before, the last piling equipment was pulled off the site the same day they announced that they were building a new Olympic stadium. The expansion that had already started was for an extra 204 beds; a nine-storey clinical services building; the expansion of medical imaging, pharmacy and pathology areas; additional operating theatres, emergency department treatment spaces and birthing suites; and endoscopy, outpatient consult and diagnostic rooms. These things were on the way. The foundations were already partially installed at this site. The only detail we have heard of the LNP plan is that it is being redesigned and that there will be 210 beds. That is all we have heard. My community need more details because we need that hospital expansion now. It is no good for it to sit there and for nothing to happen for a couple of years while they get it sorted out.

The LNP have not given a specific budget. From what I have seen it is listed alongside seven other new and expanded hospitals in a \$13.4 billion fund. Yet, if you look at the budget papers—I think it is on page 70 in Budget Paper No. 3—there is \$13.4 billion for all of these hospitals, but next financial year there is less than \$1 billion being expended. That is what I can see. I may be wrong, but I am pretty sure I am not.

**Mr O’Connor:** You probably are given some other things we have heard.

**Mr WHITING:** You’re breaking my heart here.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Martin): Order, member for Bonney!

**Mr WHITING:** I must have offended you, member for Bonney.

**Mr O’Connor:** Well, you haven’t sent any of those cases through. I just checked the office.

**Mr WHITING:** You just checked the office! I get stopped all the time by—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Members, direct your comments through the chair, please. Cease your interjections.

**Mr WHITING:** If this is the only way we have to solve people’s problems in this state—that we have to send every homeless person through to the minister’s office—what kind of system is that? We had a great system before the LNP got in. If this is the only way that we can get things done for homeless people in this state—to send them through to the minister’s office—I am going to encourage everyone in my area to ‘Get on the phone to Sam. He’ll fix it for you.’

**Government members** interjected.

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

**Mr O’Connor** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Bonney, you are continually interjecting. If you do it again, you will be warned.

**Mr WHITING:** We are inundated with people from all over coming to see my office about homelessness and housing. We have sent many of those through here. I will continue to advocate for all of those people in my area. We will certainly be encouraging them to contact the minister’s office personally to get their cases sorted out.

The last thing I want to say is that I thought we still had free TAFE. Do we still have free TAFE under this budget? Do we or do we not? There seems to be some confusion about that. Do we still have free kindy? No-one seems to be answering me on this.

(Time expired)



**Hon. TL MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (3.44 pm): I am constantly astonished when I listen to those opposite how things have deteriorated so badly in eight months since the election, yet they had 10 years to respond or to make improvements.

**Mr Minnikin:** Remedy.

**Mr MANDER:** Remedy: I take that interjection from my good friend from the south side. A classic example—and I mentioned this earlier in the parliament—is that the member for Pine Rivers wrote to me about a clubhouse that is suddenly so bad that it is unfit for purpose. It is dilapidated. It is falling down around them. All of that happened in five months! It is astonishing that it happened within five months of being elected.

I cannot help but comment about the member for Bancroft, who talked about scaring social housing tenants. They were scared by the misinformation from the opposition leader, who totally gave the wrong information about their eligibility. Let's put it on the record. I am sure my good friend the housing minister will say this later: nothing has changed. Nothing has changed with regard to eligibility.

**Mr O'Connor:** Just confirming it.

**Mr MANDER:** That is exactly right. We are just confirming it. The hypocrisy that comes from those on the other side is absolutely astonishing.

This budget truly does lay the foundation for a fresh start, not just for our great state of Queensland but crucially for my beloved electorate of Everton. The Crisafulli government has delivered a budget focused on the issues that matter most to you and your families. We are taking decisive action on youth crime; investing in our health system; addressing the critical need for housing; providing relief from the cost of living; and, close to my heart, boosting participation in sport and investing in our vital grassroots clubs.

I am absolutely thrilled to confirm that all of our Games On! commitments are now fully funded within the Queensland budget. This means a bright future for our cherished local sporting institutions, including the Mitchelton Football Club, the Mitchelton Youth Club and the Everton Park Roosters with improvements to their clubhouse. These are the places where our future champions are forged and where our community spirit thrives. I only wish I had as many Games On! commitments as the member for Pine Rivers is going to get. I wish I had more but I do not.

It does not stop there. Our brand new \$200 Play On! sports vouchers will empower more kids across Everton than ever before to get active, embrace healthy lifestyles and discover the joy of sport. I have been involved in this fantastic area my entire life, so they know my commitment to our community. They know that it runs deep. I will continue to tirelessly advocate on their behalf. That advocacy has truly paid off in this budget. I want to share with the House some of the key transformative investments specifically earmarked for Everton that I am incredibly excited about.

There is the major upgrade of the Stafford Road-South Pine Road intersection at Everton Park. This has been a choke point for so long. This critical project will significantly improve safety and reduce that frustrating peak-hour congestion. There is \$1.5 million for the Mitchelton Football Club—I mentioned that; \$750,000 for the Everton Park Roosters clubhouse; \$3.1 million to build new facilities for the Dickson Community Men's Shed and Stationery Aid—a fantastic not-for-profit that helps our schoolkids. There are improvements to the drop-off and pick-up areas and car park at Eatons Hill State School and at McDowall State School. There is \$500,000 to deliver CCTV upgrades across Mitchelton, Keperra and Alderley. There are wildlife protection measures along Albany Creek Road.

Beyond these direct investments in Everton, this state budget tackles the challenges left behind by the former Labor government with comprehensive, north Brisbane measures that will benefit our community including upgrades to the Ferny Grove police facility and upgrading the intersection of Gympie Arterial Road and Beams Road at Carseldine. The Prince Charles Hospital will receive 93 new beds, along with funding for facilities and maintenance upgrades as well as more health works in Brisbane north. These are just some of the significant benefits coming to our community and our state. I look forward to sharing more details of these initiatives in the near future.

Mr 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 into the *Record of Proceedings*.

*The speech read as follows—*

- Mr Speaker I would now like to pivot to my role as Minister.

- I'm pleased to announce the \$395.4 million Budget for the Department of Sport, Racing and Olympic and Paralympic Games.
- There is a further \$369.2 million—to be administered by the Department on behalf of the state—for Stadiums Queensland, Racing Queensland, and the Queensland Academy of Sport.
- That's \$764.6 million to lay the foundations for a new era of Sport and Racing in Queensland.
- The Crisafulli Government is delivering for a fresh start for Queensland.
- We are making children's sport more affordable for Queensland families and improving sport and recreation facilities across the state, in the 2025-26 Budget.
- We are ensuring grassroots facilities as well as state owned venues are improved in towns and cities throughout Queensland, to encourage Queenslanders to be active.

#### Play On!

- Our Play On! vouchers announced in this year's Budget will boost participation and deliver much needed cost-of-living relief for Queensland.
- Our vouchers are funded across the forward estimates.
- Each year, Queensland families will be able to claim a \$200 Play On! Sport Voucher per child aged between five and 17, with a dedicated allocation for children living with a disability, and for kids living in regional and remote areas to even the playing field across winter or summer sport.
- Kids right across the state will now have the chance to get in the game regardless of where they live and regardless of their ability.
- Play On! is helping to plant the seed for a lifetime of activity—and wouldn't it be fitting if a young person, provided an opportunity through Play On!, ends up back here, representing Australia at the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

#### Games On!

- Our \$250 million Games On! Grassroots Infrastructure Program will ensure there is a grassroots community sporting legacy in the lead up to the 2032 Games that benefits all Queenslanders.
- We are delivering a Games for all of Queensland, and we want to see Olympic and Paralympic legacy right across the state.
- They'll deliver new and upgraded fields and courts, clubhouses, changerooms and lighting—whatever is needed for those sport and active recreation organisations to boost their capacity and get more Queenslanders participating in sport.
- From the Longreach showgrounds receiving new dressing rooms to upgrades to the Gin Gin Branch Little Athletics Centre. Brothers Leagues Club in Cairns for changerooms and lights to the Tugun Surf Life Saving Club with disability upgrades.
- We're also providing \$42 million in the Games On! Program, in addition to \$5 million of existing funding, for Stage 1 of the Rockhampton Sports Precinct.
- The Sports Precinct is an important new facility that will deliver a new home for Rockhampton Netball and further drive participation in sport for Central Queenslanders.
- Games On! is the perfect partner to Play On!—we're getting grassroots facilities up to scratch and ready to welcome more kids, with new opportunities to be involved in sport and active recreation.
- We want to make it clear that Queensland is the powerhouse of Australian sport and that starts at our community clubs.

#### Sport and Recreation Venues

- State owned and operated Sport and Recreation Venues in Townsville, Toowoomba, Sunshine Coast and Gold Coast will also see important upgrades and improved infrastructure. These upgrades are desperately needed after a decade of neglect from those opposite. The improvements will encourage greater active participation as well as better support for athletes on the performance pathway through to elite in those regions.
- That includes \$20 million for the Gold Coast Performance Centre, which will see the construction of athlete and student accommodation as well as new performance facilities.
- The Townsville Sport Precinct will receive \$4 million for a cooling system for the multipurpose courts to host parasport events, and upgraded field lighting.
- The regionally significant sporting hub, the Toowoomba Sports Ground, will receive \$3.6 million for a new scoreboard, and enhancements for better spectator experiences and site accessibility.
- The Sunshine Coast Recreation Precinct has been allocated \$2.4 million for field lights and more car parking.
- While the Gold Coast Recreation Precinct will receive \$2 million for better field lighting and upgrading the sports field to premier standard.
- A further \$20 million over four years has been allocated towards ongoing capital maintenance across all Sport and Recreation Venues and \$12.2 million over five years for operational support.
- All of these improvements are necessary to ensure they can play a pivotal role in the lead-up to Brisbane 2032.
- They will also be important training and development bases for our home-grown athletes leading into both Los Angeles 2028 and Brisbane 2032.

#### Browne Park

- The Budget also supports capital works—with an additional \$3.5 million to ensure that at the completion of the Stage 1 redevelopment, Browne Park in Rockhampton is truly first-class and ready to host professional sport as soon as the gates re-open next year.
- Rockhampton have been waiting for this for long time and they were left waiting by those opposite.
- In 2020 Labor made a \$25 million dollar election commitment to undertake these upgrades.
- By 2024, under Labor, that figure had blown out to \$56.26 million, the timeline for completion was pushed out until next year and Labor's funding wasn't even enough for the grass on the field and light up the grounds.
- Under the Crisafulli Government stage one of the Browne Park redevelopment will be delivered.
- This is exactly what the people of Rockhampton and Central Queensland deserve.
- This additional funding takes the total budget for the project to \$62.8 million.
- Once complete, it will deliver an extraordinary new 3200 seat grandstand with contemporary player, official, and spectator facilities.
- This \$3.5 million addition provides a premier field and TV broadcast standard lighting.
- In terms of 2032, high-quality regional venues such as Browne Park will become essential for training camps for visiting international teams and squads.
- It will also be vital to cater for professional codes without a home, we will ensure the project is delivered and that is show in the Budget.

#### Queensland Academy of Sport

- The Budget is making the Queensland Academy of Sport's transition to a statutory body as smooth as possible.
- The transition takes place on the 1st of July, allowing QAS to function even more efficiently and flexibly through greater autonomy.
- This transition is happening 12 months years ahead of the former Labor government's plan.
- Unlike the neglect shown by those opposite, this government is committed to making sure this transition occurs well and in a timely manner, working in with Olympic and Paralympic cycles so the work of our athletes and committed staff isn't disrupted.
- The QAS looks after the best of the best Queensland has to offer. Athletes have enough variables to deal with, without having two years of Labor government imposed front office uncertainty, thrust upon them.
- As a statutory body, QAS can help our athletes achieve even better results in the lead up to and during Los Angeles 2028 and Brisbane 2032.
- But the transition also means many administrative tasks currently undertaken by the Department, will now be the responsibility of QAS.
- It will have sole responsibility for financial statements, annual reporting and governance frameworks, professional services, payroll, and IT ... among others.
- This is why the Queensland Government is allocating almost \$27.7 million through the State Budget, to assist with the transition and operational costs over the next five years.
- Of the 53 Olympic medals Australia took home from Paris last year, more than half were claimed by Queenslanders and QAS supported athletes.
- With 9 Gold, 12 Silver and 7 Bronze, Queensland finished better placed than Canada, Spain, Brazil and Sweden.
- In the Paralympic Games, Queensland athletes won 28 of Australia's 63 medals, with 7 gold, 5 silver and 16 bronze.
- We know those numbers will have a better chance of increasing with a stronger QAS and with the Academy guiding the new Para Sport Unit, we will see more outstanding results, and more Queensland kids given opportunities to reach their sporting potential.
- This Budget delivers for the QAS, for the staff, for the athletes ... and for a successful Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2032.

#### Racing Review

- Earlier this year, I launched the Queensland Government's Racing Review which focuses on ensuring a sustainable and vibrant future for this important industry. Covering all three codes—thoroughbred, harness and greyhound—it is the most substantial review of the state's racing sector for more than 25 years.
- The Racing industry now contributes close to \$2.5 billion per year to the Queensland economy and is responsible for around 14,500 full time jobs for Queenslanders.
- More than half the economic benefits from Racing go to regional communities.
- That's why it's vital we get this right.
- The Crisafulli Government is providing additional funding of \$1 million over 2 years to continue the Review's important work, to:
- Ensure the financial sustainability and long-term viability of all three racing codes
- Strengthen the integrity of Queensland's racing industry
- Deliver modern and fit for purpose racing infrastructure
- Safeguard the ongoing success and viability of country racing
- And prioritise the care and welfare of racing animals

## PCYCs

- Our state's PCYCs offer a safe space for young people to engage in programs that help keep them off the streets and on the right track.
- Many of these programs use the positive power of sport to support youth development, prevent crime and provide avenues for young people to engage with their community.
- The Crisafulli Government will provide additional funding of \$7.1 million over 3 years to contribute to the construction of a new PCYC at Pimpama, as well as upgrades to Pine Rivers PCYC north of Brisbane.
- In addition to youth development programs, these PCYCs will be an important resource for the whole community, offering sport and recreation activities and a place to connect.

## Closing Remarks

- This is a budget presents a fresh start for Queensland.
- I have been travelling around the state listening to Queenslanders as a part of the consultation for our sports strategy and I want to assure them we are listening and I look forward to saying more on this in the second half of the year.
- The Crisafulli Government is delivering cost-of-living relief and taking measures to boost participation in grassroots sport while supporting pathways to elite sport.
- We are ensuring Queensland have the chance to experience the benefits that come with participating in sport and an active lifestyle while delivering the Games Queenslanders deserve.
- We're investing in new infrastructure, to ensure we have the facilities to support them when they do.
- We're delivering for the Games and working towards an event all Queenslanders can be proud of.
- We're backing our elite athletes, helping them to achieve greatness on the world stage.
- We're making deliberate investments that ensure long-term benefits.
- And above all, we're recognising that every Queenslander deserves the opportunity to lead an active, healthy life.



**Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (3.49 pm): If budgets are meant to reflect values, this one tells Queenslanders exactly where Premier Crisafulli's priorities lie—that is, not with them. This is a budget of broken promises and buried truths—a budget that delivers no universal energy bill relief and no support for millions of Queensland families still doing it tough. Labor brought in progressive coal royalties to fund energy rebates for everyone, but under the LNP the only thing being universally delivered is disappointment. The Premier loves to talk about tough decisions, but let's call this what it really is: a soft landing for the top end of town and a hard hit for everyday Queenslanders.

I want to go into the health budget, where the cuts are surgical and savage for the Gold Coast—114 beds cut at Robina hospital, gone.

**Mr Nicholls:** Didn't even have them! There were none there.

**Ms SCANLON:** Well, they are not there under the LNP, member for Clayfield. If you are a family in need, the LNP's answer is simply, 'Take a number, take a seat and take a deep breath while you wait,' because they are not delivering any new beds at Robina, despite the fact that Labor had invested and had committed to those beds at Robina. What about the Coomera hospital? Labor funded it and the community needs it, but this budget gives us unspecified funding and a hospital awaiting review. Who exposed that? It was not just me. The *Gold Coast Bulletin* dug into the detail and found the disaster. They were invited to sit in the Treasury lock-up, but they still could not find when the hospital is going to be built and how much the LNP is going to spend on it.

The Premier says that he is building, but what he is really doing is pausing projects, punting decisions and pretending that it is progress. There is \$13.1 billion of cuts to infrastructure over the four-year program. I want to talk about some specific Gold Coast projects. The east-west link in my community—the one that I fought for and secured funding to do some of that early planning work—is now in the LNP's glossy Olympics brochure, but there are no dollars and no delivery timeframe, just another Olympic-size broken promise, I suspect.

The light rail stage 4 is completely frozen solid, because Premier Crisafulli and the member for Kawana have decided it is easier to run a dodgy survey than to deliver real infrastructure. Let's talk about that survey. Not only was it slanted; it was skewed so hard it has effectively fallen off the rails. We still have not even seen the survey, even though it is now a month overdue. The LNP chose to give more weight to the southern Gold Coast than anywhere else—deliberately, I suspect, warping the outcome for their own political interest. Newsflash to the member for Kawana: the light rail actually starts in Helensvale, not Coolangatta. People in Helensvale—maybe in the Bonney electorate—Parkwood, Southport, Pacific Pines and Surfers Paradise have a pretty strong view about whether the line should be extended or not but, apparently, those people do not matter as much to the LNP.

Maybe the member for Kawana does not get down to the Gold Coast much, but if he did he would know that this project affects the entire Gold Coast, not just the patch he seems to be politically

interested in holding. Now they are telling us that the business case is apparently quarantined. I am not sure whether it is an infrastructure project or a virus. Consultation was over a month ago. The community has spoken. My calls to the LNP are: release the report, do the business case and get on with it—no more surveys, no more spin. You might not want to tell people what your position is on the light rail, but you have done the survey now. Release it. Get on with it. That is what business leaders are calling for and it is what council is calling for. We hear a lot from those opposite about how they are going to work in partnership with local governments—except for when it does not suit them politically, it appears.

In my own electorate, while we did convince the government to lock in funding for the on-demand transport service, the LNP have refused to expand it. Labor committed to that. The LNP try to pretend like they understand the area but, clearly, they do not. When it comes to local sporting clubs and facilities, the LNP have also dropped the ball. They have nothing in the budget for Pacific Pines Netball lights, the Nerang Bulls or the Nerang Eagles, even though these were committed to by Labor, and less money for the Mudgeeraba Nerang cricket club, Carrara Saints and Nerang Roosters than under Labor.

The biggest slap in the face is that there is not a single dollar for the Nerang State High School sheltered courts, despite the fact that Labor committed \$4 million during the election. This has huge support in my community. It is backed by the Nerang RSL Netball Club and the Gold Coast Basketball club, because they desperately need increased facilities. I wrote to the minister and I got a letter back talking up the multipurpose hall that has already been delivered, thanks to Labor's election commitment, which the LNP never matched. Even though the LNP now admit that the courts are a priority on the school's infrastructure plan, their response is, 'There's not enough money to deliver it.' That is literally what the education minister said: not enough funding to deliver it. There seems to be enough money to deliver stadiums for the Olympics, just not sports infrastructure for local state schools.

On the priority of housing, there is so much to talk about in so little time. Premier Crisafulli went to the election promising more homes and a reduced number of people waiting on the social housing register. Instead, the LNP have cancelled affordable housing projects and there are more people on the waiting list every single quarter under those opposite. You would think there would be a plan to get people into homes. Instead, their plan is to kick people out of those homes. Their changes to the rules for both social housing and emergency accommodation might help them fudge the figures, but they will not help people who are sleeping on the streets tonight. The cosplay progressive opposite, the member for Bonney, has clearly tried to distance himself from the conservatives over there, but the decisions he has made are exactly in line with what Campbell Newman did. He sits there next to the member for Everton, no doubt taking tips from the member for Everton, who was, of course, the housing minister in the Newman government, which brought in some disgraceful policies and actually managed to send social housing in this state backwards. The member for Bonney has the audacity to come into this House to listen to those awful stories that the member for Bancroft relayed from his community about people who are doing it really tough and says, 'Send them to my office.' Evidently he does not trust the Public Service.

**Mr O'CONNOR:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at that statement. That is disgraceful and I ask the member to withdraw.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Martin): It is not an opportunity to debate the point. Member for Gaven, the member has taken personal offence. Do you withdraw?

**Ms SCANLON:** I withdraw. Public servants are purely enacting the policies that have been given to them by politicians. The fact is that the member for Bonney has changed the rules to make it harder for everyday Queenslanders to get support. Let me break down some very real examples for the member for Bonney. Under these changes, two pensioners or a working single mum on the minimum wage with two kids sleeping in her car tonight would not be eligible for emergency accommodation. That is what the decision—

**Mr O'Connor:** You can't say that, member.

**Ms SCANLON:** I can say that to the member for Bonney, because that is literally the decision he has made. He has said that to be eligible for emergency housing you need to be on the social housing register, and those people would not be eligible under the 2006 income limits. Clearly, he has no idea what he is doing.

Premier Crisafulli said that he would deliver emergency accommodation to everyone sleeping rough. Instead, he is delivering bureaucracy over humanity. Their answer is to let the market sort it out and increase supply, but their actions demonstrate the complete opposite. The Deputy Premier's answer seems to be to review regional plans and reduce the population projections. The LNP's answer

is just to pretend fewer people are going to move here, despite what all of the modelling says, and then just build fewer homes. That is what that means. This is consistent with what they have done so far.

We know that they have axed a whole range of housing projects, at Arundel, Birtinya, Tewantin and Redland Bay—interestingly, in the electorates of the Deputy Premier, the housing minister and the assistant housing minister. Those have all been abandoned, even though they were going through fast-track approval pathways that the housing sector called for. Under Labor, there were 276 expressions of interest received with the potential to deliver over 30,000 new homes, with a guaranteed 15 per cent of those being affordable. We progressed a number of those projects that the member for Kawana has now scrapped. Now there are projects—four of them at least—that sit idle on the member for Kawana's desk, including 2,750 homes in Robina. They have not declared a single new project of their own. They have actually stopped assessing or progressing proposals altogether, in the middle of a housing crisis.

It is a deliberate choice to scrap a pipeline of nearly 30,000 homes. That is, coincidentally, 29,000 more homes than the LNP's shared equity scheme would support. I find it interesting that those opposite are now interested in a shared equity scheme, because of course they were not so supportive of one when we were calling on the federal LNP to ask their colleagues in Canberra to stop blocking the Help to Buy scheme. We know what they really think because we have heard the member for Oodgeroo say it. She said it was a 'really, really dangerous' shared equity scheme.

**Mr O'Connor:** We voted with you, so it was pretty clear.

**Ms SCANLON:** You might want to talk to the member for Oodgeroo, member for Bonney. In a single year the Help to Buy scheme would have helped at least double the number of Queenslanders compared to what is being proposed in this budget by the LNP, so let's be clear about what they are trying to con Queenslanders with. The LNP have proposed a program that will help one per cent of first home buyers, which experts have effectively said is too small to make any measurable difference. What we need in this state is a whole-of-system housing plan. We laid that out, and we even laid out additional measures today we would enact if we were given the opportunity to govern in 2028.

I want to turn briefly to some of the comments I heard interjected by the Attorney-General in this debate. She has announced further funding for the Integrity Commissioner. We welcome any additional money that has been allocated. No doubt, given some of the actions undertaken by those opposite, they will need more advice in the future. I suspect the real reason the Attorney is so proud of this funding is that any funding budget requests from the commissioner have to now be made public. That is because Labor initiated the process following a recommendation from the Coaldrake review, a piece of work those opposite had a lot to say about in opposition. They are less interested in letting the sun shine in now, aren't they?

Premier Crisafulli said his word means something. Well, let's put that to the test now, shall we. He promised openness and transparency; instead we have seen cabinet papers kept secret and the cost of transport projects covered up. He said he would govern with integrity and that there would be no politically linked directors-general. Just ask Tony Fitzgerald what he thinks about what happened there. He promised he would listen to experts, yet they are hiding from Queenslanders the Expert Legal Panel's advice. He said he would honour climate commitments and fund the Environmental Defender's Office. Both of those commitments clearly are not worth the paper they are written on. He promised there would be no new stadiums. He had said that Queenslanders' energy bills would be lower. He said there would be lower debt, yet projections are now higher than when Labor left office. Probably the cruellest was when he said he would respect First Nations communities and then, in the middle of the night, axed the treaty and Truth-Telling and Healing Inquiry. Of course, today we heard that public servants are now being told they cannot even acknowledge traditional owners in their signature blocks. That is the level those opposite will go to.

On every one of these fronts, Premier Crisafulli has failed because if you take the Premier at his word you will end up with nothing but a collection of convenient quotes and inconvenient truths. Queenslanders deserve a government that builds, not one that backs away; one that puts people before politics, not the other way around; a government that actually has a vision for Queensland. This is a government built on spin, soaked in hypocrisy and sinking under the weight of its own broken promises—and it has not even been a year. Premier Crisafulli said that he is different, but when it comes to cost-of-living relief, housing, health and infrastructure, he has the same old LNP traits. When you say that your word means something, but every budget, every backflip and every broken promise says otherwise, then your word means nothing. Queenslanders deserve better; Gold Coasters deserve better. We all expected a lot more in what was supposed to be the first budget from the LNP.



**Mrs KIRKLAND** (Rockhampton—LNP) (4.03 pm): Today I rise to respond to the government's budget. I rise to speak on behalf of the resilient, forward-looking people of Central Queensland. It is the heart of this great state and a region that has always delivered for Queensland and Australia. It is time Queensland returned that favour, and that is precisely what this budget does. It proves that, no matter where you live, your fair share of opportunity is finally within reach. To the people of Rockhampton, Gracemere and the wider Central Queensland region: this is your budget. It is not just a list of announcements; it is a vision grounded in the things that matter—housing, health, education, sport, community infrastructure and jobs.

Let me begin by sincerely thanking the Premier, the cabinet and the Treasurer for delivering a responsible and economically sound budget. This is a budget that looks to the horizon. It is sustainable, it is balanced and it is responsible. It is a clear departure from the geographical narcissism of the former Labor government. Instead of focusing on the south-east, this budget reaches into the regions like never before. I ran for state parliament because, like those that I represent in my community, I was frustrated at our electorate consistently being taken for granted as a safe Labor seat.

**Mr Stevens:** And we are glad you did!

**Mrs KIRKLAND:** I will take that interjection; thank you. Now in Central Queensland we are seeing real delivery. In Gracemere we will build a brand new high school. This \$100 million investment acknowledges growth and the right of every child to a world-class education close to home. This project was called for by the community for over two decades; however, it was consistently cast aside by my predecessors until now. Other projects include: a \$61 million TAFE Excellence Precinct at CQUniversity with accompanying land releases to train and house the skilled workforce of tomorrow; a \$95 million Health Services Academy to train nurses and allied health professionals, fast-tracking a critical health workforce for our region; and a \$42 million investment in stage 1 of our multisports precinct, a hub for regional sporting excellence and also to support the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic rowing and canoeing events to be held in Rockhampton, showcasing Central Queensland on the world stage. Finally, the long Labor delayed Rockhampton Ring Road is now fully funded and moving forward thanks to the perseverance of the Minister for Transport, the Hon. Brett Mickelberg. This \$1.98 billion generational project will unlock economic potential and save lives along the Bruce Highway.

This budget invests in our young people and it also protects them. Rockhampton will be home to one of five Regional Reset early intervention programs, part of a statewide \$50 million package offering 24/7 support to at-risk youth. On top of that, our region will host one of Queensland's four specialist crime prevention schools, a \$10 million investment in turning lives around, not just ticking off statistics. In addition, there is the assurance of \$25 million to establish a local youth mental health step up step down facility, which has been called for by industry leaders for over a decade and again only made possible now by this LNP Crisafulli-led government.

We have not forgotten the smaller projects that punch well above their weight when it comes to community pride, including: \$200,000 for the Walk N Talk hub, promoting men's mental health and wellbeing through connection; our local courthouse will undergo upgrades to improve security and safety for victims of domestic and family violence; \$4.5 million to support Beef Week 2027, a symbol of our region's agricultural strength, cultural identity and economic drive; \$6.4 million to complete the construction of a new neighbourhood centre in Rockhampton, something that I called out for when I was first elected as a councillor; and \$150,000 for the Our Space youth centre for those youths who need a safe space. It is not just another program for youth; it is the message 'you matter and you belong'.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the people of Rockhampton and Gracemere for reaching out to me. It is my privilege to have made your voices heard. To team CQ—member for Keppel and member for Mirani—this is what team effort looks like. The Speaker has reviewed and approved my speech for incorporation, so I ask that the remainder of my speech be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*.

*The speech read as follows—*

Housing ..... is critical. Every human deserves the right to a roof over their head and a place to call home.

Under the previous Labor Government, regional homelessness soared. In contrast, the Crisafulli Government is taking bold, practical action.

This Budget delivers the highest level of homelessness support funding in Queensland history—with more crisis accommodation, more wraparound community services, and more intervention before people fall through the cracks.

And we're investing beyond temporary fixes—we're building for the long term.

There are already 5000 social and affordable homes under contract or construction—160 of them in Central Queensland alone, including:

- 49 in Rockhampton
- 47 in Livingstone
- 40 in Gladstone

That's real homes, for real people, changing real lives.

Further housing development will also benefit from the release of 27 hectares of greenfield land at CQUniversity.

The CQ TAFE Excellence Precinct will not only deliver 300-400 new tradespeople annually—freeing up land to support housing expansion and healthcare growth for Rockhampton Hospital.

This is co-ordinated delivery across housing, health, and education—future-proofing our region through united, purposeful action.

This Budget speaks with one voice: This is not just a southeast Queensland Budget—this is a Budget for the regions. For Rockhampton, Gracemere, and all of Central Queensland, it means we've been seen, we've been heard—and now, we've been backed.

For our local community, this Budget backs both connection and inclusion—not as buzzwords, but through meaningful investment in the things that stitch our community together.

It begins with sport—not just as recreation, but as a way to build belonging, teamwork, and pride. That's why we're investing:

- \$3 million in the new Gracemere Junior Rugby League and Netball Clubhouse—a game-changer for grassroots sport that will serve as a gathering place for hundreds of families every weekend. This isn't just a building—it's a home base for culture, connection, and the next generation of sporting talent.
- \$900,000 for upgraded facilities at Bluebirds United, continuing our support for local clubs that provide young people with purpose and positive role models.
- \$200,000 to deliver dedicated female change rooms for the Glenmore Bulls—because inclusivity in sport isn't optional. It's essential.
- \$3.4 million to complete Browne Park upgrades, making our stadium ready for bigger events.
- And of course, the \$100 per student Back to school Boost and the \$200 Play On Sports vouchers

These aren't scattered announcements—they are targeted investments in what makes communities thrive. They reflect a government that understands that every child who laces up their boots, every parent who volunteers on the weekend, and every spectator on the sideline contributes to the fabric of our towns.

But Mr Speaker, this Budget doesn't stop at sporting clubs—it drives economic innovation and backs the brainpower of our region.

We're planting seeds of transformation with:

- \$1.6 million for the Capricorn Start-Up Hub—a launchpad for the next wave of Central Queensland entrepreneurs. These are the thinkers and risk-takers who will power the small businesses of tomorrow, and they deserve the infrastructure to match their ambition.

Together, these initiatives make one thing crystal clear: this Budget delivers substance, not spin. It doesn't trade in gimmicks or last-minute splashy announcements. It represents a generational shift in how we plan, grow, and govern—a shift toward genuine community need, responsible planning, and long-term outcomes.

Mr Speaker, this Budget is a compass—not just a calculator.

It builds confidence in our economy because it understands the challenges that small businesses, young families, and local industries face every day.

It gives certainty to families who've spent too long hearing promises that never quite reached them.

It restores hope in a future where your postcode doesn't dictate your potential.

This Budget lays the foundation for the Fresh Start Queenslanders have asked for—a start grounded in integrity, practicality, and pride.

And make no mistake: we in Central Queensland are not just passengers in this journey—we're drivers. We're shaping the roadmap. We are no longer watching decisions be made from a distance. We are active participants, and this Budget proves that.

It doesn't ask us to dream small. It demands that we build big.


Big in heart. Big in vision. Big in delivery.

Because whether it's supporting inclusive sport, backing game-changing healthcare, or nurturing the next tech success story from our own backyard—this Budget sees the strength and possibility in Central Queensland and backs it with funding, focus, and follow-through.

To the people of Rockhampton, Gracemere, and the wider Capricorn region, this is a statement. A commitment. A promise.

We see you. We hear you. And we believe in you.

I commend this Budget to the House.

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (4.09 pm): I rise to speak on the appropriation bills. Sadly, this is the first time since my election to the Queensland parliament that I am not standing here to speak in support of a good, strong state Labor budget. What else is sad is that this is a budget that cuts billions from congestion-busting projects and blows away cost-of-living support measures like energy rebates and a break on rego. It is a budget that will not solve the shortage of social and affordable housing—because it is spending up to four times more to help people buy new homes than the support committed for people sleeping rough or families living in cars. It is a budget that does not plan for frontline growth, with a billion dollar black hole when it comes to well-deserved wage increases for our Police Service, nurses and teachers—professions vital to the good health and order of our state.

Sadly, this LNP budget will make it harder for Queenslanders to get around and get ahead. I have so many questions about this budget. Firstly, why have the LNP really removed dollar figures and timeframes in their new version of QTRIP? That is certainly a way to avoid a comparison with what we did in government, and what a great way to avoid showing budget blowouts or time delays. Every project can appear on time and on budget when there is no scrutiny.

My next question is: who signed off on the advertising budget? That is right—advertising. That was a dirty word before the election, but who signed off on the government funds to turn Queensland blue and trumpet LNP messages in every major news outlet and TV station in Queensland? I wonder if the same person approved the money for the Hospital Rescue Plan ads that I have seen and how much the LNP spent handing in our homework again and branding it as theirs. They stopped work on hospital projects right across the state then restarted them—minus any union workers, of course—under a ‘rescue plan’. What a disingenuous ploy from this new LNP government.

This is just another example of the hypocrisy and complete lack of transparency becoming the trademark of those opposite. We have seen it in the planning bill this week and it is evident in the budget. I wonder if that is why we did not debate the education bill on the *Notice Paper* before the rushed planning bill, because it would be a bit rich for the government to stand in here and claim to be heroes for our state schools when our hardworking Queensland teachers—the real school heroes—cannot get the pay rise they deserve.

The hypocrisy on housing is deplorable. Since they took government, we have heard so much from the LNP about how they will solve the housing crisis. There has been no recognition of national and global factors—cost increases, labour shortages, supply chain blockages and higher migration to Queensland—contributing to a housing crisis. There has been no acknowledgement that not only Rome was not built in a day but neither are most houses. Yet in the 7,305 days between now and their 2044 deadline to see a million new homes built, the LNP are somehow going to ensure an average of 137 homes are built per day. The way they have kicked things off in this budget—the way they plan to solve the housing crisis—is by spending up to \$300 million helping up to 1,000 homebuyers get a house worth up to \$1 million each, versus an investment in social housing.

Across my region of Moreton Bay, there has been an investment in social housing of—wait for it—\$70 million. That investment will deliver or get underway 256 social homes. If all those 256 homes are built by mid next year—and if they are not the same ones that Labor got underway already when we were in government—then that is still only one home for every 2,000 people who live in Moreton Bay. I reckon more than that are doing it tough, and I reckon the mayor of Moreton Bay has probably told the government that as well.

I am all for giving first home buyers a leg-up. I think first home owner grants are great—that is why Labor increased Queensland’s grant to be the equal largest in the nation—so I am pleased the LNP kept our higher grant, but I question the humanity of spending four times more on making property millionaires than support for our vulnerable, and that is without examining the value of stamp duty tax breaks without any income thresholds at all.

I go back to QTRIP. We know the LNP like to take things out of QTRIP. Not only are the plans Labor had for the Bruce Highway now completely ambiguous—including whether an upgrade of Morayfield and Uhlmann roads out my way will still go ahead—there are local projects in my electorate that seem to have disappeared altogether.

**Ms Boyd** interjected.

**Mr KING:** I will take that interjection from the member for Pine Rivers. I remember last time the LNP were in government they removed the New Settlement Rd-Deception Bay Road interchange, which we managed to build when we were back in government. Thank goodness we did that, but I

wonder about these other roads that we really need. What about the funding for more car parks at the Narangba train station? In the last Labor state budget, we had \$6 million for this included in a line item for park and rides. In his answer to my question on notice on 18 February this year, the transport minister said—

The Crisafulli Government is committed to delivering the park 'n' ride expansion at Narangba train station. This commitment is on display via the commitment to provide an additional \$6 million on top of existing planning funding x...

I say to the transport minister: show me the money. Where is it? I cannot find it. It had better happen because it was an election commitment from the LNP and it was \$6 million that I already had.

Labor had also committed funds for a business case on parking at Burpengary train station—an issue that I know is very close to the heart of not only many members in my community in Burpengary but also the member for Glass House and his family. If this money has been spent as intended, what is the outcome? Burpengary station is closest to the huge new development in Kinma Valley and so many people will be wanting to use that station. We will only get one go at shaping local commuter behaviour. The 50-cent fares are brilliant—that is why we introduced them—but they become irrelevant if you cannot get a park at the station.

I am pleased to see Burpengary Jets Rugby League benefit from the grassroots sports infrastructure program. They are a great local club. However, I am disappointed there is no funding to upgrade the Harris Avenue sports precinct in Narangba which would have benefited both Narangba Eagles Football Club and the Narangba Demons Baseball Club. Even the federal LNP member recognised the benefit of this project and matched state Labor's commitment at his election in May. Hopefully, this upgrade to be delivered in partnership with council can be considered in the next round of sports club funding, along with an upgrade of the Findlay Street sports fields in Burpengary, which is home to the mighty Narangba Crows AFL Club, cricket and netball teams and used as an overflow space for the Burpengary Jets Rugby League. The cynic in me thinks the 'new' Games On! infrastructure funding is just a cover for LNP election commitments, but hopefully I will be proved wrong.

I also noticed the claim of building a new Petrie substation in the Moreton Bay highlights. This is not new; it has been there for awhile. This is the government handing in our homework once again. I note the member for Pine Rivers in her contribution spoke about a new special school for Moreton Bay South, and I echo her sentiments. I am wondering where it is meant to be because the dot on the map is right where the existing special school is. You cannot build it on top of it. I am sure the member for Pine Rivers could find another spot because we would really appreciate another special school, but do not knock down the one that is there.

**Mr Lee:** You had 10 years and you did nothing.

**Mr KING:** Yes, 10 years. That school has had work done every year, but putting a school on top of an existing one is not very smart—I say that to whoever the member over there is. You show me how it can be done and I will congratulate you. That school does a fantastic job for families in our region and we really appreciate it, but we do not want it knocked down.

I am looking forward to chatting with my local schools to see what is in the budget for them because it does not seem to be transparent in the budget papers. I hope the education minister has listened to the concerns of the Narangba State School community about student safety and funded the rest of the security fence that Labor started. I note the minister visited the school recently to open a building we funded and built. I would have liked to have joined him there to celebrate the new building and talk about the fencing, but my invitation must have got lost in the mail. I did not seem to get it.

Finally, I look forward to finding out whether bus services have been funded through the School Transport Infrastructure Program to get Narangba Valley State High School students home on Wednesday afternoons. There is a petition to secure these services on my website—at shaneking.net.au—and I want to thank all locals who have signed it so far, as well as the high school community for their continued advocacy and Kangaroo Bus Lines for coming up with plan after plan to effect the new services at minimal cost to the budget. I am sure the transport minister is sick of me writing to him about this issue so hopefully it is resolved in this budget. This government got elected talking about youth crime and how bad it is—and it is. We have 2,000 kids who descend on a shopping centre every Wednesday afternoon because there is no bus to take them home so we need the buses there earlier; that is what we need. These kids are good kids, but when you have that many kids together it causes trouble. We will end up with some youth criminals.

**Mr Lee** interjected.

**Mr KING:** This started about a year ago, I say to whoever that person is opposite—I will not say ‘clown’—who does not know about it. Hopefully, it is resolved in this budget. We would all be very happy then, including the 2,000 kids and the Narangba community.


Sadly, it seems this first LNP state budget is built on many broken promises, endorsed by an LNP Premier who said, ‘When I say something, it means something’; the same LNP Premier who said energy bills would be cheaper, debt would be lower, there would be no new stadiums, heavy rail would be delivered all the way to Maroochydore by 2032—no ifs, no buts or short cuts. Queenslanders were promised a government with integrity, a government who would be open and transparent. Instead, we have a government whose highest priority is turning the maroon state blue. I really hope the Deputy Premier’s love of the monarchy and all things royal and regal is stronger than the LNP’s love of political stunts as we have a red chamber next door and I would hate to come here one day and find out that that has turned blue as well. I would not be surprised, though.

**Mr O’Connor:** He loves the King.

**Mr KING:** I love the King! This is a government whose budget backs away from pay rises for our frontline heroes who held the line so bravely for us during the pandemic—our teachers and nurses. Now they are ignored. They are backing away from families who need social housing, backing away from project timeframes and transparency in the budget papers and backing away from cost-of-living relief. Well, it would not surprise me if there were people this week backing away from the LNP and wishing they could literally get their money back. The fresh start promised by this government is already looking stale.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Martin): Member, you used some unparliamentary language.

**Mr KING:** I withdraw.

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (4.20 pm): This budget delivers the single greatest investment in health care in Queensland’s history. This budget provides \$33.1 billion in capital and operating funding for health and ambulance services confirming the Crisafulli government’s commitment to deliver world-class health services for every Queenslanders when and where they need it.

When I sat down with the Treasurer to frame the 2025-26 budget from the health perspective, we did not start with the dollars; we were focused squarely on the outcomes. This followed our early action to axe a tax. Within 100 days of the election, we delivered on our commitment to stop Labor’s patients tax and that has been delivered. We stopped Queenslanders unnecessarily paying more when visiting their GP. We were not like those opposite, looking for headlines built around dazzling dollar amounts but with scant regard to providing the services that were actually needed.

Speaking of those opposite, I must address yet more scare tactics from the Leader of the Opposition who earlier today claimed that waiting lists have exploded and will get longer. Let’s put a few facts on the record. The number of Queenslanders waiting for elective surgery more than doubled under Labor, from 27,950 in February 2015 to 64,171 in October 2024. That is the fact. The current elective surgery waitlist is 62,727, lower than what we inherited from those opposite.

In April 2025, the Crisafulli government oversaw the single largest reduction in the waitlist since 2015—a reduction of 2,750 people in a single month. This budget builds on this success by making the greatest investment in elective surgery in Queensland’s history—\$1.752 billion. This morning we just heard more mistakes and more mistruths from the mistake-prone opposition leader.

We said we would diagnose, treat and cure Labor’s health crisis. What was that crisis? Record ambulance ramping, record numbers of Queenslanders on elective surgery waitlists and record numbers of Queenslanders stuck waiting for a specialist appointment. That was the situation before the Crisafulli LNP government was elected, and since taking office we have discovered the cost blowouts, the delays and all the forgotten or overlooked requirements for hospitals in Labor’s so-called Big Build—in reality, the dud build—the capacity expansion program.

This first LNP budget means we can continue to deliver improved health outcomes for Queenslanders. The record dollars allow for: 30,000 elective surgeries to be delivered in 2025-26, on top of the more than 12,000 referrals to Surgery Connect made this year, thanks to our \$100 million funding injection; a reduction in ambulance ramping and improved patient flow through our \$1.7 billion investment; building three new hospitals, expanding a further 10, a new Queensland cancer centre, and new and upgraded health facilities across the state; more ambulances, more stations, more paramedics and new equipment, with more than a billion dollars invested in the Queensland Ambulance Service, including the biggest single uplift in capital funding for the Queensland Ambulance Service—

a quarter of a billion dollars over four years—never funded by the Labor Party; together with progress on growing the number of health workers to 46,000 by 2032, and that is on top of the more than 3,500 health workers we have employed since coming to office in November. These were our commitments to the people of Queensland and, with this budget, we continue to deliver.

We are bringing world-class health care to benefit every Queenslanders, from our most popular cities here in the south-east to the most remote bush outposts. This budget invests in our Hospital Rescue Plan and sees the end of the former government's failed capacity expansion program. The Crisafulli LNP government is actually funding these critical health infrastructure projects, unlike those opposite. This includes \$5.592 billion of new money for these capital projects, addressing the cost overruns under Labor. That is why I was pleased to hear from the CEO of Infrastructure Partnerships Australia, Andrew Dwyer, who said the budget 'begins the journey of fixing longstanding structural issues'.

This budget funds the construction of three new hospitals—at Toowoomba, Coomera and Bundaberg—and addresses all the previous government's inefficiencies and deficiencies which the reviewer, Sam Sangster, in terms of the hospital build program, described as an 'exercise in futility'.

We are adding, member for Gaven, 200 more beds at Coomera, as was originally sought by the Gold Coast Health and Hospital Service.

**Ms Scanlon:** When?

**Mr NICHOLLS:** They asked for 600 under Labor; they got 400 and a promise of something at Robina by 2024 that was never likely to be developed until 2028. They failed to deliver on their own promises.

We are also moving all services to single sites in both Bundaberg and Toowoomba—single sites. We are funding the expansion of another 10 major hospitals alongside the establishment of a new state-of-the-art Queensland Cancer Centre based at the Herston Health Precinct. Our \$18.53 billion capital budget over five years is a record investment in the future of the Queensland health system. It is real money and can give Queenslanders confidence we are delivering on our commitments outlined in the Hospital Rescue Plan.

The Hospital Rescue Plan is delivering more than 2,600 new beds right across metro, regional and rural Queensland, alongside more investment in a bigger health workforce. We are also putting \$3.159 billion over five years in our Timely Investment Infrastructure Maintenance program to ensure our hospital and health services can carry out essential infrastructure and asset maintenance, replacing Labor's failed sustaining capital program.

Despite Queensland Health's infrastructure asset base growing from \$8 billion to more than \$30 billion during Labor's time in office, the former government siphoned off the funds from sustaining capital that was meant for critical asset maintenance to sugar-hit headline-grabbing announcements, leaving zero dollars in the forward estimates—zero dollars—and this was clearly exposed in the 2024 Auditor-General's health report.

For the first time since 2010-11, we have uplifted the base capital allowance for maintenance, with new funding of \$1.34 billion over two years from 2024-25 for approved but unfunded projects under the former Labor government. We are actually fixing up their mistakes. We are also increasing the funding for this program to \$550 million in each of 2026-27 and 2027-28 where there was zero—zero—money available under Labor.

Under Labor, too many Queenslanders were waiting too long for their surgery. Some 30,000 Queenslanders will be able to access elective surgery in 2025-26, thanks to a \$1.75 billion, four-year investment. I want to thank the private providers like Mater, St Vincent's, Uniting Care and Ramsay who will come on board and will deliver more and give us better value because they have certainty of the program over the next four years because we listened to them and put the money in the budget.

The positive feedback from our private sector partners was loud and clear. Oli Steele, the CEO of St Vincent's Private Hospital, said the investment is a 'major boost which will support the forward planning and certainty that the private sector seeks'. Mater Group Chief Executive, Julia Strickland-Bellamy, acknowledged the Crisafulli government's 'record uplift in surgery connect funding means Mater Hospitals across the state will be able to assist in treating more public patients more quickly'. Ramsay Health Care said the investment 'relieves pressure on the public health system, stabilises waitlists by delivering 30,000 elective surgeries in 2025-26, helps more Queenslanders access the care they need, faster, and strengthens the role and sustainability of private hospitals'. UnitingCare expressed their support saying the record investment will 'help ease pressure on the public

health system by delivering elective surgeries and positive health outcomes for patients across the communities we serve’.

Our successful Surgery Connect investment supports public patients having their surgery at a private hospital. Thanks to initiatives like Surgery Connect Surge, in April we saw the largest single fall in elective surgery, as I mentioned. That is a trend we are invested in continuing because these are not just numbers on a page—these are real people waiting to receive life-changing care. The budget backs up our work so far, reducing delays, stabilising and managing the elective surgery waiting list and puts in place the foundation on which future improvements will be built.

While there is still a lot to do to bring waitlist numbers down, this budget demonstrates the Crisafulli LNP government’s determination to do what it takes to support the health of Queenslanders needing life-changing care. We are backing these improvements with the largest ever expansion of Queensland Health’s workforce: 46,000 additional health workers on the ground by 2032, including 34,200 additional clinicians—more than 4,700 of those will join in 2025-26, including 3,350 clinicians. How are we achieving this? This historic budget is providing an additional \$6.9 billion in funding over five years to support health services where they are needed. The plans covers many of our biggest and most essential pieces of work, including the elective surgery waitlist. Mr Deputy Speaker, 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—*

Recently I had the pleasure of visiting a few of the sites where the community is benefiting.

Last week I was in Townsville, opening the new hybrid operating theatre, which is a first-of-its-kind and will provide a much needed boost to elective surgery capacity in North Queensland.

In Central Queensland, I opened the new Orthopaedic Clinic at Rockhampton Hospital, which frees much-needed space in the ED while the Crisafulli Government continues the masterplanning process.

In Biloela, I inspected the recently upgraded operating theatre and birthing suite, which takes us one step closer to resuming birthing services which have been closed for more than 1,000 days—something Labor failed to properly address.

In Mackay, we’re getting on with the job of the much-needed expansion of the hospital and delivery of a new helipad.

I have also been privileged to visit the new surgical outpatients area at Queensland Children’s Hospital and meet with some of the young patients and families there. This redevelopment will provide more than 14,000 appointments every year for children and young people with complex gastroenterology conditions and those requiring plastic and reconstructive surgery.

This Budget helps reduce ambulance ramping, with measures like the 55 million dollars Patient Flow Response Fund to enable hospitals across the system to flexibly respond to emerging pressures in patient flow and reduce ramping in our state’s busiest emergency departments.

Our pledge is to get ambulance ramping from the highs under Labor to below 30 per cent by October 2028, and this investment sets it on track.

Mr Speaker, new Budget measures will allow Queensland Health to continue accessing up to 515 beds over the next two years in partnership with the private sector to help patient flow.

In the face of rising demands on the health system, we are taking action now to ensure beds are available when and where they are needed, and patients can be transferred faster to receive the urgent care they need.

I was happy to the support for this investment from the President of AMA Queensland Dr Nick Yim who said “We commend initiatives to improve patient flow and use private hospitals to reduce elective surgery backlogs, which AMA Queensland called for in its Surgical Wait List Roundtable Action Plan”

There will be more paramedics, more ambulance stations and more ambulance vehicles on the road to meet growing demand.

More than 1 billion dollars is being invested in the Queensland Ambulance Service in this Budget.

New stations are being built at Beenleigh Central and Southport East, and the 24/7 QAS Clinical Hub in Kedron, staffed by paramedics and specialist clinicians, will be expanded.

23.7 million dollars will be invested next year in existing stations, and to provide relief accommodation for paramedics in regional and remote locations.

More than 16 million dollars is allocated to provide operational equipment including new defibrillators to ensure our first responders have the advanced tools they need to do their life-saving work.

45 million dollars will be invested in 170 new and replacement ambulance vehicles, fitted with the latest equipment.

And over the next four years we are employing an additional 900 ambulance personnel who will be embedded in communities right across the state.

In addition to the Hospital Rescue Plan, we have budgeted an extra 638 million dollars to be spent on the Mater Hospital Springfield to boost public health services in the growing south west metropolitan corridor—I'm advised this investment will provide for an estimated 200,000 public patients a year.

This is the first time—it wasn't in Labor's last budget—money will be provided to operationalise these critical public health services.

This investment includes funding for 186 hospital beds including 12 new paediatric beds, an emergency department, operating theatres, an intensive care ward, and maternity and paediatric care.

This is the rapidly expanding part of south east Queensland that takes in Ipswich and Logan.

Our Budget investment equips Mater Hospital Springfield to meet the region's current healthcare needs, while ensuring it is future-proofed to accommodate growing demand.

We are investing in the health of our littlest Queenslanders.

Up to 60,000 Queensland children a year are expected to benefit from free health checks when the Healthy Kindy Kids program kicked off in this year's Budget is fully operational.

This 37.5 million dollar program will see pilots start in a select number of kindies in Townsville in October 2025.

A staged roll out will follow, ramping up to reach all government-approved kindy locations across the state.

The free health checks will play an important role in supporting the health and developmental needs of young children throughout Queensland.

Early identification of developmental delays or concerns gives parents, carers and educators the vital information they need to ensure children receive the right support at the right time, before the formal start of their school education journey.

Also funded in the Budget is a 50 million dollar investment in two new Youth Step Up Step Down services that will enhance mental health support, including in regional Queensland.

The first of these projects is a six-bed facility in Rockhampton which will provide short-stay residential services for young patients.

Existing services are located in Cairns, Logan and Caboolture, and the Rockhampton centre will take the total number of youth Step Up Step Down beds across all facilities to 24.

Mr Speaker, the Crisafulli LNP Government's first budget also delivers for my electorate of Clayfield.

Funded in the Budget is a 6 million dollar investment in Brothers Rugby Club at Crosby Park in Albion.

It is one of Brisbane's oldest and most successful rugby clubs.

This investment will secure the future of the Club for generations to come.

The project will build new dressing sheds, better disabled access, and a new gym.

The 2025-26 Budget will deliver a new City Glider bus service from Hamilton Portside to Woolloongabba.

This partnership with Brisbane City Council will connect, to the city and beyond, a rapidly changing area of my electorate, the Brisbane River precinct that is transforming from port services to residential.

This, alongside the LNP's locked-in 50c fares, will ensure that Clayfield continues to be well-served by public transport.

This Budget also funds something I have long been fighting for—a \$24.9 million upgrade to the Kedron State High School performing arts centre.

This Budget delivers for Clayfield—despite the falsehoods in the Member for Murrumba's first and last Budget Reply speech. The Leader of the Opposition claimed the Government has cut funding for the redevelopment of Albion Railway Station.

Albion Station is of course in my electorate of Clayfield and in my tenure there has been a conga line of Labor candidates—they come, they go—standing beside a conga line of Labor Transport Ministers, promising to fund upgrades of Albion Station—never funded..!

In 2024 they had another crack, but all we got were artists renders—no tenders issued, nothing in the Budget.

The only thing the claim by the Opposition Leader proves is his incompetence in his desperation to make unfounded claims of cuts.

Mr Speaker, the 2025-26 Queensland Budget is a Budget for all Queenslanders.

We have put in place, and funded, an Easier Access to Health Services Plan and a Hospital Rescue Plan.

All this as part of a 33.1 billion dollar health budget, the first time investment in our health system exceeds 30 billion dollars.

It is a Budget focused on delivering outcomes—more hospitals, more health workers, more ambulance officers and services, more access to elective surgery.



**Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (4.31 pm): I want to start by sharing a little known fact about my beautiful partner, Matt, which is that he is colour blind—and he is not alone. There are, in fact, about 235,998 Queenslanders who are colour blind. By deduction, this means there are about 5,382,777

people who are waking up to the Crisafulli LNP government's first budget and asking: what on earth has happened here? Why is Queensland's identity now drenched in blue when we are, in fact, a maroon state? This sneaky move to align Queensland's colours with the LNP's political colours sums up their entire approach to governing and to their first budget—no style, no substance, broken promises and the wasteful spending of taxpayer funds on ideological pursuits and controlling the narrative.

Premier Crisafulli ran the ultimate small-target campaign and that lack of substance and vision has followed the Premier now into government, with very little on the *Notice Paper*. The only real announcements have been trying to rebrand the Miles Labor government's 50-cent fares as their own—which no-one in this state buys for one second. They did make a few promises to Queenslanders. They promised to reduce debt. They promised to extend the former Labor government's cost-of-living support measures like energy rebates if people were still doing it tough. They promised not to cut projects and services. Since the election, there has been nothing but disappointment and a deluge of denial, deflection and disregard for Queenslanders from this dodgy government that continues to break promises and avoid scrutiny.

The Premier himself committed to continuing the Miles Labor government's cost-of-living measures, like our \$1,000 energy rebate and 20 per cent car rego fee reduction, if people were still doing it tough when the budget was handed down but now we see that the Treasurer has cut those measures from this budget. Is it that they have misled the public about that commitment during the election or are they out of touch that they do not realise that families are still struggling to make ends meet?

When we were in government we had the unemployment rate down to 3.7 per cent—the lowest year average unemployment rate since the ABS began recording monthly data. We halved the debt inherited from the Newman LNP government and introduced progressive coal royalties which delivered vital cost-of-living relief to Queenslanders. In contrast, this government has cut those measures for everyday Queenslanders. They have cut \$13 billion from infrastructure projects, put an end to free TAFE, paused hospital expansion works, walked back on their commitment to deliver direct rail to Maroochydore and cut funding to important programs like the Environmental Defenders Office.

This government is throwing an additional \$2 billion into additional prison capacity, stating that it is to deal with projected additional demand. What an incredibly underwhelming response from a government that cannot find \$2 billion for services to keep people from crime but can somehow manage to find it for prisons. Some \$2 billion would fund an additional 23,000 addiction and recovery services in Queensland; an additional \$4,600 mental health beds for this state; and build thousands of additional homes. Those items would be a much greater and far more effective use of taxpayers' funds and would go a long way towards ensuring crime reduces and fewer people are victimised.

It would be remiss of me not to comment on how the budget meets—or rather, misses—the needs of Queensland women. The first comment I will make is there is scant detail provided in the government's Women's Economic Statement. In contrast to Labor's 46-page statement from last financial year, their four-page summary is lacking both detail and ambition. Last year's Women's Economic Statement delivered on five priorities including to evaluate the voices of women of colour and those with lived experience of disability and to progress a comprehensive strategy around women's safety, health care and economic prosperity. This week, the new LNP Treasurer delivered their signature announcement for the women of Queensland: a \$20 million return-to-work package. This investment would amount to a cup of coffee a week for each working woman in Queensland. There is no plan to close the pay gap, no plan to support women in male dominated work and they have already repealed the respect at work legislation that would have strengthened women's and men's rights and safety at work.

If we need yet another example of the LNP's ideological pursuits interfering in the work of the Public Service, we have now seen references to gender equity and gender equality disappear from the Office for Women in Queensland. When we were in government we undertook comprehensive consultation with hundreds of Queensland women which resulted in the Queensland's Women's Strategy which we then used to underpin investments in economic security, health and safety and to evaluate those voices for women.

I am pleased to see funding in the budget for the capital works that are occurring at the Red Hill Special School in my community—almost \$24 million for this year and a further \$29 million to finalise the project after that. It is a project I really care about and have advocated for since my election in 2020. It involves the amalgamation of two campuses into one larger purpose-built campus. The educators at the Red Hill Special School, under the leadership of principal, Steven McKnoulty, do an outstanding job

of caring for these students. The parents are gorgeous, as are the kids, and they deserve a first-class, purpose-built educational facility and that is what we will deliver for them.


During the recent election, I was able to secure a commitment that the second campus would continue to be a specialist education facility. We were advocating for a dedicated school for autistic children which would have been the first school of its kind in the inner Brisbane area. Sadly, the new education minister has confirmed to me in writing that they will not honour that commitment so now we do not know what they will do with that site once it becomes available. Will they turn it into offices or will they sell it off? With so many young people now diagnosed with autism, we need to think about having a range of educational offerings available for students. Many of our parents were behind us on that campaign and many local teachers who absolutely see a need for additional support for autistic students. I hope the minister comes back to the negotiating table and delivers that necessary support for our community.

That is it for my electorate in this year's budget. There are no school upgrades, no funding for climate adaptation and disaster resilience for suburbs that flood every time we get heavy rain, particularly those areas in Ashgrove, Milton and Rosalie that are known to be very problematic. There are no upgrades for our sporting facilities, let alone support to purchase and expand the courts, fields and sportsgrounds that we are so desperately in need of. I cannot even find any funding for Walkabout Creek, which I understand had funding allocated for upgrades, or for additional rangers for D'Aguilar or even for MS Queensland based in Milton for their additional neuro wellness centres, which I understand was an election commitment from this government.

A final blow to my community and to Queensland generally is the discovery that the LNP will be scrapping our renewable energy targets, described in the budget as a discontinued measure. We have just wrapped up a committee inquiry into the planning and other legislation bill and heard from Queenslanders from the city to the bush about the important role of renewables in our energy transition. I will quote the chair of our committee, the member for Lockyer, who often said throughout the committee hearings to stakeholders 'what gets measured gets managed'. This decision to scrap targets coupled with the defunding of the EDO and the introduction of this POLA legislation will have a chilling effect on renewables in Queensland. We are heading towards an unmitigated environmental disaster if we continue to go down this path. I really fear for us and I fear for the next generation. These actions really are reprehensible.

Finally, after all the Premier's song and dance during the election about debt reduction, there is a budget deficit this year of \$8 billion, so Queensland has higher debt and no real cost-of-living relief. I am sure Queenslanders will find relief in knowing that the government found the funding to upgrade ministerial offices and that funding was available for a Lexus for the Deputy Premier! These are, of course, the right priorities for this government.

I know this small target government's aim was to deliver a small target budget, but this is a bad budget. It is a budget that delivers greater debt, higher energy bills, fewer hospital beds and no substantial cost-of-living support for hardworking Queenslanders. This is not a fresh start for Queenslanders; it is a false start.

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (4.41 pm): It is an honour for me to speak on the budget, the first Crisafulli budget and a wonderful budget, handed down by the Treasurer on Tuesday. It is certainly a wonderful opportunity for me to do that and I am very pleased to say that a lot of our hard work in fighting for some of our projects has paid off. I look forward to going through some of those issues shortly.

I recognise my colleague the member for Scenic Rim, who comes from the second most fertile valley in the state, and also my colleague the member for Burnett, who has the third most fertile valley and agricultural area in this state. The only reason farmers have farms in the Scenic Rim or the Burnett area is they could not get one in the Lockyer area. I am proud to represent the Lockyer community. The longer they talk to me about those wonderful opportunities in the Lockyer, the prouder I am of being able to promote our region.

This budget is certainly a blueprint and a foundation for the fresh start that the LNP promised Queenslanders. I have said it before; I was quoted in the media as saying I am excited—and I was channelling Big Kev—because we are doing what we said we would do. That is what Queenslanders expect. Any person would expect their government to do what they said they would do and be a calm and considerate government. A lot of fear has been thrown around both before we were elected and since we were elected. I was certainly very proud to be here on Tuesday when the Treasurer handed down this budget. It really is a firm foundation that the LNP can show Queenslanders to put out all of

those fires of fear and all of that scaremongering that many opposite were doing. We can do that because we put a budget in place that is actually very fiscally responsible and sets a pathway to a sensible future.

I encourage honourable members to look at page 83 of the budget papers. There is a great table. I was pleased to be at the budget lunch the other day when the Treasurer presented this table. It shows a graph of the projection of debt under the former Labor government and the new trajectory with the changes and fiscal responsibility of front-loading some of the costs and sensibly managing the budget. That clearly shows a gap, flattening that debt curve. Any person with any ounce of accounting sense would look at that and say, 'This is good for Queensland's future and sets us on the right track.'

**Mr Minnikin:** The adults are back in charge.

**Mr McDONALD:** I take the interjection from the member for Chatsworth; the adults are back in charge. Sometimes we have to make tough decisions. We cannot just keep spending other people's money because some day we have to call it in.

I enjoy being the member for Lockyer and having my colleagues in the member for Toowoomba South and the member for Toowoomba North but particularly the association I have with the Treasurer. He is from my hometown; I grew up and went to school in Toowoomba. I know just how personal it was for the Treasurer, David Janetzki. At the time—I look up to the gallery now because on budget day his family was sitting right there. It was lovely to look up and see the pride on Mel's and the family's faces in the gallery. It was a really touching moment and I know it was something our Treasurer was also very proud of as was the rest of the team. I know the Premier and the Deputy Premier also shared that pride. Now all of that fear has been put aside and we are setting the path to a sensible way forward.

I am very proud to be a part of that government and I am proud to be the chair of the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee delivering much of the infrastructure budget. As has been outlined, it is a \$116 billion budget. There is actually real money in that budget across the forwards as opposed to budgets of those opposite, who were making announcements without any funding. I did pretty well at accounting at school. In fact, at one stage I was going to be an accountant. I like numbers—nought to nine never change. However, in the accounting tables if members look down the column there might be a description but if they look down the table and there is a zero there or there is nothing there, that means it is not funded and that was the case with many of these matters. I am really pleased to pick up the budget paper and read wonderful opportunities that our communities right across Queensland have, whether it be Making Queensland Safer or the fresh start and the health services we need. I am certainly very pleased to be a part of that.

Whilst I am talking about the budget, I need to highlight some of the opportunities we have in Lockyer. None are more important for the Lockyer community, particularly the Laidley community, than the announcement before the election of the flood mitigation treatments in Laidley. There is \$40 million in the budget for flood mitigation and \$15 million of that is for the Laidley flood mitigation. We look forward to seeing that delivered. I stood with the mayor, the deputy mayor as well as the minister before the election and made that announcement and I am so pleased to see that in the budget.


Likewise, with the Brisbane Valley Highway; I stood with my colleague the member for Nanango, Deb Frecklington, on the first day of the campaign and we made that announcement. That is the first time that real money has been put into the Brisbane Valley Highway for a very long time. Those opposite committed some money in the city deal and then withdrew that money, which was very disappointing. We were able to get \$20 million as well as a commitment from the federal government for another \$20 million. I am excited to see that delivered because roads are one of the vital pieces of infrastructure across our community and certainly connect all of our areas. I have 38 schools in my area and that represents 30-odd different communities of some very small schools and some larger schools. It is great to see those roads about to be upgraded.

There is also the planning for the Laidley Hospital as part of the Hospital Rescue Plan. I recognise the health minister here and I thank him for the money that has been allocated for the planning of that hospital, something that the CEO and the chair of West Moreton Health and I have talked about with the mayor in terms of ensuring we have those priorities. There is also some funding for some greatly needed footpaths for the townships of Laidley, Hatton Vale and Withcott as well as playgrounds for Fernvale, Lowood, Laidley and Gatton. Importantly, we also have some additional funding for the Laidley and Lockyer community centres. Linda Roberts in the Lockyer Community Centre in Gatton and Alana Wahl at the Laidley Community Centre do an amazing job. That \$660,000 extra over the next three years is a real game changer for them and will provide wonderful assistance to many of those who are vulnerable in our community.

I also saw \$150,000 for the shovel-ready redevelopment of the Lockyer Valley Turf Club as well as new flood cameras for the Gatton Esk Road and the Grantham Winwill Road, which is a vital part of our flood mitigation network. Being able to see that flooding, having that situational awareness and making good early decisions is key to that disaster management response.

There is also some funding for improvements along Tenthill Creek Road which is very welcomed by the farmers. It is also important for me to highlight the review of the plans for water sources across South-East Queensland which may unlock some additional water for us, and I look forward to fighting for that. There is also the \$3.4 million new greenhouse set up at the Gatton research centre. UQ Gatton is a vital part of our community. While talking about additional funding for our community, I am fighting to see an 80-20 split of the additional funding from the feds and the state—that is, 80 from the feds and 20 from the state—for the Warrego Highway. That is the A2 highway. It is the National Highway freight route that goes through our community and seeing that funded 80-20 will be of vital importance. I sought assistance from our federal member, Scott Buchholz, who was giving us a great deal of door opening down in Canberra so that we see that. I thank the Minister for Transport for being able to work with us on that to see that much needed upgrade through the Warrego Highway.

There are so many good things about our budget and I could speak for hours on it. I look forward to being able to meet with many in my community to talk about the success of this budget. I again want to say that, whilst we have made a lot of great changes since we were elected in terms of legislation—I am very proud to be a part of those Making Queensland Safer Laws and Adult Crime, Adult Time, as well as the legacy changes that we delivered yesterday with the Planning (Social Impact and Community Benefit) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill in terms of the pathways for the Olympics—this budget sets the ground for the next three years of a calm, stable LNP government that Queenslanders can trust.

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (4.51 pm): I rise to address the Appropriation Bill 2025, the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2025 and the Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025—the budget of broken promises. Not since the dark days of Joh Bjelke-Petersen have we seen a government so utterly committed to secrecy and deception. What we have witnessed over the last eight months is the most blatant political bait and switch in this state's recent history. Those opposite promised Queenslanders no health cuts, lower debt—remember that one—a rail line to Maroochydore, to back the 2024 Labor budget and a government that would listen, but the moment they finally got their hands on the keys to the tower of power that they built for themselves under Campbell Newman they ignored their promises immediately. They ignored their promises—

**Mr Minnikin** interjected.

**Mr BAILEY:** You only just got there marginally, member for Chatsworth. You almost got sacked like the member for Moggill—No. 19. They ignored their promises and the real agenda emerged: savage cuts disguised as rescue plans, spiralling debt, budget black holes, a secretive government that buries transparency like it is a bad smell and broken promise after broken promise. Premier Crisafulli spins for a boring budget, but this is a bad budget by a struggling Treasurer burdened with the impossible commitments made by a populist Premier Crisafulli to get himself elected. It is a budget that will make many people wait longer for medical treatment, a budget that cuts \$13 billion from vital infrastructure while debt explodes to \$205 billion by 2028—another broken promise—a budget that takes a machete to cost-of-living support for millions of Queenslanders and instead takes that money to fund new stadiums that they promised before the election they would not build. This budget yanks the cost-of-living support mat out from under millions of struggling Queenslanders. They have cut the \$1,000 energy rebate for every household and the 20 per cent cut from car rego and offered a measly \$100 back—if you are a parent. Well, Queenslanders see through it.

The betrayal did not start with this budget; it started in the first days those opposite were in office. For eight months now we have seen a consistent pattern of broken promises and cuts to the programs and services Queensland families rely on, peaking in this budget. Nowhere is this government's betrayal of Queenslanders clearer than in the health portfolio. Premier Crisafulli promised no health cuts, but one of his government's first acts was to pause hospital expansion projects across the state. They took an axe to the health Workforce Attraction Incentive Scheme and cut nurse-led clinic hours. Where is the Gympie nurse-led clinic? After eight months of this minister, there is not a sign of the Gympie nurse-led clinic whatsoever—no sign of it. They also cut transfer initiative nurse funding.

**Mr Nicholls** interjected.

**Mr BAILEY:** They promised to put doctors and clinicians—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Martin): Order! Pause the clock. Member, I am sorry to interrupt. That was unparliamentary. I would ask that you withdraw.

**Mr NICHOLLS**: I withdraw.

**Mr BAILEY**: Those opposite promised to put doctors and clinicians in charge, but they broke their promise by ignoring them and cutting pill testing, because it suited their ideological interests, despite vocal opposition from major medical bodies like the AMA. This secretive government will not even release the evaluation of pill testing because it knows that it will show that it is effective and it will save lives. Those opposite want to keep the evaluation of pill testing secret. This health minister has shown how weak and right wing he is in hiding the evaluation report from public scrutiny and from Queenslanders.

Before the election Premier Crisafulli promised on camera to match Labor's commitment of 2,200 new beds by 2028, yet recently we saw the humiliating episode of the health minister claiming he had checked and denying the commitment, only to be embarrassed on the nightly news when the member for Mudgeeraba's commitment was rolled out—caught out cold. Now there is no due date, no timelines, not enough for major health capital—putting critical health infrastructure on the never-never while demand for health services continues to surge under the minister's watch.

Premier Crisafulli promised a government with integrity, openness and transparency, but instead his government introduced new tactics of secrecy and deception that even Campbell Newman did not use, and we will get to that in a moment. We should not be surprised. We know the history of both the Premier and the health minister from the Newman government era. I will not go through their long list of cuts in their previous government, but we know that they were caught out. We know that they would like to do that again, but they are trying to not look like the previous government.

What we have seen from Minister Nicholls this term is even more cynical—a health minister who, when he is not asleep in the chamber like he was last night, shuffles around opening facilities initiated and funded by Labor, trying to claim credit for projects that Labor built.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER**: Pause the clock. Member for Miller, if you can resume your seat.

**Mr NICHOLLS**: Of course I take personal offence from that one and ask that he withdraw.

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

**Mr BAILEY**: I withdraw. He was just resting his eyes, I am sure.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr BAILEY**: He shuffles around opening—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER**: Pause the clock. Before—

**Mr NICHOLLS**: That is disrespectful of the chair, Mr Deputy Speaker.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER**: Thank you, member. Withdrawals must be done without qualification, member. I would ask you to withdraw again.

**Mr BAILEY**: I withdraw, Mr Deputy Speaker. He shuffles around opening facilities initiated and funded by Labor, trying to claim credit for projects that Labor built. I will give the House a list: the Cairns Hospital mental health unit, the Gold Coast secure mental health unit, the Townsville pain management service, the Bundaberg rehab centre, the Townsville hybrid operating centre, Tara Hospital, the 24-bed modular unit in Hervey Bay—and the list goes on. There is no acknowledgement at all from this minister of Labor's pipeline of health facilities. He is not only good at cutting generally; he is great at cutting ribbons to open a huge pipeline of Labor built health facilities. He is multifaceted and talented when it comes to cutting. That is not leadership; that is political plagiarism from a clueless minister who just loves to cut, whether it is Labor ribbons or projects. He is submitting Labor's homework and trying to write his name on it.

In this budget—printed in the LNP Paul Gallen colour blue—political theatre, their duplicity and their dishonesty are hidden in the fine print. At the heart of this deception is a single, gargantuan new budget line item buried on page 70 of Budget Paper 3, the Capital Statement, of \$11.3 billion blandly titled 'Other major hospital infrastructure improvements'. Let me say that again: \$11.3 billion in spending in one line—hidden in one line—with zero breakdown of which hospitals are funded and zero timelines for when they will be delivered, if ever. Premier Crisafulli and Minister Nicholls can dodge accountability on their blowouts and their cuts and their deferrals of major hospital expansions, including the Queensland Cancer Centre, which should be under construction right now if it were not for the decision made by this minister and this Premier.

The question is: what do those opposite have to hide? Why are they so desperate to avoid sharing the truth with Queenslanders? If it is all so wonderful why don't they publish the timelines, funding details and dates like every other government in the last 15 years has done, not just in health but also in QTRIP? Hidden in that monster catch-all line item are the Coomera, Bundaberg, Mackay, Toowoomba, Townsville, Redcliffe, Cairns and Prince Charles hospital expansions and the Queensland Cancer Centre. It is impossible to know which hospitals will be built, what funding is committed, when it will be delivered or what the timelines are because they are hiding their decisions and putting these projects on the never-never. Queenslanders know that equals cuts—a secretive 'hospital cuts plan' without content, marketed, using taxpayer funds for advertising, as a so-called, deliberately misnamed 'rescue plan'.

What have we heard from the member for Coomera, the three Townsville members and the members for Redcliffe, Barron River, Cook and Mulgrave? We have heard almost nothing. The member for Townsville spoke earlier. Did he advocate to get on with the Townsville Hospital expansion that his government has deferred? No, he was mute on it. Townsville residents will wait years longer because Premier Crisafulli—who, let's face it, deserted Townsville for the Gold Coast and has now deserted the Gold Coast for inner-city Brisbane; at least he is consistent on the deserting—pulled the plug on the Townsville Hospital expansion. The members for Thuringowa, Mundingburra and Townsville are towing the LNP party line and letting Townsville residents down by making them wait many, many years for the Townsville University Hospital expansion. What a disappointment those three Townsville members are after so much infrastructure was funded by Labor—roads, port expansions, the stadium and water security. Under this government there is nothing. Tumbleweeds have blown across the Redcliffe Hospital expansion site since last November. What has the member for Redcliffe achieved to expedite the Redcliffe Hospital expansion? Not very much. Dust and weeds are the major features on that expansion site. That is all that is happening. It has been left to the member for Bancroft to do the member for Redcliffe's job for her as well as look after his own electorate.

Likewise, it is ironic that this hiding of details and hospital expansion cuts and timelines includes the Toowoomba Hospital in the hometown of our bumbling Treasurer who also hid the Callide Power Station explosion from his big energy set-piece lunch. At least he is consistent when it comes to bumbling and hiding. What can we say about the member for Coomera and the Coomera Hospital construction site grinding to a halt as soon as the LNP took power? Labor virtually built all the infrastructure in his local electorate: exits 41, 45 and 49 on the M1, Pimpama train station, the second M1, park and rides. As soon as the member for Coomera got back into power after a decade in the wilderness all the work stopped.

**Mr Crandon** interjected.

**Mr BAILEY:** You could have predicted it. The deferral of the Queensland Cancer Centre by at least three years has let down cancer sufferers all over Queensland, as well as our magnificent RBWH researchers, doctors, nurses and health specialists. It was due to start in the first quarter of this year, but the election of Premier Crisafulli and Mr Nicholls stopped the Queensland Cancer Centre from happening. An empty building stands next door to the current RBWH centre, emptied of all staff, facilities and function, a shell, and it will sit idly there wasting away for years until it is demolished—God only knows when—due to the deferrals and the cuts by this minister and this Premier. The Queensland Cancer Centre should have gone ahead this year and would have under Labor. Now this brilliant project to unite our extraordinary researchers and practitioners with state-of-the-art facilities at the RBWH is many years away and the government will not say when it will be built. That is absolutely shameful. Even the hospital car parking projects have been wrapped into a single secretive line in the budget with no transparency, accountability or line of sight for community as to when they might see improvement or what it will cost.

**Mr Crandon** interjected.

**Mr BAILEY:** Infrastructure would be on time and on budget said the member for Broadwater. If only hot air actually equalled achievement, the member for Coomera would actually have something to—

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Marr): Member for Coomera! Please keep it down, thank you.

**Mr BAILEY:** Instead of delivering on time and on budget, what they are doing is hiding away the details, whether it is health infrastructure or QTRIP. It is a slithering, deceptive Orwellian tactic from the Premier. There is no integrity whatsoever. Premier Crisafulli promised openness and transparency but the budget does exactly the opposite of that: it keeps Queenslanders in the dark. While the Premier and his bumbling Treasurer hide infrastructure information, his hapless health minister hides from his

responsibilities. Getting a meeting with this out-of-touch and aloof minister is as rare as finding a snowman in Cape York.

**Mr Crandon** interjected.

**Mr BAILEY:** The health portfolio was forced on him by the Premier who has some history with him on leadership matters.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Coomera!

**Mr BAILEY:** He did not want it. That shows every single day. He was denied being Attorney-General.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Coomera, I have given you plenty of leeway.

**Mr BAILEY:** Getting a meeting with this out-of-touch and aloof minister is as rare as finding a snowman in Cape York. The health portfolio was forced on him by the Premier. They have some history on leadership matters. He did not want it and it shows every single day. He was denied being Attorney-General, which he desperately covets. Be careful, Attorney-General. I would watch your back if I were you in terms of the member for Clayfield.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Miller, your comments will be made through the chair.

**Mr BAILEY:** Thank you. Let us look at a couple of the statistics on elective surgery. In his contribution earlier, the health minister spoke about statistics. When I look at the performance statement in the Service Delivery Statements I see on page 3 that the percentage of elective surgery patients treated within the clinically recommended time is actually not going well. We are seeing in category 1 it is actually going down. The median wait time for elective surgery treatments on this government's watch is actually not improving for category 2, 3 and all categories. We see vaccination rates and screening falling under this government, whether it is for breast cancer or cervical cancer screenings which are down five per cent. These are very serious preventive health issues that this minister is out to lunch on. In this budget we need to see some real commitment to health, not cuts and deferrals. The health minister's response to specific issues raised by the media, for instance, in Rockhampton and Gladstone hospitals, was to give some overall state statistic instead of saying, 'I will investigate that matter. I am concerned about that.' That is what a real health minister does. If there is a problem you get onto it, you investigate it, you sort it out. You do not give political claptrap out to the media. You do your job and look after the health of Queenslanders.



**Ms JAMES** (Barron River—LNP) (5.07 pm): I rise today to share my take on this year's budget and what this means for the residents of Barron River and Far North Queensland. For too long the 'F' in Far North Queensland has stood for 'forgotten'. We have long been overlooked when it comes to meaningful investment in the state. We felt it in our roads, in our health services, in our housing and in the support our communities and industries need to thrive. The list of projects neglected in my region is long: long overdue upgrades to roads and bridges; a hospital which needs investment, a safe helipad and more parking; sports clubs that do not even have a clubhouse, adequate change rooms for females or proper lighting for night games and training. We also lacked investment in the environment, housing and in mental health services. There is a lot of work to do in Far North Queensland.

One of the key reasons I put my hand up to run for parliament was I could see that Far North Queensland was not getting its fair share and I knew that that had to change. That is why I am pleased to see this year's state budget take a real step in the right direction. This budget is a responsible budget and a first step in rectifying the fiscal vandalism of the former Labor government. I am pleased to see that all of my key election commitments have been honoured and there are a lot of extras in the budget that I was not expecting.

Let me start with one of the most significant commitments in the budget for my electorate and that is the funding of a brand new Barron River bridge. This is something that I have been rallying for for 500-plus days. If you ask Minister Mickelberg over there, I have been his little haemorrhoid.

**Mr Mickelberg:** I think I said pain in the neck.

**Ms JAMES:** Pain in the dot, whatever. I want to thank you for listening to my community during my campaign. The minister travelled to Cairns on several occasions to view the Barron River bridge. He and the Premier fought hard for 50-50 funding with the federal government to save the state from 80-20 funding.

I sincerely thank the cabinet and especially the minister for putting our Far North Queensland region at the forefront in this state's budget. To everyone in our community who reached out, who shared their concerns and who called for action for over a decade, I thank you. I know this investment

is not going to ease your pain for a few years yet while the bridge goes through the lengthy planning and building phase, but it is another step forward. The second thing people ask about is the range. I am pleased to also see more funding in the budget to improve the Kuranda Range. We still have another 18 months of repair work to get the range back to what it was before the Jasper floods. I am pleased there is another \$262.5 million funding in the budget that will be used to begin to improve the range and make the road more resilient.

Other key infrastructure projects in the Far North will come to light through this year's budget, including upgrades to the Cairns Western Arterial Road. It is one of our busiest roads, it is vital during flood events and it is used daily during the morning and evening commute. The Bruce Highway is also set for a much needed upgrade, which was made even more evident in January this year when our region was cut off from the rest of Australia, becoming an island for weeks. This commitment to safer regional roads means better access for our trucks, our tourists and our locals.

I am also pleased our government has a huge focus on getting more people into owning their own homes with the extension of the \$30,000 first home owner grant, abolishing stamp duty and allowing first home owners to rent out a room to help pay off their mortgage. The new nation-leading Boost to Buy deposit scheme will be a game changer. I know more people will be able to get out of the rent rat-race and into their own home. Far North Queensland will also have the biggest investment in the state for homelessness services, and social and affordable housing.

We have had a huge win for health with the axing of the patient tax and the Hospital Rescue Plan, which will deliver 104 beds to Cairns Base Hospital, as well as expanding services including orthopaedics, ophthalmology and plastic and reconstructive surgery. Of course, there is funding to secure a new and safe location for the Cairns Base Hospital helipad and a new car park. The \$67 million investment includes \$19 million to deliver long-overdue dedicated adolescent and young adult mental health acute beds in Cairns. There is also \$60 million for stage 1 of the Cairns Health and Innovation Centre. Our hardworking paramedics have had a huge win, with \$29 million committed towards the redevelopment of the Cairns ambulance operations centre, a project that is long overdue and was not a priority of the former government.

I am thrilled with the allocation of \$15.5 million in this budget to support the expansion of the Smithfield Mountain Bike Park trails, which is a project of regional and international significance. I fought hard for this commitment for 18 months and I thank the LNP government for recognising its importance not only to my electorate but also to the wider Far North Queensland region. I took the now Premier there in my first weeks as a candidate. I also took Minister O'Connor there. I do not think he will ever forgive me for taking him on his first-ever mountain bike ride. I also thank Minister Powell, who in his first weeks as the new Minister for Tourism committed to fast-tracking that project.

Once completed, the project will inject \$95 million per annum into the Cairns economy through increased visitor spending. This funding commitment is the result of over a decade of passionate advocacy from the Cairns mountain biking community, the Cairns Mountain Bike Club, TTNQ and so many dedicated young riders and families who have championed this vision and were ignored by the former government. Their tireless work has helped put Cairns on the map as a world-class mountain biking destination. I am thrilled to see their efforts recognised with real funding that will support jobs, tourism and healthy active lifestyles for generations to come. We will be the reef, rainforest and riding capital of the globe.

The environment has also had a big win, with the biggest investment in NRM regions for on-ground activity that will deliver significant outcomes for threatened species, waterways and coasts, sustainable agriculture, disaster recovery and resilience, biosecurity and engaging First Nations people. We have committed to 150 more land and sea rangers and \$24 million to the Great Barrier Reef Urban Technology and Innovation Fund to tackle wastewater, stormwater and industrial runoff to the Great Barrier Reef. We are investing \$600,000 to build a new turtle rehabilitation centre on Green Island. We have set ourselves the ambitious target of increasing our protected areas by more in one term than those opposite did in a decade.

The budget commits \$2 million to upgrade some of our most valued community spaces across the Cairns northern beaches and hinterland. This is funding that I fought hard for after the Jasper floods. It will support much needed improvements to community halls that are not only used and loved by locals but also provided a lifeline during the devastating Jasper floods. Community halls at places such as Machans Beach, Holloways Beach, Yorkey's Knob and Koah and the Kuranda Neighbourhood Centre were vital in supporting locals during and for many long months after the floods. I want to thank all of

the locals who volunteer in those halls and who fundraise constantly to upgrade them. I know that this investment in their community spaces will be put to great use.

The crucial investment of \$888,000 in the North Queensland Natural Disaster Mitigation Program could not come at a more important time for Far North Queensland. After the devastating floods we faced in 2023 and again in 2025, our communities know all too well the harsh reality of disaster. This funding will help local councils strengthen flood defences, reduce future risks and protect families, homes and businesses from the trauma and financial strain that disasters bring.

The budget delivers \$9 million to support veterans and their families through legal, employment, homelessness and education initiatives. I commend the Premier for this budget allocation and his commitment to developing Queensland's very first veterans strategy. I am passionately advocating for a new Legacy house in Far North Queensland—a dedicated space where veterans can access the support they deserve. Legacy have been advocating to all levels of government for years now but it has fallen on deaf ears. Premier, with this funding you have allocated, I am sure you know that I am going to be pestering you hard for a share of that \$9 million for a FNQ Legacy house, so look out.

I am also pleased to announce that many of our local Barron River schools will be receiving significant upgrades: a new nature-based playground at Redlynch State College, a nature-based playground at Caravonica State School, a shade structure for Trinity Beach State School and a new multipurpose hall for Freshwater State School. There is an additional \$900,000 for general maintenance across schools in the electorate. These upgrades will improve learning environments, support outdoor play and ensure our schools continue to meet the needs of a growing region.

Madam Deputy Speaker, you have reviewed and approved my 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—*

As someone who owned and operated a small business for over 25 years, I understand firsthand the challenges and opportunities faced by local entrepreneurs. That's why I'm proud this budget includes \$44.7 million in additional funding over five years to boost business productivity and innovation across Queensland.

This investment will support initiatives like the Business Concierge service, new grant programs, and the establishment of regional innovation and start-up hubs all designed to help local businesses grow, adapt, and thrive in an ever-changing economy.

Our region is one of the hardest hit in terms of youth crime. A Cairns Youth Justice School in our region will support youth that need a specialised school to help them get their lives back on track, I welcome this funding commitment.

As the Assistant Minister for Early Education, I'm proud to see the rollout of free health checks for kindy kids across Queensland. This important initiative will give children the best start to their learning journey, ensuring early identification of health and development needs before they start school.

Families will also get cost of living benefits from the \$1.886 billion Back to School initiative over four years, providing \$100 per student to help cover the cost of school essentials available for every child attending a government or non-government primary school. I am also grateful to see \$1.4 million in the budget to support the incredible work School Savvy do in our community, to support families doing it tough at back-to-school time with stationery, uniforms, and even free kid's haircuts.

To improve the quality of education, we're delivering \$221.1 million over four years, and \$48.4 million ongoing each year, through the More Teachers, Better Education plan—helping get more teachers into classrooms and lifting education outcomes right across Queensland.

I also want to commend the Treasurer and the Minister for Sport for their commitment to grassroots sport through the expansion of the PlayOn! vouchers program—a fantastic initiative supporting Queensland's young sporting stars. The \$200 vouchers will help ensure more children can get involved in sport, no matter their family's financial circumstances. Importantly, a dedicated portion of funding has been set aside specifically for regional and rural communities and for children with a disability. This new program now covers winter and summer sports, helping level the playing field across the state.

As the Assistant Minister for FNQ, I want to also acknowledge the funding investments outside of my electorate, spanning across Cairns and the Far North region. This includes a \$2.7 million investment in the construction of Queensland's first Chinese Culture and Heritage Centre, right here in Cairns.

This year's budget also delivers \$200,000 for much-needed upgrades to the Cairns footpath network, including the construction of new footpaths in key locations across the Barron River electorate and the Northern Beaches.

Another significant investment in this budget is the Wangetti Trail a project that has been a failure under Labor's watch. Our government will not only finish this project, but we will plan properly, ensuring the trail has the vital infrastructure to support tourists and locals, such as a parking lot which wasn't considered and now we have people walking the highway. We will turn the Wangetti Trail from an epic fail to an epic trail.

This budget takes real steps to address the housing and homelessness crisis backing in the people on the frontlines and delivering help where it's most urgently needed. We're investing \$380.1 million over five years to strengthen crisis accommodation initiatives and boost frontline housing and homelessness services across the state ensuring more Queenslanders have a safe place to turn in times of need.

An additional \$208.1 million over four years will extend the 20 per cent funding uplift for specialist homelessness services, supporting the incredible work being done by dedicated staff and volunteers in shelters, outreach programs, and emergency support centres.

Critically, the government is also investing \$31.1 million over four years to double the capacity of both Womensline and Mensline making sure more victims of domestic and family violence can get help when they need it most. This includes delivering a brand new North Queensland-based hub, giving our region better access to vital support services and strengthening the response to domestic and family violence right here in our own backyard.

This budget continues to invest in the long-term resilience and growth of our region. We're delivering \$166 million this year as part of the \$390 million Cairns Water Security Stage One Project, in partnership with the Australian Government—a critical investment in securing the region's future water supply.

I recently visited the Kuranda Weir and the Barron Gorge Power Station, witnessing firsthand the vital work being done to maintain and upgrade these essential assets. Their role in providing reliable water and power to our community cannot be overstated and this budget includes \$16.2 million to support improvements to these critical infrastructure sites.

Community safety and emergency response services are being strengthened with \$5.3 million to replace the Cairns Fire Communications Centre and \$29 million for the redevelopment of the Cairns Ambulance Operations Centre.

The region's marine and training industries are also receiving a major boost, with the budget held for the Cairns Common User Facility and \$13.6 million to complete the expansion of the Great Barrier Reef International Marine College, delivering new classrooms, training simulators and upgraded staff and student facilities.

This Budget marks a turning point for Barron River and the broader Far North region. After years of being overlooked, we are now seeing real investment, real action and real outcomes that will shape a stronger, safer and more connected future for our region.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Marr): Member for Barron River, you did use unparliamentary language when you mentioned the minister. I know it was not to offend, but I ask you to withdraw.

**Ms JAMES:** I withdraw.



**Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (5.16 pm): Budgets are always about what a government values. Far more than mere numbers on a balance sheet, budgets are ultimately a statement of values and hopefully of vision, and they are always about people. The Treasurer said of his first LNP budget that it is a budget that you would call boring and that budgets should be boring, but I disagree. I want to acknowledge the budget reply speech that the opposition leader, Steven Miles, delivered today. It was anything but boring. It spoke of the values, the things and the people that we, as the Labor Party and the Labor opposition, value. It was a speech about Queenslanders, about what they are telling us they value and about what they have told us they need.

This budget falls short of those values and those needs. It does not speak to a vision for Queensland but rather continues the same tone that we see in here each and every sitting day: attacking the Labor Party, talking about the Labor Party, obsessing about the Labor Party, making nasty personal attacks on members of the opposition, and politicised reviews and petty pointscoreing. It used to be enough to win an election. Those opposite are so entrenched in combative opposition thinking and their own political bitterness that they cannot rise to the great privilege and challenge of governing and thinking about Queenslanders. If they are not obsessing about the Labor Party, they are focused on 'bluwashing' the state in LNP colours. They are as bad as the Schinnerer city council. Blue and yellow have never been Queensland colours and they never will be.

Before the election last October, the now LNP government promised the people of Queensland so much more than what they have given them in this budget. The LNP promised cost-of-living relief. They promised lower energy bills. They promised lower debt. They promised respect for taxpayers' money. They promised to deliver projects on time and on budget. However, the budget does not deliver on those promises. For all their chest beating and protestations before the election about respecting taxpayers' money, holding ministers to account, delivering projects on time and on budget and that when they say something it means something, this budget is based on hot air.

Debt is not lower; it is higher. While this government would like Queensland to believe the narrative that Labor hid costs and did not budget for key infrastructure and projects, we all know what the independent ratings agencies say: the narrative is political pointscoreing. Those opposite inflated the debt position for political pointscoreing, damaging the state's credit rating in the process. Debt is not lower; it is higher. Those opposite should have the courage of their convictions. If they think it needs to be higher, they should say that, own it, explain it and respect the intelligence of Queenslanders to make up their own mind about it. Do not sell them a con job.

Those opposite promised cost-of-living relief. This was the greatest con of all. Queenslanders continue to raise cost of living as their No. 1 concern. They are struggling. The Premier acknowledged before the election that energy rebates were critical to helping Queensland families keep their heads

above water. That has not changed, but the Premier's commitment has. We were told energy bills would fall, but instead they are projected to increase, with no energy rebate to help ease the burden for most families.

This budget was the government's moment to show up for everyday Queenslanders, like they promised, and to put real relief on the table, but they failed to do that. The budget includes a \$100 payment to families of a primary school student. I welcome that initiative. I know that will help my local families, and they will welcome it. I also acknowledge that the government heard the opposition's call to keep FairPlay vouchers. They make a big difference to families and clubs across my electorate. It will not supplement, not even close, the increases in an average Queensland family's costs, though. They are facing: rising energy costs, most with no rebate; higher rego costs; the ever skyrocketing price of food; and, for home owners across my electorate, an increase in their rates bill but a reduction in services from the Brisbane City Council. As I said, this first budget was the Crisafulli LNP government's opportunity to ease the pressure on families. They failed that test.

In respect of my shadow portfolio responsibilities, I want to acknowledge the committed funds to increase ranger numbers. This is an important investment, and I warmly welcome it. Our park rangers are on the front lines every day, managing fire risks, protecting wildlife, keeping visitors safe and preserving some of the most precious places on earth. Rangers are not just caretakers; they are educators, protectors and the backbone of our conservation efforts. Walking with and learning from Queensland rangers in some of the most remote areas of our great state will always be one of my fondest memories of when I was the environment minister.

Labor worked hard to restore ranger numbers and DES staff following the significant cuts made by the last LNP government, and I am genuinely relieved to see this government is taking a different path. I also acknowledge the funding committed to our wildlife hospitals. These hospitals are vital to supporting sick and injured wildlife, and in particular to supporting the health of our koala population. They do a marvellous job. They deserve this funding, and I know they will put it to critical use. I thank them for their service to conservation.

It is far from all positive. Before the election, Queenslanders were told the Environmental Defenders Office would continue to be funded. That was not true. No funding has been provided and that is a very clear broken promise.

**A government member:** No funding was in the budget. If Labor wanted them to stay funded, where was their commitment?

**Mrs Frecklington:** Any money in the budget?

**Ms LINARD:** I take the interjections. It is to argue semantics that you have chosen not to continue funding an agency that had an email and a commitment from the Premier that their funding would continue. It is disingenuous to come in here and say political lines like, 'You hadn't funded it so we couldn't continue it.'

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Ms LINARD:** You are the government. The Premier supported emissions reduction targets, but this budget makes no serious commitment to climate action. I have said it before in this House, and I will say it again: this government have no real ambition for climate action or for the conservation of Queensland's environment. Their first budget makes that clear. They are too engaged in culture wars or desperately trying to avoid them internally. I hear the Premier has tasked the new former environment minister—

**An honourable member:** Recycled environment minister.

**Ms LINARD:** I am not going to say 'recycled'. He has not been recycled. 'New former' is far more respectful. I genuinely wish the new former environment minister very well.

Those opposite are not genuine about increasing our publicly protected area estate or committed to a strong renewable pathway—the only pathway to reduce emissions and act on climate. The uncomfortable truth of climate change is that there is not just a human and environmental cost to not acting; there is also an economic one. While those opposite only ever raise the costs associated with reducing emissions, the costs of inaction are far greater.

The budget includes \$39.6 million of funding to expand our protected areas. I surmise—and stakeholders tell me—that is the remaining balance of Labor's historic \$262.5 million investment in expanding protected areas. While I am grateful the LNP is handing in our homework, Queensland's environment needs an equal level of commitment from the LNP. The Treasurer said in his speech that

the LNP government will deliver more protected areas in one term than the former government did in a decade, and I have heard members repeat that line in this place. Given we delivered at least 1.23 million hectares, they will need to add at least 307,500 hectares each year this term.

In his speech, the Treasurer went on to spruik the nearly 9,000 hectares they have added to national parks and nature refuges, which was announced to great fanfare by the Premier and the environment minister on Queensland Environment Day. Of course, 90 per cent of those additions were Labor's homework. Labor did those. It is pretty disingenuous to claim them whilst criticising us for the land that we actually put into the publicly protected area estate and saying that we did not do enough but at least we started. I calculate that, of the 8,700 hectares they claimed on that day, 2,000 are actually theirs so they have 305,000 hectares to go this year to make their commitment.

I want to comment now on young Queenslanders. I spend a lot of time listening to young Queenslanders—I always have and I always will. The future is theirs. Young Queenslanders are concerned, first and foremost, about cost of living, about housing, about job prospects, about the perception of young people being cultivated in public discourse and about climate action. This budget does not offer them much. Young Queenslanders hoping to kickstart their careers through TAFE are now met, as the Leader of the Opposition said this morning, with a website that tells them that free TAFE has been exhausted under this LNP government.

For those young people dreaming of owning their first home, the government's flagship housing policy, while a Labor initiative, is now weaker and more exclusive. With around 25,000 Queenslanders entering the housing market each year, it is estimated this so-called supercharged First Home Owner Grant will help just one per cent of aspiring entrants. That is not reform; that is a headline.

I have already touched on the lack of action in this budget for climate action and cost-of-living relief. While I know young people will welcome the government retaining Labor's 50-cent fares, the cost of car rego and electricity bills on top of ever-rising rent and groceries is generally anxiety inducing for these young people. They need real cost-of-living relief.

I turn now to my beloved community of Nudgee. I acknowledge and welcome the two LNP election commitments that have been honoured in my electorate that support two of our fantastic sporting clubs—the North Star Football Club and North Brisbane Rugby Club. I have always said to my community, 'I don't care where the money comes from. I just want to see them reach their goals.' I do want to acknowledge my former LNP opponent, Robert Wilson. Anyone here who has met Robert would know that he is a delightful human being. It was a rough first run for Robert. I know that he will be happy that these clubs will get these funds—I am certainly happy and so are my clubs. The LNP threw a lot of money at my electorate, made false claims against me and ran scare campaigns. I think I was singularly responsible for the increased price of groceries—I am not sure how they worked that out! Robert is a good guy and in politics it is always appreciated to have a respectful political opponent. I am glad to see the money will go to those clubs. They do play an important role and they will be so excited.


I thank the sports minister. I have written to him. I was prepared for him to come back and say, 'No. It was an LNP election commitment. They have elected you so you cannot have it.' He did write a handwritten note that they are getting that money. There should be things above politics. It is so combative in here. It is not something that I enjoy. I am sure there are a lot of other members who do not, but we all fight for our communities. I am glad to see that money and I will give credit where credit is due.

I also want to acknowledge that there is \$52 million in the budget for the Boondall Police Station. I have absolutely no idea what it is for. I do not have any information. I do hope the police minister will tell me. I know that my OIC Greg 'Happy', as we call him, will be genuinely happy with this announcement. My local officers at Boondall and Hendra know I think the world of them. I have always supported them. If there is anything they need I have always supported them and their teams. They are just wonderful, as are all our frontline workers and public servants who serve my great community of Nudgee.

I am disappointed not to see any infrastructure improvements for my local schools. They may be there, but I cannot see them in the budget. Nudgee has always had a lot of genuine investment across all of my 12 train stations and local schools. I cannot see that in this budget. It is a budget that does not deliver for Nudgee what the Labor government always has. Nudgee families continue to raise the No. 1 issue for them—genuine cost-of-living relief. They are struggling. It will be disappointing for them that they are not going to have the same level of support. Most importantly, free kindy, electricity rebates,

fairer public transport fares and energy bill support have made a massive difference to my local community.

In the final time that I have, I know this is very much breaking with convention because my job is to stand here—or some people would assume—and say all negative things about the budget. As people know, I have not done that. I have definitely given credit where credit is due and raised the issues that I do have. On a personal note, I have worked for three treasurers. Putting a budget together as a staffer is exhausting. It is all day. It is all night. You go cross-eyed with the numbers. I really like the Treasurer on a personal level. I have known him for a long time. He is a good human being. I do not like his budget—that is clear—but he is a good human being. I acknowledge that and that he and his staff would be exhausted. I am going to finish on a positive note. Let it be heard in this parliament. Thank you very much.

 **Hon. LJ GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services) (5.32 pm): I want to acknowledge the member for Nudgee. That was a fantastic contribution, member for Nudgee.

This budget delivers the foundations for a fresh start for Queensland—restoring safety where you live, putting victims first and backing the frontline officers that Labor left behind. That is in stark contrast to how those opposite treated victims. In fact, in the whole hour that the Leader of the Opposition had to address the budget, he failed to mention victims even once. He failed to talk about the families who have lost loved ones, and he failed to mention the shop owners who are forced to close their doors after repeated break-ins or the Queenslanders who no longer feel safe in their homes. Instead, he launched a personal attack on the Premier and failed to even outline how he would do things differently when it comes to victims of crime. That tells you everything you need to know about Labor's priorities.

This budget draws a line in the sand between a Labor government who turned their back on community safety and the Crisafulli government who is determined to restore it; between a decade of Labor's soft-on-crime approach and the Crisafulli government's tough new laws and record investment in rehabilitation, crime prevention and early intervention to stop crime before it happens; and between a Labor system that put the rights of offenders before the rights of victims and the Crisafulli government who will always put victims first.

The Crisafulli government is delivering the largest Youth Justice and Victim Support budget in Queensland history—\$770.2 million—and behind every dollar is a young person who needs support to break the cycle of crime, a family grieving a loss that never should have happened, and a frontline worker showing up day after day facing too much pressure with too little support.

This budget delivers \$215 million for early intervention to turn young lives around before it is too late; \$345 million in rehabilitation programs to break the cycle of crime and reduce reoffending; and \$458.5 million to finally put victims at the front and centre of our justice system. We are rolling out \$115 million over five years for Gold Standard Early Intervention including our Kickstarter program; \$50 million across five years to roll out crime prevention schools to re-engage disengaged youth through education, training and tailored support; and \$50 million over five years for Regional Reset programs, to provide a one- to three-week reset for young people demonstrating high-risk behaviours.

For the Leader of the Opposition in his budget reply to say there is not a single new initiative that will make a difference in the budget—these are all new initiatives. It is all new money and every single one of them is targeted at arresting Labor's youth crime crisis. Meanwhile, Labor was set to axe their own youth co-responder program and Taskforce Guardian. There was no funding for Taskforce Guardian or youth co-responder into the forwards. That is 91 Queenslanders who were set to lose their jobs at 30 June. The Crisafulli government stepped in. We have saved them and we have funded those programs.

The budget delivers \$75 million for our youth co-responder model, because we are serious about tackling Labor's youth crime crisis and these frontline workers matter. There is \$24.4 million ongoing for bail programs to better support compliance by youth offenders; and \$38.8 million to fund Intensive Case Management program—another program that Labor failed to fund, another program that would have fallen off the cliff. That is 47 jobs saved by the Crisafulli government. There is \$225 million for our Staying on Track program to ensure all youth leaving detention receive 12 months of support, not the completely inadequate 72-hour plans that the Labor government put in place that meant kids were given 72 hours of support. They were dropped back into the community and then expected not to reoffend. Is it any wonder the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre has a reoffending rate of 96 per cent?

**Mrs Nightingale:** No wonder.

**Mrs GERBER:** No wonder. I take the interjection; actually I do not take the interjection.

**Mrs Nightingale:** Too late.

**Mrs GERBER:** We are delivering \$40 million for two youth justice schools where offenders on youth justice orders will get more than 12 hours of supervision five days a week to keep them off the street and out of crime; and \$80 million for Circuit Breaker Sentencing to provide a sentenced alternative to detention and intensive rehabilitation to break the cycle of crime for repeat youth offenders. Unlike Labor and the opposition leader, who did not even mention victims once in his budget reply—he did not say the word ‘victim’ and did not say the phrase ‘youth crime’, not once—the Crisafulli government is taking real action to arrest Labor’s youth crime crisis.

This budget delivers \$50 million to create Queensland’s first Victim Advocate Service, a dedicated nation-leading body to ensure victims of crime are supported end to end throughout the criminal justice process; \$393 million to enhance support for victims through Victim Assist Queensland; and \$12.9 million to expand the Victims of Crime Community Response. Guess what? Labor did not fund that program either. The Victims of Crime Community Response program would have fallen off a cliff under Labor. That is another 13 jobs the Crisafulli government has saved. Labor completely failed victims of crime and their esteemed leader failed to even mention victims in his speech. We are putting victims first.

I now turn to the corrections system where Labor’s neglect is palatable. They completely ignored the modelling, failed to build the infrastructure and handed over a system dangerously overcrowded. Just look at the Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre. In 2014, it was the former LNP government who funded the business case. Those opposite took five years to act on this much needed infrastructure. Now, a decade on and three cost blowouts later, Labor still could not deliver the Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre. This budget fixes that.

**Mr McDonald:** Hear, hear!

**Mrs GERBER:** It delivers the long overdue Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre, which under the Crisafulli government will open this year. I can hear the member for Lockyer over there.

**Mr McDonald:** People over politics.

**Mrs GERBER:** Thank you, member for Lockyer; I take that interjection. We are not stopping there. We are investing \$2.93 billion to build prison infrastructure in North Queensland and in the south-east because, unlike Labor, who spruiked about building but never actually built anything, we are getting on with the job of keeping Queenslanders safe. In Townsville, Labor spent \$20 million on site investigations, with no plan and no money to build what was urgently needed. This budget builds the infrastructure Townsville needs to keep Queenslanders safe. There is \$2.93 billion to build and improve prison infrastructure.

This budget also delivers \$31.8 million to expand the secure accommodation precinct for dangerous sex offenders, safeguarding the community and improving Queensland Corrective Services’ ability to manage these predators and dangerous offenders. As for the Parole Board, under Labor delays and dysfunction left victims forgotten. Under Labor, 90 hardworking staff who support the board’s operation would have dropped off a cliff—their jobs were at risk—crippling the board’s ability to do its core job: to keep Queenslanders safe. We are giving the Parole Board a \$30.5 million lifeline to support its operations. This funding will work hand in hand with our independent review of the Parole Board to ensure victims are put first.


When it comes to domestic and family violence, we are delivering \$25 million for the electronic monitoring of high-risk domestic and family violence offenders to give authorities greater oversight, improve compliance with court orders and provide another layer of protection for those at risk. This is about creating a culture of accountability where breaches are not tolerated so that victims no longer feel unsafe. We are backing rehabilitation to prevent reoffending and restore safety where people live. This budget supports QCS to provide a range of evidence-based programs that work to rehabilitate offenders and continue the implementation of the recommendations of the Women’s Safety and Justice Taskforce to break the cycle of offending. Through our reforms we are delivering more infrastructure. We are delivering a system that holds offenders to account, supports our frontline officers and prioritises the safety of victims and the community.

In Currumbin alone, this budget delivers. This budget delivers \$800,000 for the Currumbin Eagles, \$450,000 for the mighty Tugun Seahawks, \$220,000 for the Gold Coast United Football Club, \$250,000 for Tugun Surf Life Saving Club and \$2 million towards Currumbin Wildlife Hospital’s new research and education campus. This budget also delivers \$724,000 for upgrades in our local schools

and \$500,000 to develop a business case for the state-of-the-art STEM centre of excellence at Elanora State High School. This budget also delivers \$225,000 for Coolangatta TAFE. Those opposite claim we are cutting TAFE. What a load of rubbish. Coolangatta TAFE gets \$225,000.

That is not all. We are delivering a solution that Labor failed to deliver. We are acquiring the land to build the long fought for car park that Tallebudgera State School has desperately needed. Labor said it could not be done. They refused to build it for the school. This budget delivers the car park for Tallebudgera State School.

All of this is being delivered while we are cleaning up the chaos that Labor left behind. What we inherited was not just a crisis; it was a complete system failure. We are getting on with the job of building infrastructure for Queenslanders and of delivering a budget that supports Queenslanders now and into the future.

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (5.43 pm): Even though inflation is down from post-COVID-19 highs and there has been some interest rate relief, at grassroots the reality is that we have overburdened not-for-profits and volunteers delivering everything from food and accommodation through to counselling and haircuts at ever-increasing rates to struggling families. The modest continuation of the \$200 Play On! vouchers, \$100 Back to School Boost for primary school students—there are concerns raised that it is not available for high school students—and a CPI increase to the power rebate is all we can find so far. I do look forward to estimates time when we can dig a little deeper into that, as I feel it is nowhere near enough to address what is being experienced on the ground, including around home insecurity.

With the population expected to grow about 1½ per cent per year—that is 30 per cent over the next 20 years—an Olympic Games and a push to double visitations, Queensland requires much more in everything: houses; infrastructure including roads, water and power; and subsidisations and supports. Growth at these rates will deliver impacts to lifestyle, the environment and our desirability as a destination.

The reference to one million new homes by 2044 and 53,500 new social homes misses the very real issue of our existing low-income working families who are not eligible for government housing and can only access up to \$500,000 from the banks to purchase one. Hence, we need genuine affordable housing for them. Incentives such as removal of stamp duty on new builds and first home buyer schemes as announced do nothing to address their plight as there are no homes available in that \$500,000 price range.

On the good news front, there is extra funding for QPWS. While it is roughly only a third of what has been sought, it is a welcomed increase. However, with a half a billion dollars to boost tourism through Destination 2045, the impacts of this may swamp any benefits of this increase. Hence, monitoring is needed.

The extra \$76 million over six years for DFV responses and \$30 million for the Womensline and Mensline is a positive, and I look forward to finding extra grants for grassroots projects in prevention, as we have proven local initiatives that need funding.

An extra \$225 million for 1,600 extra police and \$150 million for new and replacement equipment such as body cams and tactical vests is very welcomed. However, I am still trying to figure out how the gaps left by the various forms of leave, including long service leave and leave for those suffering PTSD, will be addressed. We need to see both the new allocation modelling and the analysis of the impact 1,600 new recruits will have.

Welcomed is the \$345 million for youth rehabilitation programs and \$225 million, and \$50 million per annum ongoing, for the 12-month post-release rehabilitation support, as recommended in the YJ report. However, from my understanding—hopefully someone can correct me if I am wrong—this would need to be court ordered. This could mean that not all would participate in this needed rehabilitation.

That \$40 million has been allocated to MoB is great news, as I can say after visiting them during the YJ inquiry that their organisation and success rate are outstanding. Calling these 'crime prevention schools' instead of 'pathway colleges' may be in itself a detractor from participation if this is voluntary. Unfortunately, so far we have not been able to find where the other identified needs to address youth offending are located, including lowering the threshold for a declaration, extension of the vehicle immobiliser subsidy scheme and financial support to victims of nonviolent crime. However, we will keep digging.

On the health front, the \$6.5 billion over four years to cut the elective surgery waitlist and provide additional paramedics and ambulances is well done. With the minister stating that these funds are for

both the public and the private sector, may the lease for the Noosa Private Hospital be finalised so that the expansion of the emergency department and associated services can get underway. This will also reduce ramping at surrounding hospitals.

Nowhere to be found—and I say again that the format of budget papers needs to be reviewed—are desperately needed increases for mental health. The \$125 million for a modest expansion of facilities, including six beds for step-up step-down and an initiative to support suicide prevention, is nowhere near enough. Noosa needs a Better Care Together program team, access to an eating disorder facility and a police acute care emergency responder, as would many other communities.

I turn to our small businesses, who sought relief of tape and taxes. Through the 'small business first' agenda, there is \$130 million for red-tape reduction and services including financial counsellors; however, any changes to taxation were modest, with \$58 million to provide a 12-month extension to the payroll tax rebate for apprentice and trainee wages and with payroll tax exemptions for medical practitioners remaining. Disappointingly, we have not seen any change in the land tax rates, which have not been updated in 16 years, regardless of land values exploding, leading to increases flowing down to tenants.

I will move onto education, with \$220 million for more teachers, TAs and behavioural support specialists. Given the number leaving the profession for the many reasons that have been outlined over the years, including the behaviour of students and parents, the shortage of alternate schooling for disengaged students and endless administrative tasks, the commitments the government has made are welcome; however, they will need to be extended further to deliver what is sought. With a waitlist in my own community for alternate schooling, I hope there may be funds available when we come to the minister with a proposal to address this. For our little ones, \$500 million to continue free kindy and programs that support access to services is very welcomed.

I will now address the specifics in relation to Noosa, where there are positives, negatives and questions. The funds required for the upgrade of Lake Macdonald have been confirmed, with the expenditure over the forward accounts now at nearly half a billion dollars to ensure safety into the future. Thank you. There is nearly a million dollars for a new pedestrian crossing in Pomona, with construction scheduled for 2026-27. Again that is welcomed; however, I still cannot understand why it cannot be done right now. Within the budget snapshot there is a mention of the commencement of the Tewantin bypass even though it had already commenced, with stage 1 completed in 2022. The \$8.5 million committed to fast-track the detailed design of the remaining stages is in QTRIP, along with the unhappy news of construction not beginning until 2028-29; however, there was no mention of the \$30 million election promise towards that construction. There needs to be some clarity on this to avoid the commitment being seen as carrot dangling. I have requested a meeting with Noosa Shire Council and TMR to understand why it will take three years. The construction of new boat infrastructure in Noosa made it onto QTRIP without dollar amounts, although government has reiterated their \$2.5 million commitment.

I will now turn to the \$36 million allocated for a new Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority. This is confusing, as it has never been raised as something Noosa sought, so without any specifics we are running blind. Government must provide details, including why this authority is needed, what it will do and why Noosa was included. Intensive community consultation needs to be undertaken, as this has not occurred even with Noosa Shire Council, which may be impacted the most based on how other waterways authorities operate. Whilst I am on waterways, \$15 million over three years for the Keeping Our Waterways Safe/War on Wrecks program is not enough, especially with the rollout of new legislation in the Noosa pilot. That will eventually be rolled out into other waterways and could lead to more vessels that require removal.


Stage 1 of the Beerburrum to Nambour rail upgrade has increased to \$285 million, yet nowhere is there any mention of a rail shuttle—which has been needed for years—from Gympie to connect with the Nambour timetable. As I have mentioned previously, we need both the infrastructure and services to accommodate current and future demand.

There is good news for our sports: \$15,000 for Noosa Little Athletics; \$25,000 for Noosa Pirates Rugby League Football Club; \$44,000 for Tewantin Noosa Tennis Club; and the Cooroy sports complex gets a lighting upgrade of \$500,000. I know members will say it is outside of the Noosa electorate, however, many of my constituents use that facility. Noosa Shire Council received \$1 million for the all-abilities toilet facility for Gympie Terrace; however, nowhere to be found are any funds for a new Noosa Tigers change room, Dolphins Rugby Union Club redevelopment or council's aquatic centre and multi-purpose facility although, as I said, I will keep hunting.

A big disappointment was the lack of construction funding for the advanced manufacturing centre facility at Sunshine Beach State High School. I can only hope this has been a typo, as we have students missing out on essential certification for the many jobs in this booming industry. Before you know it, all of our body parts will be 3D printed! We continue to advocate that funds from the decommissioned Tewantin TAFE be reinvested into the drafted Noosa Learning Hub. Given that we have had neither TAFE nor a university campus since their closure—or good public transport—this hub is essential. I look forward to updates on the site as—with some dollars from government—this could potentially provide a base for the hub.

Sadly, there is no indication of fairer funding models for our palliative care hospices. Having fought for our Katie Rose hospice over the years, including for government to fund 50 per cent of nursing costs instead of the current 25 per cent, and with the National Palliative Care Strategy coming to an end this year, may government see the importance of our community models and increase this funding. It is vastly more economical than a hospital bed.

In conclusion, as I have said during previous budget debates, this is one of the toughest jobs of government. I thank the Treasurer and all involved as, regardless of what it contains and who hands it down, it will never be enough until we change how we operate, which currently is unsustainable. Otherwise, we would not have to keep seeking rebates and vouchers for living essentials. Yes, there are good announcements that are appreciated; however, the ones missing in action are concerning. Existing initiatives rebranded as new are confusing. Commitments that do not have community or stakeholder endorsement, such as the mention of a safe night precinct for Hastings Street in the Sunshine Coast snapshot, are understandably questionable. I hope that some of the confusion may be cleared up and items so far not unearthed are revealed during estimates. Regardless of efforts by the opposition over the past seven years—including the now government—to reform the estimates process, it currently looks to be the same with chairs that are still government members. This is not a reflection on the Speaker or Deputy Speaker; it is just not what has been requested over the years.

 **Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (5.55 pm): I rise to speak to the 2025 Queensland state budget. What a wonderful job our Treasurer did on this budget! What a wonderful job the Premier and ministers did on this budget! This budget is focused on restoring safety where you live, better lifestyle through a stronger economy, health services where you need them, and a plan for Queensland's future. After nearly 10 long years of the Palaszczuk-Miles government, the Crisafulli government's first budget is laying the foundations for the fresh start Queenslanders voted for.

I thank the good people of the Department of Justice who worked so hard on the Department of Justice budget. There are too many to mention, but I want to give a special shout-out to Sarah, Kate, Paula and all of my ministerial staff. As has been alluded to, the Treasurer's staff worked really hard, but so did Department of Justice staff and I thank all of those people.

As the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Integrity, I am proud to be one of the four ministers delivering on the election commitments we made to make Queensland safer. There were so many initiatives we had to bring into the Department of Justice for this budget because of the funding cliffs that were left by those opposite. It is just disgraceful. I remember sitting there at one of the first meetings and the Department of Justice people were saying, 'Here is a big chart. Here is the cliff.' The cliff was where all the funding was going because the former Labor government forgot to fund the programs. They forgot to fund staff. They forgot to fund justice services. They forgot that the people of Queensland were screaming out for help when it comes to faster access to justice.

We know Labor's legacy in relation to juvenile crime, but let's think about the Leader of the Opposition. He loses an election and he knows that the people of Queensland were screaming out for safety where they live. How many times did he mention victims or the justice system in his speech?

**Mr McDonald:** None.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I will take that interjection: none. Then we heard from the shadow attorney-general. You would think that, as shadow attorney-general, just maybe she would concentrate on the justice system. I do not think she mentioned the justice system, let alone the victims in this great state. Labor ignored Queensland's victims of crime for a decade when they were in government. Unfortunately, we have now discovered they are now ignoring them from opposition, and it is shameful.

The Crisafulli government focuses on strengthening community safety and supporting victims. That is why we are delivering \$54.4 million to better support the justice system. It includes: \$19.4 million over four years for one new magistrate in Brisbane; the permanent establishment of a magistrate and staff in Mount Isa; and another District Court judge in Townsville as well as judicial support staff. We

are providing \$17.8 million for legal services to: support additional judicial capacity; implement our Making Queensland Safer Laws; and address sustained increases in the volume and complexity of children's courts matters. There is \$5.6 million over five years for a new courtroom in Townsville and courtroom expansion works in Brisbane.

I am especially proud to say that this budget includes \$112.9 million over four years and \$29.9 million ongoing for Queensland's increased contribution to the National Access to Justice Partnership. We have heard in this House before that those opposite failed to fund it and we had to fund it, unlocking \$800 million from the federal government. This is additional funding the Crisafulli government provided to ensure Queensland could unlock that federal funding, as I have said.

Importantly, this budget includes \$74.8 million over four years for upgraded courthouse infrastructure that is safe, functional and responsive to community needs. This is something I am very passionate about. As I get around this state, I love visiting those courthouses. I am looking forward to Maryborough and Bowen getting those upgrades. This includes upgrades to security and critical remediation work because we know that a decade of chronic underfunding of the justice budget left those courthouses literally crumbling and so many of them not having basic security measures.

We are also delivering close to \$20 million for the domestic and family violence courthouse improvement program, which is another program that Labor failed to budget properly for. We will not only deliver important upgrades to courthouses in Cairns, Toowoomba and Brisbane to improve safety and security for victims of DFV; we will also ensure these important DFV upgrades can be delivered at courthouses in Maroochydore, Rockhampton and Mackay—another thing that Labor failed to fund. In fact, not funding programs was a bit of a theme for the Labor government. The victim liaison service was facing a funding cliff—which is unbelievable—putting at risk vital services they provide to vulnerable victims of crime who are navigating the justice system. Members now know why I am having to thank the Department of Justice people for working so hard for this budget—because the funding cliffs we faced from those opposite was disgraceful.

In this budget, we are also providing increased funding of \$25.5 million over four years for the ODPP to bolster support provided to victims of crime by the victim liaison service. The budget also includes increased funding of up to \$9.3 million for the Queensland Intermediary Scheme in Brisbane and Cairns, a program that helps vulnerable witnesses to child sexual offences overcome barriers to giving evidence. Under Labor, it was facing a funding cut.

Critically, especially in light of the issues we have uncovered over the past few weeks, our government is providing over \$21 million to maintain the operational capacity of Forensic Science Queensland to deal with Labor's DNA backlogs. This is in addition to the \$50 million provided to the Queensland Police Service to outsource the backlog of DNA samples for testing and analysis, and \$6.3 million for the ODPP to fast-track preparation of backlogged DNA cases for court. As I said in the House earlier in the week, we will stop at nothing to deliver justice for victims and to rebuild Queensland's forensic testing services to a world-class standard, after the disastrous DNA debacle that spiralled out of control under Labor's watch.


There is so much more I could touch on that we have saved and we are doing, but in the short time left I will turn to my role as the Minister for Integrity. I am pleased to note that our government is fulfilling our election commitment to strengthen the independence of the Integrity Commissioner. The budget provides additional funding of \$7.1 million over four years and then \$1.9 million ongoing to enable the Office of the Integrity Commissioner to operate as an independent statutory body—something those opposite were never going to do.

While this budget delivers so much more for victims of crime and the justice system in Queensland that I have not covered, it would be remiss of me if I did not talk about the incredible budget for the good people of the Nanango electorate in the time I have left. Whether they live in the Somerset, the South Burnett or all the other places, I am really proud to be their elected representative. After years of being neglected under Labor, our communities are finally getting some things that they need. There is \$2.9 million to upgrade the Kilcoy Indoor Sport Centre and \$1.4 million allocated for the Moore Linville Rural Fire Brigade shed. There is \$2.5 million to acquire land for the new Kingaroy fire and rescue station and about \$3 million for Cherbourg school's Buwu program. We get critical safety upgrades for the Brisbane Valley Highway, with my good mate and neighbour, Jim McDonald.

For our students and families in Nanango, there is the \$100 Back to School Boost and the \$200 Play On! sports vouchers. There are new long jump pits and beach volleyball courts for Toogoolawah State High School because these are future Olympians. There is \$25.6 million to deliver clean drinking water for Cherbourg, and how good is that. This is clean drinking water—something that those opposite

were never going to do. There is \$5.9 million for a new helipad for the Kingaroy Hospital and planning for Murgon Hospital as part of our Hospital Rescue Plan.

I have to give a shout-out to the Minister for Water for the Barlil Weir. We said we were going to build dams, and this budget provides for the mighty Weir just north of Murgon. There is \$100,000 for the Wondai Regional Art Gallery and \$150,000 for the Wooroolin Skate Park, my pet project. This is a great budget. It is all about putting regional Queensland first. It is all about faster access to justice for victims across this great state. I congratulate the Treasurer and the Premier on this wonderful budget.

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (6.05 pm): In my speech on the budget for 2025, I would first like to say that I am very grateful for the things that have come to my electorate. I will just capture a cross-section of those, and this is obviously not comprehensive.

The Mount Isa Central State School got an upgrade of \$442,000. That is one of the original buildings in Mount Isa. It is a very old school that celebrated its 100th year recently so that funding is welcomed. The Cloncurry Hospital disappointingly missed out. This has been a growing need as Cloncurry develops. It is not an entirely new hospital that is needed; it is just a wing that is required for a growing economy and a growing town. They are doing great things there, but that is the one big thing they have been chasing and are still being denied so that is disappointing. There is some nurse housing at Dajarra that falls within the Cloncurry shire which will be very helpful for that community.

Julia Creek are chasing a substation and were not really expecting to see that in this budget because it links with CopperString but that is something that will be required in the future. The Hughenden mayor, Kate Peddle, got \$650,000 for upgrades to the showground which is very welcome. Previous to that, there had been federal money allocated for finishing off the Hann Highway and the Kennedy Developmental Road. They are still chasing money for sewerage because like many of those remote councils there has been an underspend on those things for years. It has been shoved under the carpet and they have to make up for that.

Richmond are chasing that new ambulance centre which is still not in this budget. In Charters Towers we got a CT scanner across the line in previous budgets, but there is still no hospital. They have a 140-year-old hospital and that is their main item that is still not there. In the Georgetown and Croydon area, there is the Gilbert River Bridge and *Savannahlander* into Georgetown and Forsayth. They are looking for detailed business case funding for the Gilbert River Bridge.

Normanton and Karumba had upgrades to their sports centre, which is good. There are about 41 new hospital staff across the North West Hospital and Health Service, and we are hoping that will include capacity for renal nurses in Normanton which is a big priority for the gulf. Burketown got some money for the wharf recreation precinct. That is very good but they still lack funding for the Running Creek and Barkly River crossing which helps both them and Doomadgee. They have been cut off for three to four months during two of the last five years. Mornington Island has a number of issues and there is nothing substantial in the budget. Doomadgee also got \$2.2 million for a bike track, which is excellent.

The big thing for Traeger is the \$2.4 billion in the CopperString budget. I should mention the previous government for its commitment to CopperString, and I really commend the LNP government now for following through on those commitments and actually putting some dollars against that which is terrific. I might mention that there is a hell of a long way to go with CopperString. Just putting numbers on a page does not get poles out of the ground. Poles out of the ground need some real delivery and push, which we are still waiting on.

I think it is important for all of us to appreciate that budgets are not about what we can take out of them but what we can put back in. How can we contribute collectively to things that build the growth of this state so there will be something to draw on in the future? Why can we not take a bit more of a long-term approach to these? We should be talking about some of the budget builders that we are not seeing here.

How about the inland highway—Cairns to Mareeba? I know the member for Hill mentioned it. It seems crazy that you are talking about the Barron River bridge leading to the Kuranda Range when you still need a big number to get a half-baked solution on the Kuranda Range. They have just built a 12-kilometre tunnel here in Brisbane and have built one up through Mareeba—

**Mr Kempton** interjected.

**Mr KATTER:** I am surprised the member for Cook is shaking his head at it. That is exactly the attitude that is going to deny delivery. It is exactly what I am trying to zero in on here. We need some vision in this place that leads us to long-term solutions, not these sugar hits and fast-track solutions

working to the election cycle so that we all can claim, 'We have had a win!' when there are some big things we need to go after and have some vision on. Certainly if we do not provide that vision, people and the councils in those areas are not going to follow.

Hells Gate Dam is another one. I am sure there are plenty of other people who want to shake their heads about Hells Gate Dam. There is plenty to shake your head about because it requires vision. It will be tough, but what a great, wonderful, wealth-creating asset that would be. It is similar to the Burdekin Dam. I am sure all the business case put against that will be exactly the same as what was faced when putting the case up for Fairbairn Dam and Burdekin Dam.

HIPCo, the Hughenden dam, takes three per cent of the Flinders River flow which equals one per cent of what flows into the gulf—three per cent of one per cent—and we are still struggling. There is \$180 million in the federal budget for that, but we are still struggling for any approvals on that.

Ootann Road is an interesting one. Not many people know about Ootann Road. What a great enabler: for about 90 kilometres of bitumen, you can get triple road trains out of Cape York which really helps a lot of graziers in the gulf area. You get triple road trains out of the gulf and you can really open up that country. It really changes the nature of the cattle industry in the north. That is a real enabler. That grows wealth for this state.

Finishing off the Hann Highway will save up to 13 hours of driving all the produce from Atherton Tablelands in the Far North into the Melbourne and Sydney markets. We will be able to get in there 13 hours earlier once we finish that sealing.

They are budget makers, they are budget builders and they are things that we just do not talk about here. They get denied. We need bold vision; that is what is required in this House. I will also throw in here the budget takers—the big things that are taking money from the budget yet it is argued do quite the opposite—the Olympics and the sports stadiums. They are nice to have, but they are the big draw on your budget. In 20 years, they will be a liability, not something that creates wealth.

It is fantastic that people will get to work 10 minutes earlier with Cross River Rail, but that is a luxury we can ill afford at the moment, given the stage we are at. With regard to more traffic tunnels in Brisbane, we are the most traffic tunnelled city in Australia. We need projects that lessen the waiting and the spreadsheet prejudice vision from the Treasury. It is all on this spreadsheet without vision. It also needs to overcome this disruptive political bias, I think, which was the big driver with Cross River Rail. We need to get past those things or we will be stuck in neutral and always thinking about how much we save out of the budget, instead of how much we can create for the following budgets.

I think there needs to be strategic direction of our major utilities. You cannot consider the budget without thinking, 'What are our utilities doing?' They are not playing the role with the spirit in which they were built. Dams and powerlines and such were built to enable industry. Now they are treated as cash cows, as income earners for the state. That just does not work. That model does not work in rural and remote areas. Again, it is one of these Treasury models. The academics and the kids come out of university saying, 'This is it. We are economic rationalists. We are a free market,' and it is all about this corporatisation model. 'We will apply the accrual accounting standard to our energy assets.' The regulated asset pricing model throws up all these figures from the balance sheet onto our bills, and it does not make sense. It is non-commercial. All the water and energy customers are out there in the market saying, 'Who the hell is running this? Why the hell do you own these assets?'

A great example of this is Lake Julius. I encourage people to listen to this; it is a really important story. Little Eva Mine is the next big copper mine to be built in Queensland. They are trying to get it up and running. I thought, 'Good news, it is 20 kilometres from Lake Julius.' Lake Julius was built with the expansion of the North West Minerals Province in mind—visionary from earlier governments saying, 'Let's build water storage.' So, lucky us—Little Eva has been built 20 to 30 kilometres from Lake Julius. It is 80 per cent full most of the time. Not many people draw from it because it is expensive water from Sunwater. They are building a bore field on Little Eva. 'Wait! What's that? They are building a bore field on Little Eva? Why?' There is a pipeline from Lake Julius which runs across their lease. Why are they not drawing from Lake Julius? It is too expensive, and even if it were not too expensive, they are not giving us enough water allocation out of Lake Julius. But, hang on, hardly anyone is drawing water out of it. No! After countless meetings, they have said, 'We are following the strategic guidelines we have been given by Treasury to operate this thing and we are not going to give them any water.' Well done! Congratulations, utilities! Who has won out of that? No-one. No-one wins out of that. It is not a big profit maker for the government or the taxpayers. All it is doing is attracting pelicans, birdlife and fish out there.

Some 38 per cent of the rail line use has come off in 12 years. There will probably be more in the near future, too, because the utilities have set the standards; they have to make a profit. They literally cannot lower the price to allow more traffic because those are the standards they have set. It is nuts, it is crazy and you need to address this if you want to improve future budgets.

With regard to sovereign capability, you cannot exist in the political world at the moment without having some consciousness of what is going on around us. We have some responsibilities to the nation in the way we manage our resources and feeding into that.

In order to have fuel security, we need an ethanol mandate to be driven by government. Until we do that, it will not be taken seriously, and it is the only real solution you have for fuel security here in Queensland. It is very effective. The good news is it could help build industry in Queensland at the same time.

Food security was not helped very much with the deregulation of the dairy industry. It decimated our dairy industry. Commercial fishing was decimated in the last parliament and has not been fixed this parliament. Beef and sugar production has been affected by matters such as tree clearing, reef regulations and other restrictions. Those things need to be addressed. If we turn those things around again, we can unlock a lot of latent wealth that is sitting in our resources with which we have been blessed here in Queensland.

Manufacturing and mineral production leads me to CopperString, copper mines, Phosphate Hill and a gas reserve policy. There is no question that you either have CopperString or you can start kissing goodbye to the North West Minerals Province. It has been estimated that about 17,000 indirect jobs are at risk from Townsville to Mount Isa. I do not know if everyone is okay with that, but I think that is a pretty big risk for the state. It is a pretty big risk nationally because everyone said there is no way we could allow the loss of that copper production in Australia. There are only two copper smelters left in Australia. Most of the rest of the world is aggressively trying to build them. The market is distorted because the rest of the world is trying to dominate and shore up copper production. At the moment we are letting this fall over because we are bending to the knee of Glencore who do whatever they want out there. That needs to be addressed.

With regard to Phosphate Hill, we import 80 per cent of our fertiliser in Australia already. Phosphate Hill is subject to the burden of gas prices. One of the silliest things government ever did was sell off our gas without a gas reserve policy, like most of the rest of the world does, like Western Australia did. It enabled industry development over there, including a urea fertiliser plant. It was built on the back of a gas reserve policy. We have gone the opposite way here. We sold it off and let the gas companies make all the money off it. Do not worry about these new six licences, or whatever; that is not going to get you out of trouble. You need to fix the gas price to Phosphate Hill if you are going to save that plant. Even if you do not sell off that plant, you are still going to have a huge problem in the North West Minerals Province.

With regard to the housing policies, we put our ideas on the table. We think the policies are fantastic for rural and remote Queensland. The first home buyer's grant is extending to existing homes.


In regards to a postal bank, there is a postcode bias that exists now in Western Queensland. I know it all too well, having had 15 years experience as a property valuer in western areas. The postal bank was put together by Christine Holgate when she was the head of Australia Post, just like New Zealand—the Kiwi bank over there. All we have to do is replicate that and have a lending institution that will go back into those areas, provide capital and let people buy housing, and private industry can step into the gap so that we are not relying on public housing to fix these problems all the time.

Title deeds in our Aboriginal communities need to be delivered so they can own their homes. The most racist thing in Australia is the fact that we do not allow those Aboriginal communities in Doomadgee and Mornington Island to own their own homes.

An issue I have is with eventide units. To me, this is crazy. There are about 50 home units in Charters Towers at the moment. All we need to do is redesign the hospital. It is not built yet—it is just a plan for a hospital—on the other side of the site that is vacant. These 50 home units are going to be destroyed, when there is a desperate need for them, because people cannot be bothered redrawing the plan for a hospital. I am trying to work with the government to save those units. It would be a damn shame if we didn't.

In the last bit of my contribution, I want to focus on water policies. If we are talking about the Flinders River, the Etheridge River—these things are easy, and it costs us nothing. That water flows out to the sea. Every year, we are watching it go by. Everyone gets tied up on what you are taking. I

said before, for one dam you are taking three per cent of that river; that river is one per cent of the Gulf flow and we sit here worrying about giving some water out. For goodness sake, give the people some water. They are building the infrastructure. They are taking all the risk. They will do it for you and they will multiply the earning capacity and taxes they pay to the state. The wealth will filter down. All you have to do is hand over the water to them and give them the ability to buy those water licences. That is easy for us to do as a government.

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (6.20 pm): This is a terrific budget that will put Queensland on a great path for the future. Finally, after the crises of the Labor government in health, crime, housing and cost of living, we have a government that is on the side of the Scenic Rim electorate. That is so welcomed by the communities I represent. More than once, people in the community sector in the Scenic Rim electorate—one person in particular—has commented that many parts of it are like the Gaza Strip, cut off and forgotten about under Labor governments. That needs to change. With this budget, we are turning the ship around to deliver more for the Scenic Rim electorate.

I want to comment about a couple of things that have been funded in the budget that are terrific for our region. I will start with the Mount Lindesay Highway. Planning funding has been put aside for future upgrades between Jimboomba and Beaudesert—a significant stretch of highway that has been consistently forgotten about by the Labor government over the last 10 years of but also in the generation before that. They have never properly focused on that area. All the upgrades that have occurred there have only occurred because of the LNP coalition government funding from Canberra. We are put funding for planning for future upgrades in the budget so we can go to Canberra and seek funding for those upgrades.

We also have funding in the budget to do planning for upgrades of the Coulson crossing on Boonah Beaudesert Road over the Teviot Brook, which floods even after minor rain events. It needs to be upgraded. The former government has known about it for many, many years but they did nothing. They would not even put it on the agenda to plan for upgrades. We have done that and we have also put in the budget planning funding for overtaking lanes for Boonah Beaudesert Road—something I have made an issue of for many years because of the dangerous nature of that road when it comes to overtaking opportunities. We have put that on the agenda through planning funding in this budget.

There is also funding for safety improvements on Tamborine Mountain Road at Tamborine—a vital corridor for that part of the region; in fact, for the entire region. Many people visit our region. Tamborine Mountain is a big tourist magnet so putting safety upgrades on the agenda and in the budget is important for that part of the world, and something that took far too long under the former Labor government. We are backing in the Tamborine Mountain Sports Association with a \$1 million commitment to advance their master plan. This is a facility on Tamborine Mountain with great potential from an events perspective and a tourist perspective and in the lead-up to 2032 from a sports visitation perspective as well. One million dollars is not the be-all and end-all there. They will take that money, build on that and seek funding from other sources to advance the plans that they have been putting in place at that facility for many years.

We have backed already in the Kalbar Show Society by upgrading the lights at their showgrounds with a \$150,000 grant which gives them the best lit facility in the Scenic Rim. I was privileged last Saturday to be at the Kalbar Show—where I am the patron—to be able to switch on those lights for the first time, backed by a funding commitment from the LNP government in Queensland. It was something that I had committed to over previous elections but with the election last year it was terrific to be able to deliver on that commitment which is set out in the budget.

We have also backed more funding for the upgrade of the Boonah Auxiliary Fire Station—something I have been raising for years. It was put in the budget by the former government but there was not enough money put in the budget. There was only \$2.5 million put in the budget and they took so long getting on with the job—so many costs have blown out during the stewardship of the Labor Party—there was not enough in the budget. We have had to top that up from \$2.5 million to \$4 million to get on with the job of replacing the Boonah Auxiliary Fire Station. It is desperately needed. It is one of the oldest in Queensland and we are delivering for that station.

Many members have spoken about Play On! vouchers. It is a terrific initiative. Obviously it has its roots back in the LNP government of 2012 to 2015 with the terrific Get in the Game initiative. I am thrilled to see that we are delivering that for every child to be able to participate in at least one sport backed by that \$200 voucher. The money is set aside across the forward estimates for four years. It is a solid commitment. We are not just budgeting year on year. We are committing four years to those vouchers and setting aside money for regional Queensland and for children with disabilities as well.

There are funding commitments to upgrade some of our schools. There are 30-odd state schools in the Scenic Rim electorate. I note there is a commitment for upgrades at Hillview State School, St Bernard State School on Tamborine Mountain and Rathdowney and Gleneagle state schools. We are blessed with great teachers, great families and great schools in our community, but capital investment is required to help those schools keep their facilities up to date as time goes on.

There are safety upgrades scheduled for Biddaddaba Road, Mundoolun Connection Road, Mundoolun Road and Beaudesert Beenleigh road, as well as the long-awaited Mundoolun Connection Road and Beaudesert Beenleigh Road intersection upgrade—\$5.6 million has been put in the budget for that. There have been a number of fatalities there over the years and I look forward to that intersection being upgraded.

To the Premier and Minister for Veterans, I want to thank him for backing the 4 Aussie Heroes Foundation which is a foundation that helps first responders and former defence personnel who are suffering with post-traumatic stress. They run residential courses to help them recover from those conditions. They have built a residential facility in the Scenic Rim electorate and the Premier has backed them in with an \$800,000 grant from his portfolio as the Minister for Veterans to enable them to finish their facilities. They have raised over \$5 million privately. I am told the \$800,000 grant from the state will enable them to finish their facilities. They are so grateful, and I am so grateful that we have a Premier and Minister for Veterans who is backing in those supports for our veterans and first responders. It is a growing issue. A lot of people from the Police Service have availed themselves of those services and this will be a great boost to that foundation.

It is an all-round terrific budget that puts Queensland on a better path for the future. To have a government in Brisbane—in Queensland—that supports the Scenic Rim electorate is the best thing for our region. For too long the problems have been apparent. Since there has been a change in government, information that has come from departments, from government utility providers that knew there were problems that needed to be fixed but while those opposite were in government they just refused to put them on the agenda. One can only suspect it was for base political reasons in what was then a non-government electorate. It is shameful, but we have a long list of things to deal with and we will continue. This is a great budget for Queensland. I have provided the Speaker, with the remainder of my speech for incorporation. He has approved it—he would not let me self-approve the incorporation part. As such, I conclude my contribution with that incorporation in the *Record of Proceedings*.

*The speech read as follows—*

Across the board, this Budget delivers exactly what we promised Queenslanders: investment in community safety, health services, essential infrastructure, and home ownership. It supports hardworking locals, small businesses and community organisations across the State.

I have spoken about major road upgrades, and the budget includes funding to continue work on improvements to the Amberley intersection on the Cunningham Highway—an issue that Labor left the cupboard completely bare on after 10 years in office. No design, no plans, no costed project for the State and Commonwealth to fund.

The budget also includes funding for the Mount Alford Rural Fire Brigade station and the Biddaddaba Rural Fire Brigade station. These are projects that have been delayed and held up with unnecessary complication and expense, and I urge the Minister to cut through the red-tape and get QFD on with the job of enabling these volunteers to build their sheds.

I welcome the \$4.8 investment delivered into the Beaudesert community to construct a new indoor multi-sports facility. I will continue to work with PCYC Queensland, the Government and the local community to see the PCYC planning finalised for Beaudesert, for designs to be completed and funding sought. A PCYC will complement the funding provided for this indoor sports facility.

Health services for our region will also receive a significant boost through this budget, with both Metro South and West Moreton HHSs benefitting from our Government's \$33.1 billion investment in hospitals and health care across Queensland. There is so much work to do to reduce Labor's record ambulance ramping, to stabilise elective surgery waitlists, and introduce real-time health data across the system, ensuring the sector's transparency and accountability to the people of Queensland.

I am particularly pleased to see the Budget allocation for the expansion of Ipswich Hospital, which, while just outside my electorate, serves many of my constituents. In addition, planning will be advanced towards improving Boonah Hospital. While under Labor plans were advanced that carried nowhere near enough funding to be carried out, our government will work to ensure that options taken forward for expansion and improvement are backed with actual funding commitments.

With the LNP, I always back our farmers. In this budget, the Maintenance Guarantee is extended to ensure our Queensland coal-fired generators can continue to deliver the most affordable, reliable energy for farmers and families alike. There is a \$50 million dollar boost to biosecurity, providing farmers with better resources to prevent bushfires and protect against the threat that invasive species pose to our primary industries. The extra \$24 million provided to the fire ant suppression task force, after huge swathes of the electorate were simply abandoned by the fire ant program under Labor, supports farmers and residents against these ants becoming even more concentrated in the region, with all the havoc they can bring, while specific eradication efforts continue in other parts of southeast Queensland. I thank the Minister for Primary Industries, my friend the Member for Gympie, for securing this funding.

The Budget will deliver meaningful support for first home buyers in Scenic Rim Electorate, with the abolition of stamp duty for first home buyers on new homes, extension of the \$30,000 First Home Owner Grant and introduction of the nation-leading Boost to Buy program reducing the deposit gap and making it easier for young families and individuals from the Scenic Rim to achieve the dream of home ownership.

This Budget delivers a comprehensive response to Labor's youth crime crisis, with the recruitment of 1,600 new police officers, stronger laws, and significant investment in early intervention and rehabilitation programs.

A \$560 million state-wide commitment will fund early intervention and rehabilitation initiatives, while \$40 million in grants will support small businesses and local governments to implement community safety improvements and crime prevention strategies. I thank all of the local police in the region at North Tamborine, Jimboomba, Canungra, Beaudesert, Rathdowney, Boonah, Kalbar, Harrisville, Rosewood and Ipswich—they do incredible work in often tough situations.


To better support victims of crime, we are also investing \$50 million in a new victims advocate service, providing dedicated, practical support, while a further \$25 million has been allocated for domestic and family violence prevention, including a GPS monitoring pilot for high-risk offenders.

The safety of our communities is paramount, and this Budget provides real investment in both proactive prevention and responsive support systems.

This Budget goes a way to delivering the infrastructure, services and support that the communities I represent have long been asking for. There is more to be done, and after years of being overlooked—or even worse, actively disregarded for funding—under successive Labor Governments, the Scenic Rim finally has a Government that is listening to its needs. It will take time to deal with all of the issues that need fixing, but every journey begins with the first step. After the change of government in 2024, this budget is that first step. I'm proud to be part of a government that is delivering for Queensland and investing in the hard-working families, farmers and small businesses in the Scenic Rim Electorate.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** It being one minute off 6.30 pm, if everybody is happy, we will adjourn for dinner and be back at 7.30 pm. Thank you.

Sitting suspended from 6.30 pm to 7.30 pm.

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (7.30 pm): After the last 10 years of budgetary irresponsibility by Labor it is my great pleasure to rise in this House to speak to a budget that has at its core fiscal responsibility, a focus on core issues affecting Queenslanders and an infrastructure program financially well planned to get Queensland back on track. I pass on my sincere congratulations to the Treasurer, Mr Janetzki, for delivering the first Crisafulli LNP government budget for the betterment of Queenslanders, not like the Labor Party of the last 10 years which delivered budgets to benefit themselves. It will take some time to reduce the humongous debt the Labor Party inflicted on Queenslanders, but with this budget we may have made the first small steps towards delivering on our core election promises in a financially prudent manner that Queenslanders deserve after 10 years of hard Labor!

We went to the election in October of last year on four key promises, and in this budget we have delivered in spades on those promises and more. Cost-of-living pressures, the housing crisis, out-of-control crime and the struggling health system were the hallmarks of a tired 10-year Labor government and Queenslanders rightly said in an emphatic manner it was time to give the David Crisafulli LNP team a go at fixing Labor's mess. We have bounded out of the starting gate, to use a racing euphemism, in all four areas in our first six months. This budget will set in stone the pathway forward for the next financial year and the four-year forward estimates that will put Queensland back in its rightful place as the best performing state in Australia. With the mighty Maroons squaring the State of Origin series against the cockroaches, they are taking a leaf out of the Crisafulli playbook, snatching victory from the jaws of defeat.

A stand-out financial commitment in the 2025-26 budget papers is the Crisafulli focus on delivering the best Olympic Games ever for Queensland in 2032, and I thank the wonderful Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games, the member for Everton, Tim Mander, who is doing a great job in spreading the largesse right around the state. This event will bring the eyes of the world to Brisbane and Queensland, showcasing our magnificent natural environments and our wonderful man-made pleasure assets. For three years the former Labor government procrastinated over a plan to deliver the games on time and on budget and yet in six months the Deputy Premier, Jarrod Bleijie, has delivered a plan that will see Queenslanders enjoy those games right across the state, which will bring financial rewards to the regions of Queensland and not just to the south-east corner. The construction and works start now with the financial commitment in this budget of the Treasurer, and Queenslanders can feel safe knowing their dollars will be appropriately spent on the long-term legacy projects that will make Queensland the new sporting capital of Australia. We cannot afford to run a second-rate Olympic Games like the former Labor government tried to do with temporary facilities and patched up stadiums. Stand by for the greatest Olympic Games ever in 2032, and it will be in our very own backyards right across Queensland. Go Gout Gout!

The major infrastructure spend in my electorate is obviously the construction of Light Rail stage 3, 85 per cent of which travels along the Gold Coast Highway in my electorate. As the transport minister has previously noted in this House, the cost blowout on Light Rail stage 3 has amounted to over \$500 million, which is typical of Labor's incompetent budgeting, resulting from their subservience to their union puppetmasters extorting wages and lack of work productivity at the ultimate sacrificial cost to Queensland taxpayers. The latest projections for a date that Light Rail stage 3 can actually take passengers from Pacific Fair Broadbeach station in my electorate to Burleigh is mid-2026, which is way beyond the original opening date proposed under Labor of mid-2025. That is another classic example of Labor incompetence in building important infrastructure on time and on budget.

My residents will be able to travel to Burleigh, but will they be able to travel to the airport? If there is no funding from the Albanese federal Labor government for Light Rail stage 4—and at this stage there are crickets chirping in relation to any money coming from Albo—the \$7 billion last leg has no hope of going ahead. I do thank the many residents and businesses still surviving along the Light Rail route for their patience and understanding under incredibly trying circumstances as construction continues to inflict noise, inconvenience and traffic chaos upon them. This is a very difficult infrastructure project to deliver and the Crisafulli government is committed to delivering its outcome in the shortest time possible.

Mr Deputy Speaker has reviewed and approved my speech for incorporation. As such, I ask that the reminder of my speech be incorporated into the *Record of Proceedings*.

*The speech read as follows—*

Also in the Mermaid Beach electorate, there has been a decision by the Gold Coast City Council to re-locate the Gold Coast Lapidary Club and the adjoining Burleigh Men's Shed from their current location. Following lengthy and ongoing discussions with Mayor Tom Tate, Treasurer David Janetzki has generously provided \$850,000 towards the relocation of both important facilities in the Mermaid Beach electorate at Pizzey Park. The members and committees of both organisations do a fantastic job in our community and an upgrade of their facilities will be most welcome.

On the education front, there is ongoing work in the budget on Miami Primary School and excitingly, there is a multi-million dollar commitment for the building of a brand new administration and classroom unit at Broadbeach State School in the Mermaid Beach electorate. New Principal Steve Josey is over the moon on this brand new budget commitment but we must also say thank you to long-term past principal, Bruce Langes, for his hard work in seeing this commitment come to fruition. Broadbeach State School is a beacon of great public school education in Queensland and I can't wait to share the opening of this brand new facility with Education Minister John-Paul Langbroek who is using his great Education Department experience to further education standards in Queensland. With the booming population explosion on the Gold Coast, re-invigorating aged education facilities on the Gold Coast is an absolute priority and one the Crisafulli Government is totally committed to.

One of the major issues that has been front and centre in my community under the Labor Government for the past 10 years has been the plague proportion of youth crime. That has resulted in the Crisafulli Government focusing on the laws to address this unacceptable situation and already we've seen green shoots of redemption of this out-of-control activity brought about by strong laws introduced by our no-nonsense Attorney General, Deb Frecklington. This problem, created by Labor weakening the juvenile laws when they took power 10 years ago, has seen a constant escalation of youth offending resulting in murder and serious assaults and rampant car stealing. Already we've passed stronger laws on adult crime, adult time and our commitment to increasing policing has seen 240 new police officers commissioned in our first 200 days of government. This budget re-inforces our commitment to the "Thin Blue Line" with not only putting more police on the front line but changing the whole ethos of how our officers are treated and we can thank forming serving police officer and Minister Dan Purdie for his incisive understanding of police needs and his front line experience delivering much-needed outcomes for our most important law enforcers. Another 230 police recruits were sworn in on June 12 brining a wealth of experience from different work backgrounds taking our increased police numbers to 370 already in just 6 months.

Of critical importance in maintaining law and order in Queensland is the role of the judiciary when the hard work of police enforcement ends up in court. It is time for the judiciary to understand the community outrage at ridiculous judicial decision making when youth offenders have knowingly cut and sliced law-abiding citizens in their own home and end up with "no criminal conviction" recorded. What planet does anybody live on that doesn't find a deliberate and pre-meditated body-slicing attack a criminal event? It will be some time before ridiculous judgemental decision-making is exorcised from the court system, but I am quite sure under a Crisafulli led government, it will happen.

Moving to our third pillar of our election promises namely housing, the Gold Coast is the epicentre of unaffordability in both rental situations and housing prices. New South Wales Premier Chris Minns said the other night that Sydney has the dearest real estate in the world. Well the Gold Coast is not far behind them as people move out of Sydney following the sunbelt migration forcing real estate values to unaffordable levels and particularly making it impossible for our Gold Coast children to buy a house in their home city.

The Crisafulli Government has already moved to try and make housing for young first home buyers more affordable by abolishing a Labor tax in stamp duty on their first home. However, more needs to be done in terms of releasing more land and the Council should focus on affordable housing around transport nodes such as outer Gold Coast suburbs rather than infilling the whole of the seaboard east of the Gold Coast Highway.

In a brilliant budgetary move, young and diligent Housing Minister Slamming Sam O'Connor has allocated \$600 million in this years budget to proactively support the homeless situation right across Queensland. Of that \$600 million \$365 million, will be allocated to emergency crisis accommodation which should address my issue in Mermaid Beach electorate of people camping

on prime environmentally sensitive beach sites and a further \$200 million is allocated to homelessness services. This is an outstanding financial commitment to a difficult and growing problem and should ameliorate this social burden right across Queensland.

It would be remiss of me if I did not laud the outstanding work of the Health Minister Tim Nicholls, who has the most difficult portfolio to deal with trying to unscramble the mess the previous Labor Government left the Health Department in under the stewardship of several incompetent Labor Ministers.

Minister Nicholls has already reduced the ambulance ramping numbers, has clearly put the health infrastructure build delivering more beds for Queenslanders in a definitive and costed time frame and has committed to a record Queensland health budget that will deliver more, better and on time services to Queenslanders who have been left hanging on surgery wait lists under Labor for far too long.

Finally, in addressing cost of living pressures, the Crisafulli Government has already moved to stop bloated CFMEU wage blow-outs on Government infrastructure projects, we've re-commissioned our coal-fired electricity generator which will help bring cheaper power prices and I mentioned earlier, we have cut the stamp duty payable on first home buyers which assisted more people getting into home ownership.

Ray Stevens, Member for Mermaid Beach is a very proud member of the Crisafulli LNP Team determined to bring financial responsibility to the Government of Queensland. Again, I thank David Janetzki, Treasurer of Queensland for his outstanding first budget and I look forward to the many years ahead of a prudent, fiscally responsible budget being presented to the people of Queensland.



**Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (7.36 pm): This is not a boring budget; it is a bad budget. Debt is up, cost-of-living relief has gone by the wayside and infrastructure projects have been pushed back to the never-never. The LNP in taking government only had a slogan; they said they would fix crime and not even that is working. That is why I want to talk about my shadow portfolio of youth justice. They talk about a youth crime crisis. From what I can see it is quickly becoming what should be called the 'LNP's youth crime crisis' or, more specifically, the 'Minister for Youth Justice's crime crisis'. I note the very short contribution from the minister about youth justice in her speech and I can understand why. If honourable members already thought what was happening in youth justice was shambolic, the budget shows just how absolutely off the mark this minister has been from the beginning about meeting promises the LNP made to Queenslanders about solving youth crime. I am very pleased to see the support for victims in the budget and there should be more and more of that. Honourable members will remember that they said they were going to solve youth crime; it was going to be zero by Christmas—that is last Christmas not another Christmas. It does not matter how much they cherry-pick data and how many nice photos they post, how many green shoots—

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Hunt): Order, members.

**Ms FARMER:** It does not matter how many green shoots they talk about—and there would not be enough for a lawn at a townhouse—youth crime has gone up and Queenslanders are feeling it.

This is a minister who is out of her depth. All we have from their promises to fix youth crime are botched crime laws that we have had to come back to almost every single week to add offences she forgot or to fix up a technicality or close a loophole. When will it all end? There is no rolled gold early intervention, no detention with purpose and no new youth detention facilities. It does not matter what figures they stick in their youth justice budget; the plain, cold, hard facts are that they can put all the dollar signs they like in a budget document, but if there is nothing to attach to those dollars then people are going to notice. We can already see they did not plan for the facilities or staff to house all the new youth offenders they are going to lock up and lock up for longer. We had done meticulous planning to cater for the facilities that would be needed to detain young people in the future under our laws. That is Wacol, Woodford and Cairns in the Caboolture Watch House hub in the short term. We would think that if they were going to lock up more kids for longer, they would be doing some modelling on what facilities they would need and what staff they would need to cater for that population, but what do we see? Wacol—Labor's. Woodford—in progress and Labor's. I do note that Budget Paper 3 says 'with provision for expansion'. Have these guys done any modelling at all?

Back to the very short list, they have the Caboolture Watch House hub—Labor's, though those opposite have extended the funding—and Cairns. The minister says that she is consulting, but on what? Who has she been talking to? When is she talking to them? No-one has even heard about it in Cairns. Anything more? Not even a dollar for planning anything more, and the DG of her department admitted himself that it takes around 3½ years to build a detention centre, so you need to plan. Speaking of plans, in November she said that she would have a workforce plan for Cleveland YDC—the same place where it has been recently reported that judges were releasing young offenders early from because of the conditions in the YDC due to staffing shortages. Any evidence of that plan or funding set aside for

it in the budget? Not a skerrick. What did Stacey Shinnerl, Queensland AWA branch secretary, say? She said—

The AWU was waiting for a budget that provided proper investment in expanding the capacity of youth detention facilities and a comprehensive staffing plan to ensure that youth detention workers were kept safe at work, offenders were properly rehabilitated and the community was made safer. However, this budget provides no such funding and increases the uncertainty for AWU members delivering vital work in dangerous circumstances.

What about the rolled gold early intervention that those opposite have been talking about? Let us see. Today is 26 June, which means by my calculation that there are four days left in this financial year—2024-25—and how much has the minister allocated—

**Mr Crandon:** That's your calculation, but you can't count.

**Ms FARMER:** I take that interjection. I do not know if the member for Coomera thinks that there are any more or less than four days left in the financial year, but if he does I would love to hear it.

How much did the minister allocate for rolled gold early intervention in this financial year? Some \$98 million. Do we reckon that she is going to spend that in the next four days? Yes, \$5 million has been announced for Men of Business for a crime prevention school. It is a good organisation. We funded it ourselves, though I have to agree with what the member for McConnel said earlier this week about naming a school a crime prevention school which will further stigmatise any students who go there. What about the other \$93 million for this financial year for initiatives that do not even exist yet? When are they happening and are they actually happening? What was the minister actually thinking allocating that money in this year's budget when it was clear to blind Freddy that she had absolutely nothing in the pipeline?

Did the Minister for Education, for instance, tell her how long it takes to get an application for a new non-state school accredited—that is, the other five youth crime schools those opposite are talking about? It is just one disaster after another for this minister. Thank goodness for Labor, because the only things I can see happening in this portfolio, aside from the LNP's botched crime laws, are a continuation of Labor's really successful initiatives such as intensive case management, youth co-responder and bail support. I congratulate the minister for further funding those, as there is clear evidence of their effectiveness, and thank goodness she was able to get at least something that she could claim for this financial year.

I now turn to education, my other shadow portfolio. The most important of portfolios—this most critical of portfolios for the future of our kids—has a minister who not only told everyone when he was offered it that he did not want it—so much work; he has gone on to show everybody that he does not want it. In fact, he could not be less interested. We saw that in that train wreck of an interview earlier this year with the *Courier-Mail* where he was talking about a whole lot of things which are in his KPIs from the Premier that he was not that bothered about, and we hear that the Premier was very, very, very cranky about that. There might be a leak or two coming from your cabinet, Premier, just so you know.

I would have thought it was a bit of a career-limiting move to tell the Premier that you were not that bothered about your KPIs, but I had hoped—and so, I am sure, did all the schoolkids and their families and all the school staff and all the stakeholders—that he would warm to the portfolio, because do members know what? There could not be a greater privilege than to be the education minister, and it is such an important job. This week's budget only confirmed that the minister has no idea what the priorities are, probably because he rarely talks to stakeholders—just ask them. If it was the arts that would be different, but this budget shows that he does not care or he just does not have enough sway with the Premier, or maybe it is the Deputy Premier he should have been talking to, or all of the above.

On NAPLAN, for instance, in that *Courier-Mail* article he refused to guarantee NAPLAN results would improve over the next four years. It is only one of his key KPIs—the second top priority from the Premier—and is there anything in the budget to address NAPLAN? Nope! What about on occupational violence—another one of his KPIs and one of the most critical issues facing teachers? Not only is there no money in the budget; it is not even mentioned in the budget. What about antibullying? He did mention that in the article but that he would just rely on anecdotal evidence to see whether their planned campaign to reduce the scourge of bullying was working, so he is not that bothered about that. Does he even know what it is? He said—

I'm not even quite sure what it is. I don't think we normally have a stat that says these are the amount of bullying incidents in schools.

We do, actually, and they show quite a lot of bullying, but reducing bullying was also a big KPI, along with red-tape reduction and more teacher aides and some STEM support and behavioural

support. They are all important KPIs. To be fair, these things are mentioned in the budget, but unfortunately for all of our schools, all our kids, all our families and all our staff in those schools they are all lumped together in a program called More Teachers, Better Education. Even though it is called More Teachers, Better Education, there are not actually any more teachers in it. With regard to all of those other things plus inclusive education plus a boost to chaplaincy—though of that whole list identifying what is being funded depends on which budget paper you read, because I do not think those opposite did a lot of cross-referencing; there are some things in one under that and there are others elsewhere, but who checked really—they are all lumped into this \$222.1 million initiative. That means that, for all those things—red tape, bullying, teacher aides, chaplains et cetera—if you averaged that out across each of our over 1,260 state schools—this is not how it works but it gives an idea—there might be between \$40,000 and \$45,000 per school per year. In a 40-week school year that is about \$1,000 a week. If you have 1,000 kids in your school—and there are heaps with more than that—that is \$1 per student per week. Lovely!

Turning to some of the other things in the budget, as the opposition leader pointed out this morning, there are some good things in the budget. The point is that they were all initiatives put in place by the former Labor government. The member for Murrumba talked about 50-cent fares, FairPlay vouchers and the shared equity scheme for housing. In education the minister claimed the Healthy Kindy Kids initiative—Labor—but then those opposite had somehow thought up that the mainstream schools in the 15 new schools they announced were their idea. The only reason there is anything good to say about the delivery of new schools is because the LNP has once again copied Labor's homework, and I want to speak particularly to the special schools the education minister was parading. Planning was well underway for new special schools in Logan and Springfield, for the new primary schools in Caloundra South, Ripley and Holmview and the new secondary school in Logan Reserve. I table a screenshot of the department's website from 9 September 2024 which shows many of the schools that the government is trumpeting as their win were in fact already being planned under the former Labor government.

*Tabled paper:* Document, dated 9 September 2024, depicting an image of the Department of Education webpage titled 'Planning for new schools'.

I am also happy to table a second screenshot of the Department of Education website which shows many—

*Tabled paper:* Document, dated 12 June 2025, depicting an image of the Department of Education webpage titled 'Planning for new schools'.

**An honourable member** interjected.

**Ms FARMER:** Yes, it was. You will be able to see it. We all know that they only announced Gracemere High because Labor had already promised it.

As for the crime prevention and youth justice schools, aside from the Men of Business announcement, where are the rest of them? There is lots of money in the budget, including for this year. There is \$20 million for this year for the next four days for a school that does not exist, but not one of the other schools is even on the horizon. Has the minister or anyone even submitted them for accreditation to the Non-State Schools Accreditation Board yet?

One of my biggest problems with this education budget is what is not in it, and do members know what that is? It about teachers. In that famous *Courier-Mail* interview, the minister said—

We need, you know, new teachers who are coming through to feel like they're valued and supported.

Let me tell members how you get teachers not feeling valued and supported. You tell them you are going to deliver a teacher workforce strategy—one of his KPIs—to address crippling workforce shortages that are putting such pressure on teachers, especially in our rural and remote areas, and then not deliver it. You tell them you are going to boost student-teacher ratios by putting more teachers in classrooms to ease pressure—another KPI—but there are no new teachers in the budget. You allocate more teacher aids—great—but not even enough of them for one per school or one for every two schools. You received the recommendations of the comprehensive review of school resources in December last year—the first major review of resourcing in 30 years that Labor conducted that would address so many of the challenges facing our schools staff—and you refuse to release it and you certainly do not allocate any funding in the budget for it. Do members know how else you show teachers you do not value them? When they actually deserve nation-leading salaries acknowledging what they do—workforce shortages, burnout, attrition, occupational violence—and insult them by offering them a deal in their EB that would see them behind practically every state in Australia.

What do stakeholders say? Some of them are too afraid to put their names publicly to their statements because they know what this government is like, but here are some—

No clear vision, no policy, no direction and an entire state school system in disbelief at the sheer arrogance to ignore the teacher shortage crisis, the scourge of occupational violence and aggression, nothing to reduce workload, just a three-times announced anti-bullying red-tape strategy—

That was ours; they announced it two more times after that. They continue—


David Crisafulli talks big on prosecuting and jailing children but has no interest in educating them.

Good kids and their teachers get nothing but short-changed and excuses from David Crisafulli and our missing minister—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Hunt): I ask you to use correct titles when referring to members.

**Ms FARMER:** I was reading a quote in which they were referring to the Premier and our missing Minister for Education. We need a minister for education who actually wants the job, who cares about the job, who can be bothered; who can listen to teachers, to kids, to families, to stakeholders and actually do the things that they need to do.

In the very short time left, I want to give a big shout-out to my local electorate. I have delivered over \$100 million in facilities to my local schools. The one thing I wanted from this budget was upgraded classrooms for Cannon Hill State School. I have written three times to the minister, I have a petition which we ran with the P&C and I have tabled a question about it in parliament. They would love to see him at Cannon Hill State School to show him what a great school it is. I would love to see him supporting that wonderful school to get their upgraded classrooms.

 **Hon. AJ CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (7.51 pm): It is a real honour to stand here today in the people's house and speak to the Crisafulli government's first budget delivering what we promised Queenslanders in October. We are doing what we said we would do. Such was the neglect and outright mismanagement of those ministers opposite, including the member for Bulimba who served as the failed child safety minister, youth justice minister and domestic violence prevention minister from 2017 to 2020 and then was re-anointed the youth justice minister, once again failing the state and our most vulnerable children, from 2023-24. It is because of my time in the last eight months carrying out a deep dive into the department that I recommended to the Premier and to cabinet a commission of inquiry was needed to independently investigate the systemic failures that have led to a billion dollar failed child safety system and residential care system leading to a generation of traumatised children. In fact, I look forward to the former minister who has just made a contribution being called before the commission of inquiry and giving evidence about the way in which she conducted herself and failed in her obligations as a minister of the Crown.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms CAMM:** At the heart of this inquiry are our most vulnerable children. Given all the interjections, I think those who are guilty are a little offended. Children in this state deserve better, as do thousands of loving foster carers, kinship carers, dedicated frontline staff who work in out-of-home care and in the child safety system and all who seek to make a positive difference in young people's lives. The Crisafulli government's Safer Children, Safer Communities election commitment was the most comprehensive taken to an election. We have been clear from the start that at the heart of that commitment is restoring community safety, restoring safety to children and making the tough decisions that those opposite were not prepared to make.

The Crisafulli government will deliver a range of policy commitments, including the design and development of a secure care model. Those opposite, including the former minister, failed to deliver that on the back of the Carmody recommendations. It is a model which is fundamentally about safety: safety for children and safety for the community. In this budget we will provide \$10 million from a total \$50 million capital investment over three years for a secure care residential facility for young people who are a danger to themselves, a danger to others and a system that does not exist currently in this state to support them. Over the next four years we will also deliver other measures across our Safer Children, Safer Communities plan, including reforming the residential care system which has grown significantly in size and cost, costing this state \$1.2 billion a year. It is outrageous and delivers poor outcomes for our most vulnerable children. This form of placement supports some of Queensland's most vulnerable and highly complex children who often have traumatic backgrounds.

The former Labor government has a disgraceful record. In December 2015 there were 650 children living in residential care and almost a decade later that number has grown to over 2,200, including over 100 children aged five and under. I have visited residential care facilities where babies

are housed and those opposite should be ashamed. These figures are the highest of any state jurisdiction because those opposite, when they were in government, failed in policy and they failed in funding and implementing the recommendations of Carmody.

The Crisafulli government will restore respect and care back to families to ensure that out-of-home care and family-based care is a priority for vulnerable children. Most importantly, foster and kinship carers will be valued by the Crisafulli government. That is why we are funding \$28.8 million over four years to pilot a new professional foster care program for children with disabilities and complex needs who are currently in the residential care system. This recognises that there are children in this state in the out-of-home care system whose complex needs can be better met in family-based care and they deserve nothing less. They deserve permanency where it is possible, to give them security and the best chance of an upbringing with a family.

It is clear to me that carers need more support and were denied that support by those opposite. The budget also includes a \$1,500 boost for carers and guardians for children in care to participate in extracurricular activities, representing a total investment of \$70.1 million over three years. We know how important the sense of belonging and connection community sport and extracurricular activities like drama can provide. These payments will help support carers and children. The allocation of \$2.9 million in the budget will also start the move towards a dual carer model in residential care. I look forward to working in the sector to ensure those in the workforce are safe. This model has been specifically designed for those who raised concerns with me as the shadow minister for four years. The workplace in which many of these staff have had to work is concerning. No-one who goes to work should have themselves set on fire or be locked in a cupboard or a room, which is what has happened to youth and support workers across this state under the Labor government. We are well underway with the staging of this commitment as part of a \$10.9 million investment over four years.

Last time we were in this House I spoke on the connection between domestic and family violence and children entering the child safety system. Sadly, reported incidents of domestic and family violence continue to rise across the state, with an almost 220 per cent increase in the past decade. This is why this budget is delivering the foundations for landmark domestic and family violence reforms. I will not be deterred by the scaremongering of those opposite about the legislation that we will introduce into this House. From a total investment of \$379 million in 2025-26 we will begin to roll out our election commitments to better protect victims and hold perpetrators to account, something those opposite failed to do. In addition to this, we are funding the introduction of 150 GPS trackers later this year for the monitoring of high-risk domestic and family violence perpetrators. I am pleased to be leading, on behalf of our state government, the new way in which we will deliver GPS monitoring devices in a whole-of-government approach. We will also invest around \$27 million in this year and \$114.5 million over six years on other measures to prevent and respond to domestic and family violence. Those opposite never invested in prevention. I have gone back and looked at the figures. It is true: it did not exist. They did not invest in prevention. We can see where we are now.

The capacity of the state's 24/7 domestic and family violence crisis helpline will be doubled. I have already commenced work with DVConnect to ensure that their performance is lifted and victims are put first. Thanks to \$11.5 million of funding this year and \$31.3 million over the forwards, we will see more victims assisted and a new North Queensland place-based design that will deliver for North Queensland communities and in particular our First Nations communities with a nuanced approach that is culturally appropriate to First Nations communities, their families and individuals.

We have in place the systems and the policy that will deliver outcomes and now we have agreed to fund it, including hope hubs to support recovery. That will mean more families can access integrated support because recovery is the best form of prevention.

Alongside the Treasurer, I was pleased to support funding for Protea Place in Toowoomba after the devastating effects of the alleged murders that have occurred in that community. Sadly, the member for Southern Downs, James Lister, is not here as he is unwell at the moment, but with him I was pleased to support funding for WillowTree 37, which will receive \$1 million over four years. Those women do incredible things across the Warwick community.

Our neighbourhood centres do a wonderful job as do partners such as mens' sheds, Stationery Aid and food banks. I heard the Leader of the Opposition talk about food distribution. The other day I was pleased to open an incredible distribution hub for Queensland. I look forward to working with all of those providers, particularly on the back of community recovery and disaster recovery activities. This government has been able to successfully manage three back-to-back disasters in the interests of Queenslanders and they have been critical partners to that.

I have to give a big shout-out to my electorate. I do not get to sit in this place without the confidence and support of my constituents. I believe there is no greater place in Queensland than the Whitsunday electorate. From the tourism powerhouse of the reef and our beautifully stunning beaches right through to the wonderful agriculture sector with beef production, sugarcane farming—

**Mr Stevens:** Hamo!

**Ms CAMM:** I take that interjection; Hamilton Island is the jewel in the crown of the Whitsundays. The Whitsunday Skyway project shows that ecotourism is alive and well in this state. I am pleased that we have given Whitsunday Skyway a commitment of \$5 million. That project will be approved and it will be delivered, which is something those opposite could not achieve in eight years. Elizabeth Hackett stuck with this government and she stuck with her commitment to tourism. We will deliver that funding. It will be an incredible showcase that will come online with the 2032 Olympics when the Whitsunday hosts sailing.

There is plenty in the budget for locals, including funding for the upgrade to the Mackay-Bucasia Road. The member for Bundamba visited our electorates of Mackay and Whitsunday but he cannot pronounce the name of the road. He has probably never been on that road and has no idea. He is not welcome back in my community; I can assure you. We have made it clear that we will tell the truth to the locals. We have committed \$20 million to congestion-busting upgrades.

We have committed funding to grassroots clubs including Eimeo Surf Life Saving Club, the Proserpine Rugby League football club, Dolphins Football Club, Mackay Northern Beaches Bowls Club, Airlie Beach Bowls Club and the Proserpine and Bowen pool and we will be working with local governments. I give a shout-out to all the fishermen from across the Whitsunday electorate. For four years, I stood in this House and explained to multiple transport ministers the poorly designed and inept boat ramp facility in the Whitsundays. It is a joke and an embarrassment. The Crisafulli government will deliver a new four-lane boat-ramp facility at Shute Harbour. That commitment was well received by the community. It will be co-designed with local government. We will do the things that we said we would do. I congratulate the Treasurer on his budget.



**Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algeria—ALP) (8.03 pm): Budgets are about more than numbers. They are a reflection of values, priorities and vision. They declare in unmistakable terms who a government chooses to stand beside and who it leaves behind. This first Crisafulli LNP budget reveals a whole lot about the misaligned values of this government and even more about how they intend to treat Queenslanders.

This is a budget that is fundamentally built on broken promises. During the election campaign last year, the now Premier made a lot of promises to Queenslanders—a lot. He declared to Queenslanders, over and over, that he could be trusted to honour his promises because his word meant something. In fact, he said, ‘When I say something, it means something.’ However, this budget of broken promises reveals that when the Premier says something there is a good chance that it means absolutely nothing or, worse, it means the complete opposite.

The Premier said that if Queenslanders placed their trust in him then debt would be lower. What has he delivered in this government’s first budget? After three consecutive surpluses under Labor, supporting record investment in roads, hospitals, schools and cost-of-living relief, the Premier and his bumbling LNP Treasurer have managed to deliver a staggering \$8 billion deficit and a projected debt of \$205 billion by 2028, which is higher than under Labor. To make it worse, all of that debt does not equate to a pay-off for Queenslanders. We get higher debt but no comprehensive cost-of-living relief for Queensland households at a time when Queenslanders are still doing it tough; higher debt but delays to congestion-busting infrastructure projects that are critical to ensuring that people can get to and from work, home and school in a timely fashion.

The LNP described their budget as a boring budget but, in reality, it is a bad budget. It is a bad budget not only for my electorate of Algeria, and I will talk more about that shortly, but also for Queenslanders living with disability, elders and seniors, our arts and creative communities and First Nations peoples. I begin with people living with disability and seniors because that is where governments show what they really care about when no-one is watching.

Under the 2024 Labor budget, significant investment was made to respond to the findings of the disability royal commission and the NDIS review. Over \$160 million was committed. That was not simply a matter of compliance; it was an act of respect for the rights and dignity of Queenslanders with disability. It reflected a government that was listening to lived experience and taking action accordingly. What does the LNP 2025-26 budget offer? It is silent on critical investments like Labor’s commitment of \$15.1 million over four years to support strategic leadership, implementation and monitoring of

disability reforms. I have seen no mention of this in the LNP budget or the increased funding of \$5.5 million over five years and \$300,000 per annum ongoing for stakeholder engagement activities to develop and implement responses to the NDIS review and the recommendations of the royal commission and for the continuation of the delivery of languages services. I have seen no mention of this in the LNP budget. It is not there in.

There is no mention of the additional funding of \$3.8 million over four years and \$360,000 per annum ongoing for increasing data analysis and reporting capability for Queensland's disability data holdings. I have seen absolutely no mention of that in the LNP's bad blue budget. All of those budget line items that were committed over the forwards by Labor deserve to be fully funded and clearly listed to give our disability stakeholders peace of mind in knowing they are being supported.

What about our seniors? Labor invested more than \$10 billion in age-friendly infrastructure and health, targeted \$10 million for social isolation prevention and delivered \$34 million for elder abuse prevention because we believe older Queenslanders deserve dignity, safety and belonging. What is the LNP's approach? Not much at all in terms of targeted support for older Queenslanders.

As for the arts, it is an incredibly bad budget for such a critical part of the economy. In his budget speech, the Treasurer spruiked the LNP's investment in Screen Queensland, for instance. What he failed to recognise was that the LNP's investment this year is not that much different to the Labor investment last year. Last year, Screen Queensland received funding of \$57.6 million, \$38 million limited life and \$5 million capital grants funding to help support film and television projects, build a pipeline of exciting screen projects and support an industry that continues to grow opportunities in Queensland.

The arts are a critical part of our economy but they are also important in terms of the industry's cultural impact, social connection and the sense of identity and place that no other sector can provide. That is why it is incredibly disappointing to see a real lack of any kind of vision for the arts in this bad LNP budget, particularly when we consider the important role they will play in the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games when the world will be watching and Queensland's unique cultural identity will be on display. This is an arts budget of beige—and not the stylish version, either. It is uninspired, unimaginative and devoid of any cultural ambition for Queensland. It also ignores the strategic \$50 million of investment over four years under the second action plan of Labor's Creative Together 10-year road map for arts, culture and creativity in Queensland.

I turn to my portfolio responsibility of closing the gap and reconciliation. Sadly, since day one what we have seen from this LNP government has been a systematic attempt to erase Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from the Queensland landscape. This LNP government is hell-bent on winding back any progress made regarding reconciliation in this state. This government is determined to undermine the impact of years of cross-cultural training and agreed protocols designed to ensure government agencies are able to effectively serve some of the most vulnerable people in our community. This government appears to be finding new ways every day to unpick rights that have been hard fought for by many generations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in this state.

Just this morning we saw a leaked directive from a government department stating that they 'are no longer permitted to add additional departmental branding elements, such as the First Nations acknowledgment' to signature blocks. This directive represents the latest in the barrage of attacks on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from this LNP government and their absolutely clueless minister.

On day one they made the shocking decision to rush through the repeal of the Path to Treaty legislation, dismantling the Truth-Telling and Healing Inquiry after just a few hours of debate. The Premier said he would treat Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with respect and decency on this matter. At the state's recent reconciliation awards—and I believe the minister responsible was present as well—a presenter on stage so eloquently described it as hurt and pain inflicted on First Nations people. The minister responsible for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partnerships in this state supported the repealing of the Path to Treaty Act and declared that the LNP would be repurposing the centrally-held \$300 million Path to Treaty investment fund to focus on Closing the Gap projects.

While that sounds noble, the projects the member has already announced against that funding would ordinarily be met through responsible departments. For instance, the Indigenous Councils Critical Infrastructure Program saw Labor invest \$120 million from the local government department for critical water, wastewater and solid waste infrastructure to Queensland Indigenous councils such as Kowanyama, Aurukun, Woorabinda, Yarrabah and Wujal Wujal, to name a few. Last year the former Labor government announced \$61.6 million over two years to continue delivery of the needs-based

Indigenous council's funding program and it was funded from the local government department. The \$172 million in capital grants and property, plant and equipment for social housing dwellings in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities was funded through the department of housing last year. I have named just a few. I could go on, but you get the idea.

Unfortunately, it would appear that the redirected \$108 million that the minister has allocated does not have its own budget line but rather seems to be plugging holes in the budgets of various departments that should be allocating funds to local councils, as they always have and as they do for any other local council in Queensland. It is pretty clear that the rebranded Closing the Gap Priorities Fund is about funding business as usual. It is about plugging gaps in the government's budget, not investing in new ways to address important issues to help close the gap in life outcomes of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders in this state.

As it stands, more than a third of that Closing the Gap Priorities Fund has already been committed by the minister, supporting just over two per cent of the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population. This is destined to be a hopeless approach to meeting this state's obligations under the national Closing the Gap agreement. Maybe that is what they want.

With more and more families choosing to call the Algester electorate home, I have been proud to secure continuous investment in our schools, roads and public transport over the past 10 years. I have been able to secure over \$100 million of funding for Algester electorate schools in that time, millions of dollars for public transport infrastructure as well as more than half a billion dollars for road upgrades that saw the increasingly busy Beaudesert Road and Logan Motorway upgraded to help ease congestion. Of course, in a growing part of Brisbane there is more to do.

Unfortunately, this bad LNP budget has completely ignored my community. There is no new funding at all for schools in the Algester electorate. That means that in this growing community there will be no new or upgraded classrooms, toilet blocks or playgrounds. Our schools have absolutely been left behind by this LNP government.

Education was not the only shortfall. This LNP budget cuts billions and has failed to plan for congestion-busting projects. This is a budget that will make it harder for Queenslanders to get around. If the LNP were serious about busting congestion and boosting traffic flow through the suburbs, one of the first steps would have been ensuring locals have access to bus services along with making clear the costings and the timelines for road upgrades.

If increasing services or at least maintaining the current services was not viable, the LNP could have invested in delivering better road networks. For example, almost 60,000 vehicles, including cars, buses and freight vehicles, travel along Beaudesert Road in Algester daily. This includes a significant number of heavy vehicles, with over 5,100 recorded daily. The high traffic volume contributes to congestion at intersections like Beaudesert Road and Illaweena Street, which is why the former Labor government—and I was proud to announce this with the member for Stretton and see it completed—delivered over \$30 million to upgrade the Beaudesert Road, Algester Road and Illaweena Street intersection.

**Mr Power:** Great benefit for Logan too.

**Ms ENOCH:** I take that interjection from the member for Logan. It made a huge difference to his electorate also. This upgrade has relieved traffic pressure and has allowed locals to get to and from their locations quicker and safer. The next phase of this project could have provided more congestion relief by extending the upgrades further along Beaudesert Road, but that is not clear in the QTRIP documents.

Further, the Salisbury to Beaudesert rail line is quoted on page 24 of QTRIP, but there is no construction timeline. When will the LNP deliver congestion-busting infrastructure like that rail line? There is no generational infrastructure, as the Premier declared, but there is generational congestion and a failure to plan for the future.


I will acknowledge, though, that this budget does allocate some money to the Algester electorate—\$400,000. That goes to the Souths Acacia Ridge Rugby League Football Club—one of my favourites—and the Serbian Australian Community Centre in Willawong for sports infrastructure. That \$400,000 is all that was announced in the budget for the Algester electorate.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Ms ENOCH:** I had to actually fight for that funding to make sure that it was going to happen. I had to write to the minister. I will recognise the minister. He did write back to me. He is one of the only ones who has written back to me.

While these infrastructure upgrades are welcome news to those sporting clubs, the budget does little for the average Algeester household. The cost of living remains a priority for locals in my electorate, and they tell me that every day. Garath from Parkinson said, 'There are six adults living in our household, so we really depend on the cost-of-living relief. With that being cut, it's going to hit our budget hard and we'll definitely have to cut back in other areas.' Shelley from Algeester told me, 'As a single mum of two, my budget was already tight, so the electricity rebate and the rego reduction made a real difference to my budget. It's very disappointing that there's no cost-of-living relief at all.'

As I said at the start, budgets are more than numbers; they are reflections of values, priorities, vision and whom a government chooses to stand beside or leave behind. It is pretty clear that this bad budget of broken promises has sadly left behind many Queenslanders.

 **Hon. FS SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (Minister for Women and Women's Economic Security, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Multiculturalism) (8.17 pm): It is a strong society underpinned by strong local communities where everyone has the opportunity to participate in work and have a sense of belonging that we seek and we support. For too long Labor acted as though they were the sole custodians of equality and fairness, but it was a smokescreen. All over the state there are gaping holes of inequality for women, First Australians and multicultural groups. There was no closing the gap under Labor.

I will call out the previous speaker, who does not know what her previous government did. I refer her to a question on notice with regard to the \$300 million Path to Treaty Fund, which was part of the Consolidated Fund with Queensland Treasury Corporation. She does not understand it. She does not get it. I refer her to answer No. 359, and perhaps she will take some instruction from the way it was structured by a previous government. She does not get it and still does not understand. For too long Labor acted as though they were the sole custodians and they left gaping holes—

**Ms ENOCH:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at what the minister has said and I ask her to withdraw.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Hunt): Member for Maroochydore, the member has taken personal offence. I ask you to withdraw.

**Ms SIMPSON:** I withdraw as per the protocol. Question on notice No. 359 will provide some explanation to those opposite who do not understand what their government failed to do. We came to power and found that there were communities that did not have any funding for clean drinking water, which is completely contrary to what the previous minister said. We found there was no funding for fixing—

**Ms Enoch:** There was funding there.

**Ms SIMPSON:** Well, I have talked to the communities on the ground. The former minister can try to interrupt my speech but it is not the truth. The local Indigenous community leaders said to me that they did not have funding for clean drinking water or to upgrade their services. The previous Labor government did not provide the funding. They turned on the tap for lawyers, but they did not turn on the tap for clean drinking water in many of our most rural and remote communities. They were out of touch with those who were out of sight from 1 William Street. They forgot them. They left them alone. They left them without frontline services. It is quite clear they were not funded. That is why we have allocated funding for those frontline services for the forgotten people under Labor in those rural and remote areas.

Everywhere I go across Queensland I am hearing about and seeing the need to strengthen the economic security and financial literacy of women. The LNP's foundations for a fresh start include a \$20 million Returning to Work package over four years to empower women who are re-entering the workforce, complemented by the development of Queensland's first ever Women's Economic Security Strategy. In addition, the \$540,000 Empowering Queensland Women grants program will support community groups and organisations to improve the economic security of women and girls.

Under Labor, millions were spent without assessment of benefit, and many women were locked out of opportunities to work. A gender pay gap continues to exist in Queensland—around 10.8 per cent across the state at the end of last year. The Women's Economic Security Strategy will be a visionary and inclusive road map to be built with women on behalf of women in direct partnership to help unlock their financial security. We want them to have financial literacy to ensure that economic security continues. This is not at the expense of men and boys. Their voices matter and are valued, but the Crisafulli government wants Queensland women to know that their efforts are seen, recognised and appreciated.

The Crisafulli government is also committed to taking real action to repair the damage from Labor's neglect by prioritising infrastructure and essential services for our First Peoples, particularly in the most discrete and rural communities, where for 10 years they were out of sight and out of mind. It is like a scene from *Yes Minister*. Labor splashed cash—\$11.5 million—to build a jetty at Yarrabah. It was supposed to bring in the ferries from Cairns, except they built the jetty too short and too shallow and they cannot get the boats in. It is a very expensive place to fish, but it does not do what it was supposed to do.

Meanwhile, the previous Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander affairs minister did not even speak about clean drinking water in those discrete areas. When we searched the *Hansard*, we could not find any mention of it. The only tap they turned on was for their Labor mates and polities, and certainly for the lawyers, but not for those who needed it most. Those frontline services need tangible actions.

I have met with more than 90 stakeholder groups and individuals on the front line, hearing their stories and concerns. They have not had funding for these frontline services that I have talked about—in Aurukun, in Kowanyama and in Woorabinda, which had been on boiled water alert since last year. We are still waiting on the federal government to match that funding as it is necessary to get the best solution for Woorabinda. We have been waiting more than six months for them to step up and do it. The previous state Labor government did not provide funding for this.

In addition, we are funding \$6.8 million in increased support for the Torres Strait Islander traditional child rearing practice act 2020, over the next four years, which Labor had not funded beyond this year.

Furthermore, we are supporting a diversity of cultures across the state. I am so delighted that this budget delivers a \$5 million boost for Multicultural Connect grants, which will help these diverse communities build social cohesion while still being able to celebrate their unique identity and be part of our community. We are also funding the Ethnic Communities Council of Queensland, the ECCQ, with an additional \$1.5 million, recognising the work that they do to create social cohesion, helping people to overcome the social and economic barriers to full participation in our community. In addition, we are creating a new category of multicultural grants for intercultural sporting events. We know that sport brings cultures together, so for the first time these events will have a dedicated support pathway.

I want to talk about the Sunshine Coast. I am so fortunate to be the member for Maroochydore. This budget is exciting because, in the coast's history, this is the biggest ever expenditure on the infrastructure we need. There will be transport infrastructure built for the Olympics but it is legacy infrastructure that is needed for the Sunshine Coast today and into the future. It is exciting. The Wave, which is rail and metro, will connect Beerwah to Caloundra to Birtinya and over the Mooloolah River—there will be a new Mooloolah River crossing with the Mooloolah River Interchange, which Labor did not fund. In fact, federal Labor cut the funding for that, but we are funding it. The Wave will then continue to the Maroochydore CBD and to the Sunshine Coast airport. We did not promise that it would go to the airport. We are going over and above in connecting right through to the Sunshine Coast airport with the Wave, which is rail and metro. Connecting to the airport was not previously done by Labor. We are getting it done and it is exciting. The community has welcomed it.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Hunt): Order, members! Stop quarrelling across the chamber.

**Ms SIMPSON:** I want to give a shout-out to the fact that we have allocated \$425,000 to the Mount Coolum National Park amenities. That is a relief! That pun is totally intended. There is \$1 million to protect beautiful Mudjimba Island, a coral ecosystem with safe moorings and links to marine education to grow the next generation of young marine biologists.

I am so delighted that the Maroochydore Rugby Union Club wins \$625,000 to keep the lights on and to keep kids playing sport. There is also \$124,000 for boundary fencing at Mooloolaba State School. There have been some great little preppies who know how to get over the fence. This will keep them safe and keep some other unsafe people out. It is great to have that work being done.

This budget ensures that every Queensland—no matter their gender and no matter where they live or where they come from—feels welcome and empowered to contribute to our state's way of life. The 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—*

This government knows that women can achieve incredible things for themselves and for our state—if they get the right support. Too many women feel that they work twice as hard for less pay, but we want them to feel seen, recognised, and appreciated in

all their roles, be it as a parent, unpaid carer, business owner, or employee—women from all walks of life deserve to have their contributions celebrated.

That's why we're designing the first ever Queensland Women's Economic Security Strategy in partnership with Queensland women, so that we can get the insights we need to make sure women are being supported at the grassroots to achieve their very best. As the first minister for Women's Economic Security, this is an initiative that I am proud to spearhead.

We've held forums in Cairns, Rockhampton, and Moreton Bay, consulting with women about their lived experiences of economic security. One stakeholder shared with a member of my team that she sensed a power imbalance in her troubled relationship when she became a mother, with her partner becoming the main financial provider. She felt her economic security and her safety were at risk.

Sadly, this isn't an isolated story. In 2023, Queensland women made up 95% of single parents who received Parenting Payment, having principal care of children under eight years of age. Many Queensland women juggle carer roles and work, with many taking up casual work to manage the juggle, but this results in their average weekly earnings being 32% less than male counterparts.

In addition, women in discrete, regional, and remote communities are negatively affected by lack of access to services and opportunities.

With our Women's Economic Security Strategy, we will have a logical roadmap to achieving economic security for Queensland women.

We are allocating \$20 million over the next four years to provide vouchers to women preparing to re-enter the workforce after time away for unpaid carer responsibilities. This will provide them with essentials like clothing, equipment, and training to help launch them into active participation.

This is not just about earnings—it's about uplifting financial literacy skills. We want all women to have the opportunity to develop their financial knowledge, so they can forward plan and ensure their own economic security without having to rely on others.

We believe in paying tribute to the strong women who have fought for change before us. That's why the Crisafulli Government will also see the construction of a statue to immortalise the legacy of the late Dr Merle Thornton AM—a trailblazer for gender equality and social justice.

The Crisafulli team knows that whole-of-government approaches are most effective. Minister Nicholls and the Health department are enhancing breast cancer screening services and carrying out free Kindy Kids Health Checks. This will have huge benefits for Queensland women. As part of the Women and Girls Health Strategy, \$11.4 million is funded over four years to the Women's Wellbeing Line to support women who are geographically or socially isolated.

Minister O'Connor and the Department of Housing and Public Works are boosting and improving social and community housing, empowering women who have survived domestic and family violence to rebuild in safe environments. This works hand in hand with Minister Camm's and Minister Purdie's measures to tackle domestic violence and elder abuse.

The Crisafulli Government plans to deliver 2,000 new social and community homes by 2028, with a target of 53,500 new social homes by 2044. Women across the state will benefit from the \$5.6 billion investment into housing, and the \$366 million boost to crisis and temporary accommodation. This budget mobilises the first \$1 million of the Residential Activation Fund to build more homes sooner.

We've axed a tax, abolishing stamp duty on 1st home buyers buying or building a new home, and investing in a "boost to buy" scheme to give homeowners a leg up into the property market.

We also want our First People's to have the opportunity to buy their own home and have worked with the Palm Island Council on a "Rent To Buy" scheme. I acknowledge my colleague the Minister for Housing Sam O'Connor for his work on this.

The Crisafulli government recognises the multiple layers of disadvantage Indigenous communities face, including lower rates of home ownership, poor access to basic amenities and services, lower life expectancy, and lower literacy. When speaking with Territa Dick, Mayor Kowanyama, she explained to me that "it's not a gap, it's a hole." There are gaping holes of need in many Indigenous communities, and we are committed to partnering with community leaders to lift standards of living, starting with clean water.

I want to acknowledge Minister Ann Leahy on providing more than \$41 million over five years to deliver vital upgrades to critical water and sewerage infrastructure in remote First Australians' communities across the Torres Strait. This will help improve health outcomes for communities. This commitment is subject to Australian Government agreement.

I've met many of the current Mayors, Councillors and CEOs and been on the ground in their communities, and I've seen first-hand the determination, passion and dedication they collectively share. That is why our government is working to improve resources for these communities—so that all First Australians can achieve the outcomes they deserve.

When I visited the women's shelter in Yarrabah staff told me about 14 people living in the one house, where the kids are too tired to go to school the next day and where women dread the nights when the footy is on because that's when domestic violence spikes. All people have a right to be safe in their homes and communities. Living conditions affect student outcomes, with the 2024 NAPLAN results showing that 36% of Indigenous Year 3 students in Queensland need additional reading support.

When meeting with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, I was inspired by the pride they have in their communities and their commitment to self-determination. We are committed to engaging with leaders, finding solutions and delivering real projects around health, housing and education to reduce disadvantage in remote and discrete indigenous communities.

We are putting in the work to understand the grassroots needs of First Peoples, ensuring a focus on programs and policies that support practical reconciliation by working alongside local leaders and communities to lift living standards in Aboriginal and Torres

Strait Islander communities, particularly in remote areas. The dignity of a roof over their head and water that is safe to drink are fundamental rights that all Queenslanders should have—no matter where they live—and that is a priority to the Crisafulli government.

I'd like to acknowledge Minister Powell for the new First Australian economic empowerment initiatives in the tourism portfolio, and Minister Gerber for the youth justice intervention programs that will encourage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youths out of negative situations. We have also allocated \$3 million to the Buwu education program, in the Member for Nanango's electorate, a program she has championed as it works effectively to keep Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander kids engaged with learning and to get them the education they deserve.

My time on Country and in the community has taught me the importance of personal stories, language, and culture. That's why we are committing \$285 000 in grants to preserve Indigenous language, a key part of culture and a vital part of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identity.

We are also working with the Personal Histories Unit and State Archives to continue making records available, so that First Australians can access the resources they need to know their story, and to share their story to the future generations of Queenslanders.

More than 1 in 5 Queenslanders were born overseas. When multicultural communities thrive, everyone wins. That's why an extra \$1.5 million has been allocated to ECCQ to expand their capacity to support these communities—especially those in regional Queensland.

This government is committed to refreshing the Multicultural Policy to get the work done that truly matters—getting people into jobs, setting up businesses and enriching Queensland economy.

We are committed to supporting multicultural families who aspire for a better future. We value families and freedom of expression, religion, association, and media. This government is committed to supporting initiative and enterprise so that economies and communities can be strengthened.

The importance of a sense of community and social cohesion was highlighted earlier this year during Cyclone Alfred. The volunteerism of our multicultural communities was visible, cooking meals, filling sandbags and helping fellow Queenslanders.

The issue of skills recognition for multicultural communities is a priority. A 2022 report by Settlement Services International (SSI) states that if this issue were to be addressed, it would boost GDP. Wherever I go across the state, I hear stories from people who have moved here with the knowledge and skills that our state needs, but they cannot always use those skills.

Bridging this gap is critical, to make sure we are delivering for every Queenslanders.

Bridging gaps is one of the core reasons why Multicultural Affairs Queensland funds multicultural festivals. We are including intercultural sporting events in the 2025 round of funding as these events bring communities together. This will ensure that for the first time QACC's Africa Cup of Nations tournament, that the Premier attended last year, and the Challenge of Nations netball tournament have pathways to funding.

This budget makes tangible investments into Queensland, opening up opportunities for initiative, enterprise and aspiration.


**Mr POWER:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The protocol is that when members withdraw they do so unconditionally. The member was a former Speaker and did not withdraw unconditionally. I ask her to stand up and do the right thing and to withdraw unconditionally.

**Ms SIMPSON:** I did withdraw earlier. The member was not listening. I followed the protocol.

**Mr POWER:** You did not do it unconditionally. You did it with—

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr O'Shea):** I ask the member for Logan to sit down while I deal with this. Member for Maroochydore, what you said was, 'I withdraw as per the protocol.' Withdraw requires a full and unconditional withdrawal. I would ask you just to state that you withdraw.

**Ms SIMPSON:** I apologise if I should not have mentioned the protocol. I certainly withdrew and that was the intention that was understood. I take your point and I withdraw again.

 **Ms McMILLAN (Mansfield—ALP) (8.28 pm):** I rise tonight to speak on behalf of the hardworking people of the Mansfield electorate—the nurses, doctors, teachers, police officers, university staff, child safety workers, small business owners, lawyers and public servants who are all the backbone of my community. They are working parents, raising families with busy lives, supporting our economy and relying on the government to make life more affordable and services more accessible. What matters most to my community is clear. It is access to quality health care close to home, properly resourced and high-quality schools that support every child and their learning—education is valued deeply—and relief for the growing cost-of-living pressures that we all experience.

These are not luxuries: they are the basic expectations of a fair, decent and equitable society. What we have instead is a budget that strips away cost-of-living relief for millions of Queenslanders. What we have is a budget that slashes billions from vital congestion-reducing infrastructure, a budget that will leave people waiting even longer for medical care, a budget that does nothing to solve the shortage of social and affordable housing, and a budget that fails to invest in growing our frontline police force. It is a budget that will make getting around Queensland so much more difficult. It is a budget that

will make it harder for Queenslanders to get ahead in life. Working families are now being left behind while essential services are stretched thin. What this budget does deliver for everyday working Queenslanders is higher energy bills and higher car rego.

Despite these broken promises, this budget delivers some important outcomes for my community. I am proud to say that many of them are the result of years of my advocacy and broader community support. There is \$30 million to upgrade the Mount Gravatt Police Station, with \$1 million allocated this year to begin planning.

**Mr Ryan:** You are spot-on. You were a big advocate for that.

**Ms McMILLAN:** I take the interjection from the former police minister. This is something we had planned for for many, many years and I thank him for his work and his advocacy.

This will improve frontline safety and resources for our hardworking police, which is something that we have fought for, as I said, for many years. There is: \$4.4 million for a new multipurpose court and ramp at Wishart State School, ensuring inclusive, modern facilities for students; \$2 million for the Mount Gravatt Men's Shed, a project supporting mental health, social connection and community wellbeing; a \$200 million investment in the QEII Jubilee Hospital and \$57 million, including a hospital expansion and a new car park. This is vital for meeting the demand across Brisbane's south. We know how important more quality public health services are for our community. The Crisafulli LNP government promised to deliver critical health infrastructure on time and on budget, and I will be holding them to account. There is also: \$600,000 for Lovewell Cafe, a social enterprise supporting women rebuilding their lives; \$200,000 for MacGregor State High School, which supports families across the Mansfield and Toohey electorates; \$62.5 million to continue Labor's FairPlay vouchers—now under a new name, Play On! vouchers—and 50-cent public transport fares, a great Labor policy.

These wins do not just happen. They happen because I work with my Labor colleagues, local community leaders, parents, small businesses and sporting clubs to make sure our community's voice is heard. However, a lack of investment in public education is my deepest disappointment. As a former school principal, I know exactly how much our public schools stretch every dollar to support their students. That is why it is so disappointing personally and professionally to see how many of our schools were left out of this budget.

**Mr J Kelly:** They got nothing.

**Ms McMILLAN:** I take that interjection from my good friend, the member for Greenslopes. They got nothing. In 2024-25 Labor invested nearly \$9 million into Mansfield schools infrastructure. We funded classroom upgrades, administration refurbishments, car parks and science labs. Since being elected in 2017, I fought hard for the more than \$200 million investment in our local schools. The Mansfield electorate expects world-class local public schools. It is the reason families move to my electorate. Local parents are educated. They understand the importance and the value of a quality education. As a principal, I spent many years advocating for safe, inclusive and future focused learning environments. As a member of parliament, I will not accept this failed investment in our local schools. Our young people deserve real investment into their futures. Our community has grown to expect this. Families in my electorate will not be happy.

The budget fails to deliver information on the critical local projects our community has asked for and been waiting on. Importantly, I cannot see information on the Ham and Broadwater Road intersection safety upgrade. This is an intersection that sees thousands of students and families move through every day. It has been a top local concern for many years. As the local member, I proudly secured \$2.5 million from the former Labor government to get this project off the ground. Funding was in place. The commitment was made, but under the LNP—nothing. No confirmation, no clarity, no time line, despite the LNP candidate matching my commitment. My community would like to know the progress of this project and where that funding is.

Beyond this, I have not identified funding for the Mount Gravatt Showgrounds, Vultures AFC, the Mount Gravatt Bowls Club, the Mount Gravatt Hawks, Easts Leagues Club or C&K kindy. The funding commitments that I made are not just wish lists; they are the backbone of community life in the Mansfield electorate. When they go underfunded we all feel the loss. This budget delivers a mixed result for Mansfield. Many of the good outcomes are Labor's legacy, and it is my continued advocacy that will ensure schools, sporting clubs and families in the Mansfield electorate are not left behind. We do not just need infrastructure; we need heart. We need a government that listens, that acts and delivers—not just for headlines, but for real people. I will keep doing what I have always done, which is showing up, speaking out and standing up for the people of the Mansfield electorate.

I now turn to areas of my shadow portfolio. I will deal firstly with child safety. This budget does not deliver what the government promised. While it nods towards election commitments, it is worryingly light on detail, particularly around one of the government's headline pledges to boost the number of child safety officers by 20 per cent. Is this another undercooked election commitment that cannot be followed through? Workforce and staffing shortages remain one of the biggest challenges facing the child safety sector, yet this budget lacks details to show there is support for planning or genuine workforce development.

I have spoken to university leaders across Queensland, who report that this LNP government has not consulted with them about the pipeline for the child safety workforce of tomorrow. Nor have they spoken to them about contemporary research or evidence-based policy. The LNP government appears to have no plan and no foundation for building a sustainable and skilled workforce.

In their response to the budget, PeakCare notes that this budget provides no mention of increased support or allowance rates for carers. These carers are vital to the system, especially in reducing reliance on residential care. The government says it values carers, but it is failing to invest in them. Meanwhile, the New South Wales Labor government has just delivered a 20 per cent increase in the foster care allowance. Queensland should not fall behind. You cannot increase the number of frontline officers without also investing in the support staff they require. This is a short-sighted approach, and ultimately it is the most vulnerable children of Queensland who suffer. The government also promised to support carers and families by introducing an independent complaints escalation process. That was a clear and specific commitment, yet there is no dedicated funding, no implementation time line and no details.

The government promised \$383 million for their Safer Children, Safer Communities election commitment. For child safety, this budget delivers less than half of that—around \$164 million for their Safer Children, Safer Communities promise. Where is the rest of the funding? It could be used to fund additional child safety officers, to implement the dual carer model or to create the promised independent complaints process. The LNP came to the election with the promise of a 24-hour dual carer supervision model for residential care, but instead of delivering dual carers this budget delivers a plan for a framework. Queenslanders are being told they will need to wait four years for a framework. This is another plan instead of real action.

First Nations children, who are significantly over-represented in the child safety system, have been overlooked in this budget. This budget includes no mention of targeted investment in early intervention or prevention programs for First Nations families. Despite the rhetoric of holding ministers to account for delivering their Service Delivery Statements targets, they remain virtually unchanged from the previous year. Ministers say they are committed to high standards, but this budget does not reflect that.

Sadly, the budget fails to address three significant primary preventive approaches: firstly, whole-of-family case management; secondly, collaboration between youth services, homelessness services and Child Safety; and, thirdly, there is no vision or contemporary approaches to deal with the clear, evidenced link between domestic and family violence, school attendance, disengagement from school and children in care.

I turn now to domestic and family violence. Of note, no significant new funding has been announced to boost frontline services. The Queensland Council of Social Service has stated, 'While police capacity is being bolstered, the workforce that supports victim survivors has been left to deal with increasing demand, without proper funding.'

I acknowledge the funding provided to the DVConnect Womensline and Mensline. The opposition will be watching closely to ensure the outcome of the inquiry into DVConnect strengthens these critical services. I commend the federal Labor government for their ongoing support to the national partnership agreement on family, domestic and sexual violence responses and the Queensland government's \$75 million matched contribution.

We note the lack of detail in the budget on implementing the recommendations of the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce and well-researched reports by leading specialists, stakeholders and those with lived experience. These recommendations cannot be forgotten. We do not need another review or report; we need real action, real investment and the full implementation of the remaining recommendations of the *Hear her voice* reports 1 and 2. Women's and children's lives are at risk.


While details were not available in the budget, I hope that the minister confirms funding to services such as The Bangle Foundation and the Red Rose Foundation. These localised services do incredible work that is supported by both sides of this House, and I want to make sure they are not

forgotten. The opposition will continue to advocate for greater investment in: primary prevention; early intervention; school education programs specifically dealing with power imbalance, pornography and misogyny; crisis support; behaviour change; and healing services. These measures are essential to breaking the cycle of domestic and family violence in our communities and addressing its widespread impacts across Queensland.

I turn to the communities portfolio. Neighbourhood Centres Queensland have made it clear that they need funding for 10 new neighbourhood centres. From what I can see, the budget provides for just one new neighbourhood centre that Labor had not already committed funding to. I acknowledge that the government has committed to continue the Labor initiative of the \$200 FairPlay vouchers, rebranded as Play On!, and that is a positive thing.

On a final note, I want to acknowledge the absence of designated funding for LGBTQIA+ organisations in this budget, including the LGBTQIA+ Alliance. This alliance plays a vital role, and I urge the government to ensure it continues to receive funding and support.

We on this side of the House will continue to hold the government accountable for not just making promises but delivering real outcomes for Queenslanders, especially for those most vulnerable Queenslanders across the state. This blue budget fails to articulate a vision for a future Queensland. This blue budget fails to deliver for our most vulnerable Queenslanders. This blue budget fails to respond to the most significant issues facing the Western world, and that is the growing gap of inequity and inequality.

 **Mr FIELD** (Capalaba—LNP) (8.43 pm): I rise to offer my enthusiastic support for the Appropriation Bill 2025 which was introduced by the Hon. David Janetzki, Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership. This is the first budget handed down by the Crisafulli government since we were elected eight months ago and it is a key step in repairing our state's finances. I want to acknowledge the hard work of the Treasurer in compiling this bill after inheriting a mess of overspending, deficits and unfunded promises from those opposite.

The spending that is laid out in this budget is sensible, measured and necessary to keep pace with Queensland's growing population. Notably absent from this budget are the two Labor taxes that the LNP have axed—the patients tax and stamp duty for first home buyers. This is because we understand that you cannot keep slugging Queenslanders with new taxes to fund out-of-control spending. We are investing for the future in our state's essential services and laying the groundwork to turn the tide on the youth crime crisis, the health crisis and the housing crisis.

In my short time as the member for Capalaba, I am proud to say that all of my election commitments have been funded with this first budget—as have all of the Crisafulli government's commitments. A massively important project that has long been a source of frustration for locals is the restoration of the Leslie Harrison Dam gates. The effects from the lack of gates on this dam became abundantly clear during ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred early this year when the Capalaba Warriors Rugby League Football Club, the Bulldogs Football Club and the Capalaba greyhound facility experienced higher floodwaters than the 2011 floods when the gates were still on the dam. Therefore, it is fantastic that a business case for the dam gates is getting underway. This has finally started the process that had stalled for so many years under Labor.

I am also pleased to report that construction of the \$1 million amenities block upgrade at the Birkdale South State School will commence this school holidays. Alongside this, there is funding for upgrades at Hilliard State School and Alexandra Hills State High School as well as providing security for the future of The Sycamore School. This delivers on key local election commitments. The facilities upgrades at Birkdale South State School will ensure that every student is more comfortable at school and able to focus on doing their very best in the classroom and beyond.

There are a whole host of other funding allocations across various local community groups, sporting organisations, small businesses and training organisations. I have listened to my local community and it is wonderful to be able to help deliver funding that can support the growth of a business or community organisation in the Capalaba electorate. This includes the delivery of a \$12 million allocation to fund the new RSPCA Wildlife Hospital and Centre of Excellence at IndigiScapes in Capalaba. Not only will this new facility be able to support the growing demand for wildlife rescue and care, but it will also provide opportunities for education within our local community.

Perhaps the most exciting announcement in this budget for my community is that funding has been allocated to complete investigations into the Metro expansion to Capalaba. It is terrific to be the member who is getting to work on this key piece of transport infrastructure after years of announcements and no action. On top of this, planning studies are already underway for the Tingalpa

Creek bridge duplication project which has been a bottleneck cause of congestion for far too many years. This delivery proves just how committed the Crisafulli government is to improving transport in the Redlands.

Looking beyond this budget, I am focused on continuing to advocate for improvements to local infrastructure to keep pace with the growing Redlands population. This will be especially vital as we go full steam ahead into the preparations for the Olympic and Paralympic Games. I am also delivering for improved community safety, with \$600,000 for anti motor vehicle theft devices in my electorate of Capalaba. This funding will go a long way to improving the capabilities of our local cops in clamping down on motor vehicle theft.

Statewide, the Crisafulli government is giving Queenslanders a fresh start in even more ways, with early intervention programs to divert at-risk youth before they become hardened criminals. Our government's landmark Gold Standard Early Intervention programs are making a substantial investment to support at-risk youth and tackle the cycle of youth crime before it can begin. This involves a \$115 million investment, including a \$50 million Kickstarter grants program which has already completed the first round of applications. This funding provides financial support to community organisations which can deliver a program that focuses on reducing crime, identifying and addressing the range of risks and needs for young people, and supporting a young person's reengagement with education, employment or training. This forms part of a broader holistic \$5.2 billion package to boost police resources, to create better opportunities for rehabilitation of offenders and to make Queensland communities safer.

There has also been plenty of bluster and talk recently from the opposition regarding short-term sugar hits which were handed out last year in a desperate attempt to cling onto power. They wanted Queenslanders to forget who dragged them through a decade of chaos and crisis with skyrocketing power prices and cost-of-living pressures. They thought it could all be solved with one-off payments without addressing any of the issues head-on.

The LNP supported the payments to help keep Queenslanders' heads above water, but there was never any funding allocated by the previous government to continue these temporary measures. The opposition's pretend outrage at this is totally disingenuous and it exposes for everyone to see just how devoid of policy ideas the Labor Party are.

The 2025-26 budget delivers cost-of-living relief that is responsible, recurrent, targeted and timely. I am proud to be part of that government which is serious about fixing the countless underlying issues that have been allowed to grow unabated over the past decade and will do so while taking our debt situation seriously.

There are a lot of reasons to be excited about this budget and it strikes the right balance of necessary investments while keeping spending at a mature and sensible level. Significant investment is being made across Queensland to address Labor's crises in areas such as health, housing and crime. Locally, there have been several positive developments for the community, including funding for key infrastructure upgrades, improvements to transport connections and enhancements to local educational facilities. I know how important these projects are to my constituents, and it is a great privilege to get to work on them as part of the Crisafulli government.

I will always go further to fight for my community and will continue to advocate for greater investments in the Capalaba electorate, and I do not plan on stopping that mission any time soon.

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—*

We have plenty to be excited about in this Budget for our first home buyers, with the Crisafulli Government scrapping stamp duty on new homes and expanding the \$30,000 First Home Owners Grant for a further 12 months. Under the former Labor Government, this grant was due to revert to \$15,000 at the end of the 2024/25 financial year, so I am glad we have been able to deliver funding for a further year. So far, first home buyers have saved an average of \$16,996, helping to reduce their upfront costs and easing the financial strain that comes with buying a home. This complements the new \$165 million Boost to Buy program, which is a nation leading shared equity scheme. Boost to Buy will be available for singles earning up to \$150,000 or two-adult households earning up to \$225,000 and will encompass homes up to the value of \$1 million. This will make the great Australian dream of being a homeowner more accessible and it gives hope to young people in Queensland who are struggling to achieve that dream.

Not only are we making it more affordable to get into a first home, but the Crisafulli LNP Government are delivering more supply into the housing market through the landmark \$2 billion Residential Activation Fund (RAF). In the first round alone of the RAF more than 170 applications were received which totalled \$1.79 billion in funding requests to unlock \$3.97 billion in new projects.

If completed, these combined projects would support the delivery of more than 158,000 new homes across Queensland. The overwhelming interest from the state's housing sector is hugely heartening, and with the backing of a cooperative State Government, will support one million new Queensland homes by 2044.

Support is also there in this Budget for those facing homelessness, with the Housing Minister announcing last week that we are locking in a 20% funding boost to specialist homeless service providers, and a \$365 million boost for crisis accommodation for the next 4 years. This will help the most vulnerable in our communities to access crisis accommodation and support services when they need them. The Budget funding boost also follows a landmark new Master Agreement with Community Housing Providers to cut red tape and accelerate delivery, and the establishment of Queensland's inaugural Homelessness Ministerial Advisory Council.

Mr Speaker, I have heard from local sporting clubs and parents alike that they have been delighted with the announcement of the new Play On! Sports voucher program. Queenslanders were rightfully disappointed that the previous government ended funding for sports vouchers, as shown in Labor's last budget papers.


This announcement ensures that all children aged between five and seventeen are able to participate in community sport, regardless of their financial circumstances, with a record funding of \$62.5 million each year for four years. This funding has made substantial improvements since the LNP first created the program a decade ago. This will fund vouchers for both summer and winter sports, while there are also dedicated allocations for children living with a disability, and those living in rural and remote areas to even the playing field for all Queensland kids.

Funding such as this is vital for creating strong communities, while also providing opportunities for kids to improve their physical and mental wellbeing through participation in sports.

Our support for keeping Queensland kids healthy doesn't stop there either, with the announcement of a \$37.5 million investment into the Healthy Kindy Kids program. This program will deliver free health checks, including vision, hearing and speech development checks to an expected 60,000 Queensland kids per year when fully established.

The Crisafulli Government is listening to Early Childhood Educators, who have reported concerns about undiagnosed health and development issues that are causing children to fall behind in the formative years of their education. These free health checks will help to identify issues early, so that additional support and monitoring can be offered, to give students the best possible start to their schooling.

Mr Speaker, I'm backing this budget because it delivers on the mandate that Queenslanders elected the Crisafulli Government on. We will turn the tide on the decade of chaos and crisis that Labor led this state through, and this Budget is a key cornerstone of that gargantuan task. I want to reiterate my strong congratulations to the Treasurer for a tremendous first Budget, and I look forward to the many years of economic growth that Queenslanders will see under this Crisafulli team. I commend the Bill to the House.

 **Mr J KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (8.51 pm): Queensland was promised a fresh start, but this budget has delivered a false start. It is a sentiment that I shared with my millions of admiring fans on Facebook last night. I love it when people like my posts. It gives me a really fresh start, member for Lockyer, it really does. Sometimes I even get green shoots I get so excited, but I always love seeing the diversity of people who like my posts and I have to say last night I was—

**Mr Smith:** What did the post say?

**Mr G KELLY:** The post said, 'Instead of delivering a fresh start for Qld, this budget is a false start for families doing it tough.' I was surprised at some of the people who liked my post. I know a lot of those opposite were really unhappy and deeply dissatisfied with the budget. They were very sad that they could not go out into their own communities and tell people how unhappy they were with the budget. They were very angry that I got the opportunity to go to Townsville and tell the member for Townsville's electorate how bad this budget is. I understand that. I know there were other members who went out there to take the message out to the people of Queensland how bad this budget is, stealing the thunder from those opposite who want to talk about how bad the budget is. We heard all about it from the member for Hervey Bay in his contribution about the fire station.

However, I have to say when I was looking through those likes last night, giving myself a fresh start, getting ready to go on, I was amazed that there was one, member for Lockyer—one member brave enough to show his true colours and instead of clicking like on the blue budget, he clicked like on my maroon post. Well done to the member for Lockyer for having the courage to say what everyone was thinking over there. I table the post for the benefit of the House, with the member for Lockyer's contribution highlighted. Thank you, member for Lockyer.

*Tabled paper:* Extract, dated 24 June 2025, from the Facebook page of the member for Greenslopes, Mr Joseph Kelly MP, in relation to the Queensland Budget.

**Mr McDonald** interjected.

**Mr J KELLY:** I think you might have been rated my top follower. I do not think I have ever had a top follower before, member for Lockyer, but I am glad it is you. I am glad it is you—through the chair.

Fresh start, I don't think so; false start, you bet. There are cuts to cost-of-living relief and cuts to infrastructure. There is bad news for nurses and midwives who were looking to David Crisafulli to

honour his election commitment to make them the highest paid nurses in Australia. There was the worst news for patients with no certainty around timeframes for the delivery of new beds, and all of this is happening while the debt is going up. This is a bad budget by a bumbling Treasurer. I cannot even see any green shoots on this one, no matter how many times the LNP spin bots put those words into the mouths of those opposite. There are cuts to cost-of-living relief which will mean life will get a lot harder for many Queenslanders.

Electricity rebates were welcomed by people in my community. They put money from the assets owned by Queenslanders, thanks to Labor, back into the pockets of Queenslanders. Even more importantly when combined with the Albanese government's rebates, they brought inflation and interest rates down. Rebates for small businesses flowed into the economy, helping to contain prices, and those opposite like to crow about the 50-cent fares. I have lost count of how many people I have spoken to have said the name 'Steven Miles' and '50-cent fares' in the same breath. I am yet to meet one single person who says 'Mickelberg' and '50-cent fares' in the same sentence. I have heard this thought: loud angry bloke who has just given himself a giant 'get out of jail free' card, but I will get to that later.

Congratulations to the Treasurer for caving in to Labor's campaign to keep the FairPlay vouchers. I know Sam from Holland Park will be happy when she hears this program has been saved by Labor. Sam is a single mum living in social housing, and she is unable to get her kids into sport unless she has those vouchers, so she is going to be very happy to hear about this. Full marks on the \$100 for schoolkids. It seems good, but there is a serious lack of detail there, and I do not think any of it will land into the hands of people like Sam to help them out in any true measure.

We have seen \$13 billion cut from infrastructure meaning Queenslanders will sit in traffic for longer, but sadly for some it will mean that they will also lose employment. We know when you invest in infrastructure, you create jobs. What does this mean for hospitals? There is no certainty for health projects because we have one big bucket of money and no timeframes and no details of when the projects will start. I asked a direct question today, a simple question: how many of the promised 2,600 beds will be delivered by 2028? I got so much fudge I could run every school fete in Queensland until 2028. There was no answer. There was nothing.

What does this mean for roads? When I checked with QTRIP on the projects in my electorates that had budgets and timeframes, they now have neither. When will the planning for the Coorparoo level crossing happen? I wrote to the minister asking for a briefing so I could find out when his project would be implemented. Remember the 'minister for I'm going to resign if projects aren't on time and on budget'? Remember that minister? You would think he would be able to answer a question about timeframes. Well, you would have to read a long way in that letter to find that answer because it was not there. It just waffled on about the Brisbane City Council not coming to the party. People in my community have no certainty around when this safety issue will be dealt with and there is no clarity from QTRIP.

Speaking of safety, when will the Birdwood Road Veloway be done? QTRIP certainly will not tell you that. Again, cyclists and motorists will continue to have to put up with this dangerous crossing.

We have ministers running around saying they will resign if they do not deliver projects on time and on budget. I tell you what, it is pretty easy to deliver a project on time and on budget if you do not have a budget and you do not have a timeframe. You have set the bar so low, there is no bar.

What does this budget mean for housing? According to the glossy blue document for East Brisbane, it means 100 new social homes under construction or under contract. That sounds really good, except until you realise there are currently 82 units under construction in Stones Corner—nearly finished, nearly built and delivered under the Homes for Queenslanders plan. My maths is pretty good. Let's say 18. That is 18. Unfortunately, there is another 80 already under construction—

**Mr Ryan:** So they are going to cut some!

**Mr J KELLY:** It looks like they will have to get the chopper in there to chop some of that building off to get it down to the 100.

What about education? I am proud of what we delivered when we were in government. Every state school in my electorate benefited from new classrooms, halls, manual arts blocks, hospitality blocks, admin blocks, toilet blocks—if there is any type of block, our school has got them. Playgrounds, tuckshops, after-school care buildings, air conditioning and solar panels.

What is in this budget for the electorate of Greenslopes in terms of education? We are getting \$40,000 to do a study for a pick-up zone at the Coorparoo Secondary College, a great local school—just across the road, mind you, from the Coorparoo rail level crossing. I hope the planning study there

at Coorparoo Secondary College has a timeframe on it, but perhaps it is like the Coorparoo level crossing and there will be no timeframe on it, so we will be able to meet that on-time and on-budget commitment as well. We have \$40,000 there, so they are going to have to do it with \$40,000, aren't they? I will be watching that one, because, I tell you what, there is nothing else to watch. Every other single thing in the schools in my electorate were delivered by Labor!

**Mr Mickelberg** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Dr O'Shea): Member for Buderim, address your comments through the chair.

**Mr J KELLY:** Thank you for your protection, Madam Deputy Speaker. I almost could not hear myself over the very loud member for Buderim. Every single project in a school in my electorate—other than the \$40,000 for the pick-up and drop-off zone—was delivered by Labor. What about sporting infrastructure? When the LNP candidate was announced, about six minutes before the election, he pretty much promised everything I had promised for sporting clubs. That was a good thing because they are rolling that out and that is really good, but when it comes to Australia and the world's best rugby club, Easts Rugby Union, he promised less than I did and so, sadly, Easts Rugby did not get the full amount that I promised—they got the cut-down version from the LNP. I would like to think of that as the very first LNP cut. I am going to claim that! That is my one green shoot from this budget, but, unfortunately, it has turned brown for the people at Easts Rugby Union Club.

Cuts to infrastructure mean that hospital projects will be delayed. It will be harder to get health care. Congestion will get worse. There will be less social housing. There is nothing for our local schools. It will mean fewer jobs for Queenslanders. We invested in infrastructure because it was good for Queenslanders but one of the key benefits was the staggeringly high levels of employment we were able to achieve. This will now all start to reverse, as those opposite cut \$13 billion out of the infrastructure budget.

We know that employee expenses will be lower than previously predicted. We have seen that in the budget. This does not bode well for nurses, teachers and police, particularly the nurses and the midwives who are looking for David Crisafulli and the LNP to deliver on their very own election commitments. We know he promised nurses they would be the best paid in Australia. Why are we not surprised that they have broken those commitments? Nurses and midwives are the latest victims of David Crisafulli's broken promises.

When it comes to this budget, the real problem is not the very bad budget from a bumbling Treasurer; it is the leader who just breaks promises. This is a government built on broken promises. The Premier said his word would mean something. He said, 'When I say something, it means something. The Premier also said energy bills would be cheaper, debt would be lower and there would be 2,200 new hospital beds by 2028. The Premier promised to keep his cabinet intact. The Premier promised to appoint the member for Mudgeeraba as the health minister—I am pretty glad he broke that promise. He promised to appoint the member for Nanango as the water minister. The Premier promised to have a dedicated local government minister. The Premier himself promised to be tourism minister. He promised to keep the majority of directors-generals. He promised the directors-general would have zero political links—zero political links.


**Mr Dick** interjected.

**Mr J KELLY:** Where is John Sosso? True. The Premier promised his ministers would have clear measurable KPIs like delivering projects on time and on budget, but then we will just change the parameters so we do not need those anymore. He promised to hold the ministers accountable for KPIs. He promised Queensland Government Consulting would save \$750 million by 30 June. He promised there would be no new stadiums. He promised to release the terms of reference for the independent games review before the election and he promised those terms of reference would rule out a new stadium. The Premier promised Queenslanders would know who was on the GIICA board before the election. The Premier promised that heavy rail would be delivered all the way to Maroochydore by 2032—no ifs, no buts, no shortcuts. He could come to a union rally with slogans like that! He promised to govern with integrity. He promised to govern with openness and transparency. He promised to listen to the experts. He promised to treat First Nations people with respect. All of those things I have spoken about at length in this place. It is not going well; let me tell you. He promised to be available for questions. He promised to continue funding for the Environmental Defenders Office. He promised to honour emission reductions targets. As we saw in respect of the bill passed here last night, he is not just not honouring those but now working actively to shut down renewable energy projects in this state,

taking zero action on climate change—disgraceful. This is a bad budget by a bumbling Treasurer. It does not help Queenslanders with the cost of living.

**Mr McDonald** interjected.

**Mr J KELLY:** I take the interjection. I think there was a growl from the member for Lockyer. You can get on my Facebook page later on tonight and you can like all of the high points from this speech tonight, member for Lockyer. I will be pointing this out: this is a bad budget by a bumbling Treasurer. That is going to be on my Facebook. It does not help Queenslanders with the cost of living. It does not help them with housing, health care or congestion. It puts the character of the Premier on full display—a leader who will break his promise to anyone, anytime, anywhere. He is just like the Goodies, except he is a baddie. This is not a fresh start for Queensland; it is a false start with absolutely no green shoots.

 **Hon. BA MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (9.04 pm): It is always a pleasure to follow the 'Greenslopes Grifter', the 'Fiscal Fibber' from Greenslopes, a man who thinks he is the funniest person in the parliament—

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Dr O'Shea): Member for Buderim, that language is unparliamentary.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I will withdraw. He is a man who thinks he is the funniest person in the parliament—the only person he is entertaining is himself. Perhaps he would have been with the Greens. They are coming for you next time, mate.

**An opposition member:** Or Woodridge.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** Or Woodridge. He still lives there; he might as well run.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Buderim, address your comments through the chair, not to other members.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** The Crisafulli's first budget is about delivering for Queenslanders. After 10 years of chaos and crisis under Labor, we have major challenges, but we are up to the challenge. Before the election, we promised we would act on the major crises Labor left Queenslanders with, and we are doing just that. We promised we would deliver health services when Queensland needs them. This budget works to reduce ambulance ramping with a \$1 billion boost to the Queensland Ambulance Service along with three new and 10 expanded hospital—all a part of our \$18.5 billion Hospital Rescue Plan; a plan to tackle Labor's underinvestment in new hospitals and in regional health services over the past decade which left hospitals on life support and created the Queensland Health crisis. We committed to restoring safety where you live for every Queenslanders. Youth offenders now face tough consequences for 33 offences under Adult Crime, Adult Time and we are bolstering the frontline with 1,600 new police recruits to keep our community safe. It will take time to reverse Labor's decade of failure on youth crime, but we are already seeing positive improvement.

We are abolishing stamp duty on new homes for first home buyers and implementing our Boost to Buy scheme to reduce the deposit gap while stopping Queenslanders paying more for the doctor by axing Labor's patients tax. Our government's 2025 budget lays the foundation for the fresh start that we promised. It is a plan to deal with the big crises left behind by Labor and to chart a positive course forward for the future.

I am proud of what our government is delivering for Buderim. Before the election I committed to upgrade the Mooloolaba Road and Sugar Road intersection, and we are delivering, with funding committed in this budget. Construction will begin on this upgrade by the end of the year. It is something Labor promised to deliver but cut from their budget and now the Crisafulli government will deliver it.

Sunshine Coast residents will also benefit from the Wave, with heavy passenger rail from Beerwah to Birtinya connecting with a metro-style service all the way to the Sunshine Coast Airport through the Maroochydore CBD. As a part of that project, the Mooloolah River Interchange will be upgraded, easing congestion from our road network, and those upgrades will deliver a lasting legacy for the people of Buderim and the wider Sunshine Coast after countless years of underinvestment on the Sunshine Coast by Labor.

Ensuring our children get the best start in life through a quality education is a stop priority of the Crisafulli government and we are acting. We are supporting the next generation in my electorate in Palmview by expanding the Palmview State Secondary College and we are delivering upgrades at Mountain Creek State School as well. The Crisafulli government is investing in a responsible program of work that provides for Queensland's future—one that is bigger than this state has ever seen.

I know that the Leader of the Opposition wanted to peddle falsehoods in his budget reply today. He said we are hiding things, but if he bothered to look behind the colour palette of the budget papers and he read QTRIP, he will find that the Lansdown Eco-Industrial Precinct works are on page 95 and 97; the Townsville Eastern Access Rail Corridor is on page 96. The Cairns Western Arterial Road is listed on page 108 and the Coominya bridge is included on page 47.

**Mr Ryan** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** One moment, member for Buderim. Member for Morayfield, could you address your comments through the chair.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I should mention that it was the former Labor government who was first asked by their federal Labor mates to go back to the drawing board on the Cairns Western Arterial Road because the federal government was so concerned about the former Labor government's ability to manage the cost pressures on that project. That is what we are now doing in a disciplined methodical way to ensure we deliver the necessary upgrades in advance of Brisbane 2032.

When it comes to the Bribie Island bridge, the opposition leader is again misguided. He will find that the business case estimate is within the range we have included for the project in QTRIP. That is on page 45 for the member for Aspley's benefit, in case he is having trouble reading QTRIP like his colleagues are. Maybe he just needs to get up earlier and work a little bit harder.

I would also like to mention that for the first time ever in QTRIP we are actually providing time information alongside our projects in planning, which will help the industry plan ahead and manage their workforce and their business effectively. We are working collaboratively to meet our mammoth infrastructure task.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Dr O'Shea): There is too much noise from the members on my left. I would like to be able to hear the speaker.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** We know that after his insipid budget reply in which the opposition leader was not able to offer any excuse or reasoning for the many messes that this government inherited, the opposition leader has a case of the blues. Maybe it is because he had a blue with his shadow cabinet colleagues. Maybe it was a blue with the opposition leader designate, the member for Waterford, or is it because he already knows the writing is on the wall and he will not make Christmas?

Over on this side I am proud that our transport program in this budget has a focus on delivering value for money and a commitment to ensuring efficiency with every single dollar of taxpayers' money. Developing this transport plan has been a huge task requiring a massive effort by departmental and ministerial staff alike. I want to acknowledge the considerable time and effort that my department, led by Director-General Sally Stannard, have undertaken in developing this budget. In particular, I want to acknowledge Tony Philp and his team for going above and beyond for many weeks.

We are delivering transformative infrastructure projects that will shape the future of our state and ensure that we are well positioned to meet the challenges of hosting the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games just like we said we would. We are continuing to fund key programs that are important to Queenslanders like the Wheelchair Accessible Taxi Grant Scheme, the Keeping our Waterways Safe Program, the continued rollout of Smart Ticketing as well as saving the School Transport Infrastructure Program. All of those programs were underfunded or completely unfunded due to the budget mismanagement of the former Labor government.

We are also making sure that our bus network is appropriately funded so that Queenslanders can continue to make use of the LNP's permanent 50-cent fares. This is despite Labor budgeting exactly zero dollars to make 50-cent fares permanent. Despite all the rhetoric in advance of the election by the opposition leader, the Labor Party spent more on advertising 50-cent fares than they did on making it permanent. As the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, I am proud that a record \$41.7 billion has been committed in the Queensland Transport and Road Investment Program across the forward years.

**Mr Mellish:** Where? Where?

**Mr MICKELBERG:** Read it; you will see it there. I will list some of the key highlights for the member for Aspley since he cannot read the document: \$9 billion for the Bruce Highway Targeted Safety Program on an 80-20 basis—something that the member for Aspley could not deliver and something the Labor Party said could not be done. We have done it.

**Mr Mellish:** You do not need to yell.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I do need to yell because the member likes to yell over the top of me, so I will make sure he cannot be heard. There is the Wave seamless public transport all the way to the Sunshine Coast airport—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** One moment, member for Buderim. Members on my left, you expect to be listened to. We need to listen to the member now on his feet.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** We are delivering the Safer Roads, Better Transport Plan with the Barron River bridge, the Bribie Island bridge, the Caloundra Congestion Busting Plan and the Mooloolah River Interchange; and faster rail between Logan and the Gold Coast with a \$5.7 billion package jointly funded with the Australian government. The majority of seats that that runs through are Labor seats and they could not deliver it. The Crisafulli government is delivering it. There is also the \$100 million Country Roads Connect Program, boosting the safety and flood resilience of regional unsealed roads; \$27.5 million for the School Transport Infrastructure Program, improving the safety and the operation of schools across Queensland; \$15 million for Keeping our Waterways Safe Program with a focus on action and enforcement activity; \$2.2 million to remove the fee for a new disability parking permit, delivering on our election commitment and providing cost-of-living relief. All of that work and much more supports 25,000 jobs here in Queensland. We are focused on delivering value for money and ensuring that Queenslanders benefit from the transformative infrastructure projects shaping our state's future. That is what a fresh start looks like. It is exactly what we said we would do and it is exactly what we are delivering.

With the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games on the horizon and more people choosing to call Queensland home, it is an exciting home for our state. Despite the over 1,000 days of confusion, indecision and delay under the former Labor government, we must ensure that we cater for the significant transport demand that we will see during the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, respond to population growth here in Queensland and leave a transport legacy that lasts well beyond the games. Our investment program reflects our commitment to that by building a transport network that meets the needs of our growing population, supports our economy and connects our community. We will deliver a legacy in transport infrastructure for the games.

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 into the *Record of Proceedings*.

*The speech read as follows—*

With the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games on the horizon and more people choosing to call Queensland home, it is an exciting time for our state.

Despite the over 1000 days of confusion, indecision, and delay under the former Labor Government, we must ensure we cater for the significant transport demand that we will see during the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, respond to population growth and leave a transport legacy that lasts well beyond the games.

Our investment program reflects our commitment to that, by building a transport network that meets the needs of our growing population, supports our economy, and connects our communities.

It delivers upgrades in every corner of Queensland, generational infrastructure projects that will leave a lasting legacy long after the 2032 athletes are gone.

Regardless of how it is measured, Queensland is one of the fastest growing states in Australia.

We are experiencing the fastest population growth in Australia. Looking ahead, Queensland's population is projected to exceed 7.3 million by 2046. Population growth will place increasing demands on the transport networks and it is the challenge the Crisafulli Government faces to manage impacts of this growth, harness opportunities and mitigate associated risks, such as increased traffic congestion.

We are investing in a responsible program of work that accounts for and secures Queensland's future.

With a focus on delivering value for money and ensuring efficiency with every dollar of taxpayers' money, we're working with government and industry bodies to explore innovative products and delivery options to drive value for money.

In last year's budget, and Labor's last QTRIP, we found after coming into government that there were \$6.7 billion of blowouts, most of which were hidden from Queenslanders.

Cost pressures remain a challenge for TMR and we continue to implement targeted initiatives to manage cost-related risks effectively.

When projects aren't delivered on time and on budget it means that other worthy projects need to be delayed.

This year, the new QTRIP layout categorises investments by “Planned Investments” or “Contractually Committed Investments”, with budgets only displayed for investments that have achieved contract award.

This new format continues to provide useful information to support the industry, maintains transparency, and delivers improved competition and value for money by not publishing project budgets for Planned Investments.

This Budget, and this QTRIP, is one that outlines a comprehensive plan to connect communities in the Queensland of the future, leaving behind the decay and the neglect of the former Government.

Safe and reliable roads are the backbone of Queensland’s rural and regional communities, driving industry growth and connecting people to vital services and opportunities.

Thanks to a strong partnership with the Australian Government, we are delivering transformative infrastructure projects that will shape the future of our state.

The Federal and State Government’s \$9 billion Bruce Highway Targeted Safety Program has already begun with works commencing on projects along the Bruce Highway.

The Program will deliver wide centre line treatments, intersection upgrades, improved rest areas and overtaking lanes on priority sections of the highway north of Gympie to improve safety and reduce the time that the spine of our state road network is closed due to accidents.

The Crisafulli Government is not just talking about this project but getting on and delivering it. Five priority projects are now under construction, with a further two to commence shortly, while six are under procurement with three more to be in procurement in the coming weeks.

Construction is also well underway on the \$1.98 billion Rockhampton Ring Road – jointly funded with the Australian Government, a project set to enhance safety and efficiency for road users.

Planning is continuing on the Tiaro Bypass – another project jointly funded with the Australian Government – to improve productivity, increase safety and improve flood immunity.

Initiatives such as Country Roads Connect will help seal vital transport links to provide greater resilience during times of natural disasters.

We are working with the local governments, allocating \$75.95 million in 2025–26 for the Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme.

This scheme provides essential funding to local governments to support infrastructure upgrades across Queensland’s road and transport networks.

There is funding for several other major projects jointly funded with the Australian Government, including:

- Coomera Connector Stage 1;
- Barron River Bridge; and
- Gateway and M1 upgrades.

Our Caloundra Congestion Busting plan targets the biggest pinch points and helping to manage congestion along the Caloundra Road corridor and this budget delivers the Mooloolah River Interchange. Something Labor never could.

These road projects are crucial in delivering safety upgrades and time savings for roads users across the state. But we want to get more people out of their cars and onto the public transport network where possible.

The Queensland Government is committed to make public transport more affordable, frequent, reliable, and safe.

Rail infrastructure continues to be a priority with works progressing on key priority projects to help reduce traffic congestion and support increasing customer demand on the public transport network.

With the success of the LNP’s permanent 50 cent fares, investment in rail infrastructure will provide more frequent and faster services, making it easier to access more locations and get to where you need to go.

Our investment program includes funding for projects including the Logan and Gold Coast Faster Rail, with commuters one step closer to catching faster rail to the Gold Coast with the Crisafulli Government announcing funding to start preconstruction works on this key project.

The Crisafulli Government is investing across the State to provide the essential infrastructure our state needs, ensuring Queenslanders get home sooner and safer.


This budget demonstrates our commitment to making it safer and easier to get around our great state as our population continues to grow, and as we get ready for the opportunities of hosting the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

We need to be ready – whether it be helping Queenslanders get to where they need to go or hosting the world’s greatest athletes in our backyard.

These investments will do just that, along with unlocking jobs and growing our economy.

The Crisafulli Government is committed to giving Queenslanders better roads, and better public transport, as we deliver a fresh start for Queensland.

That's what we said we would do. That's what this Budget does, and that's what we will continue to do.

 **Ms MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (9.15 pm): 'When I say something it means something,' the Premier said. Boy, he must rue the day he said those words because he also said energy bills would be cheaper under his government. He said debt would be lower under his government. He said there would be 2,200 new hospital beds by 2028 under his government. He promised that Queensland government consulting would save \$757 million by 30 June under his government—he has a few more days for that. He said heavy rail would be delivered all the way to Maroochydore by 2032—no ifs, no buts, no shortcuts. He is now literally riding the 'Wave' of dishonesty and disappointment to the people of the Sunshine Coast.

The 2025-26 state budget is everything we knew it was going to be. This is a budget that delivers very little for the people of Queensland when it comes to genuine cost-of-living relief. Let's be very clear: the only cost-of-living relief that is really being offered in this budget is all in the form of Labor initiatives such as 50-cent fares, something the member for Chatsworth called a con and something the member for Pumicestone said was not in their plan. However, they know that to cut what is a signature Labor government initiative that is supported by so many Queenslanders would have been political suicide, so they have reluctantly kept them. Even the transport minister can barely keep a straight face when he talks about 50-cent fares being their policy. He can barely keep a straight face—even now. It is the same with the government's so-called Play On! vouchers. No-one is fooled by the name change. Queenslanders know that the \$200 FairPlay vouchers were, once again, a Labor initiative. They know that the LNP government was dragged into supporting the vouchers after we ran a campaign calling for them not to be cut which, again, was supported by so many Queensland families and community sports clubs.

There is no energy price relief for most Queenslanders in this budget. I guess it is a bit hard when they do not actually have an energy policy. Vehicle registration will once again be hiked up 3.4 per cent per annum—no discounts and no freeze for working families. It is a bitter disappointment to those in our communities who are just seeking a little bit of extra support from their government.

I am very proud to see the expansions of both the Ipswich and Logan hospitals. These are good Labor projects that are being delivered in the regions I represent and I know what a difference they make to our communities. I am also pleased that these projects were thankfully progressed far enough that they hopefully cannot be cut or delayed by the LNP government. They will complement the significant investment that our Labor government had made in health services in both those regions. In Ipswich that included stage 1 of the Ipswich Hospital expansion, the Ripley Satellite Hospital, the Ripley subacute facility, the acute mental health facility, the alcohol and other drug withdrawal management and rehab facility, and the new public hospital in Springfield.

I recognise that the LNP government think they have a gotcha moment about the operational funding for the Springfield Hospital, but I can say that no-one is fooled. No-one believes them. No matter what the LNP government tries to say, they will never be able to reconcile the fact that the Springfield public hospital is and will always be a Labor project, supported by Labor, delivered by Labor for the people of Greater Springfield and the broader western corridor. Our community knows this and Mater knows this, even if it looks like members opposite are holding them hostage in a photo-op.

I am really looking forward to seeing the line item for the operational funding of the new Coomera Hospital. I have not quite found it yet in the budget papers, but it must be there if we are providing operational funding to hospitals that are still under construction or not yet built.

Education continues to be vitally important to the people of Jordan. I represent one of the youngest electorates in the state and I am proud to represent 18 schools—soon to be 19 with the delivery of St Bonaventure's Catholic College. This could become 20 schools with confirmation of progress for a special school campus in the Springfield-Redbank area in this year's budget. Planning for a special school was a process begun under Labor. However, finding suitable and available land for the school has been an issue for the Department of Education. While I understand a solution is on the cards, it has been most disappointing for our families in Greater Springfield that this has dragged on and that land was not made available within the Springfield Structure Plan for this much needed school for our communities.

Speaking of land, I note that there is an education budget line for land acquisitions and we once again implore the Minister for Education to use some of that funding to acquire land for a new Greenbank high school. The minister through recent media comments and statements in the parliament seems to be seriously misinformed of what is happening in the Greenbank area and I would encourage him to maybe visit the area. The minister stated in the parliament on Tuesday that the member for

Logan and I should have delivered this school in the last 10 years. Ten years ago the area in question was farmland and rural acreage blocks. It is now significant housing developments under the Greater Flagstone Priority Development Area. It has taken 10 years for the population to grow in this area and also for the student numbers to grow to a sustainable level, and as local members we know our communities well and we know what the timing for a new high school should be. That is why we made the commitment to purchase land for the school in the 2024 election, not the 2020 election as the minister was quoted as saying in the media recently—again misinformed. Some 858 local residents in Greenbank and New Beith agree with us and they have signed our petition calling for the Crisafulli LNP government to purchase the land because they want to see the education department get ahead of this significant growth and begin the planning for a high school in their area. We will not give up on this. We will keep pushing the government to act because Labor made the commitment and we would have delivered it.

The most disappointing aspect of this year's budget would have to be infrastructure and particularly funding for road and transport projects for our part of the world. The Centenary Highway is critical for the people of the western suburbs and the Ipswich areas of Springfield, Redbank Plains, Whiterock, Ripley, Deebing Heights and Yamanto. The Centenary Bridge upgrade—a project championed and started by Labor—is the only funding that I can see in this year's QTRIP for the Centenary Highway. The QTRIP references the Centenary Highway Darra to Yamanto section, but only through vague planning references with no funding attached. We need to see literal movement on this section of the Centenary Highway. The population growth in Springfield, Greenbank, Redbank Plains and Ripley suburbs demands it. Labor already funded the planning for this section. We have been advised that the corridor preservation work is basically done, so what are the next steps? QTRIP and the budget tell us nothing—no funding allocated and no details. Our communities deserve to see a public-facing master plan for this section of the highway—one that specifies the upgrade projects along the corridor and prioritises them. We have done the planning. The minister can get on now and do the prioritisation. We are waiting for him to do it. We are pretty much in constant congestion on the southbound lanes of the Centenary Motorway from exits 31 to 33 every day. This section of the Centenary Motorway must be prioritised. We need an upgrade to exit 31 and the duplication of the section between exits 31 and 33. It is the single biggest issue facing my electorate at this time and it must be addressed, especially given that there has been a massive landslide at exit 33 which has closed that exit for almost seven months now. We really need to get on with it.

We also want to see rail projects in our region advanced. The Ipswich to Springfield rail line is in limbo. Labor funded the options analysis. Where is it? We funded the detailed business case. When is it starting? We have vague references to late 2025 for planning. What does that mean? Ipswich has effectively been ignored by the Crisafulli government, which clearly lost interest when it lost Ipswich West after a minute, but the people of Ipswich will not forget the disregard the LNP is showing them with no real Olympics investment and limited transport and road infrastructure investment. No wonder the LNP mayor has gone into hiding over the state budget. The Salisbury to Beaudesert rail line is another critical transport project for the people I represent in Greenbank, Flagstone and New Beith. Again Labor at both the state and federal government levels funded a business case, but again QTRIP is light on detail—no funding allocated this financial year and again a vague comment on late 2025 planning. We were told by TMR last year that consultation would begin this year with our communities on the rail corridor and the train station locations. Our communities are expecting this and they deserve to know what is happening with the project. I am pleased to see \$6 million allocated for the Ipswich bus service growth infrastructure improvements—again, a Labor initiative—but of course these bus services have been delayed to later this year. These services should have started by now. Overall, this has been a very disappointing budget for the people of my electorate of Jordan with no real cost-of-living relief, limited investment in education and transport and road projects pushed to the never-never.

I also want to comment on a few matters within my shadow portfolio areas. The Crisafulli government seems to have cut government employee housing. I want to table these documents—that is, page 40 of this year's Capital Statement 2025-26 and page 58 of the Capital Statement from 2024-25.

*Tabled paper:* Bundle of documents, undated, regarding the Capital Statement 2024-25.

There is an \$18.9 million funding cut—funding that ensures critical Queensland government frontline services staff have access to secure, cost-effective accommodation in regional and remote areas of Queensland where they are needed most. These are our ambulance workers, nurses, police officers and teachers. The LNP government has claimed to be doing what is right for frontline services. It has claimed to be backing the regions, yet when pen hits paper it has let them both down. Last year

David Crisafulli promised Queenslanders he would deliver a plan that improved housing affordability and availability and yet now he expects our nurses, teachers and police officers to take up the very few rentals that are left in remote and regional Queensland. These areas have some of the tightest vacancy rates across the state and that is now only set to get worse under this LNP government. This is very concerning. At a time when the government seems to be backing away from its election commitments to give our nurses and teachers nation-leading pay and better working conditions, it seems it now also wants to reduce their living conditions as well.

It is also unclear what the future looks like for QBuild's rapid accommodation and apprenticeship centres. The minister's recent response to a question on notice seems to indicate a clear lack of interest or drive to see the RAACs supported to succeed. The former Labor government's Modern Methods of Construction program was lauded by the national Productivity Commission in its recent housing construction productivity report, yet the LNP government does not seem to see any value at all. No wonder the minister refused to allow me access to the RAAC in Cairns, but we will continue to watch this space carefully and the future of QBuild, which of course we know was decimated when those opposite were last in power.

In the multicultural affairs space, I am pleased to see the LNP government match Labor's commitment to fund the Ethnic Communities Council of Queensland as the peak body for multicultural organisations. This is something I championed as the minister for multicultural affairs. ECCQ is an important voice in advocacy for our multicultural communities. Its research is invaluable and it deserves to be funded appropriately. Something that I do not believe has been funded appropriately is the LNP government's new Community Connect grants—\$5 million over four years to build or upgrade facilities for multicultural organisations. That is \$1.25 million per year to build or upgrade infrastructure. If organisations apply for the maximum \$500,000 grants that will be available, then we will effectively see 2.5 organisations receiving funding each year. I am also not sure if the government can use BPIC as an excuse for these projects but I am not sure you can build a lot with \$500,000, but it is all good because right at the bottom of the LNP's political media release spruiking the commitment it sneaks in the fact that you must have matched funding—something that many organisations will not have realised.

In last year's election Labor committed \$30 million for the inclusive communities infrastructure fund for multicultural group facilities that would have seen more projects funded and community expectations met. Again, I will be watching the LNP's infrastructure program very carefully because I believe this program is simply lip-service and will not deliver anything meaningful to our multicultural communities. I also welcome the Leader of the Opposition's announcement in his budget reply speech today of our Labor team's support for the Activate Australia's Skill advocacy campaign that recognises that during a national skills crisis almost half of all permanent migrants in Australia have skills that are not fully harnessed. I wish to thank Settlement Services International, SSI, for its significant work and leadership in this space. Queensland can also be a leader in support for the solutions needed to reverse this skills mismatch, to activate the potential that is currently being underutilised, to address skills shortages and to provide a significant economic opportunity. What is clear is that the 2025-26 budget is full of deceptive figures, delusional narratives, disappearing projects and general disappointment—exactly what we expected from this inept LNP government.



**Hon. DG PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (9.29 pm): The 2025-26 budget represents an opportunity for the Crisafulli government to set out its priorities for the people of Queensland for the next 12 months and lay the foundations for a fresh start for Queensland. Our election victory saw us assume responsibility for meeting the great challenges that Labor's decade of neglect created. We saw a decade in which government was reduced to the issuing of a host of media releases as a substitute for sound policymaking. This was doomed to fail. This budget is the first step on the long road to repair Labor's record of financial mismanagement, while continuing to provide those services to which Queenslanders are entitled. Importantly, this budget is delivering for Queensland.

My electorate of Ninderry is one based on families, businesses, community and sporting groups and schools. This is a budget of optimism and kept promises—evidence that we have a plan for Ninderry's future, and that our future is bright with the LNP Crisafulli government. This budget focuses on four key areas: safety where you live, a better lifestyle through a stronger economy, health services when you need them and a plan for Queensland's future. From kindy kids to high school students there is something in this budget to help families give their children the best start in life. Kindy kids will receive free vision, hearing and speech development checks as part of the \$37.5 million Healthy Kindy Kids program. For the first time, parents of primary school students will receive \$100 vouchers for each child

to help cover the cost of school essentials as part of a \$250 million investment in our Back to School Boost program.

With our new and improved all seasons and all abilities \$200 Play On! sports vouchers, we will help cover the costs of participation in organised sport from ages five to 17 years old. Support for local sport is so important to the health of our communities. Since 2018 I have worked with the Coolum Beach Breakers Junior AFL Club, Coolum State High School and Sunshine Coast Council on the master plan for a multipurpose sports facility. Our investment of \$5 million in stage 1 is a very important start. While discussing sports, Ninderry will reap the benefits of legacy infrastructure investment in the 2032 Olympic Games. When the Sunshine Coast Mountain Bike Centre at Parklands is open for business, there will be a trail head, car park, bike shop, amenities and cafe and possibly the home base for our popular local mountain bike group, the Bushrangers.

We have made it easier for first home buyers to enter the market sooner through our Boost to Buy shared equity scheme, which will help reduce the deposit gap. Labor's housing crisis left a growing number of vulnerable Queenslanders locked out of a home and failed to build social and community housing to keep up with population growth. This budget invests \$43.9 million to expand and improve social and community housing, with 240 social homes in construction or under contract towards the delivery of 53,000 homes by 2044. More cost-of-living relief has been delivered by abolishing stamp duty on all new homes for first home buyers, extending the First Home Owner Grant to \$30,000 for 12 months.

Residents of Ninderry will have better access to health care with additional funding to grow the workforce to 7,892 FTEs across the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service. What a relief for many to know that a \$1.8 billion investment to deliver more elective surgeries will reduce wait times. Still in the health space, expecting mothers can rest easier knowing that \$48.7 million has been allocated to deliver the legislated but previously unfunded midwife-to-patient ratios.

There are many small tourism businesses in my electorate who promote our beachside and hinterland environments while making a living. These businesses will benefit from this government's focus on the importance of tourism in building and sustaining our local economies. The commitment of \$446 million to support Destination 2045, a plan to deliver Queensland's tourism future, includes funding for aviation attraction, event attraction and new product development. This once again highlights the Crisafulli government's visionary and strategic management of our great resources.

Part of the 2032 Delivery Plan is, of course, the public transport infrastructure that will help visitors to the Sunshine Coast get around seamlessly and fill an existing gap in public transport that will help residents better connect with other local communities. After nearly a decade of Labor mismanagement, the people of Ninderry and communities across the Sunshine Coast have been left behind—stuck in traffic, let down by crumbling infrastructure and forced to fight for the basics like safe school drop-offs and functioning pedestrian crossings. Labor has wasted over \$20 billion in project cost blowouts. That is money that could and should have been invested in the everyday infrastructure our growing communities urgently need.

I am proud to be a part of the Crisafulli government that is delivering real, local solutions to make our communities safer, stronger and better connected. Since becoming the very first member for the newly created electorate of Ninderry in 2017, I have been fighting alongside my community for long overdue infrastructure upgrades. After years of fighting Labor for the funding and finally delivering a safer signalised intersection at the Coolum State School, the next stage to bust congestion was the construction of a second interchange on the Sunshine Motorway at Mount Coolum. It has taken the Crisafulli government to stump up the funds for this major infrastructure and at last we will see a new interchange at Mount Coolum, with two new south-facing ramps connecting to council's planned extension of South Coolum Road. Once constructed this will be a major milestone in our delivery of our congestion-busting plan, changing the daily commute for residents north and south of Coolum.

It has taken this government, which prioritises safety, to finally upgrade the deadly Woombye intersection at Diddillibah Road and Nambour Connection Road with \$2.5 million. Locals have been desperately calling for this before another life is lost. The safety and health of our school communities is paramount and important infrastructure upgrades have been funded. Four Ninderry schools have received extra funding: \$1 million will improve parking and upgrade the school drop-off zone at North Arm State School; Eumundi State School will receive \$75,000 to deliver a new access car park and handrails which are long overdue; at Peregrine Springs State School we have funded \$25,000 to upgrade the school tuckshop, supporting our volunteers and ensuring that every child can access healthy meals in a space fit for purpose; at Kuluin State School we have funded \$150,000 to improve

pathway accessibility and all-weather protection, ensuring every student, regardless of ability, has a safe and inclusive learning environment.

The budget has also delivered on our promise to provide \$600,000 for Eumundi footpaths, part of the Streetscape Project, and invest \$250,000 for pedestrian safety upgrades in Bli Bli, a rapidly growing area where hundreds of young families and older residents rely on safe crossings to get through the busy town centre. As I have indicated on many occasions, this government is committed to keeping our community safe. Central to that objective is our intention to provide our police with the laws and resources they need to do their job. Labor never accepted that their policies and their actions generated the crime crisis that confronted Queenslanders. Ten years in the making, it struck at the very heart of our communities—lives were lost, families were torn apart and nothing was done. All that has changed. The difference between Labor's politically driven agenda and our measured, targeted response to fighting crime could not be clearer. This budget, with expenditure across the police portfolio of \$4.05 billion, constitutes record spending in this area, surpassing Labor's last budget by \$324 million. This will ensure our police are better able to do their job, to meet the challenges they face and keep our communities safe.

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 into the *Record of Proceedings*.

*The speech read as follows—*

The fact that this budget provides \$140 million to overcome Labor's financial mismanagement of the Police portfolio points to the complete absence of financial responsibility. Labor demanded the QPS undertake a range of tasks but offered no funds to back up these demands. The Police were left to pay for Labor's promises from their own resources.

However, this is not the only example of police being left in the lurch by the former government when promises were made but no funds were provided to live up to those promises.

This government has made the Youth Crime Group permanent whereas Labor was only willing to fund its predecessor—Youth Crime Taskforce—until 30 June this year. Transitioning from a temporary taskforce to a permanent Youth Crime Group ensures the QPS has the leadership, resources and coordination required to respond to youth crime.

The crime crisis in Queensland was nothing more than a short-term political issue for Labor.

Before last year's election—in a desperate attempt to shore up support—Labor promised Polair's Airborne Law Enforcement services would be extended to Cairns and the Sunshine Coast. However, once again, that funding was due to run out on 30 June this year with no sign of the extra funds needed to keep Polair resources in the air.

In contrast to Labor, this budget provides funds to keep Polair flying beyond the remainder of this term.

Labor made police positions permanent—but never funded them. This occurred across the portfolio, including the critical area of domestic and family violence.

Had Labor remained in charge of the purse strings 61 people from this area would have been out of a job next week. We have acted to fund these positions and halt Labor's sackings.

Those opposite who loudly proclaim their abhorrence of domestic violence should examine their consciences when it comes to making sure there are sufficient funds to pay those charged with combatting this scourge.

High visibility police patrols were promised—but funding wasn't continued.

Labor failed to fund the necessary equipment our police need to combat crime—happy to claim a headline but unwilling to back that up with dollars and cents. This was another shabby exercise for which all those who sat around the Cabinet table with the Opposition Leader and the former Treasurer, the member for Woodridge, should be ashamed.

In contrast to the opposition this government believes that stronger laws, which Labor never accepted, should be accompanied by the funding our police deserve.

This budget is the first step on the long journey of providing our police with the practical support they need to do the job that people expect of them—and that they expect of themselves.

We are committed to, and are funding, 1,600 police recruits over four years. This is in stark contrast to Labor's record.

Under Labor we saw the number of sworn operational police increase by only 734 in the past ten years. In Labor's last four years in office the number of police increased by a mere 174.

Of importance is our commitment to provide a new \$13.5 million mental health support framework for current and former officers.

We will fund the equipment that Labor denied our frontline police.

They will be supported by the \$148 million in this budget for new tasers, vests, body-worn cameras and other safety equipment.

We will support our police with a capital works program amounting to over \$290 million to build new and upgraded police stations, facilities and beats at Burleigh, Nambour, Logan Central, Mount Gravatt, Boondall, Ferny Grove, Redcliffe, Edmonton, Palm Island and Goodna. This will give our officers the facilities and resources they need to tackle crime.

Beyond this, we are looking to the future and recognise the need for our new and developing communities to be serviced by adequate police facilities. Accordingly, money is provided in this budget to buy land for new stations at Yarrabilba, Rainbow Beach and Caboolture West. Acting on police advice, we will fund both Bundaberg and Bargara police stations.

Our new laws designed to tackle youth crime—introduced at the first available opportunity after the 2024 election—will be backed up by an investment of \$348 million.

As we have said, Queenslanders should no longer have to tolerate a generation of habitual offenders whose rights outweighed those of their victims and for whose actions there were no consequences.

This may have been the Labor way, but it is not our way. We are backing up our words with actions and the necessary financial support. The tables have been turned and we will give our police the support and resources they need to undertake the crime fighting role for which they are trained.

There is a strong link between the level of crime in society and the capacity of society to remain prosperous and enjoy a measure of economic growth.

Just last month Heidi Cooper, the CEO of Business Chamber Queensland, when commenting on this government's \$40 million Secure Communities Partnership Program, said—

'Crime is a community issue which has become a barrier to business. Crime solutions must balance community and business needs, and we welcome the opening of the Secure Communities Partnership Fund to address this issue.'

This highlights the importance of what we are seeking to achieve—and why it was critical to remove those who refused to accept the consequences of their ill-conceived policies.

The policies and practices of the past championed by Labor have failed. They have been consigned to the rubbish bin of history and we are charting a new course to ensure community safety and the rights of victims take the priority they deserve.

The measure of a Budget's reception is not what members of this House might say about it but what others, with a stake in our state's economic and social development, say.

Our Budget announcements have received support from a range of industry and professional groups.

These include, amongst others, the Property Council, Infrastructure Partnerships Australia, Queensland Major Contractors Association, Queensland Master Builders and the AMA.

I do not expect the opposition to endorse any supportive comments. However, they should have the grace to concede that the policy prescriptions that our dire financial position demands could not have been introduced by those who caused the massive problems in the first place.

We have set a new course which, in time, will restore this state's budgetary position. We could not afford one day longer to languish in the financial doldrums which Labor bequeathed us.

In contrast, Labor remains stranded in the past.

Over two days we heard Labor members support the policies that led us to our current financial state. They are without shame—they are without insight.

The Crisafulli government stands by the policies and initiatives presented in this budget.

It represents a fresh start for Queensland; it deserves the wholehearted support of the entire House and I look forward to its speedy passage.



**Mr DAMELTO** (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (9.37 pm): On behalf of the good people of Hinchinbrook and the Katter's Australian Party I rise to give my contribution to the budget. From the Treasurer's perspective it must have been quite difficult putting this year's budget together. After spending a fair bit of time in opposition, it would have taken the LNP some time to go through the books to get a real understanding of not only where the money has been spent over the last 10 years but also—and I like this turn of phrase—where the prawns are in the curtain rods, as in where is the smell coming from? What has been left behind by the outgoing government?

Unless it is for the Olympics in Brisbane you have not done well out of this year's budget. There have been a number of initiatives funded across the state. I acknowledge that young people trying to get into homes across Queensland have been one of the winners in this year's state budget. Even looking at the seats of Mundingburra, Thuringowa, Townsville, Cairns and Barron River, unless you are looking at shade sails and things like that to keep people happy in parks or gardens and a little bit of lighting for sport and recreation areas, there is not a whole lot in budget for those north of the greater south-east corner area.

We understand that the Olympics is the baby left behind by the previous government. I want to put it on record that, when Premier Palaszczuk bid for the Olympics, we were the only ones who actually put in a bid. It was the end of COVID. There was no mandate in this state to bid for the Olympics. On

my understanding, it was done on a whim of the government at the time. There was no motion raised in parliament asking the people of Queensland and their elected officials to vote on whether or not we should bid for the Olympics. Nothing was ever brought to an election campaign as a commitment, putting Brisbane forward for the Olympics. I acknowledge that we bid for something that no-one else wanted at the time and now we are stuck with it. I also acknowledge that this poor government has to try to deliver it, to the detriment of the rest of the Queensland, but I will get to that later in my speech.

During the election campaign this government committed to a number of things and I acknowledge that the budget actually reflects that. During the election campaign it did not matter if you were in Cairns, Townsville, Mount Isa or, I would say, even the south-east corner, crime was the No. 1 issue given the problems that Queenslanders were having, particularly with youth crime. This budget allocates \$345 million over five years to rehabilitation programs. Most people will say that you have to get to those young people nice and early. The Staying on Track program and the Circuit Breaker Sentencing program, which closely aligns with the Katter's Australian Party's relocation sentencing policy, have received some funding in this budget. We cannot wait to see how that will be delivered in detail. We have been told that the north and the south will get separate relocation or bush sentencing sites and we are excited about that.

There will be two youth justice schools with \$40 million allocated for that. There is funding for early intervention programs. We have no real detail on the Gold Standard Early Intervention program yet, but there is \$45 million attached to that in this year's budget. A kick-start program will look at crime prevention schools and all those sorts of things to hopefully bring youth crime in this state under control. However, until you get tough on crime and you have an alternative sentencing method like Circuit Breaker Sentencing or relocation sentencing, you will not turn those kids around.

This year there has been a boost to funding for police in the area of crime fighting, which has been needed. There is \$343 million allocated to detention centres. The Woodford youth detention centre has been allocated \$330 million. For years the KAP has been talking about relocation sentencing and putting kids in donga-style accommodation out bush. Do members know how many dongas you could buy for \$330 million? It is ludicrous that we are spending that much. We might as well buy those families a brand new house each, given the cost of sending a kid into detention. The kind of money we are spending on those kids needs to be reined in. We have to be able to do this better.

I have been looking through the policy documents and the description of the Woodford detention centre. It sounds more like a wellness camp. It sounds like somewhere you would go if you are rich and famous and you want to get back to your central self and do some soul-searching. We should send those kids out bush. We should send them somewhere where there is hard work. We should rehabilitate them by getting them to do something that will turn their life around, not bloody—I withdraw. Wind chimes and happy thoughts will not bring them back into step.

We need more money for victim support. Most people who go through the victim support program or scheme are very shocked when they realise there is nothing to compensate people for what they have lost. Today a family contacted me to say that they had gone through the scheme and were rejected. They were trying to claim the monetary value of a lost vehicle. People are out of pocket when their car is lost and we need to acknowledge that. If the government cannot bring crime under control, they should look at trying to compensate people because not everyone in Queensland can afford insurance, especially not those in North Queensland.

Housing was another huge topic that was raised during the election campaign. An allocation of \$500 million has been made to the first round of the \$2 billion allocated out of the trunk infrastructure fund. We have been working with the state government—and I acknowledge the Deputy Premier—and developers in the northern beaches of Townsville to try to unlock 6,000 blocks. Having 6,000 blocks available would be a massive relief to Townsville residents who are looking to get into a new home. It would relieve the housing market at the moment, especially with rentals.

A sum of \$30,000 has been made available to first home buyers, which is fantastic, but it is hard to get into a new home. I do not know what the market is like in Brisbane at the moment, but in Townsville a three-bedroom house on a 300-square-metre block costs about \$650,000 so \$30,000 would not go too far. Where \$30,000 would go far is in places like Charters Towers, Mount Isa, Babinda and Innisfail where you can buy established homes. That is why the KAP will continue to advocate for the first home owners grant to be available to people buying established homes, especially in rural areas that are trying to attract people. In the sugar industry right now, people cannot find employees because we have haemorrhaged our best asset, that is, our youth. They have run off to the cities. There

is no-one to drive the harvesters or the cane haul-outs or work in the sugar mills. A policy like that could draw people from the cities back to the regions.

You would have to have been living under a rock or on a very high hill if you did not know about the floods in North Queensland this year. We are happy to see that money has been allocated for flood recovery, especially through the Stronger Homes Grant. It was an honour to make our way up to Ingham with the Premier—Ingham is his hometown—to announce that grant scheme to help people build resilience into their homes.

One thing that we have not seen a line item for, and it may be in the infrastructure resilience grants that may become available, is money to build a bund wall around the Ingham substation. During the floods we nearly lost power for two weeks because the Ingham substation goes underwater. That is ludicrous. The electrical asset that feeds most of the Herbert district and the Hinchinbrook shire goes under water during floods. We need a bund wall or a fit-for-purpose system. You cannot run electricity underwater. I cannot fathom why someone thought of that in the first place. We need to fix that.

During his contribution today, the member for Hill raised the Seymour River crossing on the Bruce Highway. This year, the road was cut 17 times because of floodwater. I had counted 19 but we have gone back to look at it and it was cut about 17 times. The Gairloch washaway has been cut a number of times. If you cut the Bruce Highway anywhere in the north then you cut the lifeblood to North Queensland. It means freight cannot move. Blenners Transport cannot carry bananas south and supermarkets like Coles, Woolies and the IGAs cannot transport food north. Because of that, we saw absolute bedlam and North Queensland fell into chaos during the floods this year. We need to address that. We cannot have the main highway that feeds into North Queensland and Far North Queensland cut. This year I wrote to a number of North Queensland members looking for support on that, but only a couple wrote back. I wish we had better support on that.

When it comes to roads, Gairloch washaway upgrades are being funded. They were previously funded. We need the Seymour River crossing upgrade to be funded as well so that they can be done in conjunction. On Dallachy Road, coming into Tully, Les Blennerhassett has his workshop and sheds. Finally, they are going raise that road to deal with the flood issues there. The budget contains money for that.

Like most Queenslanders, I was pretty excited to hear that there was \$9 billion in federal and state funding allocated to the Bruce Highway. However, I have been particularly upset to see that a number of the projects in the Hinchinbrook electorate have been eartagged as 'low hanging fruit', which basically means pavement strengthening. When we talked about safety improvements to the Bruce Highway, I thought we were talking about intersection upgrades, wide centre lines and overtaking lanes. Pavement strengthening? That should be done in maintenance! At least we should hold to account the substandard contractors whose work on the Bruce Highway only has a 90-day warranty standard. That is an absolute shambles. Even the crappiest thing off Temu, if sold in Australia, has to have a 12-month warranty. We have a 90-day warranty on work done on the Bruce Highway and that needs to be addressed. It is something that the government has inherited and it needs to be addressed. I withdraw my unparliamentary language, Mr Deputy Speaker.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Hunt): Yes, I was just going to pull you up for that unparliamentary language.

**Mr DAMETTO:** I appreciate that. I was pre-empting your call. While I am on my feet, though, I must address the Woolcock Street debacle we have in the Northern Beaches of Townsville. There has been an options analysis completed of the work that needs to be done to sort out the problems with the Lower Bohle River Bridge and with having only two lanes for traffic coming in and out of the busiest part of Townsville. No money has been allocated to continue to a business case. It has fallen completely off the QTRIP report. I have written a question on notice today to the minister seeking an update, and hopefully we will have some answers on that soon. The 15,000 commuters coming out of the Northern Beaches every morning plus the people coming in off the Bruce Highway will also want answers on that, especially Councillor Brodie Phillips, who has worked damn hard.

I will address 50-cent fares. We would love to have them in North Queensland. It is fantastic to have them down here. My sister came from the Gold Coast today on a 50-cent fare. It was lovely to have her in the House. I would love it if my other sister from North Queensland could come down on the Sunlander for 50 cents. That would be an absolute blessing. Usually North Queensland does not have a transport system or if there is one it does not turn up on time so it is not even worth using, especially if you need to be somewhere on time. I believe the member for Traeger is still waiting for his bus in Mount Isa to come in! Surely that will be there before he finishes his term.

Marine infrastructure is imperative for the people who live in the Hinchinbrook electorate. We do not have the entertainment of the south-east. We are definitely not going to get any of the Olympics—


**Ms PUGH:** You're very entertaining.

**Mr DAMETTO:** I find myself entertaining too some days. People really enjoy going out on the water. It is great to see that money has been allocated through Treasury to help out Port Hinchinbrook, which was damaged during Cyclone Yasi. Those people have gone through absolute hell. We worked with the previous government, and I must acknowledge Steven Miles, the then premier, for the work he did with his departments to make sure we could sort out the land-based issues at Port Hinchinbrook.

Now we are onto the water-based problems—the marina basin and dredging One Mile Creek. I am excited to hear the language being used by this state government because I believe we are very close to finding a solution. Mayor Ramon Jayo would love to see the dredging at Dungeness and the rock wall at Lucinda funded eventually. We are almost there. We need about \$12 million to see that project through to fruition. We cannot keep spruiking about how great Hinchinbrook Island is and telling people to visit and spend money at the Thorsborne Trail if we cannot get people there during all tides. Moving the Cassady boat ramp at Forrest Beach did not receive any funding this time, but I know the people of Forrest Beach will be happy about the money that has been allocated for the walkway along the foreshore.

We have also been allocated some money for the tennis club—\$950,000. We are appreciative of that. We also appreciate the other projects: Lucinda's Borello Park and shade sails at Taylors Beach.

*(Time expired)*

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (9.52 pm): I rise to address the cognate debate on the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2025, the Appropriation Bill 2025 and also the Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. The 2025-26 state budget sets the foundation for the fresh start that the Liberal National Party promised for Queensland. It is a state budget that is built on a calm and methodical approach, with a solid foundation for Queensland's future. Above all else, it is a state budget that respects taxpayers' money and honours the commitments we made to all Queenslanders, including local residents of the electorate of Moggill.

We made a commitment to Queenslanders to get Queensland back on track, and this state budget does exactly that. The 2025-26 state budget is focused on four key areas: safety where you live, a better lifestyle through a stronger economy, health services when you need them and a plan for Queensland's future. This year's state budget delivers responsible and timely cost-of-living relief. Our measures are targeted and enduring. This state budget saves critical frontline services and protects jobs that otherwise would have been put at risk under Labor. It backs infrastructure that was in danger of being lost and delivers projects that will now be built for the future.

For local residents of the electorate of Moggill, this state budget delivers. After 10 years of the former Labor government's neglect, residents of the electorate of Moggill now have a state government which is investing into their future prosperity. This is a state budget that does not just talk about promises; it actually funds them. Every election commitment that was made for the electorate of Moggill at the 2024 state election is fully funded in this budget.

This state budget provides a record \$33.1 billion for health, delivering more ambulances and more access to free health care than ever before. There is a record \$21.9 billion allocation for education, helping students to catch up, keep up and stay in school, whilst delivering more teachers and safer classrooms. There is also a \$100 Back to School Boost for every Queensland primary school student, which is fantastic news for local families across all 11 schools in the electorate of Moggill. Importantly, this budget also provides \$37.5 million for free health checks for kids in kindy.

In addressing Labor's housing crisis, this budget delivers a nation-leading \$165 million Boost to Buy scheme to help first home buyers enter the market. There is over \$209 million to deliver new crisis accommodation, \$37 million to enhance police responses and \$25 million for a new electronic monitoring program targeting high-risk domestic violence offenders. The \$20 million Returning to Work package for Queensland women along with superannuation payments for the full 52 weeks of parental leave for public sector employees are also welcome. There is an allocation of \$560 million for early intervention and rehabilitation to help break the cycle of youth crime. I am also delighted to acknowledge that this state budget contains over \$117 million to restore and protect Queensland's natural environment, supporting local conservation and habitat restoration.

This is what responsible government looks like. This is what forward planning delivers. This is what Queenslanders deserve. After a decade of neglect by the former Labor state government, local

residents of the electorate of Moggill have a state budget that delivers firmly for them. Quite literally, for years the former Labor state government would produce budget materials that failed to contain one reference or project for the western suburbs of Brisbane. We were quite literally left off Labor's map. In stark contrast, from Kenmore to Karana Downs and from Chapel Hill to Moggill-Bellbowrie, the Crisafulli LNP government's first state budget is backing our local residents, our families, our schools and our sporting, environmental and community organisations across the electorate of Moggill.

All of my local election commitments have been fully funded in this state budget, and that means real, practical benefits for the electorate of Moggill. From dedicated funding for local sporting clubs—like the Moggill Mustangs, the Kenmore Bears AFL club, the Moggill Football Club, Kenmore Districts Rugby, UQFC and others—to funding upgrades for all of our local pony clubs, delivering funding for vital infrastructure and equipment at our Mount Crosby Bowls Club as well as funding for our Brookfield Showground, this state budget is investing in the facilities and infrastructure that help bring our community together.

I am also delighted to say that our hardworking local volunteers and environmental groups have also received strong support from the Crisafulli LNP state government, with targeted funding to enhance catchment care, preserve green space and support the vital work of our local Girl Guides, Scouts and various service organisations.

This state budget is also providing support for our wonderful local schools and families, with funding in this state budget for a dedicated business case to progress a new local high school. We are also investing more in maintenance works across all our local schools and ensuring the delivery of specialist classrooms at Moggill State School as well as critical new building infrastructure at Kenmore State High School.

This is a budget that also delivers important community infrastructure and essential services for the electorate of Moggill. I am delighted that this budget funds our \$3 million commitment for a brand new community and neighbourhood centre in the electorate of Moggill, which will be a vital piece of infrastructure that will support residents and community groups across our region. In one of the most critical investments in essential infrastructure, we are replacing the aging Mount Crosby substation, with more than \$25 million committed to delivering a safe and modern energy supply for our community.

Importantly, this state budget also addresses long overdue enhancements to public and active transport and invests in vital road infrastructure to enhance safety and reduce congestion. This includes progressing a dedicated integrated road and public transport plan for the western suburbs of Brisbane, as well as our \$75 million commitment to upgrade the Kenmore roundabout and deliver pedestrian and safety upgrades at Our Lady of the Rosary School.

We are also delivering a new footpath connecting to the Moggill District Sports Park with \$1.1 million to enhance pedestrian access and safety for students, families and residents. I want to acknowledge the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, who has ensured that, after many years wasted by Labor, the Mount Crosby Road-Warrego Highway interchange upgrade is receiving the attention it deserves. These investments will ease congestion, enhance safety and ensure a better quality of life for residents in our community.


Before concluding my contribution, as Leader of the House in the Queensland parliament, I wish to address the Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and, specifically, amendments related to the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001. These amendments pertain to the estimates committee hearings and are designed to deliver accountability and transparency for Queenslanders. Under these amendments, the Speaker or Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly will preside as chairperson at estimates committee hearings. These reforms deliver on the Crisafulli LNP state government's election commitment to reform the estimates hearing processes and will enable a more consistent approach across all portfolio committees.

I also want to briefly acknowledge, with respect to the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2025, that a sum of \$146 million will be authorised for the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service for the financial year starting 1 July 2026. I wish to associate myself with the comments by the Treasurer and also add my appreciation and thanks to the Clerk of the Parliament, Mr Neil Laurie, and the outstanding members of the Parliamentary Service who provide exemplary service and support to all members of the Queensland parliament.

I also take this opportunity to acknowledge one of the members of the Queensland Press Gallery, Savannah Meacham from the Australian Associated Press, AAP, who finishes this week. Since January 2024, Savannah has covered state parliament with diligence and professionalism, and she is widely respected within the Queensland Press Gallery for her studious and hardworking approach. I

understand that her favourite moment on the rounds was covering the 2024 state election. Savannah now leaves AAP to move to the United Kingdom to be with her partner, with plans to travel and continue her journalism career in England. On behalf of the Queensland government, we wish Savannah the very best for the future.

In concluding my contribution, and returning to the substance of the Appropriation Bill 2025, I again want to underscore how residents of the electorate of Moggill deserve a government that respects them, that listens to them and that delivers for them. I am proud to say that through the Crisafulli LNP state government, and with the commitment and vision in this state budget, that is exactly what they now have. The Crisafulli LNP state government's budget is about supporting our families, backing our small businesses, keeping our communities safe, and securing a strong future of our children and our state of Queensland. The 2025 state budget sets the foundations for the fresh start the Liberal National Party promised to Queenslanders and, for residents of the electorate Moggill, that fresh start is now a reality. I commend the bills to the House.

 **Mr MARTIN** (Stretton—ALP) (10.01 pm): I rise to respond to the 2025-26 Queensland state budget, a budget from an LNP government that is, frankly, a masterclass in spin, broken promises and missed opportunities. For families in my electorate of Stretton, and indeed right across Queensland, this budget offers very little comfort. It is not a budget that meets the moment, it is certainly not a budget that delivers on trust and it is certainly not a budget that delivers on the Premier's word.

This is not a boring budget; it is a very bad budget from a bumbling Treasurer, delivering pain without pay-off. Let's be clear about what this budget really is. It is a budget that blows away cost-of-living support for millions of Queenslanders. It is a budget that cuts billions from congestion-busting infrastructure projects. It is a budget that makes people wait longer for medical treatment. It is a budget that does nothing to address the shortage of social and affordable housing. It is a budget that makes it harder for Queenslanders to get around and harder for Queenslanders to get ahead. It is a budget that continues the LNP's obsession with spin over substance.

Let me deal first with the LNP's so-called signature housing initiative—their shared equity scheme. This is their big idea, their headline policy, their flagship housing solution, but what is it really? It is very small, it is very selective and it is also very exclusive. At best it will help 1,000 Queenslanders a year, yet more than 25,000 first home buyers enter the market in Queensland each year. It is not much of a vision and it will not do anything to fix the housing crisis. It also does not go far enough.

Moreover, like so much in this budget, it is policy stolen from Labor. It was federal Labor, under Anthony Albanese, that delivered a real national shared equity scheme. The same LNP that opposed it in Canberra, where they called it 'dangerous', now rebrands it here in Queensland with a fraction of the funding and none of the ambition. That is a pattern we see right across this budget. The 50-cent public transport fares—Labor's idea. The Play On! kids' sports vouchers—Labor's idea. The entire capital works pipeline—Labor's projects just delayed, descoped and defunded. This budget is like a cheap Temu knock-off of Labor's work, but it gets worse. This government does not stand for anything. They spent nearly a decade in opposition and their big governing idea was to copy Labor's policies, shrink them, underfund them and then slap a blue logo on them.

They have built a government on slogans and secret polling, not on substance. Nowhere is that clearer than in the Premier's litany of broken promises. Let's remember exactly what the Premier told Queenslanders. He said, 'When I say something it means something,' but on almost every measure his word has meant nothing. Let's go through the list. He promised cheaper energy bills—broken. Energy prices are going up by \$77 in the south-east. Universal household energy rebates are gone. He promised 2,200 new hospital beds by 2028—broken. Now we get vague uncoded promises with no timeframes, no locations and no delivery plan. He said debt would be lower—wrong. The state is now staring down \$205 billion of debt by 2028, with an \$8 billion deficit this year alone. This debt is not even delivering better services—just more spin and more taxpayer funded advertising for a bad budget.

There is more. The Premier also promised no new stadiums. He promised to keep the majority of directors-general. He promised to appoint the member for Mudgeeraba as the health minister. He promised to appoint the member for Nanango as the water minister, to have a dedicated local government minister and to be the tourism minister himself. On all of these promises he has broken his word. He promised measurable KPIs for ministers and that he would hold them accountable—broken. He promised Queensland government consulting would save \$757 million by 30 June and be established by 1 July this year—broken. He promised transparency and integrity, but what did Queenslanders get? They got funding cut for the Environmental Defenders Office, hand-picked

LNP-aligned appointments to supposedly independent bodies, secrecy around cabinet documents, project cost blowouts and transport timelines. This government's credibility is shot.

On infrastructure, again, it is Labor that delivered and the LNP that delays and cuts. The Premier promised to fix congestion. Instead, this budget cuts \$13.1 billion from the four-year infrastructure pipeline. Projects that Queenslanders were relying on to ease traffic and improve transport access are now on the chopping block. They will also cut 3,000 road and transport jobs over the next four years.

On energy it is the same story. They have halved investment in battery storage projects. They have slowed down the CopperString project and gone slow on the Borumba pumped hydro.

When it comes to health, this is perhaps the most damning evidence of this government's fail. This budget confirms that the LNP is not committed to delivering the hospital infrastructure that Queenslanders deserve. There is no funding for the new dedicated spinal unit at the PA. There is no detailed timeline or budget for the promised 2,600 new hospital beds. Hospital projects from Cairns to Caboolture are being delayed or descope. This is not 'record health investment'; it is record health neglect.

While the government cannot fund hospital beds, cannot fund infrastructure and cannot fund meaningful cost-of-living relief, they have somehow found taxpayers' money to change the Queensland government's official colour from maroon to blue. Yes, that is right. The LNP is spending taxpayers' money to strip maroon from government branding and replace it with blue. At a time when families are struggling with grocery bills, rising rents and mortgage stress, the LNP is prioritising political rebranding over service delivery. Queenslanders do not want their government logos to be blue; they want their power bills to be lower, their hospital wait times to be shorter and their kids' schools upgraded. This is vanity spending at its worst—a government that governs for itself, not the people.

Frankly, I have seen many members opposite dismiss this issue, laugh at it and say it is silly changing the Queensland coat of arms from maroon to blue. I have seen the reaction out there in the community. The people are rightly annoyed. They are also a little confused about their behaviour. For some not engaged in politics—for those people who do not follow politics every day—it has been a massive red flag. People in my community who have undoubtedly voted for the LNP will be thinking twice after the behaviour of the LNP—not consulting anyone and then changing the Queensland coat of arms from maroon to blue so that it more closely aligns with LNP branding.

Let me bring it back to the people of Stretton. Families in Stretton are still doing it tough. Interest rates remain high. Grocery and fuel prices are climbing. Insurance premiums are soaring. Rents and mortgage stress are putting pressure on household budgets. Labor delivered real cost-of-living support with \$1,000 electricity rebates, 20 per cent off car rego and 50-cent public transport fares. This LNP government has stripped away universal energy rebates and has done nothing new for families struggling to make ends meet.


On infrastructure the story is just as grim. Labor funded the Kuraby to Gold Coast faster rail project, including the removal of the dangerous Kuraby level crossing, and funded the Cooper Plains level crossing removal. My community is happy that the funding for these projects remains, yet on rail this budget offers no new commitments for further level crossing removals along Beenleigh Road. In particular, the Warrigal Road level crossing remains problematic for my community. There are also no guarantees for vital school upgrades at Runcorn State High School for their fields, Stretton State College for their fields, and much needed improvements to traffic road safety.

There is also not enough funding for our multicultural communities. With \$5 million allocated for multicultural community halls over four years that is hardly going to build much. The question I have for the government is where are these halls going to be built and who is going to get them? As a member who represents one of the most multicultural electorates in Queensland, I certainly hope this money is spent where those communities live.

Following Labor's \$30 million investment in upgrades to the Beaudesert and Illaweena Street intersection, which have been great for our community, this budget does not show any funding for the next stage of upgrades to Beaudesert Road, which are much needed by my community. Another disappointment for my electorate is that, whilst the LNP makes flashy announcements about installing CCTV cameras in some parts of Queensland—like Brisbane city or Burleigh on the Gold Coast—Stretton misses out despite community concerns and the need for enhanced safety measures in local parks, shopping centres and streets. There is no funding for CCTV in Stretton.

It is clear this is a government that picks and chooses based on politics, not need. Let's remember this is a government that said there would be no new stadiums, lower debt, more hospital beds, cheaper

energy, greater transparency and honest government. On every count they have broken their promises. Queenslanders deserve a government that believes in something; a government with a vision; a government that keeps its word; delivers real cost-of-living relief; invests in schools and hospitals; and keeps building the infrastructure that Queenslanders need. Labor stands for fairness, opportunity and action, not announcements. As the member for Stretton, I will continue to hold this government to account because Queenslanders deserve better.

 **Mr BAROUNIS** (Maryborough—LNP) (10.11 pm): I rise today with immense pride and a deep sense of responsibility as the representative for the Maryborough electorate. My community is, and will always be, my highest priority. When I say I will deliver, I mean it. I have listened to the voices of our residents, I have heard their concerns and I have taken action. I made the commitment to deliver for our communities, and that is exactly what I have done.

We promised, and we are delivering. Coastal erosion continues to threaten the Great Sandy Strait region—the communities of Maaroom, Boonooroo, Tuan, Poona and Tinnanbar. Without urgent intervention, more of our precious coastline will be lost to the ocean. I made the commitment to secure \$1.5 million in state government funding to safeguard these communities. I am proud to announce that this funding has now been allocated and will be spent on coastal protection efforts in this area.

We promised, and we are delivering. The Maryborough Salvation Army provides vital services to our most vulnerable, including meals, showers and laundry facilities. These facilities are in urgent need of upgrades to meet growing demand. I have secured \$150,000 in state government funding to upgrade these amenities so they can better serve our community.

We promised, and we are delivering. The founder of RDT Angels and the volunteers have been operating their community driven food stall from temporary marquees. Despite challenges with the operation, all proceeds go to support local organisations. With \$20,000 in funding, RDT Angels can now purchase an upgraded food truck, allowing for safer and more efficient operations and, ultimately, more support for our community.

We promised, and we are delivering. The Burrum and District Community Men's Shed in Howard offers a space for mateship, support and connection, which is especially vital for retired men who may feel isolated in rural communities. I have secured \$22,000 for an extension of the facility and new equipment to enhance their services and reach more local men.

We promised, and we are delivering. The Bruce Highway is critical to our region's connectivity, yet it remains dangerous and has claimed too many lives. Through the 80-20 federal-state funding arrangement, we are seeing significant investment in our road network, including the commencement of the Tiaro bypass and the broader \$9 billion Bruce Highway upgrade.

Additional funding that I have secured for my electorate includes: \$1,275,000 for maintenance and minor works for schools in the Maryborough electorate; \$7.2 million to continue the delivery of the rural brigade headquarters; \$7 million to complete the upgrade for the Maryborough Police Station facility; and 2.7 million for Anzac Park lighting. The Maryborough Hospital is set to receive an essential services upgrade as part of the Hospital Rescue Plan. Thank goodness the LNP Crisafulli government cares about my electorate's hospital, because for many years it has been very much overlooked.


We are delivering for Maryborough. The Queensland Train Manufacturing Program site at Torbanlea is currently being constructed as a manufacturing hub for the 2032 Olympic Games. This brand new facility is about to employ another 200 blue-collar workers and 100 white-collar workers. This is tremendous news for the Maryborough electorate with the amount of money it will bring into Maryborough. I thank the Crisafulli LNP government for their confidence in Maryborough and continued support in getting this facility up and running to produce these trains on time for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The Downer site in Torbanlea continues to be a hub for workers within the train industry. Downer continues to provide reliable work for the residents and their families within my electorate. Maryborough people have been well connected with the Downer family for many generations, and I do not see this ending. Contracts are coming, and the future of Downer is strong under the Crisafulli LNP government.

We are supporting local industries and businesses. Maryborough will proudly host archery events for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. This opportunity is a testament to the leadership of the Premier, the Deputy Premier and the Crisafulli LNP government. The government has committed \$4.7 billion towards the games delivery plan, ensuring our region is ready to play its part in this historic event. We are delivering infrastructure for our community. The future of Maryborough is bright. I am

very happy to deliver my first budget for the communities in our electorate. We promised and we are delivering.

In just eight months the Crisafulli LNP government has made significant progress. Promises are being honoured and results are being delivered across all electorates. Our Premier, the Hon. David Crisafulli, is a leader of vision and integrity. I am proud to work alongside him and his government to deliver a safer, more prosperous Maryborough and Queensland. The Crisafulli LNP government promised a fresh start and it is delivering exactly that. We are delivering for Queensland.

 **Ms BOURNE** (Ipswich West—ALP) (10.19 pm): I rise to speak today on the LNP's 2025-26 state budget, what it means for Queenslanders and what it means for the people of Ipswich West. This is a budget that fails to deliver the cost-of-living support that millions of Queenslanders were promised, a budget that cuts billions from congestion-busting projects, a budget that does nothing to solve the shortage of social and affordable housing. It is a budget that will make it harder for Queenslanders to get around.

I want to acknowledge the amazing people who live, work and play in the seat of Ipswich West—the very people who will be let down by this budget. An example of this is the second river crossing. In May this year a local newspaper ran an article under the headline 'Minister: council must start bridge project plan'. The article reported on comments I had made earlier that month in which I expressed concern that the Minister for Transport had taken his eye off the road when it came to progressing two critical infrastructure projects—the Ipswich second river crossing and the Mount Crosby Road interchange. In response, the minister informed the press that the Crisafulli government's allocation of \$4 million for the business case was in the hands of the Ipswich City Council for it to develop a preferred option for the crossing. So imagine my interest when I read the Ipswich City Council's recent budget submission to the state government. In it, the council called on the state to urgently commence the detailed business case for the second river crossing. Who has the money? That seems to be the question.

Yesterday in question time when I raised the issue of this funding not being delivered, the Treasurer chose to use a full two minutes and 40 seconds to deliver a rant—one that did not clarify anything but instead accused this side of the House of confusion. The confusion lies not here but between the Treasurer, the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, and the Mayor of Ipswich City Council. Here is what we know: the Mayor of Ipswich wants the \$4 million to progress the business case, the Minister for Transport insists that the council already has it, the Treasurer says it is in the budget, and QTRIP shows that only \$500,000 is allocated to 2025-26 with the remaining \$3.5 million scheduled post 2025-26. So who is correct, where is the money and, more importantly, when will this crucial project finally move forward? This comes from a Premier who promised to govern with openness and transparency.

I move on to address the lack of progress on infrastructure across Ipswich West. I am deeply frustrated—bewildered, in fact—by the repeat disregard this government is showing to the people of Ipswich West. Despite countless emails to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, despite raising the matter in this very chamber time and time again, despite the clear and growing urgency of the situation, the 2025-26 LNP budget papers show nothing but ignorance towards critical infrastructure priorities in my electorate, including the Mount Crosby Road interchange and the Bremer River Bridge.

Let me be clear: these are not abstract line items. These are vital projects that directly impact the safety, connectivity and future growth of our region. The previous government had allocated funding for both. In fact the 2024-25 budget papers clearly outlined financial commitments. Just last month, QTRIP reaffirmed those commitments. The Mount Crosby Road interchange and the Bremer River Bridge were both listed and both funded, but now QTRIP has been changed. The funding details for the Mount Crosby Road interchange have disappeared. The construction start date has been pushed to 2027-28 and the project is now suddenly subject to further project development, site investigations and consideration. The Minister for Transport and Main Roads recently replied to a question on notice by saying, 'The Crisafulli Government remains committed to delivering the Mount Crosby Road interchange.' Well, actions speak louder than words and the actions in these budget papers tell a different story.

The opposition leader spoke today in his budget reply speech about the importance of cost of living and the lack of commitments included in this budget. This LNP budget unfortunately blows away cost-of-living support for millions of Queenslanders. Whilst this budget includes the introduction of the \$100 Back to School Boost voucher for primary school students—which is delivered via schools to eligible enrolled students in Ipswich West—it is clear that this measure, though helpful, does not go far

enough. It is suggested that the vouchers can assist with costs like books, stationery, uniforms, devices and extracurricular activities such as sport and the arts. However, I question when those in the LNP government last truly listened to families struggling with the real costs of sending their kids to school.

The support, while welcome, is limited to primary school students and will not be paid directly to parents and does not start until 2026. It does little to offset the broader financial pressures families face—pressures only made worse by rising power bills and increases to vehicle registration due to not continuing previous assistance that this side of the House provided. I appreciate that the government listened to those of us on this side of the House in relation to keeping our 50-cent fares and the FairPlay sporting vouchers, which have been beneficial to many within my electorate.

I have 23 amazing schools in my electorate. The Eat Right, Play Right, Learn Well program, launched in 2022, has delivered real benefits to schools across my electorate. Thanks to \$101 million allocated in the 2023-24 budget, 277 schools received vital funding for upgrades to playgrounds and tuckshops. This investment continues to make a tangible difference to the daily experiences of students, helping them stay active, eat well and thrive in their learning environments.

As of 1 May this year, in response to a question on notice, the minister confirmed that playground upgrades are currently underway at Ashwell State School, the school my son attended, and Ipswich North State School, with Amberley District State School's upgrade in the planning phase. Rosewood State High School is also planning tuckshop improvements, further supporting student health and wellbeing. I note that the Ipswich North State School playground upgrades and new shade sails have been included in this year's budget. I am pleased to see Haigslea State School receiving a new multipurpose school and community hall, and Ipswich State High School receiving \$100,000 for new grandstands. The Ipswich West Special School campus at Leichhardt State School, announced in the budget, is well and truly underway. This facility will fill a huge gap in our community.

I note also in the budget that Marburg SES is set to receive upgrades to their kitchen, bathroom and laundry. This is welcome news and I congratulate the Marburg SES for their continued service to our community. They are an amazing group of volunteers who do so much more across our community.

In my electorate of Ipswich West, hooning continues to be a growing concern for local residents. I therefore welcome the \$16.8 million for CCTV, police presence and anti-hooning measures, and trust that we will be able to readily access that, as our community deserves its fair share of these resources.

The budget also references new crime prevention schools for at-risk youth. The detail on this is vague. Where in Ipswich will this school be? How will it operate? When will the tender actually begin? How are you advertising this tender process? This government needs to provide clarity, not headlines. Our communities need real support, not just announcements. In 2024, along with the then premier Steven Miles and the member for Morayfield, I was proud to announce 40 more police officers, two mobile police beats and 10 police vehicles for Ipswich, plus the opening of a new police station at Rosewood. There is, unfortunately, nothing new in the budget for policing across Ipswich West.

Homelessness is an issue that touches communities right across Australia, and Ipswich is no exception. I have seen this reality firsthand through my volunteer work with Rosies and more recently during my visit to the Ipswich Housing Service Centre in May. What I witnessed there was nothing short of remarkable. The centre brings together a committed team of housing officers, occupational therapists, and domestic and family violence specialists, all working collaboratively to secure the best possible outcomes for those in crisis.

The dedication, compassion and professionalism of the first responder unit, in particular, left a lasting impression on me. They go out daily to visit rough sleepers, offering not just services but dignity and hope. That is why I was deeply concerned to see that in Budget Paper No. 3 only \$7.069 million has been allocated for capital grants to housing and homelessness services in Ipswich. This is different from the \$8.665 million committed by the previous government for the 2024-25 financial year under the same line item. At a time when the need is rising, this government is asking frontline services to do more with less. This is not just disappointing; it is dangerous. Our communities deserve better. The hardworking professionals on the ground need the resources to match the scale of the challenge.


My electorate is proud of its strong sporting culture, so it is no surprise that the LNP budget has decided to adopt the FairPlay vouchers, an initiative that has proven invaluable to families over the years. If it looks like a FairPlay voucher and it acts like a FairPlay voucher, then make no mistake, it is exactly that, no matter how they try to spin it. I thank the government for finally listening to the voices on this side of the House and our communities for continuing this important support for grassroots sport.

Sport plays a vital role in our community and I welcome the funding commitments in the budget for: grandstand upgrades at the Ipswich Musketeers Baseball Club; lighting improvements at the Rosewood Showgrounds; and upgrades for the Norths Tigers Rugby League clubs. These commitments were first promised back in October 2024, over eight months ago. Since then, I have been working very hard to find out from the government exactly when these funds will be delivered. Our local clubs and community deserve clarity on this issue. I will be holding a stall at the Rosewood Showgrounds this weekend, and it is disappointing that this funding did not arrive in time to support this year's show with the much needed lights. I urge the government to ensure these funds are delivered promptly, ideally before the next show circuit begins. While we are at it, I have asked the minister if the Marburg Showground can get funding for lights as well.

Ipswich has experienced significant population and economic growth, with some sources indicating it has the fastest growth rate in Queensland. Ipswich remains one of Australia's fastest growing and most liveable cities, with 2,733 more people calling it home over the December 2024 quarter as the city surpassed 260,000 residents. This is why this budget is so very disappointing for Ipswich.

As I said in my speech last night, we have been overlooked by this government for any significant Olympic opportunities. In an article in the *Ipswich West Moreton Today* entitled 'Ipswich forgotten again', it talks about consultation sessions regarding the run-up to the Olympic Games being held in Brisbane, Roma, Emerald, Cairns, Mackay, Sunshine Coast, Gold Coast and Toowoomba. However, there was no mention of Ipswich at all. The Ipswich City Council received no new infrastructure as part of the 100-day Olympic review. I say to this government, 'Shame!' Ipswich is growing exponentially and we have been left behind. Ipswich has a proud sporting history and this is how we have been repaid.

I will finish where I started by saying that this is a budget that lets down the people of Queensland and lets down the people of Ipswich West. My promise to my electorate is I am going to continue to tailgate this government until Ipswich gets what it rightly deserves. They would expect nothing less of me.

 **Mr DALTON** (Mackay—LNP) (10.32 pm): It is with great pride that I rise today to support the first budget delivered by the Crisafulli government and in particular the critical investments it makes in the Mackay region. This budget is more than numbers on a page, it is a commitment—a commitment to restore trust in government to deliver on our promises and put Mackay back where it belongs: front and centre in Queensland's story. For far too long—109 years, to be exact—our region was treated as an afterthought. Our infrastructure fell behind, our services were stretched and our communities were left to fend for themselves. That ends today. The budget signals a fresh start.

We have inherited a mess: over \$218 billion in projected debt, skyrocketing deficits and the major project blowouts across the board. Despite record revenues, Labor left Mackay with crumbling roads, an overstretched hospital and the worst ambulance ramping in the country. This government is cleaning up the mess with discipline, responsibility and vision. We are rebuilding Queensland finances and we are rebuilding faith in the people of Mackay who have waited too long for proper investment in their future.

This budget delivers on four key priorities Queensland voted for, and every one of them has a real tangible outcome in Mackay. On community safety, we are backing our police. That means 1,600 new police officers across the state. There will be \$560 million for youth justice and early intervention. There will be \$40 million in local safety infrastructure, including CCTV and better lighting. There will be \$9.3 million to upgrade the Mackay Police Station, delivering on modern facilities that reflect the needs of our growing community.

In regards to economic growth and lifestyle, this budget supports our local economy through jobs, infrastructure and opportunities. There will be \$23.5 million to upgrade the Great Barrier Reef Arena, making it ready for the 2032 Olympics. There is support for Mackay's sporting clubs, including: \$1.6 million for Mackay Netball; \$800,000 for Mackay Football Park; \$800,000 for Mackay Hockey; and \$450,000 for North Mackay Saints. There will be major road, rail and transport upgrades under a \$41.7 billion capital program, including work on the Bruce Highway and rail improvements which will benefit Mackay's connectivity, including the Mackay-Bucasia Road just outside in the Whitsunday electorate.

This budget delivers health services when you need them. There will be 128 new overnight beds in Mackay Hospital under the Hospital Rescue Plan. A new multistorey car park which is long overdue will now be delivered with a helicopter pad on top. The abolition of the patients tax will make it more

affordable to see a GP. It also delivers part of \$29.4 billion in core health funding with the Mackay HHS staff growing to nearly 3,000 frontline health workers.


The fourth key priority is a future focused state. This budget lays out foundations for Mackay's next chapter. One million new homes will be built by 2044 across the state, including 53,500 social and affordable homes, with strong delivery focus in regional hubs like Mackay. There will be full funding for Queensland's state schools, including anti-bullying and behaviour programs. Major upgrades to Mackay State High School and Mackay North State High School will ensure students learn in modern, well-equipped environments. There will be \$1.1 million for Woodlands District Park, including new family friendly amenities.

This budget delivers cost-of-living relief that will make a difference to local families, including: \$100 Back to School Boost for every primary school student; \$200 Play On! vouchers to help kids get active and join local clubs; the Boost to Buy Scheme with two per cent deposits and price caps up to \$1 million to help Mackay families break free from the rental trap; stamp duty abolished on all new homes for first home buyers; and the extension of the \$30,000 first home owner grant, already making a difference for young couples building a future in our region. One of my own electorate officers and his wife made the move from Brisbane to Mackay with the goal of getting ahead and starting the family of their dreams. This extension brings that dream closer to reality for them and for so many others in our region.

We are not just investing in bricks and mortar; we are investing in what makes Mackay strong, including: \$5.2 million for the St Vincent de Paul Community Support Centre; \$1 million for supporting Chances House Mackay, feeding and caring for our homeless; \$450,000 to upgrade lighting at the North Mackay Saints AFL Club; and \$250,000 for the Mackay Musical Comedy Players Inc, supporting our thriving arts scene with a new rehearsal space.

These are not election slogans. These are real investments for real people, creating jobs, uplifting families and strengthening the spirit of Mackay. This is Mackay's moment. This budget proves that we are no longer just observers of Queensland's progress; we are drivers of it. It shows that when a government listens to regional Queensland and respects its potential, the results speak for themselves. We are delivering safer streets, better hospitals, fairer opportunities and a stronger Mackay for the next generation.

After years of being overlooked, Mackay is being seen and heard and prioritised. This is a government of action not announcements, of responsibility not recklessness and of real delivery not forgotten promises. I commend this budget to the House.

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (10.39 pm): It is budget week, and it is also work experience week for a lot of state high school students around the state. I have had the wonderful Piya and Sahana here with me from Centenary State High School. It has been fantastic to see how bright these young women are who have been working alongside me this week for their work experience. It is clear to see that the former Labor government's strong investment in our state education system has been very well spent indeed. I have been absolutely blown away by these two clever and hardworking young ladies, as well as the lovely Jake who has come in from the Gap State High School. He is very industrious and he has teamed up with my young students on some of their tasks, including going through some of the budget papers this week. The students were absolutely gobsmacked by the volume in question time. They kept asking the member for Cooper and me over and over again when they were watching, 'Is it really like that in here every single day?' I was like, 'Yes, it is.' 'But why are you all yelling like that every single day? Don't you get tired of yelling about the same thing every day?' Apparently not. I still do not have a good answer for the students two days later. I just thought I would share that reflection with the House.

I am a 'glass half full' kind of person, so I am going to go first to the highlights of the budget. Firstly, seeing those 50-cent fares locked in is absolutely fabulous. I do not think I can convey to the House how transformative those fares were in the outer suburbs that I represent. When the Miles Labor government introduced them last year, the uptake in my community was significant, it was swift and the excitement was palpable. When I would doorknock, people would tell me story after story of how the 50-cent fares had reshaped their family budget. For a family of five in Riverhills to have one person commuting to the city each day now costs just \$5 a week when it had been close to \$10 a day. My hubby said it would have cost him about \$8.70 a day or so to catch the train before that. The 50-cent fares meant that a significant weekly saving could go towards groceries or the rent or mortgage. For some families it was the difference between being able to enrol kids in sport or not.

I am so pleased for my community and for every Queenslander to see these fares continuing. It has transformed the way we move around our city. People like Adam from Riverhills, who did not use to mind driving into the city—despite the congestion on the Jindalee bridge—now cannot be convinced to do anything but commute from one of our local train stations. From Darra train station, it is just 22 minutes on an express service into the city area. I must say that I do appreciate the Minister for Main Roads talking about the LNP's 50-cent fares. He is getting a little better every day at saying it with a straight face. Keep it up and I am sure by the end of the year you will have convinced yourself, Minister, but it is hard to be mad at him for being such a strong supporter of a good Labor policy.

Speaking of great Labor initiatives that the LNP is keen to take credit for, the aforementioned Jindalee bridge continues to move ahead in leaps and bounds. It is now at the point in construction where when I drive across there is literally something new happening every day. The bridge decking is being laid at a rate of knots this week as we sit in parliament. I have said it before and I will say it again: this bridge is desperately needed. It is school holidays for our private schools this week so the congestion is lower everywhere around the city, it seems, but the Centenary Bridge at Jindalee. This is because it is a pinch point where it is impossible to merge safely due to the short on-ramp. Drivers cannot merge at a high enough speed to ensure the motorway continues to flow smoothly, so the whole Centenary Motorway behind this bridge grinds to a halt every morning, every afternoon and often on the weekends now, too. I have spoken before about the stress this causes families in my community—parents trying to get their kids to school, to sport on the weekend and older residents trying to get to the Wesley for a morning medical appointment. It does not need to be like this. While the bridge is not the be-all and end-all, it is going to make things significantly better. I am so proud to have advocated for this project alongside my good friend, Milton Dick, the Speaker of the federal parliament and the federal member for Oxley.

Now, another bit of Labor homework the LNP was very keen to borrow was the FairPlay vouchers. The FairPlay vouchers were something that many Labor members of this House campaigned hard on to see them kept in this year's budget. They have been rebranded as the Play On! vouchers. As I have said, there were clubs in my community that received over \$40,000 worth of vouchers for their winter sport. That is a massive chunk of annual playing fees. This money helps keep these clubs going, so it is a double win both for the parents of the players and for the community clubs they play for, so thank you to all of the locals who signed the petition to keep this fantastic initiative.

Speaking of fantastic local clubs getting money, it is also good to see the budget allocation for the Stormers' new lights in the regional highlights carve out under the Games On! Grassroots Infrastructure Program. I note from the budget papers this will be a \$300,000 commitment to get these lights for this fantastic club. I know the president Belinda from the Stormers and the whole club are absolutely thrilled.

I have looked closely at the budget. I have not been able to confirm any money for major projects in my schools that were in the various planning stages. I cannot see any money for the Corinda STEM lab in a specific individual line item or for the Centenary State High School hall. I stress that perhaps funding for these items is wrapped up in other more generalised items. I desperately hope that I am wrong and the money is, in fact, allocated in the budget. From what I can also see, Free Kindy did not get its own line item in the budget. In the SDS, reference is made to both Free Kindy and other items such as early childhood workforce initiatives.

One of the things I am most proud of—out of all of the things that we delivered as a Labor government—is Free Kindy, for so many reasons. Education is the great equaliser. It gives every child a real opportunity to succeed. What we now know is that the first five years of a child's education is absolutely vital to setting that young person up for success. If they do not get a good start in their early years of learning, it can be a significant impediment when they enter their latter primary school years. When they get to one of our great state schools, they deserve a teacher who is earning nation-leading wages. I want to take a moment to express solidarity for our hardworking teachers and our nurses, both of which are female-dominated professions. They work tirelessly to educate and care for us. They deserve nation-leading wages and conditions, and I call on the state government to come back to the table and make a better offer for our hardworking teachers.


Mr Deputy Speaker, you might see that I am wearing the new state colour of Queensland because—apparently—now our branding changes with the government. On a serious note, the Queensland colour has, and always should be and will be, the state colour—maroon. It is not red; it is not blue; it is not green. Queensland is maroon, just like our great State of Origin team. It should not be subject to the government of the day changing the colour to their own side. The fact that this change has almost certainly cost money just adds insult to injury. I call on the government to come clean about

the cost of this unnecessary change. This government, without consultation or a clear explanation, changed the state branding. Our maroon colours have seen us through countless political parties and changes of government, as it should. Our state colours are not about politics; it is about being a Queenslander. It is something that every single Queenslander should be proud of, no matter how they voted. I thank the locals who contacted me about this. Those opposite might say that it is not a serious issue, but it is seriously deranged to think that Queenslanders will accept spending taxpayers' money to politicise our state colour.

Let me quote from the Queensland government website, which is still up—now let's see for how long—on 13 November 2003, the Governor in Council officially named maroon as Queensland's state colour. This announcement was made as a result of a long-held informal tradition of using maroon to represent Queensland. Maroon has traditionally been associated with Queensland's sport—the Brisbane Broncos, the Brisbane Lions. The sporting clubs both use shades of maroon for their team colours in combination with gold for the Broncos and blue and gold for the Lions. While the Governor elected a particular shade of maroon, Queenslanders continue to wear all shades of maroon at sporting and other events to show the spirit of the state. Maroon is the spirit of the state. I cannot imagine anyone who loves this state as much as I do adopting the LNP blue any time soon. Our state colour needs to be beyond politics. I know my community feels the same.

I know that for people in my community and right across Queensland the energy rebates we had in last year's budget were a significant relief for their family budgets. Likewise, not having the car rego rebates in the budget is going to hurt working people and families in outer suburbs like Mount Ommaney. I got a text from a friend today with their appraisal of the budget. They said the LNP were essentially selling the budget as 'all the stuff you like from Labor but we'll tell you that we're worried about the cost'. They cannot have it both ways. Our side of the House are proud of our coal royalties. We are proud of what they delivered for Queensland. We are proud of our 50-cent fares, our FairPlay vouchers and our free kindy. Those decisions were made on principle. They were the right call.

The Treasurer wants us to think that this is a boring budget, but for my community there is nothing boring about budgets that affect people's everyday lives, and I know that is a sentiment I share with the member for Keppel, who made the same observation earlier. Budgets have the power to be transformative. People who think of their budgets as boring lack vision and a plan for our great state. It is actually really concerning to hear it referred to that way. To people in my community this budget is not boring; it has the potential to seriously impact their lives. To see those key cost-of-living measures not in there is so disappointing to people in my community. They will actually be heartbroken and crestfallen. That is not boring to them; that could seriously impact their everyday lives. I am really disappointed to see some of those measures have not been included in the budget and I know that my community is not alone in that. There will be communities right across Queensland who will be deeply disappointed to see key infrastructure has not made it into this budget and those cost-of-living measures also have not made it into this budget. It is absolutely inaccurate to say it is boring. Choices have been made and in many cases, unfortunately, they are the wrong choices for Queensland.

 **Mr VORSTER** (Burleigh—LNP) (10.52 pm): Thomas Jefferson once said, 'The government you elect is the government you deserve.' Last year Queensland said it deserved a fresh start because the old way was not working. It was time for a government that put the safety of communities ahead of the excuses of offenders. It was time for a government that backed the hands and hearts of nurses and doctors rather than burying them in bureaucracy. It was time for a government that reignited aspiration so that young Queenslanders could once again believe in the dream of home ownership. It was time for a government that respected the taxpayer, that made every dollar work harder because Queenslanders work hard for every dollar they earn.

The Crisafulli LNP team listened and, more than that, we acted. Our election platform, the Right Plan for Queensland's Future, became a solemn promise to prioritise people over politics and delivery over spin. It was not a promise made lightly; it was a compact forged with the people of this state to bring government back to first principles and to restore confidence in the system itself. Our promise was to give every Queenslander hope that the government could once again be a force for good, measured by results, not press conferences.

Today I rise confidently and proudly to say this: the first budget of the Crisafulli LNP government lays the foundation for the fresh start Queensland voted for. For the people of Burleigh, the community I have the great honour of representing, it repays their trust in full. It protects our lifestyle, backs our volunteers and delivers practical outcomes, especially for those who work with the most vulnerable. More than anything, it honours my commitment to restore safety in the heart of Burleigh by delivering a new permanent Police Beat.

This is not about crime statistics; it is about confidence. This new Police Beat will mean more police on the ground; it will mean faster response times; and it will mean that workers feel safe leaving their shift and business owners can focus on chasing profits, not chasing shoplifters. Our new Police Beat will change lives because it will return confidence to the heart of our precinct and not just through infrastructure, but with serious resources that the former Labor government could never deliver because they were never serious about tackling crime. Along with the Police Beat, this budget delivers millions for community safety initiatives in Burleigh including on Friday and Saturday nights: better lighting, targeted patrols and safe spaces for young people. Every idea is on the table so long as it keeps people safe.

Keeping our communities safe is essential but so, too, is investing in the future of our children. That work starts in our schools. This government has already delivered a landmark school funding agreement with the Commonwealth, something that the former government could never achieve. That agreement will lift resources across Queensland and ensure every student has the best possible chance to thrive no matter their background or postcode. It also matters that we get the small things right, the things raised in P&Cs and school newsletters, the projects that improve daily life for students and staff alike. That is why I am proud this budget supports upgrades at my local schools. There is funding for those upgrades and over \$700,000 for maintenance work. I look forward to championing even more because I know education changes lives.

That same principle, listening and acting, is also driving our approach to environmental protection. We are investing in the restoration of Burleigh Head National Park and nearby conservation areas, places left to decline through chronic under-resourcing. This budget turns it around. Over \$600,000 supports rangers, empowers volunteers and restores the health of a place that means so much to locals and visitors alike. Speaking of those who protect what matters, we should never forget the volunteers who step forward to serve. This budget recognises their work and supports it at every single surf lifesaving club in my electorate, at Baby Give Back, at the Varsity Lakes Community Resource Centre and the Friends of Tallebudgera Creek Conservation Park.


For all the support we can give in times of crisis, nothing offers long-term security like having a place to call home. For too many young Queenslanders the great Australian dream of home ownership has slipped out of reach. I have spoken to them—some still living with parents, others working multiple jobs but all feeling no matter how hard they try, the system is rigged against them. They feel locked out, they feel forgotten and too many have quietly given up. That cannot stand because when people give up on home ownership, they do not just lose a house; they lose a stake in their future. This budget takes the first serious steps to turn that around. It removes stamp duty for first home buyers purchasing or building a new home, putting tens of thousands of dollars back in people's pockets and bringing that dream closer to reality. It launches our shared equity scheme and supercharges the \$2 billion Residential Activation Fund, helping to get more homes out of the ground by funding the essential infrastructure that makes new developments possible.

I want young people to hear this clearly: their aspirations are understood. They are shared and they are core business for this government. That is why the Deputy Premier and I met with Hayley at Memorial Park in Burleigh, a young woman working hard, saving diligently and doing everything she can to own her first home. Hayley was not asking for shortcuts, she was not asking for special treatment; she just wanted a fair go and a government that did not make it harder. Her story stayed with me not because it is powerful, but because it is common. This budget starts to open doors for people like her.

We also know that home ownership is not the only housing issue that needs fixing. For those who need social housing, the system must be fair and functional. Under Labor, it was neither. This budget restores annual rent and eligibility checks to ensure that public housing is going to those who genuinely need it, not households earning six-figure incomes. We are not playing politics; we are restoring fairness and we are doing it while ramping up supply and partnering with the community housing sector. Whether it is first home buyers like Hayley or vulnerable Queenslanders waiting for a roof over their head, this budget sends the same message: we see you, we hear you and we are building a housing system that works—not just promised, but actually delivered.

This budget is a statement of values about what we prioritise, whom we listen to and how we serve. It has returned to first principles—listen carefully, act deliberately, spend responsibly. This budget does not chase headlines and it does not confuse motion with progress. Instead, it does the quiet work—the hard work—of restoring confidence in public institutions and rebuilding trust between government and the people it serves. It starts from the premise that Queenslanders are tired of politics as performance. They want delivery, they want dignity and they want their government to respect their effort by respecting every dollar they pay. This budget resets more than just the books; it resets the

culture of government itself. It says that partnership with communities is not a risk but our greatest asset, that accountability is not a burden but a virtue, and that the purpose of government is not to impose but to serve. For Burleigh and for Queensland, this is a government prepared to do the hard work, to take responsibility, to restore trust, to get the fundamentals right. This is a budget of foundations and from those foundations we will build something worthy of Queensland. I commend the budget to the House.

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (11.01 pm): This week we mark the first budget of the Crisafulli LNP government—a budget that was pitched as a vision for Queensland's future but instead reads like a list of broken promises, cut corners and community neglect. From this week forward the Crisafulli government owns every decision, it owns every budget cut, it owns every austerity measure, it owns every failed policy, it owns every frontline sector worker sacked, it owns every public sector pay dispute, it owns all the economic data, it owns the economy and no more relying on the ridiculous political spin and hyperbole like we saw in the first 100 days of its office—all words, no responsibility. Now that its first budget has been delivered, there is no more trying to pin its failures on the previous long-term incredibly successful Queensland Labor government. No, what it has now is ownership. There is a reason the LNP has governed for only a handful of years in Queensland in the last three decades and the electoral reality is that it only really fell over the line after a decade out of power, winning 52 seats out of the required 47 for a majority. There is a reason it is not the natural party for government in Queensland, because all it offers is pain, all it offers is austerity, all it offers is cuts. It is no grand visionary. There is either the status quo or there are cuts. That is all it has.

Those opposite can carry on all they like. They are excited, and fair enough: it is their first budget in a long time. They have spent the week reading out their rehearsed lines from the Premier's office. One would have thought, however, that with 10 years of spruiking superiority they would have delivered a truly remarkable budget. However, the honeymoon is over. When they climb down off their high horse and the dust settles on this budget, they will come to see what the community is seeing. We are seeing the early signs of another LNP oncer government just like Campbell Newman—a one termer, a oncer—that had an opportunity to build and advance Queensland but fell back on a comfort zone of arrogance, sneakiness, lack of consultation and cuts. One would think that those opposite would have learnt from the past, but have they? No.

What a budget this is. It is not a boring budget; it is a bad budget—a budget from a Treasurer who cannot deliver on the most basic promises. What did the Treasurer deliver this week? There was no grand vision for the state. The LNP is spooked—spooked by the ghost of Campbell Newman, too scared of his own shadow, too timid to govern in its own right, too timid to lay out a vision for the state. The Treasurer was more worried about getting a drilling from the media, so what did he give Queenslanders instead? The Treasurer's budget speech mentions Labor 12 times—no mention of serious cost-of-living relief, no mention of a grand vision, just bagging the former Labor government. The irony of all of this is that the only good and decent things in this budget—and there are some—are the policies, infrastructure and programs that are being continued from the previous Labor government such as the rebranded \$200 FairPlay vouchers; health checks for kids—a Labor policy; the continuation—for now—of 50-cent public transport fares—a Labor signature transport policy; the capital programs, Labor's. As the opposition leader quite rightly said yesterday, 'It is just a Temu version of what we had planned.' Everything good in this budget was a Labor plan, albeit some of it watered down or delayed, and yet the Treasurer still tries to play the blame game. This LNP blame game, however, only gets one flicker—one shot in the locker—and it has used it in this budget. Just like a honey bee, it is only one stinger before it takes the inevitable path to its demise—so too the LNP blame game and so too the fate of this government.

Let us be blunt: this budget blows away cost-of-living support for millions of Queenslanders. It is a budget that cuts billions of congestion-busting infrastructure, a budget that offers no clear timeline for health projects, no certainty for housing and no genuine support for small businesses. It does not address the issues that actually matter to Queenslanders. It is a budget with more political advertising than action, a budget with record debt but no record investment. Under the LNP, it is all pain and no gain. The Treasurer handed down an \$8 billion deficit while letting the state debt balloon by 2028, and what do Queenslanders get in return for this staggering figure? No relief at the check-out, no guarantee of cheaper electricity and no concrete plans to address housing shortages.

Let us turn to education. Fee-free TAFE provided tuition-free training places for eligible individuals. The program aimed to address skills shortages and boost the workforce in key industries like care, construction, manufacturing and nursing. Under Labor, fee-free TAFE and core apprenticeships programs were incredibly successful—something that we started in 2021—and yet,

shockingly, young Queenslanders researching TAFE training today are faced with a webpage telling them that free TAFE has run out under this government—another broken promise.

In health, the picture is just as bleak. The government promised 2,200 hospital beds by 2028. This has now changed. Apparently we are going to get 2,600 beds but with no due date, no clarity and no plan. The PA Hospital's spinal unit was set to be delivered under Labor but now it has just gone, the Robina Hospital will lose 114 beds and they could not even be bothered to include the delivery timeframes for their big hospital build. But it is not just hospitals; it is funding for important health programs. Many members will know of motor neurone disease championed by the current Australian of the Year. This is what MND Queensland had to say about the budget—

Despite a strong and well-evidenced pre-budget submission shaped by the voices and experiences of our MND community, no dedicated funding has been committed to supporting people with MND in our state. This is in stark contrast to other states, where MND associations receive financial backing to deliver critical care services.

Queensland's the only state without such support. This lack of investment will result in poorer outcomes for Queenslanders living with MND. Our team continues to do everything we can—but without government support, our reach and impact are significantly constrained.

It does not get more damning than that. Queensland MND sufferers have been kicked to the kerb, and they are not alone. There is a desperate need to expand health services in the Brisbane bayside and the previous government—my previous government—was set to deliver a business case to expand important health services at the Wynnum-Manly Community Health Centre, Gundu Pa, but the LNP did not even bother to assess that as an option. Did they? I know the answer. They do not care about Baysiders. They are partisan. They do not govern for all Queenslanders. They say they are governing for all Queenslanders but they are governing for headlines.

Let us turn to small business, a sector I am proud to represent as shadow minister. I am also a former small business owner. In the last six months I have been listening to small business owners, peak bodies, chambers of commerce and stakeholders from across Queensland. The biggest issues are labour skills shortages and rising costs. As I stated earlier, when young Queenslanders are researching TAFE training today they are faced with a webpage telling them free TAFE has run out under this government. Where will this massive injection of apprentices come from? Where will the desperately needed skilled workforce come from? How will the government tackle this skilled labour shortage? Small businesses deserve investment, capability building and trust. What do they get from this budget? Neglect! There is no certainty around future grants and no visibility to date on customer service improvements or digital access. We will be watching very carefully what improvements will be made. If the government's new time lagged Open Hospitals portal is anything to go by, Queenslanders will be in for a roller-coaster ride over the next few years when it comes to customer service.


Small businesses have carried Queensland through floods, fires and pandemics. They are the backbone of our economy, employing over a million people and contributing \$131 billion to our state's economy. They are not asking for handouts, they are asking for leadership. This government's refusal to actively engage and invest in digital transformation, cyber readiness or skills development is short-sighted and damaging. It is just more evidence of an L-plate government chasing headlines and trying to build a political narrative instead of applying actual tangible solutions that will help the small business community. The Sunshine Coast Business Council stated in the media yesterday that it is time that the government stopped talking about reducing red tape and just did something about it. This budget does not do anything. It does not do enough to support and stop small business closures. What does red tape busting actually look like?

In contrast, Labor backed small businesses with real programs, real grants and real pathways to growth. We made Buy Queensland a priority, we supported innovation and we understood that small businesses do not just create jobs, they build communities, which brings me to my community, the electorate of Lytton. I have listened to the contributions by government members spruiking their achievements in delivering this program and that program for constituents and telling the House how wonderful they all are delivering all these things and how clever they are. Baysiders feel rightly done over by this budget. There is zilch in this budget for Baysiders. The closest commitment in my electorate is \$15,000 to Carina State School which is about 10 kilometres outside my electorate.

Under the Campbell Newman government the Bayside was punished and it looks like we are being set up for that again. We are a proud, diverse, hardworking community, but this budget offers us next to nothing. Where in the budget does it outlay future capital investments for Manly State School or Wynnum State High School, local school maintenance and upgrades and major infrastructure at Darling Point Special School? I did see a media release announcing a new campus at Manly Road for Darling Point Special School, but it is not even mentioned in the budget. There are no answers for the future of

24-hour primary care at Gundu Pa, let alone an expansion of services, as I said earlier, or the delivery of palliative care at Blue Care Wynnum. There is no guarantee of ongoing support locked in for major local events like Wynnum Fringe Festival, which brings thousands of visitors and tens of thousands of dollars in local spend each year. There is absolutely no clarity around the Department of Transport's spending. My electorate has many projects underway, including the Lindum Railway Station upgrade, the Lindum Park and Ride upgrade, the Lindum level crossing signalisation upgrade, finalisation of the Pritchard Street cycleway, the business case for the finalisation of the Murarrie to Lytton Moreton Bay Cycleway and the Manly Harbour master plan. It is not clear what is happening with these projects or even the hugely successful War on Wrecks which cleaned up and protected waterways across Queensland. There is nothing in QTRIP where I can find details of this.

This budget is not about building; it is about backing away. It is not about vision; it is about retreat. It is not about Queenslanders; it is about politics. To every family wondering why their child's school did not make the list, to every parent waiting for a bed, to every small business looking for support, to every community staring down a funding shortfall, this is your wake-up call. Queenslanders are smart. They can see through the spin. They understand that a real government delivers more than slogans, it delivers services, it delivers infrastructure, it delivers hope. Labor has a very long and proud history and legacy of delivering for Queenslanders and we will do it again. This budget fails the test of leadership, it fails the test of vision and it fails the test of fairness. I say to the Premier and Treasurer, 'The opposition will be watching, we will be questioning and we will be standing up for the Queenslanders that you are leaving behind because they deserve better.' My community deserves better. Small businesses deserve better. Queenslanders deserve better. I think that Thomas Jefferson would be rolling in his grave. I do not think that he meant that this mob over here would be the elected government because this mob are incredibly disappointing and are letting Queenslanders down every day.

 **Hon. A LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers) (11.16 pm): I rise to speak to the Crisafulli government's first budget, a budget that lays the foundations for a fresh start that we promised the people of Queensland. The Crisafulli LNP government has done what we said we would do: we are delivering for Queenslanders. At a time of increasing challenges from natural disasters to the demands of our infrastructure, this budget reflects on our government's unwavering commitment: a commitment to delivering strong communities, building resilience and investing in people who make our state a great place to live. This is a budget that delivers for all Queenslanders: for our families, for our volunteers, for our frontline workers and for those who produce our food across this state. It is a budget that delivers where it matters the most. It addresses the neglect of 10 years of Labor's failures, where project overruns were everywhere, poorly scoped, badly managed and significantly underfunded or just not funded at all when it comes to many places outside of the Brisbane CBD.

Labor hid multibillion dollar blowouts on countless major projects including the Pioneer-Burdekin, which has now been cancelled, CopperString and Cross River Rail. Who can forget the eye-watering blowouts in the water space by the billions: Paradise Dam, Lake MacDonald, Burdekin Falls Dam and Somerset Dam. If it was not a blowout it was neglect for the regions. For nearly a decade Labor has neglected Western Queensland.

Just before I turn to my portfolios, I would like to highlight how the Crisafulli government is delivering a fresh start for the people of the Warrego electorate. I have fought for many elections for a CT scanner at the Charleville Hospital. It has now been funded by the Crisafulli government. I have been a constant campaigner for upgrades to roads in my electorate and I am pleased to advise the House that the Roma-Condamine Road will have an allocation of \$5.29 million towards it. This is another road that I have fought for. Residents along that road have been waiting for 10 years for an upgrade and it is the Crisafulli government that is giving them a fresh start.

Similarly, with the business cases for the Eulo bridge replacement—that is a 90-year-old bridge—the Loudoun Bridge approaches that go out and flood quite regularly, and the Gums intersection upgrades, they were all ignored by Labor governments. They are now funded by the Crisafulli government. There is \$100,000 to develop the St George Airport master plan; 14 homes for frontline workers—teachers, nurses, police officers—in Roma and Charleville; \$600,000 to upgrade the Cunnamulla swimming pool; and \$450,000 to support the Quilpie Shire Council upgrade their Anzac Memorial Park—all funded by the Crisafulli government. In education, there is funding for a new multipurpose hall for Dalby State High School, new facilities and upgrades for Hannaford State School, Injune State School, Mitchell State School, Quilpie State School, Roma State College and Tara Shire State College. I do have a lot of schools in my electorate.

The Crisafulli government is delivering for the people of Warrego. We are delivering for education and we are delivering for the families in my electorate. We have promised safety where you live, a better lifestyle through a stronger economy, health services when you need them and a plan for Queensland's future, and that is what we are delivering.

As the Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers, my role is to empower councils and ensure water security and affordability; to ensure our frontline fires have the resources and equipment they need to keep Queensland safe; to ensure that we are there for Queenslanders when they are faced with natural disasters, from response to recovery and building back better—I reflect on the fact that there are 73 of 77 councils disaster declared in this state at the present time but I did not hear 'disaster recovery' once in the opposition leader's speech and I find that very troubling; and to recognise and support the selfless spirit of our volunteers.

This budget invests in empowering our councils because we know that strong councils mean that we will have stronger and more resilient communities. I look forward to continuing the equal, respectful and empowering relationship that the Crisafulli government has with our councils. Labor's decade of mismanagement has left our councils struggling to deliver the infrastructure and services they needed to keep their communities thriving. After 10 years of neglect, finally the Crisafulli government is delivering certainty and support for the local government sector with a permanent Works for Queensland program and a boost to betterment that will help communities build back better after natural disasters.

Local government will receive a major boost in this budget with more than \$18 million over four years to fund local government priority projects, including \$9.3 million for improvements to playgrounds like those in the electorate of the member for Lockyer, toilet blocks and car parking facilities. There is \$5.7 million to improve infrastructure in local communities, including upgrades to town halls and other community infrastructure. There is \$3 million for CCTV and security cameras in local communities.

At the 2024 state election, the Crisafulli government committed to making Works for Queensland a permanent program at \$100 million per year and ongoing, and we are delivering. This is the first time that councils have had that certainty and it is a great outcome for councils right across regional Queensland. Our commitment to ongoing funding for Works for Queensland provides certainty to councils to plan for and deliver projects, making local communities great places to live, work and raise a family because councils should have the support they need to ensure that they can create livable and thriving communities.

We are securing Queensland's most precious resource—water. Whether it is safe drinking water in remote communities or long-term water infrastructure, this budget delivers the groundwork for a secure and sustainable water future. Unlocking water is key to delivering economic opportunity for our rural and regional communities, which is why we are delivering more water security than ever in this budget. Queenslanders deserve to know that their water sources are secure and drought resilient, and that there is capacity for economic growth when they want it. Labor's mismanagement left Queensland's water infrastructure stagnated for nearly a decade and councils have struggled to deliver the infrastructure and services they need to keep their communities thriving.

We are delivering on our election commitment to provide water security across the state with almost \$38 million to deliver business cases for the Water for Warrill Irrigation Project, in the electorate of the member for Scenic Rim. We are building the new Barilil weir, in the electorate of the member for Nanango, and the Cooranga weir, in the electorate of the member for Callide, as well as five new or upgraded weirs on the Thomson River near Longreach, in the electorate of the member for Gregory. There is almost \$51 million over two years to deliver a 15 per cent discount for eligible irrigators to help make essential water resources more affordable for Queensland's primary producers.

More than \$41 million over five years will deliver vital upgrades to critical water and sewerage infrastructure in remote First Nations communities across the Torres Strait to improve health outcomes. We will invest \$34 million to deliver water supply improvements and infrastructure upgrades for the communities of Aurukun, Kowanyama and Woorabinda because all Queenslanders, no matter where they live, should have access to clean drinking water. With new weirs and water infrastructure and cost relief for irrigators, we are ensuring that every drop of water will be put to good use in growing our local economies.

When it comes to our fire and disaster response, Queenslanders know that the state has been significantly impacted and that the stakes are high. This budget begins the task of investing in more resilient communities so that we are ready when disaster strikes and our fires have the resources they need to do their job properly. This budget will deliver new or replaced fire stations in Beerwah, Greater

Springfield, Gympie South, Caloundra and Boonah. We will also commence the delivery of the replacement stations in Ayr, Highfields, Kingaroy and other future strategic areas as well as the site investigations and early scoping works for the replacement fire station at Hervey Bay. This will ensure that our hardworking frontline fireies have access to the best facilities to respond to future emergencies.

We will also invest in Queensland Fire and Rescue to ensure firefighters are equipped with new and replacement trucks to enhance operational capability and response. The Rural Fire Service of Queensland will receive new and replacement trucks and more than \$13.2 million for stations, including \$1 million to commence work on the new or upgraded stations at Abbot Point, Bell Town and Mount Ossa. The Crisafulli government is delivering more than \$9 million for new operational equipment including specialised firefighting, scientific analysis and rescue equipment.

Firefighters can rest assured that they will have continued access to comprehensive workers compensation, which is something that Labor did not fund. This government is delivering \$15.7 million to support both paid and volunteer firefighters following a significant expansion of the presumptive legislation for the workers compensation scheme. Queensland fireies were left underfunded and under-resourced under Labor, but we are committed to reversing that neglect to ensure that they will have what they need to keep Queenslanders safe. It is important to note that Labor did not fund presumptive WorkCover even though they changed the legislation.

Queenslanders have been hit hard by disasters this year and the Crisafulli government promised we would stand shoulder to shoulder with them during their response and recovery. The Crisafulli government is delivering on a key election promise, with \$40 million per year towards Queensland betterment funding. This will deliver high-priority betterment infrastructure projects, including funding towards raising Curzon Street Bridge at Rocklea and crucial flood mitigation measures in Laidley, as we promised. That is particularly important to the member for Lockyer and his electorate. This \$40 million a year investment is part of the Crisafulli government's \$450 million commitment over five years for the Queensland Resilience and Risk Reduction Program to improve the state's resilience to natural disasters. Betterment is the centrepiece of QRRRP as we improve the resilience of vital assets such as roads, bridges and water infrastructure in future disaster events. By not only repairing damaged assets but also building back better and to a stronger standard, we will make sure we are prepared for future disasters. That was a promise we made to Queenslanders and it is one we are delivering on.

At the heart of our response is, of course, our volunteers who are the quiet heroes of every crisis. This budget recognises their service, backs their efforts and restores the respect that they deserve.

The Crisafulli government is also ensuring that our rural and regional communities receive funding after a decade of neglect from Labor. That is why we are delivering a boost of \$500,000 to the Show Societies Grants Program, which will be shared equally between show societies across Queensland. This funding is the first increase in the Show Societies Grants Program funding since 2006. It recognises the vital role that agricultural shows play in our rural communities. I thank David Wilson, the President of the Queensland Chamber of Agricultural Shows, for his advocacy.

This budget is a blueprint for a government that listens, plans and delivers. The Crisafulli government's first budget sets a course for a better Queensland. This is just the beginning and we are getting on with the job of delivering for all Queenslanders.

Debate, on motion of Ms Leahy, adjourned.

## ADJOURNMENT



**Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (11.29 pm): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 11.30 pm.

## ATTENDANCE

Asif, Bailey, Baillie, Barounis, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, Butcher, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Dalton, Dametto, de Brenni, Dick, Dillon, Doolan, Dooley, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Field, Frecklington, Furner, Gerber, Grace, Head, Healy, Hunt, Hutton, James B, James T, Janetzki, Katter, Kelly G, Kelly J, Kempton, King, Kirkland, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last,

Leahy, Lee, Linard, Mander, Marr, Martin, McCallum, McDonald, McMillan, Mellish, Mickelberg, Miles, Minnikin, Molhoek, Morton, Mullen, Nicholls, Nightingale, O'Connor, O'Shea, Pease, Perrett, Poole, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Simpson, Smith, Stevens, Stoker, Sullivan, Vorster, Watts, Weir, Whiting, Young