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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

Friday, 27 June 2025

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FRIDAY, 27 JUNE 2025

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.

PRIVILEGE

Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, on 23 May 2025 the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services wrote to me alleging that the Leader of the Opposition deliberately misled the House on 22 May 2025. I consider this to be a matter where the minister and the Leader of the Opposition have differing viewpoints on the word to describe the cessation of an employment relationship. In that sense it is technical. Therefore, I will not be referring the matter for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee. However, I do not wish to give the impression that the matter was not serious. In my statement about matters of privilege on 10 June 2025, I stated—

In looking at whether a matter is serious, I consider matters such as: does the matter seriously impinge upon the rights and powers of the House, committee or members—for example, does the matter seriously misrepresent the record of the House or has the matter unfairly affected the reputation of a member?

It is arguable that this matter has unfairly affected the reputation of a senior public servant and is equally as serious. I would warn all members to take care about the reputations of others. I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

Tabled paper: Correspondence relating to an alleged contempt and misleading of the House by the Leader of the Opposition and member for Murrumbidgee [815].

I have circulated a ruling on this matter. I seek leave to incorporate the ruling.

Leave granted.

SPEAKER'S RULING—ALLEGED CONTEMPT OF PARLIAMENT

Honourable members,

On 23 May 2025, the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services (Minister) wrote to me alleging that the Leader of the Opposition deliberately misled the House on 22 May 2025.

The matter relates to a statement made during Questions without Notice.

Specifically, the Leader of the Opposition stated:

'Mr Sangster was sacked from his position as CEO of the western parklands authority by the former New South Wales government.'

The Minister argued that this statement was factually incorrect and that Mr Sangster left his position as CEO by mutual agreement following a restructure because he did not wish to apply for the newly created role. The Minister provided evidence of this in the form of a NSW Committee transcript and in the letter that the Leader of the Opposition tabled on 22 May 2025.

I sought further information from the Leader of the Opposition about the allegation made against him, in accordance with Standing Order 269(5).

The Leader of the Opposition submitted that the use of the word 'sacked' is interchangeable with the word 'terminated'. He also noted that the Minister answered the question at the time and did not raise any concerns that it was misleading.

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.

This appears to be a matter of the kind originally described by Speaker Simpson on 16 October 2014 and expanded on by Speaker Pitt on 4 April 2022 when he stated: 'The nature of political debate is that members engage in argument by discussing opposing viewpoints or different opinions, oftentimes using different expressions, statistics or methods of calculation.'

In this matter, both the Minister and the LOTO disagree on the best term to use to describe the end of an employment relationship.

As such, I consider this matter is within the realm of technical.

Therefore, I will not be referring the matter for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee.

Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, on 29 May 2025 the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services wrote to me alleging that the Leader of the Opposition deliberately misled the House on 20 May 2025. I consider this to be a matter where the minister and the Leader of the Opposition have differing viewpoints on the Hospital Rescue Plan and that it is technical in nature. Therefore, I will not be referring the matter for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee. I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

Tabled paper: Correspondence relating to an alleged contempt and misleading of the House by the Leader of the Opposition and member for Murrumbidgee [816].

I have circulated a ruling on this matter. I seek leave to incorporate the ruling.

Leave granted.

SPEAKER'S RULING—ALLEGED CONTEMPT OF PARLIAMENT

Honourable members,

On 29 May 2025, the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services (Minister) wrote to me alleging that the Leader of the Opposition deliberately misled the House on 20 May 2025.

The matter relates to a statement made during debate on a motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition.

Specifically, the Leader of the Opposition stated:

'Take, for example, the 2,200 hospital beds that were promised by 2028. Now we know they will not be delivered at all.'

The Minister argued that this statement was deliberately misleading because the Government's Hospital Rescue Plan states that at least 2603 beds will be delivered.

I sought further information from the Leader of the Opposition about the allegation made against him, in accordance with Standing Order 269(5).

The Leader of the Opposition submitted that he was referring to the fact that the original promise of 2200 beds by 2028 will not be delivered because of delays and pausing of projects. He noted no timeframes have been attached to the delivering of beds in the Hospital Rescue Plan.

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.

This appears to be a matter of the kind originally described by Speaker Simpson on 16 October 2014 and expanded on by Speaker Pitt on 4 April 2022 when he stated: 'The nature of political debate is that members engage in argument by discussing opposing viewpoints or different opinions, oftentimes using different expressions, statistics or methods of calculation.'

In this matter, the Minister and the Leader of the Opposition have differing views on the Hospital Rescue Plan. This is a political argument on the characterisation of a policy and is technical in nature.

Therefore, I will not be referring the matter for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee.

Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, on 3 June 2025 the member for Waterford wrote to me alleging that the Treasurer had deliberately misled the House on 21 May 2025. In this matter, the member and the Treasurer are engaging in political debate on how the Women and Girls' Health Strategy 2032 would have been funded had the former government been re-elected. In the complaint and response there is no reference to the budget papers. It is a political dispute on the characterisation of the strategy and its funding and is both technical and trivial. Therefore, I will not be referring the matter for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee. I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

Tabled paper: Correspondence relating to an alleged contempt and misleading of the House by the Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership and the member for Toowoomba South [817].

I have circulated a detailed statement about this matter and seek leave to incorporate it into the parliamentary record.

Leave granted.

SPEAKER'S RULING—ALLEGED CONTEMPT OF PARLIAMENT

Honourable members,

On 3 June 2025, the member for Waterford (member) wrote to me alleging that the Treasurer deliberately misled the House on 21 May 2025.

The matter relates to an answer to a Question without Notice.

Specifically, the Treasurer stated:

'... it is pretty clear actually that those on the other side of the House would not have funded this health strategy. They would not have funded it because they had not put the money in the budget. Those opposite had not put the funding in the budget.'

The member argued that these statements were misleading because the strategy was developed under the former Government. She also noted that the Treasurer said that funding would 'continue' on the strategy, implying that it was already being funded.

I sought further information from the Treasurer about the allegations made against him, in accordance with Standing Order 269(5).

The Treasurer submitted that the member alleging that the funding for the strategy existed and was continuing is not accurate. He submitted that the government revealed when it was elected that Queensland Health had serious financial issues, was in deficit and had no capacity for its existing demand, let alone to support new initiatives.

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.

This appears to be a matter of the kind originally described by Speaker Simpson on 16 October 2014 and expanded on by Speaker Pitt on 4 April 2022 when he stated: 'The nature of political debate is that members engage in argument by discussing opposing viewpoints or different opinions, oftentimes using different expressions, statistics or methods of calculation.'

In this matter, the member and the Treasurer are engaging in political debate on how the Women and Girls Health Strategy 2032 would have been funded had the former government been re-elected. It is a political dispute on the characterisation of the Strategy and its funding and is both technical and trivial.

Therefore, I will not be referring the matter for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee.

I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

Coluccio, Ms T



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I advise of the departure of another long-time Parliamentary Service staff member. Tania Coluccio—formerly Tania Jackman—works in Hansard as a Publishing and Monitoring Officer and is commencing pre-retirement leave on 7 July 2025. Tania commenced at Parliament House on 15 November 1995 as a temporary executive assistant. She was appointed permanently in January 1996, working with the then parliamentary Travelsafe Committee. Tania worked for several parliamentary committees and undertook several roles, including a stint in the Speaker's Office, before being promoted to a position in Hansard in 2005. Tania was further promoted to a position in the Table Office in 2019 but returned to Hansard at the request of the Clerk in March 2023.

In 2005 Tania received a meritorious service award for being involved in and consistently displaying a willingness to be involved in special projects and events. When Tania retires she will have completed over 30 years of service. I am sure you will all join me in thanking Tania for her contribution to the Parliamentary Service and the Parliament of Queensland and in wishing her the very best in retirement.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

Visitors to Public Gallery



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I read this one out yesterday but it was the wrong date, apparently. 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, Dutton Park in the electorate of South Brisbane and Pullenvale State School in the electorate of Moggill.

PETITIONS

The Clerk presented the following e-petition, sponsored by the honourable member indicated—

Gympie Street, Torbanlea, Speed Limit

Mr Barounis from 361 petitioners, requesting the House to change the speed limit from 100 km to 80 km, in both directions, at the intersection of Gympie Street and Bruce Highway, Torbanlea.

The Clerk presented the following e-petition, sponsored by the Clerk—


Ipswich Medicare Urgent Care Clinic

164 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure that the Riverlink medical and urgent care centre provide online services to order scripts.

Petitions received.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Budget

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (9.37 am): This budget is about delivering for Queensland. It lays the foundation for the fresh start we promised Queenslanders at the election. I often speak about the major challenges facing our state following 10 years of Labor—the youth crime crisis, the cost-of-living crisis, the health crisis and the housing crisis. Our commitment to address these challenges is reflected in the 2025 budget. We are working to clean up the mess left behind by Labor.

Our government has a plan for our state's future across our cities and throughout rural and regional Queensland. The budget supports our state's future by creating more skilled jobs and opportunities for local manufacturers. We are investing in TAFE, delivering new facilities in Caloundra, the Redlands, Rockhampton and Moreton Bay. Also, \$10 million will provide free apprenticeships for under-25s, making trade training more accessible and affordable. New manufacturing hubs are funded in the Sunshine Coast and Toowoomba, just as we promised.

Our \$20 million Returning to Work package will help women transition back to the workforce. This funding will help remove the barriers for women coming back to work after having children, caring for family or recovering from sickness.


Primary industries are the backbone of rural and regional Queensland. The budget will help boost Queensland's primary production output to \$30 billion by 2030. We are helping to protect our primary producers by investing in biosecurity measures and preparing them for the future with funding for new technologies and innovation.

The \$100 million Country Roads Connect Program will boost the safety and resilience of our road network in regional Queensland. Investment in critical infrastructure like Paradise Dam will restore water security and support our farmers. We are also protecting our state's precious natural environment. Increased funding for natural management groups will help us protect critical biodiversity areas. Investment in programs like Zero Litter to the Bay and more Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service rangers will conserve our pristine environment.

To showcase Queensland to the world, the budget also provides funding for new ecotourism experiences. It is part of our 20-year tourism plan Destination 2045, which will drive more visitors, more events and more opportunities for our state. This budget commits more than \$1 billion to our tourism industry, driving jobs and economic growth over the years ahead.

Our budget gets the balance right. It takes a methodical approach to budget repair while delivering on our government's commitment to the people of Queensland. It is the fresh start Queenslanders deserve.

State Development, Infrastructure and Planning

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (9.39 am): I can declare today under the Crisafulli government's first budget that Queensland is open for business. Mr Speaker, whether you look at the small to medium family enterprises across the state, whether you look at resetting the planning partnership with councils, this budget delivered by Treasurer Janetzki has something for

everybody across the state, including resetting the planning partnerships with local governments: \$31.3 million over four years to develop 13 new regional plans; \$150 million to EDQ to unlock catalyst infrastructure for the Caboolture West Waraba Priority Development Area—that means supply, supply, supply; and a \$2 billion Residential Activation Fund of which we have brought forward \$500 million to \$1 billion. It is so subscribed that I am looking forward to the next couple of weeks going around all the electorates announcing housing supply across the state, even in the Labor electorates because their constituents are calling out for land supply.

Mr O'Connor: So generous.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from the honourable housing minister about generosity. We are going to unlock so much land. Do you know what they are saying about me, Mr Speaker? Bleijie the builder! That is what they are saying. That is what the mob are saying. We are going to unlock so much land—Bleijie the builder!

Another priority for state development is that we have announced in this budget \$180 million for a Sovereign Industry Development Fund. This department of state development is going to concentrate on three things: defence, biofuels and biomedicine. They are the priorities of the Crisafulli government in terms of state development with a \$180 million fund.

This budget is about showing industry that this state is now officially open for business. The light is shining on Queensland. There is so much in this budget for so many people across the state. I could not be more proud to have the Treasurer deliver it, and we will get on and build it.

Budget



Hon. DC JANETZKI (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (9.42 am): The budget we handed down this week lays the foundation for the fresh start Queenslanders voted for. It honours our election commitments and it delivers for Queensland. It has been supported by stakeholders including QCOS, AMAQ, REIQ, BDO, Business Chamber Queensland, the Property Council, the Queensland Major Contractors Association and the Queensland Council of Unions.

It lays the foundation for budget repair, cleaning up a decade of the previous government's fiscal vandalism, while saving the jobs and services they did not budget for. The scare campaigns are over. The proof is in print. The budget invests in the future of our state and lays the foundation to fix the youth crime, housing, health and cost-of-living crises left behind by our predecessors.

A highlight of the budget is our support for homebuyers in our Boost to Buy home ownership scheme. This nation-leading scheme will help reduce the deposit gap for first home buyers and deliver a place to call home for more Queenslanders sooner. Boost to Buy will provide an equity contribution from the government of up to 30 per cent for new homes and 25 per cent for existing homes. Eligibility extends to first home buyers with a minimum two per cent deposit purchasing a property valued up to \$1 million. The scheme is open to single purchasers with an income of up to \$150,000 and households with two adults earning up to \$225,000. We have invested \$165 million in the budget, supporting up to 1,000 dreams over the next two years.

Our Boost to Buy is ready to go and far outstrips the LNP-lite federal Labor equivalent in Canberra. Those opposite only talk about Canberra when it suits them. We are more than halfway through budget reply speeches. Not one Labor MP has mentioned the record GST redistribution away from Queensland of \$2.3 billion in this year alone. When will those opposite stand up for Queensland? When will those opposite pick up the phone or knock next door and stop their mates in Canberra from robbing Queenslanders? When will those opposite put aside their political interests and fight for Queenslanders' interests? We know the answer.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! It has been a long week. The end is in sight.

Mr JANETZKI: When will those opposite put aside their political interests and fight for Queenslanders' interests? We know the answer. It is never, never, never. The Crisafulli government is not only delivering the fresh start we promised; we will always fight for Queensland's share.

Community Safety



Hon. DG PURDIE (Ninderry—LNP) (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (9.45 am): The Crisafulli government is delivering for Queensland. We are delivering what those opposite could not—safer communities. More than \$4 billion has been allocated to the police in this government's first budget—an increase of \$324 million. This is real funding for our front line—the men and women who put their lives on the line to fight crime. That includes expanding our aerial crime-fighting capability.

I am proud to inform the House that in this budget we have secured the future of Polair operations in Cairns, extending the vital service for another nine years, and expanded Polair operations on the Sunshine Coast to include Moreton Bay. Left to those opposite, funding was only provided for 12 months and would have expired for those crime-busting choppers in October this year. Over the last eight months, Polair Cairns alone has helped to arrest 167 people, including 76 juveniles. It has attended more than 600 jobs and located 73 stolen cars. How serious were those opposite about cleaning up their mess in Cairns, where juveniles are holding the streets to ransom? They never supported our police.

Under the Crisafulli government there will be fewer victims of crime because we value our police and the work they do. Along with the extra funding for police, the workforce will grow too, with an additional 296 full-time staff. This side of the House knows we need more boots on the ground and the staff to support them. Those opposite have tried to peddle a tale of lies—another Labor scare campaign telling people they would lose their jobs. That could not be further from the truth.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: There is too much noise in the chamber.

Mr PURDIE: The members for Woodridge and Pine Rivers and the opposition leader should be ashamed. Workers and the community deserve the truth, particularly when they were feeling vulnerable as a result of Labor's youth crime crisis.

I can reveal to the House that, if it were up to those opposite, 61 people employed to help combat domestic and family violence in this state would be unemployed by next week. Today would be their last day. They would have been told, 'Don't come Monday.' That includes people working in the Vulnerable Persons Unit.

Once again, the former government's accounting practices have been found out. Domestic and family violence is one of our society's greatest challenges. Acting Commissioner Rhys Wildman was on the radio this morning and again referred to it as a 'scourge', and I agree. While Labor spruiked about what they were doing to help victims, they never put their money where their mouth was—all talk, no action. They created permanent positions then did not fund them, leaving the QPS to fall further into debt. I am proud to say that we have funded those positions permanently. We listened to Queenslanders and we listened to our police. The Crisafulli government will continue to ensure that our police have the resources they need to keep people right across Queensland safe.

Community Safety



Hon. LJ GERBER (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services) (9.48 am): We promised to make Queenslanders safer. We promised this in opposition and we promise this in government. This week we handed down a budget that delivers on that promise to put victims front and centre. Our budget invests more than ever before in youth crime-fighting programs and delivers the foundations for a fresh start for Queensland. Our budget means more early intervention to turn young lives around before they fall into a cycle of crime, more rehabilitation programs to break the cycle of crime and more critical support for victims of crime.

This budget puts Queenslanders first. Mr Speaker, you do not have to take my word for it. Stakeholders right across the state welcome the investment we are making. Damion Douglass from Rochedale South Neighbourhood Crime Watchers addressed his community and said—

Many of you have spoken up about break-ins, car thefts, hooning and concerns around community safety. This budget signals that help is on the way through more boots on the ground, better technology and stronger victim support systems.

Well, Damion, you are right: help is on the way. This is what Queenslanders deserve, because what they got from those opposite was not one, not two but four crises: a youth crime crisis, a housing crisis, a cost-of-living crisis and a health crisis. Disappointingly, yesterday we heard the Leader of the Opposition deliver an hour-long speech that should have outlined his alternative plan to fix the youth

crime crisis, but not once—not once—did he even acknowledge victims of crime. What Queenslanders deserve from the Leader of the Opposition is an apology for forgetting victims and for the four crises they are suffering because of his failed leadership.

We will always put Queenslanders first, and that is what this budget delivers. We are investing in a suite of early intervention measures. From Gold Standard Early Intervention, to crime prevention schools, to our Regional Reset programs, we are putting more measures in place now to turn the tide on Labor's youth crime crisis to give the next generation of youth the support and education they need to have a brighter future. We are investing in effective rehabilitation programs, including Staying on Track, Circuit Breaker Sentencing and our youth justice schools. We are giving youth offenders the best chance to turn their lives around. That is not all. We are investing in our correctional system. We have \$2.39 billion to build prison infrastructure in this state as well as enhanced security around sex offenders, improved efficiencies for the Parole Board and taking stronger action to protect those at risk of domestic violence.

Labor failed Queenslanders, and this budget—the Crisafulli government's first budget—is a major step in restoring safety where you live and reducing the number of victims of crime in this state. This is just the beginning of the fresh start that Queenslanders voted for.

Illicit Smoking Products



Hon. TJ NICHOLLS (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (9.52 am): The Crisafulli government's battle against the criminal tobacco and vape trade has been given a big budget boost. In fact, it has been given a big blue budget boost as part of our record \$33.1 billion health investment.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr NICHOLLS: Do not worry, there is more to come. You will be singing the blues over there, that is for sure.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, if you could make your contribution through the chair it would greatly assist me.

Mr NICHOLLS: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Under Labor, hundreds of illicit tobacco and vape stores popped up across the state. Organised crime syndicates were able to thrive, profiting from the sale of addictive and dangerous products to our kids. This resulted in a tripling in the rate of high schoolers who vape—an appalling outcome.

Our budget is the latest escalation in the Crisafulli government's nation-leading war against the dangerous black market. We are investing more than \$12 million to recruit an extra 41 new enforcement officers. These new recruits and a central compliance team will be spread over our 11 public health units, increasing the pace and impacts of action against illegal operators. Every public health unit across Queensland will have additional boots on the ground, boosting total enforcement capacity by 25 per cent across the state. This means more fines, more raids and more dangerous and addictive products taken off the streets and out of the hands of our kids and teenagers. These extra boots on the ground are in addition to our fines, which are the highest in the nation; our raids and seizures, which have been the largest in the nation; and our proposed new laws, which will be the toughest in the nation. We are doing more and we are doing it bigger and better than it was ever done under Labor.

This additional investment has been welcomed by public health advocates. This is what the Cancer Council of Queensland said—

This investment helps protect decades of hard-won progress in tobacco control and helps ensure cigarettes and vapes are kept out of the hands of our kids.

The Heart Foundation said—

We welcome this commitment because tobacco smoking is the leading cause of preventable disease and death in Australia, including heart disease. Recent evidence shows that vaping now also increases the risk of heart disease.


Lung Foundation Australia said—

We are thrilled at the significant boost in funding for enforcement of the state's tobacco and vaping laws ... we commend these efforts as protecting lung health of all Queenslanders, especially children, is essential.

I would like to thank Cancer Council Queensland, the Heart Foundation and the Lung Foundation for their support of our budget and for their continued and determined advocacy for better health outcomes for all Queenslanders.

The Crisafulli government's zero-tolerance approach towards the tobacco and vape black market has been nation leading, and the budget's investment continues this. To all illegal operators out there who think they can continue getting kids hooked on these harmful products, I say to you: we have more recruits on their way and they have you in their sights.

Regional Queensland

 **Hon. DR LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development) (9.56 am): There is no place like Queensland. In fact, as a kid from the bush—like many of us on this side of the chamber—there is no place like regional and rural Queensland. From the Burdekin to the Burnett, from the gulf to the Granite Belt, our budget is delivering a fresh start for all, not just those in the south-east corner. We know that the wealth of this state is built off the back of regional Queensland industries like mining, farming, manufacturing and tourism.

Over the past few months I have been travelling across the state hosting regional forums to help shape the future of our communities. From Roma to Emerald and every region in between, the Crisafulli government is listening, learning, leading and delivering. As I told attendees in Roma and Emerald this past month, I will be your voice in the Queensland parliament. Today I am delivering on that commitment, because on this side of the chamber we understand that the decisions for regional and rural communities should be made in partnership with those they affect.


In Roma the focus is on strengthening agriculture and driving growth in the Maranoa. In Emerald we turned the spotlight on mining and farming and how to unleash the next wave of investment in Central Queensland. Next we are headed to Cloncurry, Charters Towers, Julia Creek, Innisfail, Bowen and Proserpine. We are going right throughout rural and regional Queensland. This is in stark contrast to those opposite, who planned just two future regional forums—on the Sunshine Coast and the Gold Coast.

The Crisafulli government understands that Queensland does not start and end in Brisbane. We know that improved services and infrastructure are always at the top of regional wish lists. That is why our budget is delivering more health workers in North-West Queensland, the new Toowoomba Hospital and the Mackay hospital expansion program. We are delivering Country Roads Connect, a \$100 million program to improve the roads that link our rural communities. This program will seal key freight and access routes that have been neglected for too long. These are roads that matter.

We are delivering a \$2 million boost to support the Queensland Minerals and Energy Academy to expand their program to an additional 50 schools, with hubs in Townsville, Mackay and Rockhampton. It will give country kids a head start on a career in our world-leading resources sector. There is a further \$500,000 to create pathways for more women to enter the mining industry. We are delivering \$117.84 million in funding to Natural Resource Management Regions Queensland to protect and enhance our natural assets not just for today but for the generations who come after us. We are proud to be partnering with our NRM regions and their 11 regional member organisations to get this done. It is the largest NRM investment in more than a decade because the Crisafulli government is a government that works with regional Queensland.


Those opposite took regional Queenslanders for granted, and that is why the members for Mackay, Keppel, Rockhampton, Barron River and Cook now sit on this side of the chamber. We are a government that backs our regions and delivers on our promises, and we will not forget that.

ABSENCE OF MINISTER

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (9.59 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 today.

ETHICS COMMITTEE

Reports

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (9.59 am): I lay upon the table of the House the following reports of the Ethics Committee: report No. 236, titled *Matter of privilege referred by the Registrar on 28 November 2024 relating to the alleged failure to register an interest in the Register of Members*

Interests by the member for Broadwater, and report No. 237, titled *Report on a right of reply No. 48*. I commend the reports to the House.


Tabled paper: Ethics Committee: Report No. 236, 58th Parliament—Matter of privilege referred by the Registrar on 28 November 2024 relating to the alleged failure to register an interest in the Register of Members' Interests by the member for Broadwater [818].

Tabled paper: Ethics Committee: Report No. 237, 58th Parliament—Report on a Right of Reply No. 48 [819].

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Question time will conclude today at 10.30 am.

Cost of Living

 **Mr MILES** (10.00 am): My question is to the Treasurer. Yesterday the *Courier-Mail* published a story titled 'How much your water bill is set to soar from next week'. Rego is about to increase, and energy bills and rates are on the rise. Why has this government deliberately left universal cost-of-living relief for millions of Queenslanders out of their budget?

Mr JANETZKI: I thank the honourable member for the question because it is going to give me three minutes to talk about the comprehensive cost-of-living package that the government has delivered in this budget. We are four days in and it has been four days of questions. I am delighted that they have given me a dixer so I can talk about our comprehensive cost-of-living package. We promised before the budget that we would deliver a targeted, timely, recurrent and responsible cost-of-living package, and that is exactly what we have done. We have done it and I am going to run through that cost-of-living package now for those opposite.

There is a \$100 Back to School Boost from 1 January for primary school aged kids, and it does not matter whether they go to a public, Catholic or independent school. From 1 January families and households that are doing it tough will get that \$100 Back to School Boost, and that will be coupled with \$200 for those same families wanting their kids to play sport. That is \$300 for those families who are sending kids back to primary school and getting them to play sport, which is really important. Do you know the difference? The opposition's FairPlay sports vouchers were ending next week. They thought that little of that program that they were ending it. We are making our Play On! vouchers permanent in the budget. That is the cost-of-living relief that we are focused on.

I am just getting started. We have the first home owner grant boost for first home buyers to incentivise first home buyers into the market. We have lifted the rebate on vulnerable households for their electricity rebate, their energy rebate. They had frozen it; we have lifted it. We have made the commitment that, for as long as we are in government, that will continue to be indexed, unlike those opposite who froze it. I am disappointed I only have 47 seconds left. We have 50-cent fares. Under the Crisafulli government, 50-cent fares are made permanent in the budget. It was ending under them; it is permanent with us.

We had already abolished two taxes before the budget and now that is embedded in the budget. We got rid of the patients tax, which those opposite wanted to keep, to make it cheaper to see the family doctor for the sick, the frail, the elderly, the vulnerable. That is what we wanted to do and that is what we did. We abolished stamp duty for first home buyers purchasing a new build. Across the board we are focused on targeted, responsible cost-of-living relief, and that is what this budget delivers.

Virgin Australia

Mr DICK: My question is to the Treasurer. When the Labor government acted to save Virgin airlines, the LNP described it as 'economic incompetence' and a 'laughable investment'. How much did the Queensland government make on its shares in Virgin airlines when the company was successfully relisted on the Australian Stock Exchange this week?

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! We will go to the Treasurer when I have some silence in the House.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I still do not have silence in the House. Treasurer, you have the call.

Mr JANETZKI: We on this side of the House are always focused on respect for taxpayers' money. Is this the member for Woodridge's big Warren Buffett moment?

Mr Mickelberg: The 'Oracle from Woodridge'.

Mr JANETZKI: I will take the interjection from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads: the 'Oracle from Woodridge', not the 'Oracle from Omaha'. We always want to see respect for taxpayers' money.

Mr Ryan: Why do you hate Virgin?

Mr JANETZKI: I will take the interjection. We are investing in flights with Virgin to get to Doha. We are doing the hard work. I will take the interjection from the member for Morayfield because we are determined and we want to get flights from Brisbane into Doha. We want to see more flights into Queensland. As the Deputy Premier has already said this morning, we are open for business and we want to see more flights and more tourism activity. We want to see those 45 ecotourism activities by 2045. We want to see all of that. We want to see our businesses thriving. We want to see Virgin doing well and we want to make sure our tourism businesses and those that rely on international and domestic transport are making money. We want that because we want more tourists here. We want more people coming into Queensland and we want more people thriving in business in Queensland. I draw a contrast between what we are doing and what those opposite did. What those opposite did—

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order under standing order 118(b) and relevance. We asked about the return on the Virgin shares relisted on the ASX.

Mr SPEAKER: Treasurer, it is a fair point.

Mr JANETZKI: Mr Speaker, the 'Oracle from Woodridge'—

Mr SPEAKER: Treasurer, I had not yet given you the call. You heard the question and the question was around Virgin and the share returns so could you come to that. You have one minute and 13 seconds left.

Mr JANETZKI: Mr Speaker, I heard the question and I apologise for stepping in on your authority. I am delighted to know that those opposite are following the IPO of Virgin so carefully. I want to make sure that Virgin and all listed companies are doing what is necessary and making a profit. I am delighted to see that.

I am going to contrast our approach to being open for business with that of the 'Oracle from Woodridge', who tipped in the investment. We know that QIC said they were making good returns—that the return on investment was solid. We know that it was always going to be put back into private equity, that they were always going to list it again. It is good to see the IPO got up, and that is good returns. I contrast our open-for-business approach with the 'Oracle from Woodridge'. He raised taxes after he had promised 26 times not to raise them, and that damaged our international reputation and our domestic reputation and froze out capital for a generation. Those opposite stand condemned for their record compared to our open-for-business approach.

(Time expired)

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Once again, we will have silence before I go to the next question.

Budget

Mr DILLON: My question is to the Premier and Minister for Veterans. Will the Premier outline how the Crisafulli LNP government's first budget keeps its promises to Queenslanders, and is the Premier aware of any approaches to the contrary?

Mr CRISAFULLI: I thank the honourable member for Gregory for his question. The budget keeps our promises to Queenslanders, including those in his great part of our state who are doing it tough after a major impact from natural disasters. The budget reflects our commitment to work to rebuild that community, as we said we would. I want to thank the member for his contribution to that.

The budget provides for what we said we were going to do: 1,600 extra police recruits with the new laws to do their job; 15 new schools; \$300 to help families with the cost of playing sport and school essentials; three new hospitals; more free health care than ever before; a nation-leading home ownership scheme to reduce that deposit gap; major Bruce Highway upgrades; and road and rail projects. We are doing the things that Queenslanders need.

The member asked me about contrasting policies and I want to make a reflection. I will not dwell too much on the Leader of the Opposition's speech; I would much rather focus on his 4BC radio interview, but more on that later. There is one quote from the Leader of the Opposition that I want to read. He said—

Everything good in this budget was a Labor plan ... not a single new initiative that will make a positive difference to Queenslanders.

Tell that to the parents seeking choice for their kids whom we are going to build special schools for. Tell that to Queenslanders who now have the Making Queensland Safer Laws and Adult Crime, Adult Time. What about the \$50 million for the two new youth mental health step-up step-down facilities; the \$100 Back to School Boost; the \$20 million Returning to Work program for women; the \$25 million to roll out GPS trackers; resourcing for police, like tasers, the \$50 million victim advocacy—

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for McConnel, you are warned.

Mr CRISAFULLI:—axing the patients tax—they want to bring it back, don't they?—the scrapping of stamp duty for first home buyers; the \$560 million for early intervention; the \$2 billion Residential Activation Fund; the \$165 million Boost to Buy; the child safety royal commission funded; and the \$50 million to end Labor's DNA debacle? The Labor Party did not turn up on youth crime, cost of living, health or housing, and this budget turns the corner on a generation of Labor's failures.

The greatest endorsement of this budget does not just come from the third-party groups who have said great things about it; it comes from the lack of questions from those opposite about it. They know it is a good budget. The scare campaign is over! The Leader of the Opposition might be stuck on repeat, but the scare campaign is over. They spoke a lot about a three-word slogan before the election, but here is another: deliver, deliver, deliver!

Olympic and Paralympic, Infrastructure

Ms GRACE: My question is to the Treasurer. Media is reporting today that Olympic venues could increase in cost by more than a billion dollars. Will the Treasurer admit this government has broken its promise to Queenslanders to deliver the games on budget?

Mr JANETZKI: Do we know yet whether the honourable member is in favour of or against Victoria Park? I was listening to the honourable member's address-in-reply speech the night before last trying to work it out. I am trying to work it out.

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I am trying to hear the Treasurer.

Mr JANETZKI: I am not sure. I think the honourable member is against it. But was she for it? I am not sure. I will read it. She is against it. She said, 'I support the application and efforts to protect and recognise Victoria Park.' The honourable member does not even believe in Victoria Park. She is going to have to make a decision. I reckon the member for Springwood really threw the honourable member under the bus getting her to ask this question.

In the budget, we have put money on the table and delivered a plan for the Olympics and Paralympics that those opposite never did—never did. For over 1,000 days, they put the entire future of the Olympics and Paralympics at risk because of their failure to plan. Back then, we would sit on that side of the House and wonder how they could be so incompetent and so bereft of ideas. Remember, they took it to cabinet. For a while there they were going to cancel the Olympics. They were considering in cabinet whether to cancel it. Then they were looking at QSAC and then the Gabba with costings of a billion dollars. Then a public servant conceded that it was done and the costings were announced in a media release.

We have put real money into this budget to get the Olympics and Paralympics delivered: \$950 million for the athletes village and \$862 million for the venues. That is real money in the budget to deliver the Olympics and Paralympics that Queenslanders deserve. After more than three years of vacillation, ineptitude and failure from those opposite, we will be delivering the Olympics and Paralympics for Queensland.

Housing Supply

Mrs STOKER: My question is of the Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership. Is the Treasurer able to outline how the Crisafulli LNP government's first budget is securing our housing foundations, and is the Treasurer aware of any previous housing failures?

Mr JANETZKI: I thank the honourable member for the question. Yes, I do. Yesterday, the Leader of the Opposition's centrepiece announcement was a land tax concession starting in five years for corporate landlords. Those opposite first announced it when they were in government in 2023 and we supported it because, after a decade of their housing failures which saw record numbers of homeless living on the streets, in cars and under bridges, and rent prices up 13 per cent that year, that measure was one of a number of larger measures.

I heard the Leader of the Opposition give his reply speech yesterday and, as I expected, I did not hear anything that had been funded or costed, and certainly that commitment yesterday for five years time for corporate landlords was not costed or funded, so we are not sure what he is thinking there. Mind you, there were probably between—I don't know—\$50 billion and \$100 billion in promises that he made yesterday that were not funded or costed either, so we are looking forward to his appropriated funding and costings. I think we know what is coming—increased taxes. They should at least provide respect to the Queensland people and fund and cost their promises. However, we are used to them not doing that.

In good news for the Leader of the Opposition, I have been able to cost this promise of his—the centrepiece announcement yesterday. I was able to cost it overnight because, as of yesterday, when the Leader of the Opposition stood up to give his speech, there had been zero applications for this concession since it was announced in 2023. Not one application had been made. They had not done the work. There was no work done. Zero concessions had been applied for and zero concessions had been granted.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: It is only the Treasurer who has the call. The cross-chamber chatter will cease. Treasurer, you have 45 seconds left.

Mr JANETZKI: I think it is a set-up. I think the member for Woodridge knew all along that there had been no applications and no exemptions granted, and he set up the member for Murrumba. I think the member for Woodridge knew all along. The shadow planning minister and Crown counsel to the government of Tuvalu knew all along. He set up the Leader of the Opposition on this. He set him up. It is crickets on that. There has been an overwhelming response to our Boost to Buy scheme. We have hundreds of people ringing us. In fact, the name and number of my poor head of media, Renee, was on the media release. Our phones are running off the hook! It is a total contrast. Our Boost to Buy scheme is running off the hook and we look forward to it going live.

(Time expired)

Inclusion and Diversity Strategy

Ms FENTIMAN: My question is to the Premier. The Inclusion and Diversity Strategy is up for renewal this year. I table the existing strategy for the benefit of the House.

Tabled paper: Queensland Government: Report titled 'Queensland public sector: Inclusion and diversity strategy 2021-2025' [820].

Will the Premier commit to protecting and improving diversity targets, including for women in leadership and First Nations people?

Mr CRISAFULLI: I thank the honourable member for the question. We had a question from the member for McConnel about a stadium and a question from the member for Waterford about treating public servants with respect. Someone is getting set up here today. The honourable member asked me a question and I make the reflection to the honourable member: I am proud of the way this team treats the Public Service. I am very proud of the way the ministers treat the Public Service. I am very proud of the work we are doing to get women into the workforce and I am very proud of the work we are doing to make sure that women are in senior leadership positions.

The honourable Attorney has just reflected to me the appointment of two incredibly credible women to the bench last week. I thank the honourable member for that. I observe that it is important when we make board appointments that there is a reflection on diversity. It is important to make sure that as a government we are representing all of society. I say to the honourable member: when it comes to the importance of women in the workforce, we believe in treating them with respect. We believe in treating them with decency. To those opposite, they have someone who maintains his membership of their political movement, someone who continues to vote with the opposition who—

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance under standing order 118(b). The question was about the maintenance of targets.

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. It was a broad natured question. The Premier is being very responsive to the question as it was asked. He has been answering the question. I would submit to you that he is talking about the broad nature of diversity in the workplace and he is being responsive to the question, as asked.

Mr SPEAKER: The question was broadly about inclusion, commitment to improvement and the women's strategy. I believe you are being relevant. You have one minute left to answer.

Mr CRISAFULLI: The Minister for Corrective Services informs me that in the last cohort of corrective services recruits we had a record number of Indigenous recruits coming through that pipeline. This gives me an opportunity to talk about a program I am particularly proud of—that is, the 100 graduates program, which is being run through the Department of the Premier and Cabinet to make sure that we can train the next generation of leaders. As a part of that, I have asked the director-general—who is not a former member of the state executive of the Labor Party, which I find is always a refreshing trait for the directors-general of Premier and Cabinet—to make sure that there are record numbers of people living with a disability—that is very important—and record numbers of Indigenous and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in that cohort. I do want to make sure there is a large number of women as well. It is important that we train the next generation of public servants. It is important that we reflect a modern Queensland. Above all, it is important that we staple down the importance of treating the Public Service with respect.

Crisafulli LNP Government

Mr JAMES: My question is to the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations. Can the Deputy Premier outline how the first budget of the Crisafulli LNP government plans for Queensland's future, and is he aware of any approaches that do not?

Mr BLEIJIE: I thank the honourable member for the question. I congratulate him on his advocacy not only in his previous role in council but also in his role as the member for Mulgrave. What a fantastic job he is doing of putting the issues of housing and supply at the forefront. I know in the next few weeks we have some great announcements coming up in the Far North Queensland region. Watch this space. The member asks about how the Crisafulli government's first budget is putting Queenslanders first, and it is—whether it is in the space I spoke about this morning, the Residential Activation Fund, resetting the planning partnerships with councils, getting supply to the market, the Sovereign Industry Development Fund in state development, defence, biosecurity, biomedicine or biofuels. They are all priorities of the Crisafulli government.

He asks about the alternative plan. We listened to it yesterday and it was not much of a plan. I know the member for Maryborough thinks he has a claim on trains in this parliament, but there was a big train and it was not manufactured in Maryborough—it was a wreck, and it was in Brisbane in the 4BC studio! I listened to the opposition leader. He rang 4BC and he said, 'Guys, I am going to give you a shout-out. Not only am I going to give you a shout-out; I want to come to your studio and do a live in-house interview.' He did that this morning. I thought I would listen in to 4BC this morning. I did, and I have to say what a train wreck of an interview it was from an opposition leader, thinking he was proactively going on to talk about and attack the government. He is puerile. He is juvenile. People saw through it yesterday. It was not a budget reply; it was a valedictory speech. It was his first and last budget reply.

I particularly loved the question that he was asked about Cameron Dick and Shannon Fentiman coming for his leadership. He did not deny it. He just said, 'Oh, no, we all work well together.' You could hear it in his voice. As the honourable Treasurer said this morning, he gave four examples of build-to-rent projects in the state and how they will apply to his new tax regime, but the four projects he mentioned were already being built before the application of the tax exemption regime came in—it did not apply to them. They had a failed policy, and he has reheated his failed policy that no exemptions have been applied for and for which no exemptions have been given. He came in here yesterday and reheated a failed Labor policy. There are no build-to-rent buildings being built at the moment under the failed policy that they had in place for a few years.

What is more telling is what he did not mention in his budget reply yesterday—ready for this? He did not mention women. He did not mention the Olympic and Paralympic Games. He did not mention police. He did not mention the environment, tourism, agriculture, biosecurity, small and family business, child safety, manufacturing resources, justice, youth crime, trade, teachers, water, local government, fire disaster recovery or the arts. He did not mention any of those but he mentioned World War III. Apparently, the reason the LNP started World War III was to hide our budget. He is not up to the job of opposition leader—that is why Queenslanders rejected him last year.

(Time expired)

Renewable Energy

Mr BERKMAN: My question is to the Treasurer and Minister for Energy. Hidden in the government's budget this week is the news that it will no longer measure what percentage of energy in Queensland comes from renewables. We know the LNP has committed to cutting the state's existing renewables targets, but does scrapping this measure mean the LNP is entirely abolishing any renewable energy target?

Mr JANETZKI: I thank the honourable member for the question and, yes, directly to the question, we have said that we will not be proceeding with renewable energy targets when the Energy Roadmap is delivered later this year. We have been consistent about that. We are committed to net zero. We are committed to emissions reductions, and we have been very clear about that. The Energy Roadmap, which we will release by the end of the year, will reflect that and will provide the framework that we need for emissions reduction and reliable, affordable and sustainable power for Queenslanders.

I also note for the honourable member that we have made some significant investments in this budget, particularly in CopperString. It is a record \$2.4 billion investment. I have long been on the record supporting that project not only for the wealth of the north and the north-west of our great state for the critical minerals that are there and can help power the changing economy and economic base—there are extraordinary opportunities in the north-west in those critical minerals—but also because along CopperString sits some of the best renewable opportunities in the country. I have talked often about the wind around Hughenden that blows at night. It is an outstanding renewable resource and it is an important part of the work that will be done on CopperString to connect up those renewable projects to that 1,100-kilometre line from Townsville to Mount Isa that we will build, as we promised.

That is an important investment but I have also put investment into firming capacity with gas peakers and also into small, more manageable pumped hydro projects, including Borumba with \$355 million, Big T at Cressbrook with \$29 million and \$50 million for Mount Rawdon with CleanCo. We have made a lot of investments into key projects in the energy system. They are for firming, storage and generation. I would like the honourable member to understand that those are the kinds of investments we have made in this budget and I am happy to stand behind them.

In the 49 seconds remaining, this is the final moment I will have in question time to talk about the budget. I will have a lot to say in reply tonight. Members opposite should not worry about that in question time. I wanted to thank all those people in Treasury who have worked so hard and the honourable members who have worked so hard. From today—when I finish my reply tonight and when we have finished consideration in detail—I cannot wait to get out to Queensland and sell this budget to Queenslanders because this is a good budget. We need to tell Queenslanders about this budget. We need to get out there and talk to them about it. It is great for cost of living and it is great for saving jobs and services. This is a budget that is delivering for Queensland.

Mr SPEAKER: The period for question time has expired. If those leaving the chamber could do so in silence, that would be appreciated.

QUEENSLAND BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION COMMISSION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. ST O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth) (10.30 am): I present a bill for an act to amend the Building Act 1975, the Plumbing and Drainage Act 2018 and the Queensland Building and Construction Commission Act 1991 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Queensland Building and Construction Commission and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 [821].

Tabled paper: Queensland Building and Construction Commission and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025, explanatory notes [822].

Tabled paper: Queensland Building and Construction Commission and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025, statement of compatibility with human rights [823].

I rise to introduce the Queensland Building and Construction Commission and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. This bill continues the Crisafulli government's commitment to make it easier and safer to build in Queensland. These reforms sit under what we call the Building Reg Reno, a staged, commonsense overhaul of construction regulation in Queensland. Two tranches of reforms have already been delivered and today's bill introduction marks the rollout of tranche 3.

Earlier this year, we paused and delayed impending regulations to provide breathing space for industry. We gave small builders and tradies time to adapt while the Queensland Productivity Commission undertakes its inquiry reviewing the factors driving productivity in the Queensland construction sector. We have already removed annual financial reporting requirements for over 97 per cent of QBCC licensees. That is around 50,000 small operators freed from doing unnecessary paperwork so they can focus on what they do best: building homes, training apprentices and growing local businesses.

This bill now supports the Queensland Building and Construction Commission, our building regulator, to move fully into the digital age. Tradies and contractors should be able to access their licences just like they do with a driver's licence or a marine licence: quickly, securely and online. This bill removes the outdated requirements the QBCC currently has to operate with to modernise this important regulator. This includes enabling fully electronic applications for licences, including attaching certified passport-size photographs for those applying for a licence under the QBCC Act.

The bill makes other amendments such as clarifying that a physical licence card must be returned if a licence is surrendered, suspended or cancelled. Importantly, QBCC licensees will be able to choose whether they access their licence digitally or whether they wish to only have a physical licence; the digital licence is optional, not mandatory. The bill also introduces the ability for documents to be served by email under the QBCC Act where QBCC licensees have provided their email address to communicate with the QBCC. To support this, the bill will ensure particular personal information, such as phone numbers and email addresses, are updated with the QBCC in a timely fashion. We must make it easier for the QBCC, their licensees and their customers to interact electronically where they choose to do so. Importantly, I reiterate the digital licence will be optional. No-one is being forced to change, but those who want a faster, simpler experience will soon have that choice. These are practical improvements, they reduce red tape and finally modernise how we do business in this state.

I now want to directly address the second element of the bill, improving how serious safety incidents on building sites are reported. These provisions originally resulted from a tragic situation, the death of Jason Garrels on a building site in Clermont in 2012. Following a Coroner's inquiry, amendments were made in 2017 to ensure the QBCC is aware of serious safety incidents on building sites and can take appropriate action. The double-reporting requirement introduced for QBCC licensees was fit for purpose at the time. This involved the insertion of new section 54A, requiring the notification of particular safety matters. There was also strong advocacy for change to ensure everything possible is being done to prevent what happened to Jason happening to anyone else and to hold persons responsible to account. This bill enhances that legacy.

The current system requires some licensees to report the same incident twice: once to the workplace health and safety regulator and again to the QBCC. It creates confusion, can slow down response times and can risk key details being missed or delayed. This bill resolves that. The bill retains the two types of safety matters that are to be reported: a notifiable incident on a building site under the licensee's control or on which the licensee is carrying out building work, and contravention of a notice or injunction issued under the Work Health and Safety Act or the Electrical Safety Act. Instead of providing two reports to two regulators in the wake of a serious safety incident, regulators will now share this important information directly and securely from a single point of contact. The QBCC will still be notified but by the WHS regulator, using tested, reliable, administrative channels which have been established and improved in the near decade since the original amendment. These improved information-sharing arrangements will support the timely provision of this information to the QBCC. As I have said, these arrangements are already being tested between the regulators and are functioning well. This bill brings our legislation in line with how the process works between our regulators. It will create a smarter, faster and more accurate system.

We are removing duplication, not responsibility. For tradies, that means safer worksites. Regulators will be on the same page, acting on the same facts and potentially able to intervene sooner when something goes wrong. We are also increasing the penalty for failing to report a serious safety breach, from 80 to 100 penalty units. That is a clear signal: safety reporting is not optional and failing to comply carries greater consequences. Under these provisions, the QBCC has been able to take action against licensees. This has ranged across show cause notices, disciplinary action, conditions imposed on licences, licence suspensions, including immediate suspensions, and licence cancellations. This bill keeps the intent of the law intact while making the reporting system work faster.

We want safer worksites across Queensland. These reforms ensure the right people get the right information faster. That means streamlined investigations from regulators, quicker interventions and, ultimately, a safer construction industry. We are not trading safety for convenience; we are building a better system, one that is fit for purpose in 2025.

This bill is about making our building industry more productive, more responsive and more accountable. I am advised the serious safety notification elements are a process improvement only, not a change to what is being achieved. Subject to the bill's passage, I propose reviewing the ongoing effectiveness of these arrangements after two years to confirm the changes are working as intended. That is to ensure the QBCC remains aware of serious safety incidents on building sites when they occur so they take appropriate action.

This bill delivers regulatory relief, enables modernisation and digitalisation and, crucially, it strengthens the safety system for workers across our state. Queenslanders deserve and expect a customer focused experience when dealing with government. The bill will make it easier for the QBCC, its licensees and other customers to use digital services when they choose to do so. It is what the industry has asked for, it is what tradies deserve and it is what Queenslanders expect from their government.

I want to acknowledge some of our hardworking public servants from our building policy team who are in the gallery today to see this bill's introduction. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. ST O'CONNOR (Bonney—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth) (10.39 am): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

Question put—That the bill be now read a first time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Referral to State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Furner): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee.

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL


APPROPRIATION BILL

REVENUE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading (Cognate Debate)

Resumed from 26 June (see p. 2212), on motion of Mr Janetzki—

That the bills be now read a second time.

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (10.39 am): This is a bad budget that does nothing for everyday Queenslanders. The LNP has somehow managed to end up with the worst of all worlds—more debt but less infrastructure—and the unprecedented hiding of budget blowouts in infrastructure, particularly transport infrastructure, is an indictment on this government. This is the least transparent transport budget in living memory. This budget will do nothing to alleviate congestion in South-East Queensland and right across the state.

QTRIP—the bible for road construction in Queensland—has been gutted and oversimplified to reduce accountability of this hapless minister and bumbling Treasurer. This government has not listed a single extra cent to its landmark Sunshine Coast rail, making its Wave announcement of just a few months ago a mockery. Even its Fresh Start document has more details in it than this latest QTRIP. So many important projects now have no funding allocated and no timeframe—projects like the Cairns

western arterial, the Bruce Highway southern access into Cairns and Kuranda Range Road improvements. Even the Mooloolah River Interchange, which the minister bragged this Monday would have 'long-awaited funds for early works to flow', has no money in this budget. I went looking in the budget papers and found—

Project scope, cost and timing subject to further planning and negotiation with funding partners.

Zero dollars are listed in the budget. There is a one-day turnaround with its broken promises on the Sunshine Coast. Projects including the Linkfield Road overpass have been quietly pushed back and others, like crucial M1 upgrades, have completely dropped off the radar. This minister has also tried to get away with sneaking through cost escalations on the Centenary Motorway and the Coomera Connector in particular and has failed to fully fund the Cairns Common User Facility at the Port of Cairns. Remarkably, the Coomera Connector stage 1 project has increased over half a billion dollars in costs under this government's watch without so much as a mention. Over \$1 billion in M1 upgrades have also been completely pushed off.

On Cross River Rail the budget papers show a deliberate go-slow on the most important public transport project in the state. Just on the Sunshine Coast, to give an example of a region, there is a frankly laughable description of the projects in the latest debasement of QTRIP in relation to its buses to Maroochydore project. To quote from the budget papers—

In delivering its election commitment, the government is providing additional funding for The Wave (Caloundra to Maroochydore) accelerated planning. The budgeted amount is not displayed as contracts have not been awarded.

That is actually a broken promise on top of a broken promise. Before the election it was trains all the way to Maroochydore and then after it was buses to Maroochydore. Now that is not even funded in the budget papers. What is the next downgrade? Donkeys to Maroochydore by 2032? E-scooters to the airport for the Olympics? The Wave has crashed, the Mooloolah River Interchange is stalled and Caloundra's roads are stuck in reverse—all thanks to Premier Crisafulli's broken promises.

In terms of the far north of the state, the Cairns Southern Access Corridor—a \$225 million project—has been pushed to 2032 and Kuranda Range repairs have been delayed. With regard to the Barron River bridge—the government got dragged kicking and screaming to this—it had to wait for Albo to make the first move and embarrass it into making a federal contribution on what is a wholly state road. With regard to the Cairns western arterial, all funding and timeframes have been completely stripped from the budget papers. The former member for Barron River fought hard for this project. The current member has given up already. With regard to the Captain Cook Highway Cairns CBD to Smithfield funding allocation, the timeframes have been completely stripped. Some \$359 million disappeared from the budget papers.

In terms of the Cairns Common User Facility at the port, funding in the budget is only \$387 million, not the \$826 million the minister announced this year was the cost of the project. There is a massive funding shortfall of over \$400 million on this government's own figures. Just last week we called for the LNP Crisafulli government to fully fund the common user facility. It has fallen on deaf ears. For the biggest infrastructure project that Cairns has seen since the international airport to get so little in this budget is a disgrace. Advance Cairns said last week that the Far North was turning away millions of dollars in business each day this project is delayed. Will the LNP now look to privatise the Cairns Common User Facility? We will have to wait and see.

In relation to Townsville, I read with interest the front page of the *Townsville Bulletin* yesterday with an article titled 'KAP deputy leader Nick Dametto expresses concern over lack of funding for Northern Beaches intersection in state budget'. The article stated—

A business case into a major road upgrade in Townsville's largest growth corridor has been overlooked in the state budget with northern suburbs residents to sit in gridlock for a little longer.

This refers to the project on North Townsville Road between Mount Low and Deeragun which has been cruelly overlooked in this budget. I commend the advocacy of the member for Hinchinbrook for this and other road projects in his patch and in Townsville more generally. When I was the minister I think I had more meetings about roads with the member than I did with some of my own colleagues and I know that he is a strong advocate for that area. In a similar vein, it is incredibly disappointing that the Gairloch floodway has been kicked into the long grass in this budget. Additionally, the Townsville eastern access rail corridor is now with no funding and timeframes listed. With regard to the Lansdown Eco-Industrial Precinct, funding and timeframe have been removed.

Going down the coast, this budget does not get any better. In the south-east we have seen the Coopers Plains level crossing slipped and now there is no money listed. On the Bribie Island bridge we have massive cost uncertainty. The stated cost range in the budget is between \$250 million and \$1 billion. That is a pretty big range. To quote from the budget papers—

Existing funding will complete design and begin early works.

That means it is not fully funded. That is a broken promise on the Bribie Island bridge. Caboolture to Bribie Island Road has been delayed at least a year from the budget papers. With regard to Burpengary to Caboolture Road and Aquatic Centre Drive to Graham Road, that has been removed completely from the budget.

Mr Ryan interjected.

Mr MELLISH: I take the member for Morayfield's interjections. I know that the member for Morayfield and the member for Kurwongbah pushed really hard for that project.

With regard to the Bruce Highway western alternative, there are no clear outcomes and no funding allocated following the proposed route change. The Albion train station upgrade has been cut from QTRIP completely. With regard to Caloundra Road and Nicklin Way, that has been cut from QTRIP. The David Low Way cycle facility has been cut from QTRIP. The Aspley bikeway from Zillmere Road to Cabbage Tree Creek has been cut from QTRIP.

With regard to the Bowen Bridge Road to Exhibition station upgrade rail pedestrian connection, the funding and timeframe have been removed. With regard to the Cannon Hill Shopping Centre upgraded bus station, timeframe and funding have been removed. The Chermide bus stop looks to be delayed at least a year. With regard to the Upper Mount Gravatt Busway Station, the funding and timeframe have been removed. The Bald Hills station park-and-ride expansion has completely gone. Notably, there is no money for the Story Bridge in this budget so, sadly, this Brisbane icon remains in limbo for another year, with the threats of tolling it by the Lord Mayor looming large. However, I might give the minister a pass on this because I note the Lord Mayor has not even written to him about it.

In terms of Wide Bay, with regard to Torbanlea Pialba Road there is cost uncertainty. On the Darling Downs, the Gatton Helidon Road has been delayed, with cost uncertainty. In the central west we now see the Outback Way Queensland Future Priorities with cost uncertainty and the funding amounts removed. Near Mackay we see uncertainty around the Peak Downs Highway—such crucial upgrades in that part of the world.

In terms of statewide maintenance, funding has been removed from statewide maintenance projects listed through QTRIP. Previous QTRIPs outlined in much detail the expenditure required for the upkeep of infrastructure across the state, but not this QTRIP. This is remarkable given how much of a song and dance this minister has made about maintenance funding in this very House. Remarkably and without precedent, this government has stripped from the budget papers many funding allocations which have not progressed to contract stage—in fact, almost all funding allocations which have not progressed to contract stage. This is an outrageous lack of transparency designed to save the minister embarrassment given his repeated claims of being able to deliver projects 'on time and on budget', as he has said many times in this House this year.

As a former transport minister I know that QTRIP would be a local MP's best friend in arguing with your own minister for money, so what this QTRIP butchering has done is make the job of every backbencher on that side of the House immensely more difficult in holding their own government to account, because this minister has just given himself the tools to delay, to underfund and to cut all of their vital projects. Mark my words: many on that side of the House will not realise until January 2028 that their election commitments will not be built in time for the election. Their communities are going to be up in arms and they will be shown up for not delivering for their communities, often through no fault of their own but because of a transport minister, a premier and a treasurer who wanted to avoid scrutiny. 'On time and on budget' has just got a hell of a lot easier now that there are no timeframes and there is no budget.

Locally in my area, the Prince Charles Hospital has been pushed back by two years. The Cabbage Tree Creek Bikeway, which I mentioned, has been cut. There is no new money for the Gympie Road bypass tunnel listed in the budget papers. Money has been stripped away from the Gympie Road and Beams Road intersection. In 2020 there was an LNP commitment to an overpass there. They stripped that back to a much reduced version, which was a bandaid fix, but now the funding allocation has been removed. This is the first set of traffic lights you hit in Brisbane as you come in from the north.

You have to go north of Gympie now until you hit the next set of traffic lights. There is even less clarity on what the government wants to do with this intersection. Also in my area, sadly, Craigslea State High School misses out in this budget. I had an election commitment of \$24 million. This was sadly not met.

This is not a boring budget; this is a bad budget by a bumbling Treasurer—a budget that blows away cost-of-living support for millions of Queenslanders. This is a budget that cuts billions from congestion-busting projects. This is a budget that will make people wait longer for medical treatment. This is a budget that does nothing to solve the shortage of social and affordable housing. This is a budget that fails to provide funding to support the growth of frontline staff. This is a budget that will make it harder for Queenslanders to get around. This is a budget that will make it harder for Queenslanders to get ahead. It is a very bad budget from a bumbling Treasurer.


Mrs Frecklington: You're just making stuff up. There is a record spend in public housing, a record spend in cops, a record spend in health.

Mr MELLISH: I will not take a lecture from the member for Nanango who famously promised billions of dollars for the Bruce Highway and delivered, I think, \$20 million.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Furner): Order! Member for Nanango!

Mr MELLISH: This budget delivers more debt, less infrastructure and no real cost-of-living relief for Queenslanders.

 **Hon. AC POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation) (10.51 am): I rise today to update the House on the 2025-26 budget for the Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation and for the people of Glass House. It is a budget that lays the foundations to deliver a fresh start for Queensland's future. This budget delivers the commitments we made to the people of Queensland in October last year and it restores critical funding for services, programs and initiatives which were left unfunded by those opposite. Those opposite had a secret plan to decimate the state's tourism industry and our environmental front line with cuts to departmental staff, cuts to our state's premier marketing body and unfunded promises left, right and centre. When it comes to tourism, the former tourism minister and member for Cairns—might I say, a vibrant tourism town—has questions to answer: who were Labor going to sack in the tourism department and which programs were they cutting. Given he was cutting the budget from \$160 million to \$7 million, there would have had to have been a lot cut. We have calmly and methodically gone about cleaning up that mess.

Our budget sets a vision to build the industry so it can capitalise on the Olympic and Paralympic Games with a generational billion dollar investment in tourism. Over the next four years, we are investing more than \$1 billion in tourism, including \$446 million in new funding to kickstart the delivery of our Destination 2045 strategy. This will allow us to boost events funding to allow us to bring the best events to Queensland and continue to grow our own offerings. It will help us unlock new strategic airlines to connect Queensland internally with our neighbours across state borders and overseas. This budget will enable us to develop exciting and innovative tourism experiences for visitors to enjoy. It will restore certainty for the state's leading marketing and events agency, Tourism and Events Queensland, to work hand in hand with my department to position Queensland as the home of the holiday and the events capital of the nation.

The budget will enhance ecotourism and drive regional growth. We are backing in the first of our 45 by 45 new ecotourism experiences promised in Destination 2045: \$19.7 million to help deliver the Wangetti Trail; \$15.5 million over four years to upgrade the Smithfield Mountain Bike Park; and \$5 million for the proposed Whitsunday Skyway attraction, with funding to be delivered from 2026-27. Tourism is a core pillar of Queensland's economy and this generational investment across ecotourism, events, connectivity, experience, brand and industry honours that.

Queensland's natural environment is central to our identity and our future. This budget reflects our commitment to protecting it for generations to come. The only green those opposite care about is the preferences they sought last October. They left Queensland's incredible biodiversity and natural environment, which draws visitors from across the world, at risk from fire, pest and weeds with inadequate funding, insufficient staff and a wilful disdain for those living alongside our protected areas and national parks. We are not going to stand for that. We are committing \$84.6 million over five years and \$29.6 million ongoing to the More Rangers, Better Neighbours initiative, including 150 additional Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service Indigenous land and sea rangers. To improve bushfire management and community safety, there is \$11.2 million in the coming financial year to purchase fire vehicles, fire units and infrastructure upgrades. This budget also allocates \$39.6 million in the coming

year for high-priority land acquisitions to expand Queensland's protected area portfolio, ensuring the preservation of our natural heritage. We are investing the same amount—\$39.6 million over three years—to expand and enhance the wildlife hospital network. This funding will increase the capacity of five wildlife hospitals to provide specialist care for sick and injured native wildlife, safeguarding our unique species.

Under the Zero Litter to the Bay by 2030 initiative we are partnering with local governments to invest \$35 million over five years to upgrade stormwater infrastructure and prevent litter from entering Moreton Bay by 2030. We are also establishing a \$130 million Resource Recovery Boost fund over three years to help councils develop infrastructure and initiatives that divert waste from household red bins to green and yellow bins—something Labor could not and would not do.

This government is also committed to fostering our scientific and innovation sectors with ongoing funding as we shape future government policy in this space. This budget is a demonstration of this government's commitment to Queensland's future. It reflects our belief that Queensland can and will be a place where the environment and the economy thrive together, where innovation drives progress and a strong economy delivers a better lifestyle for all.

In Glass House we are getting on and doing what we promised. Residents in Mount Mee and Ocean View know all too well the frustration and danger posed by Mount Mee Road. Locals would have already seen the rehabilitation and resurfacing work underway, but we are investing a further \$1 million to kickstart a comprehensive design study for future upgrades. We are delivering a \$10 million investment to improve a number of intersections on the D'Aguilar Highway, including Campbell's Pocket Road in Wamuran, Mount Mee Road and Raaen Road in D'Aguilar and George Street in Woodford. Funding is secured and the design work is ready to begin. Further north, we are acting on the intersection of Maleny-Montville and Landsborough Maleny roads—widely known for its poor visibility and troubling crash history. We have listened to concerned residents and we have fast-tracked the planning work with surveying underway as we speak. The \$7 million investment is rolling out the door.

I also committed to preserving Maleny's exceptional dark sky status. This budget allocates targeted funding for the changeover of all state owned lighting to dark sky accredited lights. These measures will not only protect our treasured nightscape for stargazers, scientists and wildlife but also reinforce Maleny's position as a unique destination for astrotourism.

As promised, \$140,000 has been dedicated to roll out new digital fire signage across the Glass House electorate. This technology will enable remote updates, freeing up frontline fire service personnel when we need them the most.

Finally, I have heard families loud and clear over the past 16 years since being elected and my commitment to delivering years 11 and 12 at Woodford State School is steadfast. This is a priority that I know will make a real difference for our students, their futures and the local economy in Woodford. This budget begins the delivery of new school infrastructure to prepare for the additional two years of schooling.

This budget is not about flashy headlines or empty promises, it is about continuing the work we have already started; it is about delivering for Queenslanders and restoring respect for your money; it is about keeping you safe with new laws, more police and new early intervention and rehabilitation programs to prevent crime and break the cycle of repeat crime. Our real-time hospital data has boosted transparency and enhanced patient care. We are giving our kindy kids a healthy start to their education with free kindy health checks. We know Queensland families are struggling. We have provided cost-of-living relief by making the LNP's 50-cent fares permanent.

More Queensland kids can now participate in summer and winter sports with the LNP's \$200 PlayOn! sports vouchers. The Crisafulli government's budget delivers ongoing cost-of-living relief for Queensland families with the new \$100 Back to School Boost. Families will receive \$100 for each primary school student attending prep to year 6 to help cover the cost of school essentials.

Our government wants young Queenslanders to have the aspiration to own their own home and, since coming to government, we have axed a tax by abolishing stamp duty on new builds for first home buyers, introduced Boost to Buy—a new nation-leading home ownership scheme to reduce the deposit gap—boosted the first home owner grant to \$30,000 for 12 months to help Queenslanders buy or build their first new home sooner and delivered a historic funding boost totalling over \$200 million in the next four years for specialist homelessness services.

Our budget lays the foundation for the fresh start we promised. It is a plan to deal with the big crises Labor left behind. This budget is delivering for Queensland. I commend the budget to the House.



Mr McCALLUM (Bundamba—ALP) (11.00 am): What we have from this Crisafulli LNP government is a budget that is full of broken promises. It is a budget that has turned its back on Bundamba and turned its back to break promises. It has left families, workers and small businesses in our Bundamba community wondering where is the support from their government that they need when they need it most.

This first LNP budget in over a decade has blown away cost-of-living support for our local families. In doing that, the LNP have broken the promises they made to Ipswich families during the election campaign. Let us not forget that the LNP promised to lower energy prices. The LNP promised that they would continue to deliver cost-of-living energy rebates for as long as people were struggling. We know that families and businesses are still struggling, yet David Crisafulli and this LNP government have broken their promises. Power bills will be increasing significantly from 1 July, by at least 3.7 per cent and ranging to over 10 per cent. Of course, by not extending the \$1,000 nation-leading energy rebate that Labor delivered, every single household will need to find an extra \$1,000 this year. Let us take a moment to consider those deliberate decisions from this LNP government. They have made an absolutely clear-eyed and heartless decision not to continue with essential cost-of-living support when people need it most.

When it comes to local commuters, our Bundamba community is going to suffer more congestion because there are delays to congestion-busting projects such as the Springfield to Ipswich rail loop. Having looked at the budget papers, I see no new money whatsoever for that project. It is stuck in the planning stage. There is also no new money for a much needed pedestrian crossing over the Centenary Highway at South Ripley—something that, along with the Springfield to Ipswich rail loop, the other Ipswich members and I have been advocating for for an extremely long time. The LNP's budget papers only contain funding already committed to by Labor for the planning stages. There is not one dollar to get a shovel in the ground. There is not one dollar to get an excavator on the ground to help deliver those much needed congestion-busting projects in our community.

What does this budget contain when it comes to education for our community?

Mrs Frecklington: The special schools.

Mr McCALLUM: I will get to that, member for Nanango, so just wait for it. When you look at one part of the Capital Statement there is mention of a new state school at Whiterock in Ripley, but when you look at a different part of the Capital Statement in Budget Paper No. 3 it says that a new state school will be built in Ripley Valley at Ripley Central. That is a little confusing, especially when you consider that the new state school at Ripley Central was built and opened by Labor in the past couple of years. There is a little issue there.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr McCALLUM: I acknowledge the member for McConnel, who, as the education minister, joined us for the opening of that wonderful, state-of-the-art school that is serving our community. We have built and/or improved so many schools in the Ripley Valley alone. We opened the new high school at Collingwood Park—another great Labor project. The school that is funded in this budget which is presumably going to be built at Whiterock, where there is massive residential growth, was in the pipeline under Labor. It is a Labor project any way you look at it. I acknowledge the education minister for continuing an important Labor project.

I turn to the special school for Redbank-Springfield. It is going to have to be a pretty long school if it is going to stretch from Redbank through to Springfield, cutting through several other suburbs. We would absolutely welcome that new school, but obviously we need more clarity. The government needs to tell us exactly where this school is going to be built. Where do they plan to build it? Give us an address so there can be a bit of clarity for parents. Speaking of special schools, I see that there is a relatively modest commitment in the budget to continue the excellent investment that has occurred at Goodna Special School over at least the past five years. It is great to see that wonderful school getting some more support.

Everything in this budget with respect to health commitments for our community is Labor projects. The stage 2 expansion of the Ipswich Hospital, which will deliver an extra 200 beds and an expanded ED, was committed to and started, with shovels in the ground, under Labor. Of course, Labor delivered the satellite hospital, as it was called then—the Ripley Satellite Health Centre as it is called now—at South Ripley. We committed to the expansion of that facility to provide a 90-bed subacute facility and some other improvements like car parks et cetera. That work was well underway during the last term of the Labor government and that work is continuing. Again, those are two excellent Labor projects for our local community.

Shamefully, this budget does nothing locally to solve the severe shortage of social and affordable homes. Another glaring omission in the budget relates to the Olympics plan that the government likes to crow about. When they announced their Olympic plan, we saw that the proud sporting city of Ipswich was completely overlooked. We get no new infrastructure and no sporting events. The government stands absolutely condemned for that.

On a brighter note, this budget does show that the power of the people works, because the LNP have committed to continuing Labor's \$200 FairPlay vouchers. They have renamed them Play On! vouchers, but they are not kidding anyone: it is a Labor initiative. I would like to thank all of the local families who signed our petition. I have been sitting down to talk with the clubs, the volunteers, the managers and the players—

Mr Healy: How good are they?

Mr McCALLUM: Absolutely. The wonderful volunteers, who are the lifeblood of our local clubs, were really worried that this heartless LNP government was going to cut the \$200 FairPlay vouchers.

Government members interjected.

Mr McCALLUM: Absolutely it would have been cut. I believe it would have been cut unless the people spoke up—and they did, in their thousands. They got behind another great Labor policy that was so good not even the LNP dared to cut it.

Mrs Frecklington: You were living in Melbourne when we started the program.

Mr McCALLUM: As opposed to living in New Farm now? The home owner equity scheme is another great Labor policy that the LNP saw fit to co-opt as part of their budget. While we are talking about extra cost-of-living measures, the LNP have funded Labor's 50-cent fares in this budget. They like to say that they have funded it permanently, but it is only in the forwards. If they were serious about locking them in permanently—actually making them permanent—they would introduce a law to hardwire in future payments beyond the forwards. The new members opposite who are having trouble understanding it should ask one of their colleagues who has been around a little longer to explain the forwards to them.

While we are on the issue of budget forwards, let's talk about debt. A few speakers from the LNP have trotted out the lines they have been given by the Treasurer's office, probably only half understanding them. The Report on State Finances that preceded this budget and which the Treasurer tabled showed that Queensland's net debt had halved last financial year after a \$1.7 billion surplus was achieved. We know what rating agencies have been saying publicly about the LNP as far back as the midyear economic update. S&P Global called out the LNP for their political approach to budget figures—juicing up the debt by over \$23 billion. It was so bad that an independent credit rating agency needed to call it out. They downgraded our forecast. Since this budget was delivered, this same agency, S&P Global, has been on the public record saying that, as they foretold with the forecast coming down, the credit rating for Queensland might come down a step. That is obviously going to cost every single—

Mr Hunt: You already messed that up.

Mr McCALLUM: I take those interjections. They still keep blaming Labor. This is the LNP's budget. It is a line in the sand.

Mr Ryan: It sounds like they do not want to be in government anyhow.


Mr McCALLUM: They do not get it. I take that interjection from the honourable member.

Unfortunately, I have only a couple of minutes left. As shadow energy minister, I have to mention the go-slow on CopperString. They have cut it in half. They are not building it all the way out to Mount Isa. They have not funded it in the budget to go all the way out to Mount Isa. It is only going halfway, to Hughenden at this point. They are on a go-slow on large infrastructure projects such as Borumba pumped hydro. The poor old member for Gympie has had his big project cut in half.

Mrs Frecklington: I think the member for Gympie is pretty okay.

Mr McCALLUM: I am sure he can talk for himself, member for Nanango. They have descoped the Gladstone transmission hub. They have absolutely gutted that essential investment. We know that the LNP do not like publicly owned power. Let's look at the cuts to publicly owned power in this budget. I am advised: CleanCo, over \$240 million cut from the previous budget; CS Energy, the one that exploded under their watch, over \$65 million cut; Powerlink, \$334 million cut; Queensland Hydro, over \$619 million cut; Stanwell, \$759 million cut. That means that the LNP have ripped over \$2 billion from Queensland generators. That makes a mockery of their commitment and their so-called policy of the Electricity Maintenance Guarantee.

This budget just adds to the fast-growing mountains of LNP broken promises—broken commitments around delivering infrastructure that growing communities like mine need, broken commitments around delivering cost-of-living relief during a cost-of-living crisis, broken commitments to keep on delivering the services that our communities rely on. These are the decisions that David Crisafulli and David Janetzki have made. This budget shows that they do not care about Queenslanders. This budget should have come with an apology to Bundamba and all of Queensland.

 **Miss DOOLAN** (Pumicestone—LNP) (11.15 am): A budget is more than an outlook; it is an investment directly into the lives of Queenslanders and the communities they live in. The Crisafulli government's first budget is clear in its intention: to deliver for Queenslanders who have been left behind after 10 years of Labor's economic mismanagement. I want to reassure the previous speaker: we do know how to read budgets and we are fixing Labor's mess.

We have seen 10 years of neglect. The Crisafulli government was elected on key priorities that sought to restore Queenslanders' faith in a government they saw as broken. Safety where you live, health services when you need them, respect for your money, a place to call home and a government that works for Queenslanders: that is exactly what this budget delivers. This government will not take its mandate for granted.

When I see the record-breaking investment we are making in youth justice and our police force, I think of Heidi Luck and her husband, Clint. Heidi and Clint are Bribie Island locals, committed to our community. Heidi is a local netball mum and fundraises for Guide Dogs Queensland, including for services on Bribie Island. When I doorknocked them last year, they shared their story about how young criminals had broken into their home in the dead of night, stealing anything they could get their hands on while Heidi, Clint and their children were sound asleep. Their home was no longer a place they felt safe in.

No Queenslanders deserve to live in fear in their own home. That is why the Crisafulli government's investment in youth justice and policing aims to deter crime by: delivering faster justice for victims by appointing a new magistrate to the Caboolture Courthouse; strengthening the police front line with 130 new police recruits—one will be based on Bribie Island; making Jack's Law permanent to give police stronger powers to detect and deter knife crime in public places; investing \$147.9 million in body worn cameras, tasers, tyre deflation devices and more, because Labor failed to fund these essential crime-fighting resources; and providing \$40 million through the Secure Communities Partnership Program to support councils in protecting local business precincts with crime prevention infrastructure like CCTV, bollards and secure fencing.

Queenslanders expect accessible, reliable and affordable health services when they need them. That was not the case for Beachmere local Jody Hollinger and her daughter. Her daughter was suffering from abdominal pain and nausea, and they went to Caboolture Hospital. After waiting 18 hours for treatment, it was too late: her appendix had burst. Labor's record includes the worst ambulance ramping in the country, ballooning elective surgery waiting lists and a failure to fund critical hospital expansion projects. That is why the Crisafulli government is reducing ramping, funding additional beds and boosting our regional hospital networks. After 10 years of neglect, this is the commitment Queenslanders deserve.

We have also invested \$5.3 million in the Caboolture Youth Residential Rehabilitation Service to provide 24/7 care and long-term mental health support for young people aged 16 to 21, allocated \$15 million to build a dedicated paediatric outpatients area at Caboolture Hospital and committed \$367.7 million to support an additional 130 beds and refurbishment of critical clinical support services at Caboolture Hospital.

I also think of Gerri Marston, a Bribie Island local. Under the former government, she endured a one hour and 20-minute round trip three times a week from Bribie Island to North Lakes to receive low-risk cancer treatment. That is four hours of travel each week just to access the care she needed. The Crisafulli government is committed to delivering health services closer to home. That is why I am proud to deliver, alongside Minister Nicholls, cancer treatment services at the Bribie Island Satellite Health Centre. Gerri can now get the care she needs in her own community—a reality that never would have been delivered under the former government.

My community is home to sports clubs that strengthen our social fabric. Our government wants more kids playing sport in clubs that are supported and up to standard. We want every young athlete to dream of competing in the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Brendan Smith is a father of six and president of Bribie District Little Athletics. Labor's cost-of-living crisis squeezed the budgets of families involved in his club. Brendan worried about the club's future as families struggled with rising costs caused by Labor's failure to manage the economy. That is why we have made the biggest

investment in sport through the Games On! program and Play On! sports vouchers, including: \$2 million to expand the Bribie Island Surf Club, delivering better facilities for lifesavers, volunteers and beachgoers; \$170,500 to resurface Bribie Island Netball Club courts, because our young athletes deserve safe, high-quality spaces on which to train and compete; \$19,000 for a new PA system for Bribie District Little Athletics, improving communication and events for hundreds of local families; \$920,000 for a permanent home for Bribie Island Movement and Strength Club—this club has produced national champions and deserves the best facilities; and \$153,000 for new lighting at the Beachmere rugby club so games no longer need to be cancelled due to insufficient lighting and kids can play rugby safely at night.

This government is investing in the next generation of infrastructure for our rapidly growing community. Those opposite spent a decade making promises and rolling out slogans about the Bribie Island bridge, but their heart was never in it. They were content to wheel out billboards and scare campaigns at election time. Our government has done more than talk; we have delivered. We have released the long-awaited business case summary for the Bribie Island bridge, paving the way for real progress, not political posturing. We are also upgrading Bribie Island Road, as we said we would. This critical project is part of our broader commitment to upgrade Bribie Island Road to a four-lane standard. For the 23,000 residents and tens of thousands of visitors who come to Bribie each year, the new bridge will improve safety, accessibility and traffic flow. It will also contribute to regional growth and economic development.

Investing in safe, accessible transport options does not stop at roads and bridges; it extends to the everyday pathways and connections that link our communities together. That is why this budget includes: \$3 million for the Elimbah active transport corridor, a 2.4-kilometre network of upgraded pathways linking key destinations from Pumicestone Road to the Wamuran rail trailhead on Beerburum Road—features will include cycle lanes, safe crossings, improved lighting, signage, landscaping and greening; \$750,000 for a 1.3-kilometre footpath along Beachmere Road, a high-traffic area that currently lacks pedestrian infrastructure; and \$350,000 to complete the Bribie Island Road, Ningi footpath extension, closing the missing link and allowing safe access between the Ningi estates.

Recognising the mobility challenges faced by our aging population, the Crisafulli government will also deliver funding for an on-demand bus service trial for Bribie Island. This service will give seniors a flexible, affordable and accessible option to attend medical appointments, go shopping and participate in community life. It is a smart, practical investment that can serve as a model for other regions.

We are also investing in beloved local assets: \$500,000 to upgrade Beachmere's Clayton Park junior playground, which no longer meets safety or community standards; and \$100,000 to help U3A Bribie Island find a new home. With over 2,000 members and more than 150 volunteer-led classes each week, this group plays a vital role in lifelong learning and community connection.

Labor's cost-of-living crisis has resulted in more of my constituents relying on food banks than ever before. This is a budget that provides targeted, deliberate cost-of-living relief to those who need it most. That is why we are honouring our \$300,000 commitment to Meals on Wheels Moreton Bay, expanding services across Bribie Island and Caboolture. This funding will help meet rising demand for meals and welfare checks, allowing vulnerable residents and seniors to live independently and with dignity. Meals on Wheels is more than just food; it is care, community and connection.

We are also protecting our natural environment. This budget includes: \$35 million for the Zero Litter to the Bay project, which targets plastic waste, improves catchment management and reduces litter entering the Pumicestone Passage and surrounding waterways; and funding for a new wildlife hospital in Dakabin, which, although outside our electorate, will serve injured wildlife across Pumicestone.

The people of Pumicestone voted for change, and this budget proves that change is real. We are building the infrastructure Labor only promised. We are funding the services Labor neglected. We are restoring integrity to the processes Labor corrupted. To my community: this budget is for you. We are delivering for every resident who fought for a safer community, a place to call home, health services when they need them, respect for their money and a government which works for them.

Mr 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—

Mr Speaker, this budget is not only about fixing local issues; it sets a bold direction for the entire state.

We are tackling the housing crisis with \$592 million for emergency accommodation and homelessness support.

We are restoring law and order with the Adult Crime, Adult Time laws. Minister Deb Frecklington has led the charge with practical, tough reforms that put community safety at the centre.

Minister Dan Purdie has ensured that our frontline officers are backed, respected and properly resourced. Already, hundreds of new recruits have been sworn in. This Budget reinforces our commitment to the Thin Blue Line.

We are preparing for a world-class Olympics with a state-wide legacy infrastructure plan led by Deputy Premier Jarrod Bleijie. There will be no more duct-taped stadiums; only real, lasting outcomes for all Queenslanders, not just those in the CBD.

We are also repairing our health system with record investment, reduced ramping, more beds and clearer accountability. Minister Tim Nicholls has brought experience and resolve to the task.

We are cutting the cost of living through practical measures, not gimmicks. This includes recommissioning coal-fired generators to stabilise electricity supply and relieve price pressure; cutting stamp duty for first home buyers; and putting an end to wasteful CFMEU-driven blowouts on state projects.

This is the difference between a government that delivers for the people and one that delivers only for itself.

I want to congratulate the Premier and Treasurer on handing down this responsible, visionary and community-focused first Budget. I am proud to stand on this side of the House and support it, because it is delivering what we said we would deliver... for Pumicestone and for all Queenslanders.



Hon. GJ BUTCHER (Gladstone—ALP) (11.24 am): I rise today as not only the proud member for Gladstone but also a deeply disappointed representative of a community that has been ignored and left behind by this new LNP government. This is a budget that delivers absolutely nothing for Gladstone—no new infrastructure, no new funding and no support for the industries of Gladstone that keep the region and the state moving forward. The message from the LNP to the people of Gladstone is loud and clear: you are not a priority for this government.

Gladstone has powered Queensland for generations. We have been the engine room of this state, driving energy production, exports and also manufacturing. We have earned our seat at the table. When this government finally had the chance to deliver for regional Queensland when they handed down their first budget in over a decade, Gladstone got scraps: no support for industry diversification; no boost for apprenticeships and training; no funding for clean energy jobs or major community infrastructure in Gladstone; no support to progress the replacement of the Gladstone Hospital or for the upgrades that have been needed; no investment in the sports facilities our growing region needs; no relief for council on the bin tax; and no infrastructure investment for our police, our fires or our ambos.

What makes it worse is that we are not asking for handouts. We are just asking for fairness: for investment that reflects the contribution Gladstone makes to Queensland's economy every single day; and for a plan that recognises our people, our industries and our potential in Queensland. Once again, the LNP have looked away from Gladstone. It is not just neglect; it is deliberate. If this government were truly serious about building Queensland's future, they would be investing in Gladstone, not leaving us in the rear-view mirror. This budget is not just a missed opportunity; it is a betrayal of every single worker, every family and every small business in my electorate, and I will not stand quietly while Gladstone is sidelined.

The first budget from an LNP government since 2014 was supposed to show us a new vision. It was supposed to be a blueprint for Queensland's economic and energy future. Instead, it delivered a stark and damaging message to regional Queensland: you are all on your own.

Gladstone has long been the beating heart of Queensland's energy system. From coal and gas to solar, wind and now hydrogen, we do not shy away from big changes. We do not run from a challenge. We take pride in powering this state and driving its exports. This budget contains nothing for Gladstone's energy future—not one major renewable energy project, not one clear commitment for hydrogen, not one major piece of infrastructure to support the transition and not one real investment in the people and the workforce who are ready to build what comes next.

Instead, the LNP has turned the clock back, scrapping Labor's renewable energy targets—targets that provided certainty and also momentum for the people of the Gladstone region, targets that sent the right signals to investors and industries and targets that gave communities just like Gladstone a road map to the future. Gladstone is not just a powerhouse of Queensland; it is one of the most strategically important industrial hubs in the country. Under Labor, it was on track to become a global player in hydrogen and green energy exports. We had commitments from international companies. We had land secured in the state development area. We had port access planned. Most importantly, we had certainty—certainty created by legislated renewable energy targets which were backed by billions of dollars of investment. All of that is now under threat.

This LNP budget says almost nothing about hydrogen. There is no support for the Gladstone hydrogen hub, no fast-tracking of infrastructure, no framework for any training and no clarity for any of the industries in the Gladstone region. The LNP's message to those hydrogen investors is: wait until the end of 2025 for a plan. That is 18 months of hesitation, of confusion and of lost momentum.

I ask the Premier and the Treasurer do they seriously believe that hydrogen investors around the world will wait for them to work this out. Do they think international energy companies are sitting around waiting for this lazy LNP to decide whether it even believes in an energy transition? They will not wait. They will go where the vision is clear, where the government is a partner and not a road block. That used to be Queensland under Labor. Now it is slipping away under the LNP.

Mr Head: We welcome business. If they want to spend their own money, they can go for it.

Mr BUTCHER: When you have boofheads across the chamber like that yelling at you, it speaks volumes.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Furner): Member for Callide, your interjections are not being taken. You will remain silent.

Mr BUTCHER: The budget also projects debt to reach \$205 billion by 2028. Despite all that borrowing, there is still no serious investment in the industries that will grow Queensland's clean energy future—no renewables, no hydrogen, no advanced manufacturing and export infrastructure. Those are the jobs of the future. They are the jobs that Gladstone is ready to do.

Let me remind this House that, under Labor, we had a vision, and we certainly acted on it in this state. We delivered the Central Queensland Renewable Energy Zone. We backed and funded the Fitzroy to Gladstone pipeline. We partnered with industry and unions to develop the hydrogen economy. We invested in skills and training to prepare our workforce for the future, particularly our kids who are currently in the high school system. Gladstone has been seriously let down by the L-plate LNP.

I am now going to spend some time talking about my shadow portfolios of police, corrective services and sport. The LNP have cut funding for essential police station upgrades across Queensland, breaking promises to communities like Bundaberg and Winton. Instead, they redirected funds to a small LNP electorate station, prioritising politics over community safety. Despite promising to be tough on crime, the LNP have lowered the youth justice targets and extended reporting periods, weakening that accountability. Their actions show a government more focused on headlines than real community safety improvements.

The LNP promised a new Townsville police academy with \$100 million, yet only \$45 million is budgeted for Kirwan station. Stage 2 is missing in action. The Townsville community deserve transparency and they deserve full delivery of this critical training facility for our police recruits. The LNP pledged 1,600 new police recruits, but their budget only supports 424 new staff. Numbers do not add up. Queenslanders deserve honesty and real investment in frontline police, not smoke and mirrors. We need real growth in police numbers, not just maintaining the current levels which is exactly what the LNP are doing in this budget.

Polair capabilities are now extended to Moreton Bay and will continue in Cairns and the Sunshine Coast. When you look through the budget papers, Wide Bay cannot be found anywhere when it comes to Polair support. Does this omission mean that Polair will not cover Wide Bay anymore? I ask that question of the police minister. What does that say about equitable law enforcement coverage across all Queensland regions?

The LNP is spending \$31 million to continue Labor's police and liaison officer high-visibility patrols but has cut funding from \$12.5 million to \$10.4 million a year. Despite millions allocated to watch house infrastructure, the government still has not released the long-awaited review. Where is it? Queenslanders deserve to know the outcomes and see action, not more delays and not more secrecy from this LNP.

Mr HEAD: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. My colleagues have brought something to my attention. I have just looked at the live stream. The member for Gladstone used unparliamentary language directed at me. I want to draw that to your attention. I have just reviewed the tape. It is on record. I ask you to get him to withdraw that. I also take personal offence at those comments by the member for Gladstone, who regularly uses insulting comments.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I did not hear any unparliamentary language. I will just check with the Clerk.

Mr BUTCHER: I withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Proceed, member for Gladstone.

Mr BUTCHER: While the budget extends the use of the Caboolture watch house hub for young offenders until 2028-29, where in the budget papers does it mention the impact on Queensland's watch house network? Are they going to turn it into a youth detention centre? There are no answers to any of these things in the budget.

This budget has revealed another unintended consequence of the LNP's rushed youth crime laws. QPRIME is incompatible with the new children's criminal history legislation, requiring millions and millions of dollars in manual workarounds and another million dollars for the solution to fix it. Queenslanders are paying for their incompetence and for their lack of preparation for that bill.

I also see that \$10 million has been allocated to Daniel's Law in the 2024-25 financial year, but there are only five days left in the financial year and there is still no legislation before the House. Time is ticking for the LNP.

I will now move on to corrective services. It is understood from the SDS that the LNP have cut over 200 staff from corrective services despite rising prisoner demand, as we know. It is a reckless move that weakens safety and increases the workload of current staff. Queenslanders deserve better than frontline cuts hidden in budget fine print.

Billions were announced for prison expansions, yet key details like bed numbers or new facility planning are missing in the budget. The LNP must explain to Queenslanders how money without planning helps manage prison demand. The Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre is completely absent in budget papers Nos 3 and 4. The budget includes no capital funding for low-security prison uplift. Labor started this work and now the LNP has stalled it. Without proper infrastructure, overcrowding worsens and rehabilitation of offenders suffers. Talk of safety means nothing without real investment.

Creating opportunities for kids in communities should be central to the sports portfolio. This government talks about the Olympics and legacy infrastructure, but where is the support for community sport and local facilities in Gladstone? Where is the investment in our junior sports clubs, our playing fields, our female facilities and our sportsground upgrades?

The LNP have once again shown they have no original ideas when it comes to sport, copying Labor's successful FairPlay vouchers program, as we have heard today, after years and years of criticising it. This is a program Labor introduced to help families with the cost of living here in Queensland. I want to thank Labor members for running a statewide campaign to make sure that this government kept Labor's FairPlay vouchers.

We all know sport is more than just fitness. It builds community pride, it builds social cohesion and it creates opportunities for kids. Labor understands that, so we made strategic investments in regional sport infrastructure in all seats, not just Labor seats—in all seats across Queensland. What a contrast with this LNP who have put politics above Queenslanders.

In reviewing the sports budget, I noted one glaring omission. Shockingly, it seems that the LNP have cut SwimStart vouchers. The LNP's decision to cut SwimStart vouchers is a disgrace and a direct attack on water safety for our young Queenslanders. SwimStart gave families \$150 to help those children aged 0 to 4 access vital swimming lessons in Queensland—skills that we know save lives. That is why we introduced that legislation. After rebadging Labor's FairPlay vouchers as their own, the LNP have now walked away from SwimStart entirely. It is a short-sighted, dangerous cut that puts children at risk and it shows how little this government truly cares about families or community safety.

In conclusion, this is a budget with no vision, this is a budget with no heart and this is a budget with no respect for regional Queenslanders. Gladstone will not be taken for granted—not now, not ever! I commend my remarks to the House.



Mrs POOLE (Mundingburra—LNP) (11.39 am): I also proudly rise to add my contribution to the Appropriation Bill on behalf of the people of the Mundingburra electorate. Like my colleagues on this side of the House, I commend the Treasurer, the Premier, the Deputy Premier and all of the ministers for delivering a budget that both honours our commitments and has respect for taxpayers' money.

On 26 October last year the Mundingburra electorate voted for a fresh start for Queensland. They voted for safety where you live, a better lifestyle through a stronger economy, health services when you need them and a plan for Queensland's future. They voted for a government that would provide certainty and honour their commitments, and this is exactly what this budget delivers. This budget delivers cost-of-living relief, it funds services that would have ceased and jobs that would have ended. It saves infrastructure and projects that would never have been built.

I went to last year's election with commitments to deliver a variety of projects that our community wanted me to fight for. Not only does this budget deliver that funding in the Mundingburra electorate; in some instances commitments have been upgraded. For the Mundingburra State School the original election commitment was for a partial fencing upgrade to the school's back boundary to address their

concerns in relation to the school not being adequately protected. I am proud to say that the Crisafulli LNP government will be providing a full fencing upgrade for the entire school boundary. This is exceptional news for the school and the school community. I am proud to say this is funded and it will be delivered in full.

Some of our other election commitments for the Mundingburra electorate funded in the budget include the installation of a new public toilet block at Aplins Weir Rotary Park in Annandale. It includes power, water and wastewater to the site, and it was also included in this year's budget. This commitment came about as a result of hearing from families with young children who were not using the park due to a lack of toilet facilities. To those families with young children, please know that you were heard. I listened and I fought, and we are now delivering for you. Our Hermit Park Tigers AFL Club is receiving upgrades to their grounds, their clubhouse and their car park. Once again, I am fighting for our sports clubs in the Mundingburra electorate.

Under the Hospital Rescue Plan we will deliver 165 new overnight beds as part of the Townsville University Hospital expansion, with services that include day surgery and operating theatres. We will also be delivering eight new perinatal mental health beds to support our new mums and bubs. There will also be more frontline health workers, with additional funding to grow the workforce to 6,378 FTE positions in the Townsville Hospital and Health Service. But that is not all; we are also going to give them somewhere to park with a much needed, long overdue 700-bay multistorey car park. Overall, the Crisafulli LNP government is delivering a 10.2 per cent uplift to the health operating budget, taking it to \$29.4 billion to fully fund critical health services, ensuring our community can access health services when they need them.

We are also delivering an upgrade to the Angus Smith Drive roundabout in Douglas to unlock congestion and the potential for growth at both the university and the hospital. One does not have to get on a plane, fly to Townsville and fly back in one day to know that that was funded; one just needs to go to the fourth page, second dot point of the Delivering for North Queensland regional plan to see what we are delivering for North Queensland. Our community voted for these commitments. Unlike the former Labor government, they have been budgeted for and we will deliver them.

Our No. 1 priority has, and always will be, tackling the Labor created youth crime crisis. This budget sets a clear path forward to reduce victim numbers and make our community a safer place for everyone. We have always said that we will give the police the laws, the tools and the resources they need to do their job. This budget is testament to that, with \$147.9 million to fund upgrades and improve critical operational equipment. This investment replaces end-of-life lease equipment that was not funded by the former Labor government, which left our frontline officers without the resources they need to keep themselves and our community safe. We are delivering 1,600 police recruits and stronger laws that will allow our police to do their job. We introduced the Making Queensland Safer Laws before Christmas like we said we would do. We focused on Adult Crime, Adult Time, introducing 33 offences, consequences for actions and putting the rights of victims before the rights of offenders, and we made Jack's Law permanent.

Reoffending rates skyrocketed under the former Labor government, and my electorate of Mundingburra and the greater Townsville area were the first ones to call this out. We are introducing schools to help divert our young people from crime and re-engage them with community and education. Early intervention is key to changing the narrative and giving our at-risk youth a positive alternative to the path that the former Labor government laid out for them. We are investing \$560 million for comprehensive early intervention and rehabilitation with purposed programs across the state to reduce youth offending and the number of victims. Let's remind ourselves that the vast majority of our young people in our community are doing amazing things. It is our role and our responsibility to support them and give them the opportunity for the best start in order to be their best.

For our little ones we are funding free health checks for kindy kids. I am proud to say that Townsville will be the pilot location for this program. As a former school-based police officer myself, I have seen firsthand the importance of early identification. We want to ensure that we are giving our young ones the best possible start in life. For our schoolkids we are funding \$200 Play On! vouchers—another great LNP initiative. Play On! vouchers deliver cost-of-living relief for Queensland families and it helps keep our young kids active. The vouchers will be provided over two rounds—one for summer and one for winter—and we have added an extra \$10 million over the four years. Most importantly, they have been budgeted for and they are funded. The 2032 Brisbane Olympics will see the next generation of our young athletes perform on the global sporting stage, and these vouchers will ensure that all of our children are given the chance to chase this dream if it is theirs.

We are serious about giving our young adults the keys to their first property. We have axed stamp duty on new builds for first home buyers and we are allowing them to rent out a room for the first 12 months. In this budget we announced Boost to Buy to reduce the deposit gap for first home buyers. We want to rebuild aspiration in our state and take Queensland's home ownership rate from the lowest in the nation to the highest.

This budget draws a clear line in the sand from the former Labor government and allows us to continue anew. This budget cleans up the mess those opposites have left. It is a budget that delivers hope over fear. It is a budget that puts people before politics. This budget lays the foundation for a fresh start for Queensland, delivering for Queenslanders.

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 in the *Record of Proceedings*.

The speech read as follows—

Deputy Speaker, the youth crime crisis is not the only crisis the former Labor government created.

They also created the health crisis.

The former Labor Government released a grand pie-in-the-sky illusion called the Townsville Hospital Expansion Plan and they told our community it would cost \$500M.

There was just one problem, they didn't budget for it.

An independent Report, the Sangster Report, uncovered the real cost of the so-called Plan at \$1.029 billion.

This is an over \$500 million cost blow-out.

The Sangster Report labelled the plan, 'undeliverable.'

But the Crisafulli Government are determined to right their wrong.

That's why we have released the Hospital Rescue Plan and this Budget commits to delivering the project in full.

This Plan will deliver 165 new overnight beds, services including day surgery, operating theatres and the much-needed 700 bay multi-storey car park to ensure our community can access health services when we need them.

This plan will deliver a health system we can rely on and one that Queenslanders deserve.

Deputy Speaker, as the cost of living continues to increase, so too does our housing waitlist as more and more families require crisis support.

As of this month, our social housing waitlist in Townsville sits at 4,113 residents.

That's not good enough, so we're fixing it.

In this Budget, the Crisafulli Government will deliver more funding for homelessness support than ever before.

We are backing our specialist homelessness services with a 20% uplift for our entire term of Government and boosting funding for crisis support by \$365 million.

We are making our State's social housing system fairer by restarting annual rent reviews and eligibility checks.

Under the former Labor Government, some tenants have been earning \$200,000 a year but paying less than \$200 a week in rent.

That's just not fair.

Not only this, but we are ramping up social and community housing construction across our State.

When we say we want Queenslanders to have a place to call home, we mean it.

Deputy Speaker, the 2032 Brisbane Olympics are only 7 years away and we have a lot of work to do to ensure they are a success for our athletes and for our state.

We have made significant in-roads in this space and although we still have a long way to go, we have a plan to get there.

I have already spoken about our \$200 Play On! vouchers to give every child the opportunity to play sport and to reduce the cost of participation.

But we have also handed down the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Delivery Plan, a plan that takes advantage of the opportunity to host the Olympics and Paralympics, that ensures we all, including our community in Townsville, benefits. A Games for all of Queensland.

However, our changes go all the way to transitioning the Queensland Academy of Sport to a statutory body.

We have appointed a new eight-member advisory board to steer the transition, including our very own Annette Maidment.

Annette has a wealth of business and sports administration experience.

She will be representing our region and ensuring our emerging athletes are supported by the QAS for years to come.

To quote our Treasurer after the former Labor Government handed down their last Budget, 'Queensland has been left with generational debt, without a generational outcome.'

This week, our Treasurer handed down his first Budget that corrects the course.

I am so proud to be part of the first Crisafulli LNP Government Budget and I would like to thank our Treasurer for his emphatic commitment to delivering a fiscally responsible budget for our state.

This Budget is the budget that we needed.

Delivered by a Government that promised a calm and methodical approach, mature and responsible.

A Government that has respect for taxpayers money.

Delivering our election commitments.

Targeted and responsible cost of living measures to support pressured households.

Investing in services.


Finding a way to save, build and deliver infrastructure and projects.

And, beginning the work of long-term budget repair.

This budget marks an important first step.

This budget is delivering for Queenslanders.

This Budget lays the foundation for a fresh start for Queensland.

 **Mr HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (11.49 am): The 2025-26 Queensland state budget—the first under the Crisafulli LNP government—will be long remembered for its total lack of transparency and insufficient investment in critical infrastructure projects, particularly in Far North Queensland. Despite promises of fiscal responsibility and regional development, the budget falls short of delivering tangible support for key initiatives, particularly in Cairns, raising concerns about the government's commitment to the region's growth and, most importantly, our prosperity.

I find it more concerning than interesting that a government which lives on slogans—like a 'fresh start'—is keen to see their budget called 'boring'. One would have thought it would be something they would be proud of—so much for the new start. The bulk of this is Labor initiatives rebranded: FairPlay to Play On!—absolutely remarkable!—and the home owner equity scheme. I am confident that as new members spend more time in here they will realise that their accolades are supporting previous Labor legislation. I can see why they did not call this an 'honest start'.

Here is an example the government may wish to explain to the people of Queensland. Traditionally, governments of both colours have released a breakdown of projects with their funding allocations and delivery timeframes through their annual Queensland transport infrastructure program, but apparently that is not happening anymore. The LNP government has stripped out all funding allocations from the budget papers which have progressed to contract stage. This government wants to hide project costs and muddy the waters—so much for a fresh start.

The Queensland government has squandered a critical opportunity to secure Far North Queensland's place at the forefront of Australia's defence and naval future by failing to adequately fund the Cairns Marine Precinct Common User Facility. At a time when shipbuilding uncertainty looms large in Western Australia, Cairns stands out as a strategic, well-positioned alternative—offering existing infrastructure, a highly skilled maritime workforce and direct proximity to key Pacific operations. Rather than seizing this moment, the state's underinvestment sends a signal that it is either unaware or unwilling to act on the region's immense potential. With only 10 per cent of the required funding committed, Cairns is now at risk of being bypassed and losing out on tens of millions in future marine sustainment and maintenance work—work which would have created high-value jobs and strengthened Australia's sovereign capability.

This is not just a missed funding target; it is a failure of vision and a clear example that the Far North is not a priority. With infrastructure cost blowouts in other parts of Queensland still attracting funding and still going ahead, it is clear that Cairns and the Far North are not a priority. The cost will be counted in lost opportunities for decades to come if an appropriate solution is not arrived at soon.

The budget's approach to transport infrastructure in Far North Queensland has rightly drawn criticism for its vagueness, its lack of funding clarity and the absence of meaningful timelines. Nowhere is this more evident than with the Cairns Western Arterial Road duplication—a much needed congestion-busting upgrade. While the project is referenced in broad terms, we can find no concrete

budget allocations or delivery schedules, leaving residents and local industries in the dark. This total lack of detail breeds uncertainty and signals a troubling reluctance by the state government to commit to the infrastructure the region needs. In stark contrast, the federal government has already stepped up, contributing \$210 million to the project as part of its broader commitment to Northern Australia infrastructure. This makes the state's failure to meet its share even more glaring, if that is the case.

The result is not just stalled progress but growing frustration within the community, as poor planning and a lack of transparency delay critical improvements to regional mobility and economic growth. As I understand it, the same lack of detail applies to the Bruce Highway southern access into Cairns and the Kuranda Range Road improvements. We cannot find allocated funding or any timelines.

The people of Far North Queensland deserve more than vague references and political lip-service. They deserve a government that delivers. Instead, they have been handed yet another round of smoke and mirrors from a state government unwilling to invest where it needs to. I acknowledge the contribution by the federal government. The Queensland Labor Party committed to the Barron River bridge prior to the election, and we know that the federal government did that. Finally, the LNP have committed their funding, and it is about time. The big question is: when will it start?

Despite the government's rhetorical commitment to statewide health care, the budget falls short in delivering tangible growth for the Far North, most notably the Cairns Hospital. Speaking to executives at the hospital, I am told there is limited new funding earmarked for the hospital, despite its critical role as the region's major public health facility servicing a rapidly growing and aging Cairns as well as across the cape, the Torres Strait, inland communities and even, on occasions, residents from Papua New Guinea. The absence of any clear allocations for hospital upgrades, bed expansions or specialist services suggests a worrying disconnect between the government's promises and its priorities when it comes to health infrastructure.

What makes this even more concerning is the broader context: since coming to power the LNP state government has halted several major hospital infrastructure projects across Queensland, including surgical upgrades and expansions previously slated for delivery. Cairns is now caught in the middle, with four new surgical theatres and 30-plus new beds being put on hold, according to the member for Mulgrave, while the region's health needs continue to grow. Staff shortages, high-patient demand and limited surgical capacity are already placing significant pressure on the system. Without urgent state investment, outcomes will worsen, waiting times will grow and confidence in public health care will continue to erode. The people of Far North Queensland deserve better—not delays or a pause, deferrals or vague commitments which may never materialise.

The tourism sector—a cornerstone of the Queensland and Far North economy—has been left in a state of uncertainty following the release of the new Queensland state budget. This is quite interesting. While the budget papers include a broad commitment of \$446 million towards Destination 2045—which, by the way, is actually a government document, not an industry document—there is a conspicuous lack of detail on how these funds will be distributed across Queensland's diverse regions, including Cairns and the Tropical North. For a sector still recovering from the impacts of COVID, this lack of transparency is more than oversight; it is a serious setback.

Tourism operators, regional councils and industry leaders across the state have consistently called for targeted investment to support aviation access, workforce development, infrastructure and product innovation, yet the government's budget offers little clarity on whether any of these local priorities will be addressed. Advance Cairns and other economic development advocates have already voiced concerns, noting that a single vague line in the budget papers does not inspire confidence nor does it support informed business planning or investment attraction. In contrast to its glossy promotional material, the government's approach to tourism funding amounts to little more than window-dressing. With no regional breakdowns, no project-level commitments and no clear timelines, the Destination 2045 strategy risks becoming another unfunded promise, long on vision and short on delivery.

Adding to a sense of unease, the budget does little to address the soaring costs facing tourism operators in Queensland. Rising insurance premiums, staffing shortages and high travel costs continue to plague the industry, yet there are no dedicated relief or resilience packages to assist tourism businesses navigating these challenges.

The aviation attraction scheme, vitally important to the tourism industry, remains vague in any detail. I notice the tourism minister turns up at events and waves his hands, but the industry knows this is a Labor initiative. It has nothing to do with you blokes, but you are still turning up. The industry find it more than entertaining. Who will see new domestic and international routes? What will the criteria be for such decisions? Exactly how much money will be invested into this initiative and, more importantly, for how long?

Even the funding for marquee projects like the Wangetti Trail remains surrounded by ambiguity. While the budget claims to continue to invest in the remaining 87 kilometres of the trail—and I want to acknowledge that is a good thing; we cannot wait to see how much better you make it—there is little clarity on how much funding will be spent in the short term. A fresh start? This is another Labor initiative!

On behalf of the industry, may I also express concern with the little detail on business events and absolutely no detail whatsoever on events—period. In a state where tourism supports hundreds of thousands of jobs, billions in investments and underpins entire communities, the lack of clarity and commitment is not just disappointing, it is hugely concerning to the tourism industry. If this government expects to work with the tourism industry, you have to be honest and tell them what they do. When the Destination 2045 document came out, the industry was told, 'No, no, there is no detail. Wait for the budget.' Now the budget has come out, there is no detail. No wonder this industry is suspicious. Queenslanders deserve a clear, detailed tourism plan, backed by real investment, not vague figures buried in footnotes and speeches. The budget was a chance to restore confidence and show leadership. Instead, it delivered confusion, half measures and missed opportunities. It reflects absolutely no leadership whatsoever.

With the limited time I have left, I also want to raise some concerns in relation to my other shadow portfolio area of jobs and training. The concerns are about the lack of detail I have already raised in other areas of this portfolio. I have found no details on the future of the highly successful Back to Work initiative, which worked extremely well, particularly in Far North Queensland, and I have seen only one small reference to Free TAFE in the SDS which is concerning. As the facts and figures emerge, I will have more to say in that space.

I commend the opposition leader on his statements yesterday to advocate for the Activate Australia's Skills campaign to be adopted nationally, which would aim to boost the recognition of national and international skills and accreditations. Basically, we are getting more people onto the tools.

I want to acknowledge and applaud the LNP for continuing the housing investment in Cairns, which was a Labor strategy. I could not see any money for the Whitfield State School, but we will have a look at that. They have been promised a performing arts centre, so I will follow that up. CADCAI have also been made some promises—we have not found anything there. I know that if I did not mention Whitfield State School, Mr Thompson and the kids would be very upset.

Finally, I want to touch on the fact that after nine years in office, I and many in this chamber and many across this state still do not know what this Premier stands for or what his vision is. I can excuse the new members and their contributions—because you are still drinking the Kool Aid and you are following the speaking points—but when you spend more time in here, you will understand how things work. This Premier and cabinet are obsessed—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McDonald): Member for Cairns, direct your comments through the chair, please.


Mr HEALY: This Premier and cabinet are obsessed with Labor and that is all they can talk about. The Premier and his ministers are referencing Labor all the time. At any question time, that is the dominant feature. You are not talking about what your vision is. You are not talking about what use—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Direct your comments through the chair, member for Cairns.

Mr HEALY: They are not talking about what they are pushing. If government is too hard, I suggest you pop down the road and visit the Governor and let her know because your whingeing reflects your inability to deal with the policy challenges and your personal attacks reflect your immaturity.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Cairns, you are an experienced member of this House. The standing orders are that you will address matters through the chair. 'You' and 'your' has a different connotation.

Mr HEALY: Thank you very much. The 2025-26 budget's shortcomings in addressing the critical needs of Far North Queensland reflect a broader issue of unfulfilled promises and a total lack of transparency. To truly support the region's growth and prosperity, the government must move beyond vague commitments and provide concrete, adequately funded plans for infrastructure, health care and economic development. Only through genuine investment and transparent governance can the potential of Cairns and the broader region be fully realised.

 **Hon. ST O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth) (12.04 pm): It is always a privilege to speak on behalf of everyone in my part of the Gold Coast. It is a great honour to reply to the first budget that we have delivered as Queensland's new government.

The Gold Coast overwhelmingly backed the LNP, and that support was a big part of why the Crisafulli government was elected last October. Firstly, thank you to my community and to our city more broadly for helping deliver the change that Queensland needed to see.

We are backing the Gold Coast first and foremost through our delivery of the new Coomera Hospital because our community cannot wait any longer than the years they already have under Labor. We will deliver at least 600 beds for our region—that is 200 more beds than Labor's 400 which were nowhere near certain to be delivered any time soon. The hospital will include a day surgery, pharmacy, maternity services, operating theatres and an intensive care unit—all vital, but all left out by Labor.

Our new hospital will have a multistorey car park and, importantly, will be properly connected to the neighbouring Coomera station. All of this will help ease the intense pressure on the Gold Coast University Hospital, which is in my electorate of Bonney. GCUH has the busiest emergency department in the country and that is compounded by the fact that there is no hospital between Southport and Logan. That is not fair on patients and that is not fair on the frontline staff who do their best to care for them. I am proud to represent thousands of health and allied health workers, so it is time they have the facilities they need and deserve.

We are also investing in new health infrastructure at GCUH—\$22.4 million to expand backup power capacity to meet growing demand and ensure patients are not left vulnerable in an outage. The importance of that was shown earlier this year during Cyclone Alfred when we lost power for quite a bit longer than usual. We are investing a further \$8.9 million to relocate child youth mental health services to enable allied community health to expand.

This year's budget delivers long overdue outcomes for the main suburb in my electorate, Labrador, with projects I have been fighting for over many years finally funded. We are backing the Labrador Tigers AFL club with \$300,000 in funding for an undercover viewing area, and I thank the sports minister to my right for his support of that important project.

Mr Mander: You are welcome.

Mr O'CONNOR: That is a footy club that I am very proud to have spent a lot of time around especially because I worked there before I was elected. That is technically my last job before becoming an MP—bartender and courtesy bus driver—and it really gave me a strong connection to this great little footy community.

Mr Mander: Good preparation for you here in parliament.

Mr O'CONNOR: Yes. This upgrade for the Labrador Tigers is not just about delivering a better clubhouse; it is about people like Lofty who gives so much to the club at every opportunity he has. It is about Grant who leads the juniors and Blackie who leads the seniors, both doing an outstanding job creating a culture they should be very proud of. It is also about people like Shatts—Aaron Shattock—a beloved former player who, as a builder, was working on the change room upgrade before a tragic accident happened just before Christmas. The club rallied while he recovered, finishing the change rooms and juniors areas through working bees. This new covered area is the final piece of delivering this part of the facilities that this great local club deserves. Shatts is now walking again, and I send my very best wishes to him and his young family for the road ahead.

We are also supporting the health of men in our area with half a million dollars to be invested in building a new men's shed in Labrador. Thank you to the two blokes who have driven this project over many years—Len Thomson who is a tireless advocate for men's sheds and who has been the heart and soul of Labrador for many years since it was established, and Merv Holliday who has also worked tirelessly. Their efforts and the efforts of many others to raise money to make this new shed a reality are greatly appreciated. It will be an extraordinary legacy for them all. I also want to acknowledge President Gordon Cowser, Vice-President Paul Whitehead, Treasurer/Secretary Jeff Gabriel and everyone who helps run this special place. Thank you for what you do to make this so much more than a shed. It is a safe place for connection, support and wellbeing.

I turn to my portfolio areas, where we have been left a mess with a housing crisis at a scale our state has never seen before. We are delivering a response across our housing system to meet this challenge and turn things around. Over Labor's decade in power, the number of vulnerable Queenslanders on the social housing waitlist increased by 81 per cent—81 per cent higher than the waitlist under my colleague who was the former housing minister. People have been sleeping in tents, cars and motels for months—even years—at levels that our state has never seen.

Labor held endless reviews, summits and thought bubbles. They did everything except the one thing Queenslanders were asking for—deliver homes at the scale our state needed to see. Labor set up the Housing Investment Fund which, in around three years that it was running in their time in

government, did not see tenants move into one newly built home—not one. They oversaw random, time limited and funding limited grant programs which saw completely inadequate construction numbers of social and community housing. In fact, over the last decade the social housing portfolio grew by just six per cent when our state's population grew at nearly three times that amount. That is not a pipeline—that is a dead end. The community housing sector, despite its potential, grew just three per cent over the decade, weighed down by regulation and a government ideologically opposed to empowering them because they wanted to do it all themselves. Labor talked about community housing a lot but they did not do what providers needed, leaving them unsupported and with a master agreement project that languished for around seven years but which we have finally implemented.

The former government had a decade to get housing right but they failed Queenslanders. Worst of all, they ignored frontline workers. People delivering homelessness outreach and emergency accommodation services were left scrambling under short-term funding cycles. They would have to wait for every budget to know if they still had a job the very next week—no certainty, no ongoing uplift, no plan to improve the system that they work in every day.

Let me tell members what the housing crisis looks like on the ground in the words of a Queenslanders who knows better than anyone. Last week I met Penelope from Micah Projects who invited me to spend a couple of hours listening to a group of mostly single mums living in the hotel and motel accommodation they are funded to provide. Here is what Penelope wrote—

Emergency accommodation is not care. It's crisis containment. We are locked in our rooms, too afraid to go out. There's no kitchen, no rest, no privacy, no peace. Cockroaches infest our food. The noise never stops. And there is no sense of home.

These are the words of a mum who shared her story on behalf of so many others. Men, women and young people were stuck in emergency hotel rooms for months—even years—waiting for a response that could truly make a difference. This is the human cost of the failure to fund services and build homes at the scale we needed to see. Penelope went on to say—

We don't want pity. We want partnership. We don't need handouts. We need homes.

Queenslanders deserve better, and that is exactly what we are delivering by changing how things are done across our entire housing system. Stories like Penelope's are why this budget increases investment in headleases across our state by more than doubling the funding to the program. It is a far more suitable temporary accommodation option, especially for families, and our investment will help secure more properties to house them.

While the former government left behind a legacy of delays and dysfunction, we are laying the foundations to change the story on housing across Queensland. We are not here to paper over the cracks. We are rebuilding the system from the ground up with the right funding, the right reforms and a relentless focus on outcomes. Our budget includes an increase of \$1.967 billion over four years to take our total social and community housing construction funding to over \$5.6 billion, with \$500 million per annum locked in beyond the forwards. That last part is the biggest change of all. For the first time in Queensland's history, social and community housing now has permanent baseline capital funding—not a one-off injection, not a promise based around election cycles, but locked in ongoing permanent funding of half a billion dollars a year as a baseline to build more social and community homes. This is not an aspiration or a vague commitment; it is a funded commitment. The Labor Party could only dream of supporting social and community housing in this way. They are the self-appointed champions of social housing but they are all talk. Our LNP government is proud to be the first to make this transformational change.

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—

Our investment will support Queensland's Housing Investment Pipeline (QHIP) to deliver 53,500 social and community homes by 2044, including youth foyers, domestic violence shelters, and social homes in remote and discrete First Nations communities.

But building homes is only part of the solution.

We know homelessness isn't just about bricks and mortar. It's about support, stability, and connection.

That's why we've invested an additional \$794.7 million in service delivery, backing in the work of frontline housing and homelessness providers across the state.

This includes:

- \$380 million for crisis accommodation and homelessness services to help Queenslanders in urgent need.

- \$208.9 million over 4 years to extend the 20% uplift to Specialist Homelessness Services something Labor never locked in—another unfunded promise from those opposite.
- \$74 million to support the very pipeline Labor failed to fund because you can't deliver homes without the services behind them.

Right now, 218 Specialist Homelessness Services are working day and night across Queensland, reaching people in tents, in cars, in makeshift shelters and helping them into safe, stable housing.

We're backing their work with real funding and real respect.

We're also investing in the essential infrastructure that keeps communities going.

Our Budget also includes:

- \$63.3 million for social housing maintenance and smoke alarm upgrades
- \$3.1 million to upgrade the Gold Coast Convention and Entertainment Centre delivered through internal savings and smarter capital management.
- \$3.3 million for Targeted investments in regional areas such as Caloundra, Mackay and Maleny.
- \$59.5 million to support the operations of the Queensland Building and Construction Commission—to ensure standards are upheld and the industry has a regulator with the resources it needs.
- \$1.8 million for regulatory action and support across community housing, disability accommodation, and residential services—because protections matter, especially for vulnerable tenants.
- And \$3.1 million for peak housing and homelessness bodies—recognising that collaboration is key to reform.

We're also working with community housing providers to give them greater confidence to invest, expand and grow.

Because we know that government can't do it alone—it takes a whole sector approach to meet the scale of the challenge.

Before I close, I want to acknowledge the dedicated team behind the scenes—the people who work tirelessly to turn this vision into reality through our Budget.

Thank you to my Director-General Mark Cridland, Deputy Director-Generals Sarah Amos, Danielle McAllister, Matthew Nye, Graham Atkins, Andrew Bennett, and our CFO Tanya Brady and her team who put so much into this.

I particularly want to acknowledge members of Sarah's team including Sam Betros, Brooke Morrissy and Kelly Mangan who are responsible for growing social and community housing. I am excited to see what they can achieve with the record funding uplift and Queensland-first long-term certainty they now have.

Thank you to all our dedicated public servants across our entire department. I greatly appreciate the warm welcome you've given me over the last eight months I have been serving as your minister and I look forward to meeting more of you in my travels.

And to my own office team—particularly my Chief of Staff Matt Adams, Head of Media Caet Young and Head of Policy Christien Duffey—thank you for what you do every single day. You are making a difference and you should be proud of what we're achieving.

Mr Speaker, this is a government of action and accountability.

We've inherited a decade of Labor's mismanagement but we're not making excuses, we're delivering progress.

Our first Budget proves that.

It reflects the clear message Queenslanders sent at the last election—to clean up the mess, restore confidence, and deliver change.

We are unlocking land. We are accelerating construction. We are expanding emergency support. We are reducing red tape and improving how our building industry is regulated. We are removing the barriers that prevent people from accessing safe, affordable housing.

This is how we secure Queensland's housing future.

This Budget lays down the foundations for something far greater than numbers on a page.

To every Queenslander waiting for a home, waiting for support, waiting for change—we hear you and this Budget shows that we are acting for you in a big way.

Housing is a priority for this government and the comprehensive measure in this Budget proves it.

We've inherited an unprecedented crisis so we must deliver an unprecedented response.

Our first Budget shows we haven't missed the opportunity to change how things are done across the system to deliver the results Queenslanders are desperate to see.

The Crisafulli Government will deliver a place to call home for more Queenslanders.

I will end where I began by again thanking everyone in my part of the Gold Coast.

Our Gold Coast LNP team is proud to serve the communities we represent through the values we share of aspiration, freedom, reward for effort, the importance of the individual, and the spirit of entrepreneurship.

That's what our city is built on and we now have a state government with a foundation based on these principles.

We are proud to be delivering for the Gold Coast with record investments in overdue health facilities, game changing transport infrastructure, more housing, and many other projects to grow our economy and protect the lifestyle we all love.

I commend the Budget to the House.



Mr BERKMAN (Maiwar—Grn) (12.14 pm): I rise to make my contribution on the 2025 budget, the first under this new government. I start by observing that it is clear that the LNP has found itself between a rock and a hard place. They are clearly so desperate to exorcise Campbell Newman's ghosts that they are terrified of accusations of widespread cuts, but, at the same time, they are fundamentally incapable of putting public services and infrastructure ahead of corporate profit and political self-interest. So what do we end up with? A budget that is both boring and surprising, depending on who you ask. I will suggest it is both. It is boring because there is nothing in there that will fundamentally improve the lives of Queenslanders or the natural environment on which we all depend. It is surprising only because the self-professed smart economic managers in the LNP are, in fact, piling on the debt, albeit while continuing to blame Labor for that fact.

I hate to break it to everyone here, but they are both to blame. In this budget, the LNP merely carries on Labor's legacy of letting big mining corporations bleed the state dry, instead of making them pay their fair share in royalties to fund the things Queenslanders really need. On Tuesday I felt like the Treasurer was addressing someone outside the chamber during his speech, and I am not talking about the good people of Queensland. I am talking about the Queensland Resources Council and all their good mates and political donors in the fossil fuel lobby. To quote him: 'They'—meaning Labor—'collected more'—talking about royalties—'in two years than we will collect in four.' I think the Treasurer was bragging when he said that. Someone had better tell the guy that strong economic management actually includes a solid revenue stream. Instead, it seems that the LNP is content to rely on the ordinary people and small businesses of Queensland to prop up the state through petty fines, rego fees and payroll tax. Heaven forbid that our big gas companies—those same companies that pay nothing in corporate tax—foot the bill for Queensland's budget.

Let's not forget that in the last term it was Labor that was too weak to properly raise royalties, even on coal, so while the LNP has not wound back this progress yet—let's see—we can still see that that short-term sugar hit that applied to super high coal profits has, in fact, fallen off a cliff and so has Queensland's budget revenue. If either major party had the guts—excuse me, I withdraw, that is unparliamentary—had the temerity, had the ticker to raise royalties to 35 per cent as the Greens have proposed, we would have an extra \$61 billion over the next four years to give Queenslanders what they deserve. We could be running universal school meal projects. We could have a publicly owned housing developer, free psychology sessions and a better public transport network, but instead the LNP is absolutely intent on propping up coal and gas.

Here is where it gets really embarrassing. It is 2025. Climate disasters continue to ramp up across the globe and yet this budget takes Queensland backwards on renewable energy and the necessary transition. In response to the unravelling global climate and the urgent need to cut emissions to zero, the LNP's response is to build not one, not two, but three gas-fired power stations and to extend the life of polluting, expensive unreliable coal-fired power stations out beyond 2040. The first of those gas-fired power stations is set to cost \$1 billion, with half a billion going out the door just this year, and so far we have no idea what the others will cost us. Every dollar of that will be charged back to households via higher power bills, all just to avoid investing in renewables and enough energy storage to make the transition. They are ploughing \$931 million of public money into burning more coal and gas, including via CleanCo. This is the government owned corporation that is supposed to be building renewables for the state. They have abandoned Labor's too-slow renewable energy targets and, to top it off, the budget papers reveal they have decided to simply stop checking on our progress on renewables. Right there in black and white it says that the percentage of renewables in our generation mix is now 'a discontinued measure'. This is emerging as a classic approach for this government: do something terrible, like ditching the renewable energy target that the vast majority of Queenslanders support, and then sweep it under the rug to cover the embarrassment.

I have to wonder whether that is exactly what is happening with the extraordinary transparency downgrade in QTRIP in this budget—that is, the register of all public transport projects in Queensland. In the LNP's budget, QTRIP is incredibly stripped back. In fact, it seems any projects that have not been contracted have no cost figures associated with them at all. It even omits figures on publicly available information like funding that is currently allocated to as yet uncontracted projects. Again, this is the government claiming to be trustworthy economic managers, the antithesis of Labor's uncoded chaos, they tell us, so why the secrecy when it comes to transport spending? We do know they have cut cycling infrastructure grants to local governments by \$11 million and pushed out—delayed—a number of transport infrastructure projects as though we are not headed towards a 2032 Olympics deadline.

It is a similar story on housing. The LNP has spent the last eight months presiding over an effective criminalisation of homelessness in Brisbane and Moreton Bay, endorsing unlimited rent increases that are crushing people across the state and rewriting the rules to kick more and more people out of social housing. They then turn around and try to tell us that they are tackling the housing crisis. Forgive me for my scepticism. Looking at the budget, the LNP's crisis housing funding drops off a cliff, from \$153 million this financial year to just under \$30 million in 2026-27. That is a reduction to one-fifth. We have to ask: is that because they are hoping that their cruel policies will just kick people off the social housing waiting list and make enough people permanently ineligible for crisis housing support that they will have solved the budget problem?

Their solution to the failure on renewable energy transition is to just stop measuring it. Their solution to the failure in the housing crisis is to just stop counting. What neither major party will admit is that you cannot fix the housing crisis without taking on the big banks and banning unlimited rent increases. You cannot coax private developers and property investors into providing more affordable housing with endless handouts and special deals. The rent will keep rising; housing prices will keep rising. This is where I almost have to laugh because what else are we to do in the face of such absurdity? The LNP's answer: they have up to 1,000 dreams. The LNP's offer to first home buyers locked out of the market is their so-called Boost to Buy scheme. They will take on up to 25 per cent equity in an existing home and buyers under the income threshold can get in with a two per cent deposit. Here is the thing: the Treasurer has said that Boost to Buy is limited to only 1,000 applicants over two years. There are 1.8 million people renting in Queensland, so the LNP's home ownership scheme may help up to 0.05 per cent of Queensland's renters—up to '1,000 dreams'. Do they realise how absurd it seems: up to 1,000, the Treasurer crows, in a pool of 1.8 million renters?

We do have some obvious echoes in this policy of federal Labor's inadequate Help to Buy plan, which the Greens criticised at the time for being so comically narrow that it offers little more than false hope for the vast majority of people struggling to afford a home. This is what happens when a government cannot bear to release the private property industry's vice-like grip on housing provision. Relying on the profit-driven private sector for any solution that will make an impact will be inflationary on housing. Instead, we should be creating a publicly owned property developer in Queensland to actually buy and develop land for the benefit of Queenslanders in perpetuity. That is effectively what makes this budget so boring; there is a total lack of ambition to create a better life for all Queenslanders.

The most exciting thing the LNP has done since winning the election, I would argue, is to begrudgingly adopt 50-cent fares and club sport vouchers. That is two ideas they lifted from Labor, who took them from the Greens in the first place. As compensation for a 22-year delay in meeting minimum school funding requirements, families get what? They get 100 bucks a year for school expenses. That is 100 bucks a year. I do not know when the Treasurer last looked at a school book list, but that is less than half what it costs for one of my children in grade 1, so families are going to buy one shoe and half a textbook. Oh the largesse, the opportunities people will have!

Meanwhile, teachers are rallying out the front of Parliament House for fair wages and conditions and nurses and midwives are prepared to strike because the LNP refuses to value their work properly. That is not to say that Labor did much better. Let's not forget who froze nurses' and teachers' wages before they froze their own during the COVID pandemic. It is good to see them all out at the union rallies again, but we all know there are limits to Labor's allegiance to workers. It is a little contingent on political expediency and convenience. It was great to see Labor pick up the Greens' plan for publicly owned bulk-billed GP clinics before the last election, even if they only put up a quarter of the 200 public health clinics that we proposed. We are still, of course, waiting for the LNP to do anything of the sort.

According to the major parties, there is never enough money to pay teachers or nurses properly or to fund public health care or education, but seemingly frugal governments turn profligate when it comes to things that they apparently do care about. Up to 1,000 first home buyers can get help over two years, but there is \$3.8 billion for new Olympic venues. Free school meals are a ridiculous fantasy, but building and expanding prisons, including for children, is a multibillion dollar priority. Renewables are irresponsible, but an extra \$400 million or so to extend Callide coal-fired power station is not.

The thing is the LNP has not been able to deliver a budget that is either responsible or ambitious because their eye is not on the ball. They have shifted their focus from economic management to culture wars. They are too busy going after young trans people, social housing tenants, homeless people in parks or First Nations people seeking basic acknowledgement of their sovereignty and humanity; they are so busy with that they refuse to learn the lessons of the federal election when Australians rejected Dutton's Trump-style culture wars and they can barely concentrate on governing as a result.

If they were not so distracted, maybe they would have addressed some of the basic, glaring funding needs that this budget ignores. In my electorate that includes funding for new school buildings, particularly at Indooroopilly State High School and Toowong State School. These schools, especially Indooroopilly State High School, have been struggling with severe overcrowding for years now and enrolments are only projected to increase. At Indooroopilly, even with an oval full of demountables, kids are still missing out on specialist learning spaces, they nearly lost their library recently and I have heard a lot of them are avoiding the bathrooms altogether because the lines are so long.

Indooroopilly State High School enrolments are likely to exceed 3,000 soon, yet the department is only just consulting on new buildings, and this budget offers precisely nothing. It is deeply ironic to me that the government can move so quickly when it comes to punishing children or stripping away their rights to gender-affirming care or rushing through laws to lock more of them up in Queensland's youth detention centres in violation of their human rights, but when it comes to the basic core work that they are elected to do, like ensuring we have enough classrooms for students to learn in, they are moving at a snail's pace.

We are still waiting for funding to fix the Taringa train station in my electorate. I see there is some funding for security upgrades at Indooroopilly station, which is something that the LNP candidate promised at the last election. I have to say I almost wish the LNP was trying as hard to win back Maiwar as they were to keep the member for Moggill in place because the list of pork-barrelling just over the boundary is quite extraordinary to behold. After years of advocacy I am obviously pleased to see funding for the Sylvan Road bikeway and to progress the Toowong to West End green bridge in this budget, although again I wish the LNP would move as quickly on public and active transport as they did on evicting people from social housing or ditching their treaty commitments.

I want to share my disbelief—even anger—at the complete failure to do anything to keep Toowong Private Hospital open. This is a vital mental health facility that has been treating people for decades now. People are terrified that next time they or their family members need critical help it just will not be available. This facility also takes a huge number of overflow patients from the RBH, which I understand is the busiest mental health public hospital facility in the state, so it will directly impact on our state's mental health facilities. There is precedent for the state government to absorb these costs, as we have seen the New South Wales government do.

Part of me wishes there was more to say on the budget. Unfortunately, it seems we are waiting for next year to see if Queenslanders' lives can be offered genuine, transformative change and the things they need.



Hon. DR LAST (Burdekin—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development) (12.29 pm): This budget lays the foundation for a fresh start not just for our economy but for our regions, our industries and the people who power them. As Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development, I am proud to be part of a team that backs industry, that is restoring confidence and that is delivering real results across Queensland.

We are delivering for the people who power this state: the manufacturers, the miners, the farmers and the quiet Queenslanders who entrusted us to fix the mess left by Labor. They put their trust in the Crisafulli government to deliver a stronger economy and a plan for Queensland's future—a future that supports jobs, encourages investment and restores certainty to the sectors that have been taken for granted. This budget does exactly that. We are delivering a total of \$595.2 million across the natural resources and mines, manufacturing and rural and regional development portfolio with targeted investments that will grow our economy, boost innovation and create regional jobs. This includes a \$79.1 million investment to unlock the full potential of Queensland's manufacturing sector with our new Transforming Queensland Manufacturing Program. This program will drive high-value, future-facing jobs by helping local manufacturers to innovate, tap into export markets and bring more production back onshore.

Queensland's regions will no longer be left behind. This budget delivers on our election commitment to expand Queensland's network of manufacturing hubs with a \$10 million commitment to establish a new hub in Toowoomba. This was an important election commitment to strengthen Queensland's manufacturing footprint where it matters most—in the regions—and we have gone one better. In addition to delivering the Toowoomba Manufacturing Hub, the Crisafulli government will also establish a brand new hub on the Sunshine Coast. Through strong fiscal management, we are delivering both hubs within the same funding envelope. We are committed to building skills, attracting investment and growing local supply chains right across Queensland.

The next stop from the Sunshine Coast is Maryborough, where we are saving the Queensland Train Manufacturing Program. Queenslanders have not forgotten how Labor derailed the Queensland train manufacturing project with a \$2.4 billion blowout and delays and they have not forgotten how those opposite tried to cover it up. This budget delivers \$4.8 billion over the forward estimates to get the Queensland Train Manufacturing Program back on track. Construction at the Torbanlea facility is progressing at pace, with new jobs and real career opportunities opening up across the Maryborough region. Expressions of interest for the 200 blue-collar and 100 white-collar jobs have gone out, with interviews to commence in October. This is what delivery looks like.

In Central Queensland we are giving worker safety the attention it deserves with \$10.7 million to establish a dedicated Mining and Resources Coroner. This will deliver closure for families who have suffered the unthinkable and drive industry-wide improvements in safety right throughout the resources sector. In exploration, we are backing the next generation of projects with \$5.1 million for targeted geoscience and data to uncover new mineral opportunities across the state. In North Queensland this budget delivers \$8.5 million to progress the Queensland Resources Common User Facility—another key step in fast-tracking resource development. It is critical funding to get critical minerals investment moving.

In our schools we are planting the seeds for Queensland's future workforce. The budget delivers \$2.5 million to expand the Queensland Minerals and Energy Academy, including programs that increase women's participation in the resources sector. We are investing in the skills pipeline we need to support long-term growth and we are delivering a record \$117.8 million in funding for natural resource management groups across Queensland to support biodiversity and on-ground action across the state. This is especially critical in regional areas where communities and ecosystems are deeply connected. We are also delivering practical cost-of-living relief for our farmers, with a 10 per cent cap on rent increases for primary producers on state leasehold land. Without this cap, some producers were facing rent hikes of more than 250 per cent. We are stepping in to provide certainty, reduce pressure and back those who grow and graze in this state.

Our regions are the engine room of Queensland's economy. This budget invests \$100 million to seal the roads that keep that engine running through our Country Roads Connect Program. It means safer routes, less disruption and more resilient supply chains for our rural communities. This is a budget that delivers for Queenslanders. It delivers for rural and regional Queenslanders. It backs the industries that drive our economy. It restores confidence to sectors abandoned by Labor. It delivers on our commitments, and it delivers them with fiscal discipline. While those opposite left a legacy of blowouts and broken promises, we are building a legacy of delivery. This budget rebuilds trust with industry, with workers and with hardworking Queensland families. It backs our miners, our manufacturers, our farmers and the communities that depend upon them. It delivers clarity, confidence and common sense to the sectors that drive Queensland forward.

Moving on to the mighty Burdekin electorate, I start by saying what a difference a year makes. The regional action plans for last year's budget showed a grand total investment of under \$20 million into the electorate that generates the lion's share of Queensland's royalty income. Essential infrastructure and services went unfunded thanks to the member for Woodridge. Compare that to this budget, which delivers on the commitments the Crisafulli LNP government made to Queensland and to the Burdekin electorate. Compare the previous government's \$20 million to our regional action plans which outline over \$95 million for the Burdekin electorate. The focus of this budget is the priorities that Queenslanders supported at the last election—and, boy, have we delivered! From improving education to housing and from tackling crime to delivering better health care, we have funded the necessary programs and infrastructure to address those issues, including in the Burdekin electorate. In total, that funding amounts to almost \$600 million in the mighty Burdekin electorate alone, and that figure will rise. Why? Because that figure does not include the record-breaking \$9 billion investment in the Bruce Highway under the 80-20 funding split with the federal government—the deal that those opposite said was impossible. Just like this budget has delivered for the Burdekin electorate, this government secured that deal when those opposite would not even try.

If we drill down on what this budget delivers, we see that the \$3.2 million upgrade of Clermont's Aquatic Centre and upgrades at the Clermont State School are now locked in. In Moranbah almost \$42 million is provided for the construction of the Resources Centre of Excellence and the \$1.6 million expansion at the Early Learning Centre and additional affordable housing for non-mine workers are fully funded. Healthcare workers in Collinsville can look forward to new, fit-for-purpose accommodation and the community will see increased services via a \$14.6 million upgrade at the Collinsville community precinct, as well as the expansion of the Collinsville Men's Shed.

Heading from Collinsville to Bowen, travellers will see work on upgrading a level crossing in the near future to improve road safety and in Bowen itself there is housing for frontline workers, a new station for the Abbott Point Rural Fire Brigade and this government will finally end the back and forth when it comes to master planning of the Bowen harbour. We are also looking to the future with funding to provide essential infrastructure with a \$9.8 million investment in the Salisbury Plains Industrial Precinct. The budget also includes funding for remediation works at the Bowen Courthouse, shade structures at the Bowen pool and lighting upgrades for the mighty Bowen Seagulls at Denison Park.

In the Burdekin LGA, the budget means work will soon be underway on the installation of a CT scanner at the Ayr Hospital and upgrades at the Home Hill Hospital. Also, \$2 million funding is locked in to purchase land for a new fire station in Ayr to finally move our emergency services workers away from potentially carcinogenic chemicals. Funding for upgrades at both the Ayr and Home Hill swimming pools is included in the budget, as is funding to complete stage 1 of the Ayr Water Treatment Plant and the refurbishment of block D at the Ayr State High School. And from here in Brisbane you can almost hear the screams of delight from the members of Burdekin Netball as they see their \$3.5 million upgrade is fully funded, and from the members of the Cungulla fishing and social club whose upgrades are also now fully funded.

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 in the *Record of Proceedings*.

The speech read as follows—

Mr Speaker, the Burdekin electorate is as diverse as the people who live there. We work hard and all we ask in return is for our fair share and to be respected.

For almost a decade, those opposite determined that our fair share was a few trinkets and, all too often, they were announced but never funded or honoured.

In stark contrast, the Crisafulli government's first budget includes funding for all of our election commitments and makes a real difference in tackling key issues.

For the Burdekin's farmers, the budget brings about decisive action when it comes to addressing irrigation costs and a commitment to not only finding a solution ... but also delivering action when it comes to the issue of rising groundwater.

Those actions, combined with this government's commitment to boost our agricultural sector, means real progress on turning opportunity into reality.

We've taken steps that those opposite would never take by consulting on a genuine basis with primary industry to achieve short and long-term goals, and this budget proves that this government will step up and help address the challenges to ensure a bright future for primary industry in the Burdekin electorate and beyond.

Since the 2017 redistribution added Moranbah, Dysart, Clermont and Middelmount to the Burdekin electorate, worker safety in the resources sector has been an issue that is raised with me on an almost daily basis.

As I have said many times, it is the resources projects in the Burdekin electorate that generate the lion's share of royalties for Queensland. But none of that is possible without the workers.

Even if you ignore every other reason, the safety of workers in the resource sector is crucial for our economy.

Hearing directly from workers, their families and the families of workers who lost their lives is my reason for taking a stand on worker safety.

Through my ministerial portfolio, we have set to work on ensuring we have the right structures in place to set safety standards and to ensure compliance.

This budget includes funding for the Mining and Resources Coroner with the goals of providing answers when things go wrong, and ensuring lessons are learnt. For the resource workers who live and work in the Burdekin electorate, the message is simple.

Under the Crisafulli government, your safety is a priority, not something that comes under the microscope only in the event of a fatality. This budget is not just funding to establish the role... it is locked in long term funding that ensures improving worker safety on mine and quarry site remains a priority.

It is about consistency and ensuring that accidental deaths at mine sites, quarries and petroleum sites are appropriately investigated and that Inquests are conducted in a transparent and timely manner.

Mr Speaker this is the 10th budget I have seen delivered in this place, but this is the 1st budget I have seen that delivers so comprehensively on the issues that are important to my constituents and this is the first budget that delivers for rural and regional Queensland.

Whether it is part of a statewide program or a focussed, local project, this budget marks a huge change when it comes to issues like roads, education, healthcare, justice and the key industries that make the Burdekin electorate Queensland's powerhouse.

Like Queenslanders across the length and breadth of our great state, the people of the Burdekin electorate deserve the same level of services and infrastructure as their city cousins.

This budget doesn't just acknowledge that fact ... it sets a course for delivery.

In reply to last year's budget, I said that I believe in my electorate. That I believe in the value of the people who live and work in the towns, on the land and in the mines. I said I believe in people who have aspirations to do better.

I said I would not give up on them and that I would fight for our fair share of the infrastructure and services we deserve every single day.

In response to this budget, Mr Speaker, I say that I believe more than ever in the Burdekin electorate and the value of the people who live and work in the towns, on the land and in the mines. And I certainly believe more than ever in those who have aspirations to do better.

I believe more than ever because we didn't give up, because we fought for our fair share and because this budget delivers it.

This is a responsible budget built on respecting taxpayers' money, delivering on our commitments and continuing to deliver the services and infrastructure we all need. It is a budget that sets Queensland on the right course for long-term budget repair that will ensure that we, and future generations, enjoy a brighter future whether we live in the Burdekin electorate or elsewhere.

The fight does not end here ... it merely takes a turn and there is more to do.

Together with the constituents of the Burdekin electorate, the fight now is to take advantage of the opportunities provided to us.

Whether those opportunities be in resources, in primary industry or in another industry, we now have a government and budget that will back our fight to turn those opportunities into reality and to deliver a brighter future for us, for our families and for future generations.

I commend the Bills to the House.

Budget Commitments for Burdekin Electorate

- Confirmed funding for a CT Scanner at Ayr Hospital
- \$2M Confirmed funding for land acquisition for the new Fire Station in Ayr
- \$2.1M for upgrades at Home Hill Pool including water filtering and heating
- Confirmed funding for Burdekin Netball upgrade of facilities in Ayr
- \$21.8M to tackle rising groundwater
- Complete refurbishment of Block D at Ayr State High School
- \$6.1 to complete stage 1 of the Ayr Water Treatment Plant

Bowen/Collinsville

- \$12.5M for remediation work at Bowen courthouse
- \$800,000 for a new station for Abbot Point Rural Fire Brigade
- Replacement of Collinsville Hospital staff accommodation to provide appropriate, safe and fit-for-purpose accommodation
- \$400,000 Confirmed funding to expand Collinsville Men's Shed
- Solar system and shade structures for Bowen pool
- \$14.6M to upgrade Collinsville Community Precinct to deliver more services
- \$9.8M to provide essential services and infrastructure corridors at Salisbury Plains Industrial Precinct
- Confirmed funding of \$250,000 for lighting at Denison Park for Bowen Seagulls

Isaac

- Lighting upgrades at Moranbah Football
- \$41.7M to construct Resources Excellence Precinct
- \$1.6M to remodel classrooms at Moranbah Early Learning Centre to provide 25 additional childcare places
- Clermont State School Multipurpose courts
- \$3.2M for Clermont Aquatic Swimming Centre

Plus confirmed \$60k for upgrades at the Cungulla Fishing and Social Club



Hon. G GRACE (McConnel—ALP) (12.38 pm): For the life of me I cannot understand why a newly elected government, after 10 years in opposition and spruiking a fresh start, would deliver a boring budget lacking any vision. Make no mistake, this budget is far from fresh—it is stale and bad. It is a budget that strips away cost-of-living support for millions of Queenslanders at a time when they are still struggling to put food on the table. For a newly elected government that continually talks about a fresh start, it is breathtaking that this budget is based on a blame game, misinformation and creative puffery. All the good initiatives that we support are, in fact, without a doubt, Labor policy.

This budget underestimates the intelligence of Queenslanders. It also cuts billions of congestion-busting projects, with a \$13.1 billion reduction in the infrastructure pipeline, and with crucial timelines missing. It is unprecedented. It will make people wait longer for medical treatment, with delays in delivering the hospital beds needed sooner rather than later. It does little to solve the shortage of

social and affordable housing sooner rather than later. It makes it harder for Queenslanders to get around our great state. To put it simply: it is a budget that will make it harder for Queenslanders to make ends meet. It is all about debt and deficits and is full of broken promises from a bumbling Treasurer.

I was so proud to be part of the Miles government when we handed down in last year's budget Queensland's largest ever cost-of-living relief measures. Sadly, but not surprisingly, this year's budget under this LNP government does not deliver. The Premier has broken his promise to support Queenslanders experiencing cost-of-living pressures. Most Queensland householders will miss out on energy rebates under the LNP. This government does not understand that Queensland families are still struggling and this is reflected by their budget that fails to deliver real cost-of-living support that so many families need right now. Food costs are going up, rent is going up, rates are going up, rego is going up, electricity is going up, but support from this government is going down, down, down.

Everything that is good in this budget is from Labor—there are hardly any original thoughts or policies—but many initiatives are watered down or delayed. Let us start with the FairPlay vouchers which deliver \$200 per child. This was a great part of our cost-of-living savings for everyday Queenslanders. I have received so many comments from members of my own community about how FairPlay vouchers have made a tangible difference to their families. The LNP's lack of commitment to this in the weeks and months leading to the budget was troubling to say the least. After a statewide campaign by the Labor opposition, I was happy to see the vouchers in the budget. They are often the difference between a child playing or not playing sport. It would be remiss of me not to mention, however, the unnecessary rebranding of this Labor initiative. They are now calling them Play On! and trying very hard to convince Queenslanders it is their policy.

A government member: It was!

A government member: Get in the Game—it was ours!

Ms GRACE: Let me let those opposite into a secret: no-one is being fooled. They have more front than Myers. Let us take the 50-cent fares. It has been a game changer for so many Queenslanders.

Government members interjected.

Ms GRACE: Just listen to the interjections from those opposite! No-one is being fooled. I am proud to have been part of a government that introduced 50-cent fares. As the opposition leader said in his speech, this has made such a material difference to so many people, so many families, and the patronage numbers speak for themselves. I know many in my electorate welcome the 50-cent fares. Once again, the LNP government—I will hear them all yelling soon—is trying to make it their own. Honestly, Queenslanders are smarter than that and, again, no-one is being fooled. This is a policy of the opposition leader, Steven Miles. No ifs or buts or maybes.

I do want to touch on education. Labor built 29 new schools during our term and quadrupled the infrastructure spend with upgrades and new facilities in nearly every school in Queensland and in electorates on both sides of this House. Most schools announced were in the forward planning under Labor's policy. I remember as education minister sending every member a letter letting them know exactly what was being spent in their electorate. I remember many speakers who are now in government getting up and thanking me for having the decency and respect to let them know that education is above politics. It was very sad that no such courtesy was extended by the current Minister for Education.

There are more Labor policies in this budget that the LNP are seeking to take credit for: kids health checks is Labor policy; help to buy is Labor policy, with legislation in place to roll out this initiative that the member for Oodgeroo said was a really dangerous path to head down, but does not go, as we have said in this place before, far enough. All of the capital programs are Labor's, but there are fewer of them and in many cases they will be delivered later into the never-never. Take the Bribie Island bridge, for example. It is a cost of \$700 million, and not a dollar more. What do we see now? An LNP blowout that is going to be up to a billion dollars. They cannot even put a price on it at the moment. They are very quiet.

Mr Ryan: It is only eight months!

Ms GRACE: I know! In only eight months there is an LNP blowout of up to \$1 billion. They are starting to add up. Then, of course, there are the delays. Let us talk about rebranding of Labor policies with new LNP-style names. I have said many times in this place that actions speak louder than words. Changing the colour of the government logo clearly exposes where the LNP government's priorities lie—in self-promotion. Rather than concentrating on a budget with a vision, a budget that helps Queenslanders with cost-of-living pressures and a budget that delivers on their election promises, they

are all about themselves. No wonder public servants are scratching their heads. The bottom line is that Queenslanders are paying for the hubris of the Premier, Deputy Premier and their team. I wonder whose idea it was. Who thought it was worth backing? Queensland is maroon! It will never be blue. I promise the people of my electorate that when re-elected I will be the first to call for a change back to Queensland maroon.

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McDonald): Members, the interjections are not being taken.

Ms GRACE: Budgets come around every year. In this House we all know that every year we have a budget. It is deceptive and misleading for the LNP government to say that they saved various initiatives and projects by putting them in this year's budget because funding was due to end on 30 June 2025. I have a quick lesson for the new government: this is the nature of budgets. Just because something is funded to a certain day does not mean it is automatically on the chopping block. Then again, maybe it is under a Crisafulli government. Maybe that is the way they intend for their budgets to work. Let me tell the House that it does not work that way. I sat on the CBRC, I sat in budget meetings. It is ludicrous to come in here and say, 'Why didn't you fund it?' We are here every year talking about the budget and it would have been funded. The only thing that is new in my electorate of McConnel is a broken promise new stadium being plonked in one of Brisbane's most iconic green spaces, Victoria Park, and an athletes village where there were already plans on foot elsewhere.

Mr Minnikin: Keep going!

Ms GRACE: I will take that interjection. I will keep going. I will not stop representing the people in my community who have concerns. The breathtaking double standards of silencing the voices of my local community through laws passed by this House this week has me believing that the 2032 Games should be rebranded the '2032 Hunger Games'.

We are holding the games in Queensland, not at Panem, and President Snow is not here to direct them, although sometimes I think that maybe the Deputy Premier is a little like President Snow. They will kill off any First Nations' voices. What a rebuff to the First Nations people in the community. They will kill off any heritage voices. They will kill off any environment voices. They will kill off any community voices. We are hearing that they will be very hungry games for additional funds with already reportedly an over \$1 billion LNP cost blowout. Who are they going to blame that on? They cannot blame it on BPIC. They cannot blame it on the federal government. They cannot blame it on the previous state government. They have to take the hit because it is already an LNP cost blowout. What appalling hypocrisy and double standards.

I assure this government that I will be holding them to account for promises broken every step of the way. I will ensure my community is listened to, heard and treated with respect just as they want regional voices treated. There should be no inequality between my constituents, who voted for me on the back of a promise for no new stadiums, and those in the regions who want to stop renewable energy projects.

I am concerned that we do not know exactly when the dedicated cancer centre at the RBWH will be delivered. That centre will provide much needed expert medical services and beds for some of the most ill patients in Queensland. We cannot delay this. We need those beds. People should talk to Ali France, the new member for Dickson, about her experience with her son. She wants to meet and talk about the need for that hospital to be built sooner rather than later.

Under the LNP there are no timelines and no transparency about how much projects will cost. That lack of transparency is breathtaking, especially as the new Premier talks about integrity and accountability—we even have a Minister for Integrity—but he fails to walk the walk. Talk is cheap. Remember when he said, 'When I say something, it means something.' We are all learning quickly that it means nothing. Remember when he said, on more than 12 occasions, that there would be no new stadiums. Remember when they said they would build a rail line to Maroochydhore. What are they getting? Busways!


Ms Morton: Better.

Ms GRACE: I take that interjection from the member for Caloundra: 'Better.' I bet her constituents do not think it is better. Those opposite went to the election knowing full well that they would not be able to deliver everything that they were promising, on time and on budget.

Ms Mullen: The wave of disappointment.

Ms GRACE: I take that interjection from the member for Jordan: the wave of disappointment. This is straight out of the LNP playbook: blame someone else, create a crisis and then bulldoze your way through. Queenslanders are awake to this trickery and the lack of adequate funding for most of these projects. We do not have QTRIP; we have 'Q-Trick'. In the budget there is a lack of funding for enterprise bargaining agreements—I will be keeping a very close eye on that—and racing infrastructure. I want to see exactly where that amount is being paid.

This budget lacks vision and it lacks compassion. They have failed to address the cost-of-living pressures being experienced by so many Queenslanders. Time is up for the LNP. This budget draws a line in the sand. Now it is their responsibility. They are in government. They need to stop acting like an opposition. They need to stop whingeing and whining and start governing. Despite their song and dance and their excuses, we have higher debt. By 2028 it will be \$205 billion. They broke their promise that debt would be lower; it is going to be higher. In this budget there is an eye-watering deficit of over \$8 billion, which is even higher than during COVID despite what we had to do to keep Queenslanders safe. This budget has no vision and no action, just delay, delay, delay.

 **Mr DILLON** (Gregory—LNP) (12.53 pm): Today I rise with pride and purpose to respond to the inaugural Crisafulli LNP government budget for the fiscal year 2025-26. For my electorate of Gregory, the message is clear: the Crisafulli LNP government is delivering in full on its election promises to invest in the people and places that power this state. The Crisafulli LNP government's budget delivers targeted investment in services, infrastructure and industry whilst recognising the true value of the bush as the heartbeat of this state's prosperity and identity. Regional Queensland was overlooked for far too long under those opposite and this budget is a clear signal that the Crisafulli LNP government sees the Gregory electorate not as a problem to forget but as a region to back.

Queensland does not run on headlines, sound bites or interjections. It runs on freight and fuel; on cattle, coal and crops; on education, health, minerals and family businesses—significant numbers of which originate from outside the south-east corner. The people of Gregory do not ask for special treatment, just fair treatment. In this budget, the fairness is finally flowing west of the great divide and it reflects the LNP government's deep understanding that true investment is not just what you build; it is who you build it for.

I begin with an announcement that speaks to heritage, jobs and regional identity: the revitalisation of the Blackall Woolscour. This is not just a restoration project; it is an economic engine in the making. The funding commitment ensures that Blackall and Western Queensland as a whole will once again have the opportunity to process wool, returning skilled employment and value-adding to the region. It is a bold and visionary but necessary move to reconnect our past with our future, enabling local employment, tourism and primary production to work hand in glove. More than that, it is a clear example of what is possible when you invest in regional processing instead of exporting raw commodities and jobs overseas. It is also a clear example of what happens when you have a minister who understands that agriculture is a multilayered beast. Thank you, Minister Perrett, for your understanding and support.

Minister Perrett has not only delivered on funding for the development of sheep and wool; he has also made a massive investment in cropping with a \$3.5 million commitment for the Central Queensland Smart Cropping Centre at Emerald. Labor tried to sell off that site after closing the former agriculture college. Yes, you heard that correctly: they tried to sell off another government asset. This announcement in our first budget sends the opposite signal to our vital agriculture centre: we are here to support and value you as well as aid in your growth to restore productivity and profitability, enlivened with the government's commitment to grow the value of agriculture products to \$30 billion by 2030. The master plan will do the design work and fund the upgrade for infrastructure to support current and future research development and extension work, assisting the broadacre cropping sectors of cotton, grains and pulses, which in 2025 are worth an estimated \$446 million to the Central Queensland region and over \$1.15 billion across the state. That is real support for primary industries, delivered by a government that supports all of Queensland industry.


As I have said before in this place, access to health care should not depend on your postcode. The Crisafulli LNP government's budget backs that principle with action in the Gregory electorate. Installing renal dialysis equipment in Emerald, along with necessary support, will mean that patients suffering from chronic kidney disease will no longer have to travel to Rockhampton, Mackay or even Brisbane to receive life-preserving treatment. That means families can stay together and patients can remain embedded in their communities. It will lessen the financial and emotional burden that rural patients have borne for far too long when they have had to choose between their communities and their families, all in the name of survival.

It is not just the patients who will benefit; clinicians will benefit too. This equipment and support will support local nursing and allied health jobs, building on clinical capacity and capability in the bush. This is what decentralised health care looks like. This is what respect for regional patients look like. Minister Nicholls, the people of Gregory thank you for your understanding and for the delivery of a service that has long been called for in the Central Highlands.

I now turn to something equally vital to our rural communities—sport. This budget has allocated \$75,000 to the Emerald All Sports Facilities Foundation to develop a business case and concept plan for a multiuser sporting precinct in Emerald. Let me be clear: this is not just a sporting complex; it is an investment in physical and mental health, in youth development and in social cohesion. In towns throughout Gregory such as Emerald, sport is more than just weekend fun; it is public health intervention, a youth engagement strategy and the backbone of all our communities' identity. With funding from this budget for proper planning and infrastructure, we are setting up a facility that will attract regional carnivals, nurture emerging talent and provide a home for everything from athletics and Rugby League to netball and cricket. This is about building strong bodies, strong minds and strong communities. This is grassroots investment in health, resilience and community cohesion—three things that regional Queensland does best.

As we chart the course of this budget's impact across the Gregory electorate, I want to draw particular attention to an initiative that captures the very spirit of the LNP government's commitment to regional fairness, youth empowerment and community wellbeing.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.

 **Mr DILLON:** I want to draw particular attention to an initiative that captures the very spirit of the Crisafulli LNP government's commitment to regional fairness, youth empowerment and community wellbeing. I speak of the Play On! sport and recreation voucher program, a \$250.5 million commitment of \$62½ million per year over the next four years, that will provide \$200 vouchers to Queensland children aged five to 17 to help cover the cost of joining sporting clubs and active recreation groups across the state. This may seem like a small line item in a budget of billions, but for families in Springsure, Winton, Aramac, Capella and Blackwater, and those of our wonderful students in the gallery, where sport is not just weekend fun but the very glue of community life, these vouchers are nothing short of transformative. In contrast, the last budget papers of those opposite show that funding for these sport vouchers was allocated for only one year, in 2024-25, highlighting the fact it was never part of their plan to continue. This scheme, started under a previous LNP government, has now been expanded and made permanent, thanks in no small part to the efforts of an excellent Minister for Sport, Minister Mander. This is not just about affordability; it is about access and about recognising that children in rural and remote Queensland deserve the same opportunities as those in the south-east corner, and for sport in either summer or winter.

If Queensland is the beef state then Gregory is the heartbeat of beef production in Queensland. The Queensland beef corridors initiative is not just a roads program; it is sound economic policy. It is about delivering supply chain efficiency for our graziers, feedlots and processors, who currently move world-class beef on 19th century roads. Through the Queensland beef corridors initiative we will be delivering critical upgrades that remove bottlenecks, reduce freight costs and support the entire beef supply chain, from paddock to plate. In this budget we will see the commencement of early works under this initiative, with substantial sealing works on the Alpha-Clermont road, the Alpha Tambo Road and the Fitzroy Developmental Road between Bauhinia and Duaringa.

An additional infrastructure initiative of the Crisafulli LNP government is the newly announced Country Roads Connect Program, yet another clear indicator of this government's regional economic commitment. This \$100 million program is directly investing in further sealing and strengthening our critical rural access roads, the very arteries that allow ambulances, school buses, freight trucks and tourists with caravans to function after every weather event. In Gregory we have already seen eligible councils prepare nominations from east to west to seal roads that have been impassable or dangerous too often for too long. This program helps prevent isolation, boosts economic continuity and protects our lifelines in the face of disaster. It is great to finally have a Minister for Transport and Main Roads in Minister Mickelberg who truly comprehends his portfolio and the imperatives for all of Queensland across a multiple of platforms.


Mr Bailey: That's not what you used to say to me!

Mr DILLON: It is about resilience and regional confidence—something the member for Miller has never emboldened! These projects are not just about roads; they are also about jobs, about access and about recognising that every Queenslanders, regardless of where they live, deserves the same standard of infrastructure. These are not promises; these are funded, scheduled projects delivered not through guesswork but through the commitment of this LNP government to regional Queenslanders.

Every dollar in this budget reinforces one simple truth: the LNP Crisafulli government is delivering on its election promise to invest in regional and remote Queensland. It proves that we are keeping our promises: to restore pride in our regions, to create opportunity for our youth and to ensure no Queenslanders is left behind because of their postcode. In Gregory, we do not and did not ask for favours. We asked for fairness, and in this budget we are receiving it.

This budget is also testament to the quality of the advocacy of those who have served before me. Both Lachlan and Vaughan long championed projects we have now announced. I have mentioned some of the ministers who have worked hard to ensure not only that election commitments are being delivered in this budget, honouring our word, but also the commencement of the structural repair needed to repair the budget crisis. I need to place on record my genuine appreciation for the work put into this budget by Treasurer Janetzki. Finally, Queensland has a treasurer who understands finance and can address both expenditure and revenue, balancing the needs of our communities within the headwinds of restricted future revenue and that which has been wasted historically by Labor.

As the member for Gregory, I am proud to stand in this House and say that our government is delivering—not just for Emerald, Blackall, Muttaborra, Blackwater or Jundah but for every road, every paddock, every business and every person who calls this great part of Queensland home. I enthusiastically support the budget and register my support on behalf of Gregory residents for the appropriation bills.

 **Dr O'SHEA** (South Brisbane—ALP) (2.05 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate of the Appropriation Bill 2025, the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2025 and the Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. In reviewing the budget papers related to these bills, I thought about the needs of my community in South Brisbane as well as those of Queenslanders more broadly. There was a time when the budget came around and people would look to it to see what it meant for them in terms of their discretionary spending. Now with the ongoing cost-of-living crisis, many Queenslanders are looking to this budget hoping for assistance with essential expenses, and I fear the majority will be disappointed.

In their Red Shield report released last month, Salvation Army Australia laid bare the depth of economic pressure faced by thousands of families in our state. In a survey of community members who had accessed their crisis services in the past 12 months, the Salvation Army found that 83 per cent of respondents were living below the poverty line and 90 per cent reported financial stress in the past year. More than half of respondents could not pay electricity, gas or phone bills on time. One in six surveyed had experienced homelessness. About 40 per cent of renters and mortgage holders had slept in cars or on couches due to lack of money. Equally distressing, 62 per cent of parents skipped meals so their children could eat and 14 per cent reported sending their children to school hungry or without lunch.

These statistics reflect the experience of many of my constituents in South Brisbane. We have a community pantry at our electorate office, and every day we have residents in need who come in and quietly fill a bag with basic foodstuffs to help them survive another week.

When the Miles Labor government introduced the \$1,000 energy rebate last year, again and again community members would tell me what a huge difference that made to their lives. I remember one lady I met in a public housing complex who could not believe that she would finally be able to clear her electricity debt and kept checking with me that the \$1,000 rebate was actually real. I was very disappointed to learn of the government's decision to discontinue the \$1,000 energy rebate.

While I am pleased that the government will continue to provide some energy bill relief to vulnerable people like seniors, pensioners and concession card holders through the electricity rebate scheme, indexation of this rebate is only going to add an extra \$14 to the rebate this year, so it will be very tough for people this winter, with Labor's cost-of-living measures ending and no universal energy rebates for Queensland households.

The government has introduced a rather strangely named Supercharged Solar for Renters Plan, which will provide rebates of up to \$3,500 to eligible landlords for installing solar panels on their rental properties. The program is expected to help 6,500 households. I think this is a good initiative and I hope it will eventually lead to a reduction in electricity bills for renters. Unfortunately, I could not find any detail about the criteria for eligibility for landlords, with the Queensland Treasury website stating—

Eligibility requirements will be established for applicants, dwelling types, products and installers. These will be released ahead of the program launch later this year.

As there will naturally be quite a lag between the solar panels being finally installed and when the tenants next receive their electricity bill, I would encourage the government to finalise the details of this scheme as soon as possible and launch the program to give some much needed relief to our renters.

I am very grateful that the government is committed to continuing the former Miles Labor government's 50-cent fares. Labor's 50-cent fares initiative continues to lead the nation, providing essential cost-of-living relief to Queenslanders as well as incentivising greater public transport use and reducing car usage, resulting in less congestion and emissions. This policy has been extremely popular with residents in my electorate, particularly with families, students and young workers. One young woman told me she was saving \$80 a week on fares—money she could then spend on food. 'This is what we need,' she said. 'Big, bold ideas that make a real difference in people's lives.'

Labor's \$1,000 energy rebate and 50-cent fares formed part of the biggest ever cost-of-living budget in Queensland's history. Motorists also benefited from a 20 per cent discount on vehicle registration fees. Unfortunately, the government has chosen not to extend the registration discount in this budget, so this cost-of-living relief will also end in September this year.

I am delighted that the government has chosen to continue Labor's \$200 FairPlay vouchers to assist with children's sports costs and that primary school parents in my electorate will receive the government's \$100 Back to School Boost next year. Paid directly to schools, this will be of some help to families coping with the cost of books, stationery, devices, uniforms and extracurricular activities.

As well as cost-of-living pressures, lack of housing and homelessness are major issues in my electorate. I am grateful that the 20 per cent funding uplift to specialist homelessness services, introduced across Queensland by Labor, has been funded and indexed for the next four years. With such high demands for these services, this will give certainty to the sector and assist with service planning and staff retention. I would like to acknowledge the hard work and compassion of Micah Projects, Emmanuel City Mission, St Vincent de Paul and the Salvation Army in supporting the homeless and vulnerable people in South Brisbane.

On both sides of this House we all want to make it easier for first home buyers to get a home of their own. We cannot accept that if parents are not able to help their children out financially they lose all hope of buying a home. I am very pleased that the government is introducing its Boost to Buy program. Similar to federal Labor's Help to Buy shared equity scheme, the program is available to 1,000 Queenslanders on low to moderate incomes over the next two years. The government will invest up to 30 per cent equity in new builds and 25 per cent for existing homes up to the value of \$1 million and buyers will only need a two per cent deposit. My question to the government is: if it is going to make real inroads in home ownership, why limit this program to two years and only 1,000 places?

In 2023 Labor doubled the first home owner grant to \$30,000, and it is wonderful that the government has chosen to extend this initiative for another 12 months. However, I would ask the government to increase the value of the home that may be bought or built with this grant from \$750,000 to \$1 million, in recognition of the increase in house prices and to bring the grant in line with the Boost to Buy program. I would also like the government to not limit the availability of this \$30,000 grant to only another 12 months but extend it indefinitely to give first home buyers certainty about this assistance as they save to buy a home.

With over 52,000 Queenslanders on the state's public housing waiting list, it is essential that we urgently increase our stock of social homes. When we need to be building thousands of homes to keep up with demand, it is worrying that the budget papers state that there are only 144 social homes in construction or under contract in the Brisbane central area. With increasing numbers of families sleeping in cars and tents this winter, the government needs an absolute focus on driving the delivery of social homes as well as providing support for residents moving into public housing. The transition from sleeping rough to community living can be challenging for some clients with complex mental health needs, and it is essential that the government recognises the need to fund more supportive housing as well as the introduction of CCTV in some public housing complexes to deter antisocial behaviour and avoid neighbour fatigue.

The income gap between being ineligible for social housing and being unable to afford the market rate of rent also needs to be addressed. Too many renters are being driven out of their community in South Brisbane by ever-increasing rents. In determining the distribution of public funds, I would ask the government to concentrate its efforts on delivering more affordable housing to rent and buy for our young people and key workers in the inner city where they want to live.

I welcome the government's allocation of funding to expand the CitySafe CCTV network across the inner-city suburbs. I have been advocating for the expansion of this network into South Brisbane to deter antisocial and criminal behaviour and improve community safety for residents and visitors to our vibrant, eclectic electorate and hope to see this initiative rolled out in South Brisbane soon.

Turning to education, I was pleased to see the budget includes funding for additional classrooms at Buranda State School in Woolloongabba in my electorate. This is a wonderful school with a strong sense of community, which has been led by principal Simon Vaseo for over a decade. The committed teaching staff deliver quality education to their students and are supported by a passionate and hardworking P&C.

Further investment in educational facilities in our area is required, however. The suburbs of West End and South Brisbane within my electorate are experiencing rapid growth and our local state schools are reaching capacity. The previous Labor government wisely invested in building Brisbane South State Secondary College, but population growth has continued and further planning investment is needed urgently. A new primary school in the South Brisbane and West End area is essential to address long-term growth trends, as is the provision of additional space at Brisbane State High School.

I am pleased to see the expansion to the Princess Alexandra Hospital with the addition of 249 beds begun under the former Labor government is continuing. There is mention in the budget of new car parking spaces at the hospital, which I know will be welcomed by staff and visitors alike, but there are no details of any timeline for this. As other members have mentioned, there are also no timelines in the budget for the completion of new hospitals, the expansion of existing hospitals, the new cancer centre or the provision of an additional 2,600 beds. I am also concerned that there is no funding set aside for a new spinal injuries unit at the Princess Alexandra Hospital and no mention in the budget of any funding for pill testing—either pop-up testing at festivals and other events or fixed-location pill testing, despite expert advice of the life-saving nature of this testing.

In my electorate of South Brisbane, public transport is essential for our primary and secondary school students to get to school, for our residents to get to work and to avoid congestion on our roads. Further investment is needed if our infrastructure is to keep up with the rapid growth we are experiencing in my community. South Brisbane is growing at more than double the average rate of the rest of Queensland. Increased bus services and a CityCat service for Kangaroo Point and a second CityCat terminal in West End are some of the essential transport projects my community needs, but I have seen no mention of these in the budget papers.

Another omission in the budget appears to be any funding provision for renovations to the Story Bridge. I welcome the Premier's very clear and emphatic statement in this House that there will not be a toll on the Story Bridge. However, I was disappointed that I could not find any allocation of moneys in this budget to repair the bridge so it can open again to pedestrians and cyclists as well as prepare for the demands on the bridge with the upcoming Olympic and Paralympic Games.

I noticed a mention of the Visy site at South Brisbane in the budget and that it was being transferred to the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning. I would request that the Deputy Premier engages in early community consultation for the future of this important site to our community, with its potential for much needed green space, an educational facility or affordable housing.

I was excited to hear about the government's upgrades to more than 100 community club facilities in the lead-up to the 2032 games, helping to support our next generation of athletes; however, I could not find any mention of clubs in my electorate. I would like to put in a word for the amazing athletes in South Brisbane, whether at Eastern Suburbs Football Club, Kangaroo Point Rovers Football Club, South Brisbane Sailing Club or Souths Rugby League Club, to name but a few.

I was also very excited to find a section in the budget papers titled 'Supporting our local communities'. However, when I read through the list, I thought initially our residents would have to move to Moggill for support given the generous number of groups that had received support there. Then I was relieved to see that Rosies has received funding to expand its outreach service across inner-city Brisbane. I thank the government for supporting such an essential service to the most vulnerable in our community.



Hon. SJ MINNIKIN (Chatsworth—LNP) (Minister for Customer Services and Open Data and Minister for Small and Family Business) (2.20 pm): Eight months ago, when we came into government, we committed to delivering a small and family business first approach. We also committed to provide a people-first framework to deliver Australia's most customer service focused government. I am pleased to rise today to speak to the Crisafulli government's first budget, a budget that lays the groundwork for both of these key commitments. Let's look at the small and family business first approach.

For the first time in over a decade Queenslanders have a budget that puts the right settings in place to support the current 495,000 small and family businesses that call Queensland home. This is a budget for small and family businesses and the staff they employ. It is a budget that recognises the potential of small and family business and their staff. By establishing the right conditions, we will pave the way for a thriving future for small businesses in Queensland and the potential for a further 120,000 new small and family businesses over the next seven years.

This Crisafulli government budget includes more than \$130 million over the next four years for a mix of new programs, grants and initiatives to support our small and family businesses and their staff. It funds the Small and Family Business First Action Statement, which members would remember I launched back in May during Queensland Small Business Month. It tackles Labor's legacy of red tape doubling in just two years and rising insurance costs due to a decade-long, soft-on-crime approach. It funds the \$40 million Secure Community Partnership Program as part of our efforts to end a decade of Labor ignoring crime and, in particular, youth crime. It funds a \$19 million Apprenticeship Pilot Program and new grants programs for construction and professional care businesses.

In addition to the action statement, I am pleased to inform the House that this budget will provide \$16.8 million to extend the Small Business Support Network to June 2028. We have reversed Labor's decision to end funding next week on 30 June. It would have been cut. Let's take a closer look at the Small Business Support Network. The program currently includes 14 small and family business financial counsellors and six small and family business wellness coaches. Additional counsellors are also provided to support our small business disaster recovery efforts. Since commencement of the Small Business Financial Counselling Service back in July 2021, more than 4,800 clients have been supported.

Additionally, since commencement of the Small Business Wellness Coaching Service back in October 2022, almost 2,500 clients have been supported. This is a group of qualified people who provide a wraparound support service, with free and confidential access to financial counsellors to overcome business challenges including natural disasters. Let me repeat: this is a group that provides support for Queensland small and family businesses facing difficult times including, as said, during natural disasters and, incredibly, Labor were going to axe them. The network also provides wellness coaching to support mental health during challenging times. We have reversed Labor's decision and committed funding for a further three years, as stated. This gives certainty to this vital program and support to small and family businesses.

The budget also supports our people-first framework and delivers a first for Queenslanders who rely on our digital services and customer services. As I announced early this month, from 1 July the customer services arm of Transport and Main Roads will transfer to my customer services portfolio. As I have been previously stating, having a dedicated minister for customer service is a first for Queensland. Over 90 customer service centres, online services, call centres and digital identity services will all transfer to one department. We have aligned the functions of government involved in delivering customer experiences. We are now starting down the path to deliver our commitment to become Australia's most customer service focused government. It positions us to tackle some of those longstanding frustrations experienced by customers. I have outlined them many times but they are worth repeating in this chamber: the red-tape frustrations, the multiple phone calls being bounced from section to section, a whole heap of jargon on different complicated websites and siloed services.

Importantly, the budget will end the piecemeal, short-term thinking that is Labor's legacy when it comes to delivering and upgrading digital systems over the past decade. It delivers a Queensland first—a \$1 billion Government Digital Fund to coordinate whole-of-government investment in ICT systems across the public sector over the next four years. It is long overdue and well received by the ICT community.

The Department of Customer Services, Open Data and Small and Family Business will review investment proposals with a view to adopting common and core systems. As I have previously stated, we will take a calm and methodical approach to tackling the number of internal and customer-facing ICT systems that need to be renewed or, in some cases, replaced. We will ensure greater oversight

and efficiency in the implementation of key digital systems and customer services. We will reduce future expenses associated with the creation of bespoke systems and software—proprietary software as opposed to more open architecture. We will see fewer ICT cost blowouts and project overruns because we mean it when we say we have respect for Queenslanders' money. I realise this is a new concept for those opposite, but we understand the importance of driving value for money and innovation. Take the role of artificial intelligence, for example. We are not entering an exciting era of AI; it is already here.

As I said earlier, there are a number of digital systems across government that were ignored by Labor and have reached or are beyond the end of their useful service life. More will reach their end-of-life date in the coming years. We are already exploring the benefits of AI to ensure those systems continue to support and deliver the services that Queenslanders expect.

This budget allows us to invest in a government that is transparent about performance; provides opportunities for financial, economic, social, health, scientific and environmental benefits through research and innovative re-use; and contributes to more effective government service delivery.

One of the greatest frustrations of Queenslanders is having to provide the same data, the same information, to different agencies time and time again due to a lack of coherent data sharing across the 19 different departments of the Queensland government. Ironically, this frustration extends to many public servants who, in the course of their duties, are presented with roadblocks and delays to exchanging data internally between departments, whether for assisting Queenslanders, for looking at performance measures or for policy development.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the Public Service for trying to offer great customer service with old systems and old processes. I want to empower them with modern, contemporary customer service tools and watch them offer a new level of service and convenience. Our 'tell us once' approach will help address this.

In another first for Queensland, we will be implementing data-sharing systems, leading to the establishment of real-time metrics for assessing government performance. It is already underway in different forms in other states but Queensland, under Labor, failed to get onboard. We will be working with other key agencies to provide clarity ease of access to keep performance metrics for government services. I am committed to making it easier for data to be shared across government departments. As I have said, this will lead to better and more accurate information for policy decision-making and better services and deliver better outcomes for everyday Queenslanders. Our goal is to enable a more seamless transfer of data between departments and agencies.

The Crisafulli government is also committed to ensuring its services, information and infrastructure are secure so it can deliver trusted services to Queenslanders. The cyber risk landscape continues to escalate in an environment of geopolitical uncertainty, supply chain vulnerabilities and a rise in the sophistication and frequency of cyber attacks. As the rapid demand for digital services and technologies such as AI and quantum computing multiplies, it also brings new challenges and increased exposure to the cyberthreat landscape.

This budget continues to position Queensland to meet the cybersecurity threats presented and be ready to host upcoming high-profile events such as the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. This budget continues to support the Queensland Government Cyber Security Unit as it engages and collaborates with all levels of government across the state and with our national counterparts to increase cybersecurity maturity, uplift capability and provide advice and coordination for cybersecurity incidents. The Queensland Government Cyber Security Unit works to build and promote ongoing cyber resilience in government service delivery, nurturing a diverse cyber talent and professional skills pipeline.

The Crisafulli government's first budget is what a real plan looks like. In closing, I thank the Treasurer and his department for their engagement and willingness to embrace innovation and the reforms required. The budget is a fresh start for Queensland. It is a budget that delivers for Queensland, and that is exactly what a responsible budget should be about for everyday Queenslanders.

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

The speech read as follows—

Mr Speaker, returning to small and family business, we know they are the backbone of our economy.

They are critical to our communities—creating jobs and supporting diverse local economies across the state.

Small businesses continue delivering vital goods and services to Queenslanders, in the face of a range of operating challenges and pressures, which include cost of living pressures, digital transformation, global uncertainty, cyber threats, and natural disasters.

Collectively these factors are affecting business confidence and profitability and testing the grit of our small business owners.

Our Small and Family Business First Action Statement is a key step to ensure Queensland small and family businesses are empowered to get on with driving economic growth and employing Queenslanders.

The key outcomes of the Action Statement include:

- Making it easier to access government services by focussing on streamlining and improving access to services and supporting businesses in every stage of their journey.
- Tailored support to start, grow and thrive by addressing key barriers to success and assisting small business to enhance capabilities, access business software and employ more apprentices.
- Responding to red tape and other pain points by applying a small and family business first lens to regulation and ensuring it is effective and supports business stability.
- Boosting procurement opportunities by creating more opportunities for small and family businesses to tender for government work, simplifying contracts and removing unnecessary requirements.

Let's have a closer look at some of the key deliverables from our Action Statement.

In January the Crisafulli Government delivered our election promise that the Queensland Small Business Commissioner would re-focus on reducing red tape for small and family businesses.

It was a key commitment of the Crisafulli Government's 100 Day Plan.

The Statement of Expectations for the Queensland Small Business Commissioner outlines a commitment to consult and collect feedback from small and family businesses to identify practical solutions to remove red tape.

Last month in Townsville we announced the launch of the first round of our \$40 million Secure Communities Partnership Program to help deter crime against small and family businesses.

This round of funding will support local councils to install critical safety upgrades including CCTV, alarm systems, security lighting and fencing to make local small businesses, and business precincts safer.

We're doing this because Labor weakened the youth crime laws, which led to small and family businesses, and their staff, being the victims of crime.

It led to operating costs and insurance costs soaring.

It is a challenge that has been a generation in the making and one which we are determined to change.

The Action Statement also outlined our plan to Deliver a Small Business Month with: "A program of events and activities with grants, workshops, clinics and more to connect small businesses to information and networks and celebrate success."

From workshops on financial literacy and business recovery to embracing technology like AI and social media, the month-long program provided practical support equipping small businesses with the tools and knowledge they need to thrive in a competitive economy.

This year, 48 events were funded through the Crisafulli Government's Better Local Business Grants program, with local governments, business groups, and Chambers of Commerce leading the charge in hosting impactful sessions.

The Crisafulli Government delivered 11 financial literacy workshops, eight business recovery clinics, four "Big Partners for Small Business" sessions, and a combined financial literacy and recovery clinic in Winton.

The Crisafulli Government has shifted the focus of Small Business Month away from the previous Labor Government-centric celebrations and is instead prioritising meaningful engagement and direct support for small business.

Mr Speaker, all politics is local and when it comes to delivering locally, the Crisafulli Government is supporting the people in my electorate of Chatsworth and across Brisbane's south-eastern suburbs.

This budget delivers on the vision we put forward ahead of the 2024 election.

I welcome the investment in education portfolio in my electorate of Chatsworth, including a new Block A at Belmont State School as part of the \$70.68 million School and Education Boost funding, and \$40,000 for facility upgrades.

At Gumdale State School there's \$661,000 to upgrade facilities and at Carina State School—my old school—\$15,000 to upgrade facilities.

Nearby Mayfield State School will receive funding to deliver a new acoustic wall in the undercover activity centre.


In another initiative very dear to my heart, the Queensland Koala Society will receive funding to deliver a fauna crossing on Old Cleveland Road at Carindale to keep our koalas and wildlife safer and the Bulimba Creek Catchment Coordinating Committee, otherwise known as B4C, will receive \$135,000 to deliver a weed control and rehabilitation program.

Of course Mr Speaker, the Sleeman Sports Complex at Chandler will be a focus during the Olympic and Paralympic Games with cycling and BMX and a para-sport facility at as part of the 2032 Delivery Plan.

This budget delivers the fresh start for Queensland that we promised before last year's election.

After Labor's crises in youth crime, health, housing and cost of living, it delivers the foundations for safety where you live, health services when you need them, a better lifestyle through a stronger economy and a plan for Queensland's future.

The job of budget repair after more than a decade of Labor mismanagement is not an easy task, but I commend the Treasurer and his Department for this year's Queensland Budget.

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (2.30 pm): The member for Kawana must be devastated there are so many incorporations because he is on the record as being totally against it in principle. I feel for the member for Kawana. He is up in his room gnashing his teeth saying, 'Why do you do it? Why?'

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): Order, members on my right!

Mr POWER: This budget is a typical LNP budget of broken promises, record deficits and blowouts. It is the end of budget transparency; it is about hiding their agenda. The Premier said, 'When I say something, I mean it.' That died with the introduction of this budget. I want to talk members through the arguments. There were so many promises discarded, cuts, delays and failures. I represent the fastest growing area of Queensland. I want to see a government that backs and supports those young families moving in there. Instead, when it comes to the cost of living we see rego go up by a record amount. There is no contribution for those young families to get help with their electricity rebates—nothing. Instead, those people were cast away.

The LNP, now led by the Premier, made big promises in his right-wing priorities document, telling people they would make investments in health. Most people in Logan naturally assumed that meant they would back Labor's plan for the Yarrabilba satellite hospital, including an urgent care clinic and other tailored services, especially for the families of Yarrabilba, Logan Village, Tambourine and Stockleigh. However, when deciding which Labor announcements to keep or cut, this one was cut by the LNP. Apparently, the words 'better health where you need it' from Premier Crisafulli did not have much meaning at all. He also said, 'When I say something, I mean it.' Tell that to the families of Yarrabilba.

In his budget documents, the police minister said that he was going to buy land for a police station in Yarrabilba. That sounds good. Do you guys support that? I hear very little support for that. They have probably already worked out why. Under previous ministers there was an agreement that the developer would give the state the very land underneath the Yarrabilba police station, so he is promising to buy something they are going to be given for free. This has been budgeted. The people of Yarrabilba expect no less than this money to be immediately transferred for the construction of the Yarrabilba police station. I will be starting a petition to ensure that money is transferred across. He has no idea what he is doing with the budget. He claimed he was buying a property they already have an entitlement to. Either way, they are misleading the people of Logan.

Speaking of Yarrabilba, the LNP candidate put up corflutes saying that an LNP government would build a second exit; however, the developer was in the process of building a connection to Waterford-Tamborine Road. Promises are promises, Minister for Main Roads. I insist that, if your candidate said something, you mean it. However, there is nothing in QTRIP to help the people of Yarrabilba, and they will be left waiting again.

Speaking of roads, many believed the LNP candidate when he put up a sign saying the LNP would fix Park Ridge Road. They put up giant signs on the corner of Hubner and Park Ridge roads—and other places on Park Ridge Road—saying, 'LNP upgrade Park Ridge Road now'. This was to help both the Logan LNP candidate and the Waterford candidate. Ironically, the LNP candidate for Waterford, Councillor Jacob Heremaia—known as the councillor on leave for Park Ridge Road—had been responsible for the failure of council to improve the road despite thousands of new residents. Unfortunately, in this QTRIP budget there is nothing for the LNP part-time councillor and part-time candidate. This is yet again another broken LNP promise.

QTRIP has also mysteriously cut—at least, from the document—the Camp Cable Road and Edelsten Road upgrade. I want to read from the front of QTRIP where the minister said—

... the new QTRIP layout categorises investments by 'Planned Investments' or 'Contractually Committed Investments', with budgets only displayed for investments that have achieved contract award.

It is pretty easy to be on time and on budget if you do not put out a budget and you do not put out a timetable. That makes it a bit easier to meet no goals—because he sets no goals. This is an absolute breach of his KPIs. That is what he said. In last year's budget there was quite clearly—I table it—funding for the Camp Cable Road and Edelsten Road intersection improvement, but in this QTRIP it does not appear at all.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, containing extracts from the Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program 2025-26 to 2028-29 [824].

Mr Ryan: The same thing happened to Morayfield Road.

Mr POWER: The same thing happened to Morayfield Road. They are disappearing projects. I had to send people out this morning to find it. Has the minister disappeared the project? No, it is under construction, thanks to Labor. The minister cannot be bothered putting it in the budget. Does that mean next week he is going to close down these vital safety projects that Labor put in place? We have no idea because QTRIP hides their priorities. It ends their transparency.

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, member for Buderim!

Mr POWER: I inform the House that, in the last 30 years, no LNP main road minister has ever made an investment in the Mount Lindesay Highway in the busiest section between the Logan Motorway and Jimboomba. I thought, 'Great, we have a new minister. Here is their opportunity.'

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Buderim, I will direct you to cease your interjections or you will end up on the warning list. There is a bit of cross-chamber chatter happening. Let's not have that.

Mr POWER: The Minister for Main Roads is once again screaming. We know that the Premier had to come into this House and tell him off. He told him to settle down and show some respect. We are not likely to see that, because he continues the no funding record of previous LNP ministers.

I am glad that, like last time, they did not cut a project that was under construction. We still have some funding for the Johanna Street to South Street four-laning to Jimboomba. They probably would have cut it, but so much funding has come in from the Albanese Labor government that the minister probably thought, 'I'll get into trouble and I can't.' That is probably the only reason the minister has not cut it.

The terrible news is that QTRIP, in the Main Roads budget document, usually outlines projects for the next four years, and there is absolutely no investment in construction on the Mount Lindesay Highway between Boronia Heights and Jimboomba. Nothing. The LNP main roads ministers have extended their record of zero construction between Boronia Heights and Jimboomba. I see the previous minister here, who was the one who fought to make the road a priority. I recognise that that minister cared about the people on the Mount Lindesay Highway all the way through to Jimboomba and beyond, but we see nothing for the people of Jimboomba from this minister.

I want to see them invest in Green Road and Fedrick Street. Their candidate made a promise that by now they would have lodged a design for community consultation. That deadline has already passed, yet we see nothing from the minister whatsoever. It is a great disappointment, because that road has major congestion and we want to see the concept plans. I do note that there is a business case for North Maclean to Camp Cable Road. That is a decent thing but I will force them to get money in the budget. I will force this minister, despite his wishes, to be the first in 30 years to make that investment.

I was a high school teacher and education is really important to me, so I am pleased to see that the site we bought for the Logan Reserve-Chambers Flat high school and special school has not been abandoned. It is good to see that there is some investment. However, it is a bit disappointing that only 15 per cent of that budget is expected to be expended in 2025. If they are only spending 15 per cent a year and it is not clear what is happening after that, how long will it be before high school students and special school students will actually get to use the schools? This is what I fought for, but Logan families cannot plan because of this government's secrecy on this issue. I brought this up with the minister when he visited Corymbia. He was cutting the ribbon for a school that was planned, built and all but opened by the Labor government. He was being trooped in to cut the ribbon and pretend he had something to do with it.

On the other side in the Everleigh estate, there is no announcement about the site for the future Everleigh state high school. This was our opportunity to buy the site that we had fought so hard to identify and secure directly from the primary school. Again, we need certainty for local families in Park Ridge and Greenbank. Tell us when we can expect the new high school. The member for Jordan and I presented a petition to the education minister recently urging him to buy this site, and he attacked us in the newspaper for doing so. We see nothing in this budget.

I do not have time to go through all of the broken local promises in this budget, but I need to turn to the broken promises in the mines, energy and resources sector. Firstly, we should not forget that the mines minister told some coalminers that they would abolish the progressive coal royalties. When asked by a QRC member to address the elephant in the room and axe the tiered coal royalties, Mr Last said the government was considering a model 'that meets everyone's expectations'. Let us never forget that

the Premier told the coalminers that ‘wink, wink, you can take my promises to the bank’—and ‘promises’ was spelt with two dollar signs. However, we know now that they were really before-the-budget friends; it was one of those types of friendships with those mates you cannot rely on. They are caught out now walking on both sides of the street on this issue.

The mines minister then promised the industry that he would restore what I thought was the hopelessly outdated model of the wardens court. Most in the industry did not think this was a good idea, and I am sure others in cabinet were told that. This has now been squashed and, instead, they are trying to cover their shame and broken promise—even though it was not a good promise—with the AG renaming a coroner with no different powers. It certainly remains a broken promise—however unwanted—to the industry. Despite promising to continue funding, there is not a continuing line item for natural hydrogen exploration. It is possible that the \$4 million budget has been rolled in with another item but, even then, deprioritising this project in 2025—because it was a multiyear project under Labor—is yet another Crisafulli government broken promise.


There is good news with the Queensland Resources Common User Facility because they are continuing the funding, even with some increases. I will give him a small amount of credit, but this is a project that recognises the good work of former minister Scott Stewart that will help a lot of the smaller miners prove and commercialise their project. That is something I support; that is something that Labor built. Only Labor supports the mining industry by getting good, safer jobs and building new industries in areas like critical minerals, natural hydrogen and a fair return through progressive coal royalties. That is what brings community support for the industry—not the divisive things the minister is currently involved in.

This is a bad budget. I did not have time to go through all the broken promises, and I did not have time to go through all the things that are regressive. This is a bad budget by a bumbling Treasurer—a budget that blows away the cost-of-living support for millions of Queenslanders. It is a budget that makes it harder for Logan residents to get ahead.

Mr Hunt interjected.

Mr POWER: You are right; it makes it harder for Logan residents to get ahead. We heard the government talk such a big game on reducing debt, but instead we see them indebting Queenslanders \$205 billion by 2028, including \$8 billion this year. This is something where they have nothing to stand on. The positive projects they are continuing are overwhelmingly Labor projects. In previous years, LNP members would see Labor continuing projects and they would talk them down. This year we see something different: every single LNP member is pretending that the projects that were put in place and budgeted for by Labor are fantastic projects, like they somehow own them—just like the education minister cutting the ribbon at Corymbia State School, somewhere he had zero involvement, but then not putting the funding in place for schools like Everleigh State School.

This is a bad budget by a bumbling Treasurer and a government that is all about politics rather than the good of Queensland. The government had these budget documents that they painted blue, not because they love New South Wales—at least I hope not—but because they love their political party above the interests of the people of Queensland.

 **Ms MARR** (Thuringowa—LNP) (2.45 pm): I rise to speak on the 2025 state budget. This budget is for you, Thuringowa—our families, our communities and our future. It is a budget delivering for Queenslanders. During the election I heard loud and clear that they were tired of empty promises and last-minute election stunts. They wanted commitments I could keep. I listened and the Crisafulli LNP government has also listened. My approach to my election promises was deliberate and measured, ensuring every promise was achievable. Today I am proud to confirm that we will deliver on those commitments, not at the eleventh hour before the next election but now when it counts.

The honour of representing my community in this parliament, and the privilege of being part of a government committed to delivering for Queenslanders, is one I hold with respect and great pride. To my community, today I stand here to speak of a budget that reflects your voice and sets a bold foundation for our future. We have inherited a challenging fiscal situation from the previous Labor government—a budget that was desperate, mismanaged and unsustainable. Despite this, I commend the Treasurer for delivering a measured, fair and fiscally responsible budget that meets community expectations while delivering on every election promise.

We heard from the opposition leader in his speech that a good government addresses the problems of the day—the here, the now. He also said that a good government steps up and does more and they put people first. Well, I say to the opposition leader that that is why I am sitting in this seat for Thuringowa—because I stood up, I listened, I did more and I put people first. The opposition leader and

his government ignored my community time and time again, treating them like fools. They did not do more and they did not listen. The Crisafulli LNP government's priorities are clear—safer neighbourhoods, stronger communities and a budget that makes Thuringowa a better place to live.

Continually reducing crime remains a priority. I will not hide away through the tough times. I am committed to safer streets through early intervention, rehabilitation programs and tougher laws that are accountable, fully funded and results driven—no more ad hoc and bandaid approaches. We will deliver long-term results. We are investing \$7.2 million over four years in Townsville to implement Making Queensland Safer Laws. We have stronger legislation with Adult Crime, Adult Time and we have added another judge to our region, two new courtrooms and more police boots on the ground. There are a total of 1,600 new police recruits in the state. These steps will protect our community, support our youth, provide new programs to turn kids away from crime and strengthen our community.

The opposition leader spoke about the cost-of-living crisis, a burden left by the Labor government's reckless economic mismanagement that hit Thuringowa families hard. He boasted about his FairPlay vouchers. I just want to point out that that was an LNP initiative from over a decade ago. He mentioned his mates Paul, Deborah and Heidi who were very happy with the vouchers. I am happy for Paul, Deborah and Heidi from the south-east who enjoyed them, but my residents in Thuringowa tell me they were not fair because too many missed out because their kids did not play the right sport or they live in regional Queensland. The LNP government listens to all Queenslanders. We have made it fairer with Play On! \$200 vouchers, guaranteeing regional Queenslanders get their share and offering two rounds to ensure every family can benefit.

This government is removing the economic barriers for women transitioning back to the workforce after having children, caring for family or following illness. With over 14,000 families in Thuringowa and more than 51 per cent of our community being women, this will be welcomed. I am also confident the 14,000 families in Thuringowa will celebrate our \$100 Back to School Boost, slashing the cost of school essentials every year with real relief.

The budget also boosts sporting opportunities for Thuringowa, in particular for women and girls. I am delivering on my election promise with \$1.6 million for Jabiru Park to upgrade lighting and build female change facilities, fostering inclusivity and safety. The baseball community have been begging Labor for years to help their sport. Now it will be delivered by a Crisafulli LNP government. A further \$505,000 will upgrade Greenwood Sporting Complex with better lighting and field repairs, addressing the 2019 flood damage. These investments strengthen community pride and opportunity.

Let's talk about the multipurpose hall at Thuringowa high. Here is a great example the opposition leader was talking about when he said his government was listening. They promised to deliver a multipurpose hall for year-round use, including the students' theatre restaurant, but they ran over budget and could not deliver. So, what did they do? They decided to build it without the air conditioning. Can you imagine the heat in the middle of a North Queensland summer? It is absolutely appalling! I promised the students, teachers and families that I would deliver on \$2 million funding to air-condition their hall, ensuring this community hub is accessible all year round. It will be delivered and the school community could not be happier.


I want to touch on the speech by the member for Greenslopes because Townsville means so much to him. What a waste of taxpayers' money, taking a day off from parliament during budget week to fly to Townsville, do a quick media stunt, then fly back home! I am not quite sure what his community felt about his speech when he came in here, trying to be a comedian, fell a bit short and had to laugh at his own jokes. I am happy to hear that the member for Greenslopes visited Townsville because it reassured me that Townsville people have woken up to Labor because, quite frankly, they did not know who he was. Labor had three members in Townsville for 10 years who never showed up and who never listened. I have been turning up for my community for 30 years, member for Greenslopes, and for the last four years I have turned up and I have listened. It will take more than you coming to Townsville with your scare campaign to try to claw back my seat and tear my community apart for another 10 years under Labor.

This budget is delivering on other important issues to my community and across Queensland. We are addressing the housing crisis and building stronger communities with the \$2 billion Residential Activation Fund to help kickstart new housing developments through essential housing infrastructure. Once again working harder for regional Queensland, the LNP Crisafulli government has ensured we get our fair share with \$1 billion of that for regional Queensland. There is an \$89 million investment to expand and improve social and community housing in North Queensland. This reflects our government's focus on practical, long-term solutions.

I want to mention the hardworking police in Queensland, but especially those in the electorate of Thuringowa. I often visit my police at the Kirwan station to remind them of the great work they are doing and to thank them. Domestic and family violence calls take up a large majority of their workload. I thank the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence for her genuine dedication in this role and working with the police and victims for real change with a \$37 million boost to police responses, \$28.5 million to pilot a new GPS tracker program for high DV offenders and \$31.3 million to double the capacity of Womensline and Mensline. Minister, my community thanks you.

This government has already started to deliver on their promise to back our police by putting more boots on the ground and providing them with the equipment they need to be safe and do their job. We will continue to back and thank them for the hard work they have had to endure during 10 years of the youth crime crisis under Labor, one they have endured more than most in this state.

This budget is a bold statement of what you can expect from me as your state member. It is grounded in your trust and my promises. I am here to deliver results, not fanfare. Thank you, Thuringowa, for your support. I look forward to continuing this journey together, making our community a better place to live, work and raise a family. I am proud to back this budget, delivering for Thuringowa and Queensland.

 **Ms ASIF** (Sandgate—ALP) (2.54 pm): This LNP government has just delivered a budget that is all slogans and smiles with no real action or vision. A budget would have been the perfect opportunity for the government to show Queenslanders they understand the pressures facing our communities, but that opportunity has been squandered. Instead, we have been presented with broken promises while those struggling the most have been abandoned. It fails to address housing pressures and will only see their declared health crisis continue. It fails to provide the real, targeted cost-of-living relief that Queensland families desperately need. In short, the government has turned its back on the issues that Queenslanders—people in my community—are calling for them to address.

In his speech, the Treasurer said the budget would deliver for every corner of Queensland. Apparently, he has forgotten where Sandgate is because this budget does absolutely nothing for my community—it does nothing for our schools, it delivers nothing for health services and does nothing to improve public transport infrastructure in our community. Imagine my surprise at that after I hand-delivered a Sandgate budget submission to the Treasurer on behalf of the electorate—a submission which was informed by 30 mobile offices and extensive consultation which showed where Sandgate residents would like to see investment. For the 54,499 people from my electorate who live and work on the north side, this would have been an opportunity for the government to invest in local schools and clubs, to expand local health services and to deliver the necessary transport infrastructure upgrades needed. But, as usual, the LNP government has proven how out of touch they are with the needs of Queenslanders.

While members of the government may look at themselves in the mirror and lie about 50-cent fares and the FairPlay vouchers being their initiatives, they cannot trick the people out there. The people out there know that every single positive initiative—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): One moment, member. You have used an unparliamentary term. I ask you to withdraw.

Ms ASIF: I withdraw. Every single positive initiative in this government's budget is a Labor initiative. They simply presented Queensland with Labor's homework with a blue sticker on it saying, 'Same same, but different.' Rather than investing in cheaper energy, cost-of-living relief and transport infrastructure, they are choosing to invest in changing Queensland's colours. Mind you, we still do not know how much of taxpayers' money was wasted on that.

Housing pressures continue to be a serious concern within my community. Queenslanders are in desperate need of new public and affordable housing to support low-income earners as well as increased housing supply to bring down the cost to both renters and prospective homebuyers. There is not much in the government's budget that achieves this. It is shocking that the government can come in here and pretend as though they have not already axed almost 1,000 affordable homes. Someone should probably tell them that cutting housing supply is not fixing a housing crisis. It is just another broken promise with catastrophic effects on the lives of people in our communities.

In my electorate, Kathy from Bracken Ridge had her rent recently raised by \$150, despite significant damage to the property which prevented her from entering certain rooms. After contesting this increase, she has been handed a notice to leave. With no private rentals available, Kathy is now facing homelessness. When it comes to helping prospective homebuyers, the LNP's Boost to Buy incentive does little to support single mothers. In my community, Kylie, a single mother of three, has

escaped domestic violence and receives no financial support from her ex-partner and no longer owns any property. Because she is not a first home buyer, she does not qualify for any government assistance. She is unable to get a loan at the bank due to her financial circumstances and remains locked out of the housing market. Despite promises to both renters and to vulnerable women, people like Kathy and Kylie fall through the cracks of this budget.

I will be the first to admit that support for first home buyers is fantastic, but I cannot praise the government's Boost to Buy incentive. Why? Because it only helps 1,000 people. On average, over 20,000 Queenslanders enter the first home buyer market every year, so how will these 1,000 people be selected? Is there a criteria? When does it open? All we have heard is you can register from July but there is no other information and, again, it only helps 1,000 of the over 20,000 people who are looking to enter the housing market every year. With increased homelessness and hardship comes great strain on our community groups and we need the government to support the services that are supporting the most vulnerable in our community. Again, there is little in the budget for that.

It is disappointing, but not surprising, that the budget fails to present comprehensive cost-of-living relief. When Labor was in government, Queenslanders could count on targeted cost-of-living relief for their everyday needs. Incentives like 20 per cent off car registration and \$1,000 electricity bill rebates had a real impact for families in our communities. This week the LNP have let those families down by abolishing the \$1,000 rebates. They have increased car registration and are failing to provide any alternatives. The LNP government's interpretation of 'targeted cost-of-living relief' is quite laughable. Whilst their \$100 primary school student vouchers are welcome, pointing to them as proof of comprehensive relief is not acceptable. Families have reached out to me and said 'that does not even cover the cost of our child's school uniform'. Not only will this relief only go to families with primary school children; it does not cover much. It is a credit at the school. It is not cash in their hands to put food in the kids' lunch boxes or to put shoes on their feet. They will not be able to go out and look for the most affordable options to buy the stationery. It is a credit that goes to the schools and \$100, quite frankly, does not go far enough for those families.

Sean, a Sandgate resident, reached out to me. He said that as a middle-aged middle-income earner he finds this budget particularly disappointing. He is frustrated by the lack of support for people like him. Despite the rising cost of living affecting everyone, there is little in the budget for Sean. Right now, Queenslanders are feeling left behind. Under Labor everyone saw the \$1,000 electricity bill rebate but, unfortunately, the LNP are not continuing that. What they do not understand is that the loss of this rebate has a direct impact on people in my community like Lenice. Lenice, who lives in public housing in Sandgate, said her daughter requires significant medical equipment which includes an electric wheelchair. As a result, her electricity costs are quite high. Last year, Labor's rebate meant that she could pay the bill. Lenice told me she is terrified of getting her next bill because she does not know if she will be able to afford it. The Premier promised Queenslanders that energy bills would be down, they would be cheaper, but that is not the reality of this budget. This government is built on broken promises which are impacting real people in our communities.

The demand for additional health services is rising on the north side. Across the Sandgate electorate demographics have changed to see older residents living alongside younger families. With this change, we have seen an increase in the need for additional health services which both are affordable and target the needs of our growing community. Health care is a right. It is essential, and everyone in our community deserves access to suitable and affordable care. The Sandgate electorate needs a new nurse-led clinic—an investment I advocated for in my budget submission to the Treasurer. Again, this was ignored. This clinic would have provided bulk-billed and accessible health services and adequate care where it is not possible to see a GP. Disappointingly, again, it was not provided. This clinic would help to ease pressure at the Redcliffe and Prince Charles emergency departments and allow Sandgate residents like Marilyn who have mobility issues to access free health care closer to home. The clinic would have helped many in Brighton, where two GP clinics have recently closed. They currently travel to Rothwell or Scarborough for medical care—an impossible public transport commute, particularly for elderly residents.

This may seem like a simple fact, but I would like to remind the government that without nurses our healthcare system cannot function. At the core of the healthcare system is hardworking health workers—another group of Queenslanders this government has offended and let down. Health workers deserve job security and fair pay but this government simply refuses to come to the table. Nurses like Anju, Cameron and Usha in my electorate, who work incredibly hard to provide care for our local community, deserve to be paid fairly, but, instead, nurses are being treated appallingly by this

government. They have the nerve to boast about incentives and investments in health while at the same time telling hardworking nurses that they will not agree to reasonable demands for better pay and conditions.


The only hint of new investment in north side health care is a mention to continue Labor's Redcliffe Hospital and Prince Charles Hospital expansions. However, when it comes to the Redcliffe Hospital the budget fails to outline any timeframes for delivery or any details about this much needed expansion. All of the other northside health care wins that they are claiming seem to just be Labor coopted projects with extended delays.

It is a huge relief to see Labor's 50-cent fares will remain. This has helped many in my electorate of Sandgate. Without making public transport easier to access in the community, it becomes difficult for people to use this incentive. We need to have appropriate bus and train services with connections that actually work. Without investment in more bus services in outer suburbs—something I specifically requested again in the Sandgate budget submission—commuters will continue to struggle with inadequate connections and long travel times.

Currently, for locals to travel between suburbs like Fitzgibbon and Deagon or Brighton, a five-kilometre journey, it takes about 40 minutes or more. This is a challenge for many like Mick in Brighton, who is vision impaired, and 75-year-old Savita from Fitzgibbon, who recently shared with me that she visits her husband at the Regis in Sandgate every day. Without a car she has two options: a 42-minute journey or a 50-minute journey with a 1.6-kilometre trek. What should be a nine-minute drive is an over 50-minute ordeal for Savita. I promised her I would raise this with the Treasurer—which I have—but, unfortunately, I will be returning to Fitzgibbon with little to share with her.

Investment in education is key. Like many migrants, I moved to Australia as a child and spoke no English. I was taught by incredible teachers. Without them, I would not be here to speak in this parliament today. Whilst this government was praising itself on its mediocre budget on Tuesday night, teachers were rallying outside this place calling for the fair pay and conditions that they desperately need and deserve. If we want well-educated children to make up the Queensland of tomorrow, we must encourage people to be teachers and give them a reason to be teachers. This government shows how it really feels about our public servants by refusing to treat them with the respect that they deserve. When hundreds of teachers rally outside because they cannot afford to live, when nurses plan industrial action because the government refuses to negotiate fairly, and when the state faces an \$8 billion deficit with nothing to show for it there is no-one to blame but this chaotic government. Whilst the LNP pat themselves on the back for a truly unremarkable budget, Queenslanders in my electorate and beyond continue to struggle. They have tried to prevent public criticism by keeping Labor's 50-cent fare initiative, the FairPlay sports vouchers and the \$30,000 first home buyer initiative, but these are a smokescreen attempting to disguise the cuts and deficits that truly underpin this budget.

A better future is not something that just happens; it is something we have to work towards. It is something we build by being ambitious and by being bold. This budget lacks any vision, any ambition and any boldness to make this a greater state. Queenslanders deserve a government that allows them to build on their aspirations. Queenslanders should be able to afford to live and afford to dream. That is something I will keep fighting for.

 **Mr HUNT** (Nicklin—LNP) (3.08 pm): Abraham Lincoln said, 'You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today.' After years of Labor delay and denial, this government is finally taking on the responsibility and Queensland and Nicklin is no longer being left behind. This is a great budget for Nicklin and this is a great budget for Queensland. It is a budget that puts safety back on our streets, a budget that puts service back in our suburbs and a budget that puts hope back into the hearts of Queenslanders.

Listening to the Leader of the Opposition and the contributions from those opposite, it is astonishing how they can so casually turn a blind eye to the fiscal disaster they have inflicted on Queensland through a generation of mismanagement. Driven by self-preservation over public service, they remain fixated on clean—

Mr Power interjected.

Mr HUNT: At least I show up for work. Driven by self-preservation over public service, they remain fixated on clinging to power while communities like mine were left behind. They seemed to have forgotten why they were so overwhelmingly rejected at the last election and why Queenslanders chose a new government that listens, acts and puts people first.

I turn my mind to the 4BC train wreck interview we heard about this morning. When the opposition leader was asked this morning, 'Why in your budget reply speech was there no real mention of victims of crime?' his reply was, 'I mentioned the things that we support.' Of course we know that those opposite do not support Adult Crime, Adult Time and they do not support Jack's Law; they do not support the strong laws that we are bringing into this House. We know what they would do; at the first available opportunity they will repeal them all and go back to the soft-on-crime approach that saw us in the crisis we face today.

When I last served in this House as the member for Nicklin from 2017 to 2020, I fought tooth and nail to deliver for my community and often against a wall of resistance from the Labor government. Time and again Labor said no to the things Nicklin needed most or made me fight for projects that were already long overdue like the Nambour Police Station and vital upgrades to the Nambour Hospital that were years behind. For over 22 years Nicklin had not had a member on the government benches, so when I lost the seat in 2020, while disappointed, I held on to some slim hope that, with a Labor member in place and a Labor government, Nicklin might finally get the attention it deserved. What followed? Four wasted years, missed opportunities and minimal delivery; the new Labor member seemed more interested in cutting ribbons on the projects I had already secured than in delivering anything new. The priorities of the community did not change: dangerous intersections, the long ignored need for a police beat in the Nambour CBD and meaningful action on rising crime and community safety, but Labor refused to act. They missed their chance to invest in visible policing, making roads safer and easing the burden on frontline services. When locals raised concerns, the former member did not just dismiss them; he famously blamed the media and turned a blind eye to what people were living through every day. This budget and this government make a clear break from that inaction.

Mr Smith interjected.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr HUNT: Member for Bundaberg, you are back at work; great to see you. This time someone finally listened. Nothing sends a message more—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): It is getting a little bit rowdy. I request you to make sure there is no cross-chamber chatter.

Mr HUNT: Thank you for your protection, Mr Deputy Speaker. This time someone finally listened. Nothing sends that message more powerfully than the \$3 million investment to deliver a permanent police beat in the heart of the Nambour CBD, backed by cutting-edge CCTV upgrades with a live feed to the police. This is the most significant community safety commitment in our region in over a decade—a response to what locals have been asking for year after year. This is not just policy; this is peace of mind for businesses, families and frontline officers who need the infrastructure to do their job safely and efficiently.

I returned to this House with a clear purpose: to deliver for the people of Nicklin. I am proud to say that after just eight months in the job in a government that listens and acts, we are well on our way. This is a great budget for Nicklin. It delivers real outcomes on the issues that matter most: community safety issues, cost-of-living relief, road and school upgrades and support for those doing it tough. These are not new issues; they are the legacy of years of Labor neglect, but this government is stepping up where the last one failed and finally delivering the infrastructure and services our region deserves. Let me turn now to some of the key local measures funded in this year's budget.

This budget invests in compassion and care with funding for a dedicated short-term accommodation village at endED eating disorder service in Woombye. Founded by Mark and Gay Forbes, endED has grown into a nationally recognised, evidence informed organisation supporting people with eating disorders and mental health challenges. Their 2.7-acre House of Hope property in Woombye reflects their vision for connection, dignity and recovery. This accommodation village will allow families and individuals in crisis to stay close to care—practical, person centred reform at a time when it is needed most.


We are also backing the incredible work of the Everyday Foundation with \$1 million to renovate and expand their new home on Currie Street. For over two decades they have provided hot meals, affordable groceries, emergency relief and pantry support, delivering over 52,000 free meals and helping 1,000 families each week. This new site will bring all services under one roof, increasing accessibility and strengthening the food security safety net. With cost-of-living pressures bearing down, this is the right investment at the right time for the people who need it the most.

We are also tackling housing stress with \$43.9 million allocated to expand social and community housing and 240 social homes under construction or under contract. On roads and transport, this budget makes safety a priority. There is \$2 million to construct cycle lanes on Petrie Creek Road, Nambour; a business case and design for long overdue upgrades at the Palmwoods rail overpass; design works in Cooroy at the Elm, Myall and Diamond streets intersections; and upgrades at Diddillibah Road and Nambour Connection Road. These upgrades are not just about easing congestion; they are about saving lives and delivering the basics that communities like ours have gone without for far too long. These were brought to the attention of the previous member, who had the audacity to criticise me for not fixing them during my three years in opposition prior to the 2020 election, only to be elected himself and do nothing for four years in government. Labor, again, is all spin, all about themselves and no action.

One of the most important statewide initiatives in this budget is Daniel's law, with \$10 million committed to establish a public child sex offender register. It is about law, safety, transparency and accountability. I am proud to support it in honour of Daniel Morcombe and the tireless advocacy of his parents, Bruce and Denise, and the rest of the family. Of course, Daniel House is in my electorate at Woombye. We are also investing in local schools, sport and community infrastructure; a major entrance upgrade at the Woombye State School; \$500,000 lighting upgrade at the Cooroy Sports Club; and \$540,000 for Palmwoods Warriors Football Club to deliver lighting equipment and field upgrades. These are just the highlights. There is so much more in this budget that will help improve our community.

These are practical, real world investments in a stronger, safer and more connected community. The people of Nicklin do not want spin; they want solutions. This budget lays the foundations for a fresh start. It begins the long overdue process of repairing the generational damage caused by Labor. It sends a clear message this government is backing regions like Nicklin. It is listening to the community, it is investing in people and it is delivering where others only talked. Let me be clear: I am not done. I will keep fighting for the people of Nicklin every single day I am in this House. I will keep walking the streets listening to locals and pushing for what matters because at the end of the day this job is not about titles or talking points; it is about standing up for the people who sent us here. I will never stop fighting for Nicklin.

With this budget we have taken the first powerful step in rebuilding what Labor ignored. The fresh start begins now and I will make every day I spend in this House count for the people I proudly represent.

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (3.18 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate of the Appropriation Bill 2025, the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2025 and the Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. The LNP Treasurer has handed down his first blue budget and unfortunately it is full of broken promises. Queenslanders were promised relief, a fresh start and a government committed to delivering for families doing it tough, but what we have seen is anything but that.

Government members interjected.

Mr RUSSO: Just listen. Before I go into discussion about the budget I want to acknowledge two infrastructure projects in my electorate. Those two projects that I lobbied for were delivered under the Labor government.

The first project I want to speak about is the Boundary Road level crossing at Coopers Plains. In the 2024-25 QTRIP released by the previous Labor government in our budget, the funding breakdown for this project was clearly outlined, including the contributions from the Australian government, Queensland government and local government. In the 2025-26 QTRIP, there is no funding listed for this project at all. While I understand the commercial reasons behind removing specific funding amounts from QTRIP, the community deserves transparency on how key infrastructure projects are progressing. From my conversations with the department, I understand that funding allocated in 2024-25 has been used to progress construction of the overpass. All necessary property resumptions have been completed, and I have been advised the next steps involve demolition of existing buildings and completion of underground works before the project moves to contract.

I want to take a moment to recognise the residents and small business owners affected by these resumptions. Many have faced difficult, life-altering decisions. Some have chosen early retirement while others, like the local vet, have successfully relocated their practices—in this case, to Sunnybank Hills. I commend their resilience, cooperation and the grace with which they navigated this process. However, I am genuinely concerned that this site may now be left to languish, with boarded-up buildings and no visible progress.

The budget process must be fair and transparent. Major infrastructure projects like this one should be clearly listed somewhere in the budget papers so that elected representatives—and the communities we serve—can track their status and next steps. Removing this information from QTRIP without an alternative update makes it impossible for people to provide the community with the reassurance it deserves. This project has been long promised—for over 40 years—and, with the Brisbane 2032 Olympic Games on the horizon, failing to complete this major transport corridor would be an embarrassment. Boundary Road is one of our city's key east-west links, with direct access to the Gateway Motorway, and north-west for access to Ipswich and beyond and it simply cannot be left in limbo. Now it is time for the government to honour the investment, continue the momentum and deliver the infrastructure that this community has been waiting for and rightly deserves.

The second update I want to talk about is the QEII Hospital expansion project, which appears to be progressing on schedule. This \$619 million hospital expansion has already completed some of its objectives, including a 28-bed medical ward and an allied health and ambulatory care services building. In late 2024 two new projects were started—a brand new car park and a new clinical building. I recently had the pleasure of attending the naming ceremonies for the four cranes currently on the site, with one of them, as I have spoken about in this House previously, being named after Stan Bellas—one of the most remarkable volunteers I have had the pleasure to know. Stan has been volunteering at the QEII Hospital for more than 25 years. Some constituents have raised concerns about traffic congestion during the ongoing works, and I am actively engaging with both local residents and Brisbane City Council to ensure parking restrictions are enforced.

I also want to acknowledge the inclusion of the \$30 million upgrade to the Upper Mount Gravatt police facility in the state budget. This facility serves several suburbs within my electorate and it is important that members of the Queensland police force have proper facilities to operate in.

Now I will turn back to the rest of the disappointing budget. The debt is higher than promised, infrastructure projects have been delayed and millions of Queensland families will miss out on much needed cost-of-living relief. Instead of a fresh start, this budget represents a false start for those who are struggling the most. Right now in Brisbane it is estimated that around 1,377 people are experiencing homelessness and, on top of that, we face an unmet housing need of over 5,600 dwellings. These are not just numbers; these are people without a safe place to sleep, families struggling to make ends meet and young people with nowhere to go, and yet this budget does nothing to address the growing crisis in social and affordable housing here in Queensland. It is a missed opportunity and it is Queenslanders who pay the price.

First home buyers have been hit the hardest by this budget. The so-called Boost to Buy scheme has been capped at just 1,000 places. To make matters worse, it is restricted to homes valued at under \$1 million which locks out many would-be home owners, especially in parts of South-East Queensland. The median dwelling price in Brisbane now sits at appropriately \$918,000 as of May 2025. This government's policies are leaving many first home buyers in the dust, unable to access a basic homeownership dream.

The government claims to be taking action on waste, capping non-frontline senior executive public servant numbers until 2028 and imposing a hiring freeze to save \$18 million over four years. It is also promising cuts in consultant spending by setting up its own Queensland government services organisation. While cutting back on waste is important, the question remains: will these savings translate into meaningful benefits for the people of Queensland, or are we just seeing a political move to paint the budget as 'tough on waste' without real impacts?

I will now move on to another Labor initiative, and that is the mental health levy that was introduced by the Labor government in 2022-23. I also acknowledge the significant concerns raised by the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists in Queensland. It has made it clear that the state government's 2025-26 budget fails to address the serious shortfalls in Queensland's mental health system—this, despite the government having access to significant funds through the mental health levy. According to the college, there is an urgent need for greater investment in our mental health workforce as well as infrastructure like hospital beds and community-based mental health services. Queenslanders deserve transparency. The government must clearly show where every dollar from the mental health levy is going and ensure that funding is directed where it is truly needed—into more beds, better community services and, most importantly, into building and supporting a stronger mental health workforce.

It was always a given that the government would recommit to its pledge to spend \$7.1 billion on Olympic Games venues, including the Victoria Park stadium. This budget reaffirms that promise, with the delivery of minor venues like the Sunshine Coast Stadium, the Barlow Park stadium in Cairns and the Moreton Bay Indoor Sports Centre.


I will now move on to another aspect of the key deliverables that were spoken about by the Treasurer in the budget, and that is supporting aspiring teachers and continuing programs to boost Queensland's teacher workforce and, as part of the More Teachers, Better Education commitment, provide more opportunities for teachers and teacher aides to access professional development in behaviour management, inclusive education, and science, technology, engineering and mathematics. If the government is serious about supporting aspiring teachers and continuing programs to boost Queensland's teaching workforce as part of the More Teachers, Better Education commitment, why does the LNP government tell teachers that a three per cent increase starting in July, with an additional 2.5 per cent rise in each of the following two years, is all they are worth? This barely exceeds the current official inflation rate of 2.4 per cent and falls well short of addressing the actual rapidly rising living costs workers are facing. Moreover, the proposal would also eliminate the cost-of-living adjustment payments that were promised under the 2022 agreement. If this government is serious about teacher retention, pay them what they are worth. If this government is serious about attracting teachers to start a career in teaching, pay them what they are worth.

The LNP's promise to reduce total debt looks increasingly unlikely. In fact, their own Mid-Year Fiscal and Economic Review budget update from January 2025 predicted that Queensland's total debt would hit \$217.8 billion by 2027-28. The current budget claims that under the LNP total debt will be \$190.4 billion by 2027-28, but let us be clear: Labor's final budget had that same debt figure at \$172 billion. Even more concerning, the budget papers themselves warn of a long-term deterioration in Queensland's fiscal position which could lead to heightened interest payments in the foreseeable future. While they are touting reduced debt, it is clear that the LNP government's fiscal approach is not addressing the long-term fiscal challenges.

Under 'Whole-of-government measures', the budget includes a \$250 million commitment to the Games On! grassroots infrastructure program. This funding will go towards supporting grassroots sporting clubs and schools, with the goal of upgrading fields, pitches, courts, clubhouses and other key sporting facilities. However, when reviewing the list of recipients for the Games On! program, my community is disappointed to find that no legacy projects are included. If the LNP is genuinely concerned about youth crime, I would expect them to invest in projects that provide young people with positive spaces for sports and recreation. For example, in my electorate, there is a significant shortage of basketball facilities.

I want to highlight a proposal from Robertson State School in my electorate, where they have submitted a 3D plan for a much needed multipurpose sports centre. This facility would not only benefit the school but also serve the wider Toohey community. This facility is not just about providing a place for children to play sports like basketball; it is about creating a lasting legacy. It would also foster genuine multiculturalism and encourage a strong sense of identity and belonging for future generations. This is the kind of investment in community infrastructure that truly strengthens our society. I would like to understand why this infrastructure proposal was rejected so quickly by the Minister for Education and the Arts. Was it not eligible for funding under the Games On! grassroots infrastructure program or the \$100 million commitment to build and upgrade school sports infrastructure and provide sports equipment to increase student participation in sports across all Queensland schools? This is exactly what the proposed multipurpose sports centre at Robertson would do. This project could create an incredible legacy for my community.

In the 2024-2025 budget, the former Labor government committed \$25 million as part of the broader \$80 million Queensland Battery Industry Strategy implementation, yet I cannot find any mention of this commitment in the current LNP budget. If the LNP is abandoning this strategy, this is not just a case of shifting priorities; it is a step backwards. By walking away, the LNP risk undermining sovereign manufacturing and jeopardising the future of a growing industry that holds immense potential to power Queensland's economic and energy future. I ask the government: what has happened to the Queensland Battery Industry Strategy?

 **Hon. AJ PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (Minister for Primary Industries) (3.33 pm): I rise to speak on the 2025 budget. The budget continues the Crisafulli government's commitment to doing what we promised while also fixing the former government's budgetary mess. We are delivering for Queensland

with a better lifestyle through a stronger economy. This budget respects taxpayers' hard-earned money, is prudent, delivers on our election commitments and provides genuine funding for vital services and infrastructure.

Primary industries are a long game. Today's decisions can have significant implications decades down the track. The failure to prepare is not something anyone who works in primary industries supports. Whether it is ensuring we have enough supplies of timber, preparing for major weather events like drought, innovation changes, biosecurity threats or changes in how we do business, preparing for the future is serious business. This budget is the most strategically focused primary industries budget Queensland has seen in a decade. I have watched a decade of Labor budgets. It is clear Labor never valued our primary industries, nor did they understand them. Lack of support, burdensome regulations, incompetent dealing with industry, threatening biosecurity risks and lip-service to ensure a future for the sector all made it harder for primary producers to do what they do best. Labor treated primary industries as a milch cow and a prop for manufactured media opportunities which delivered little. Gone are those days.

The Crisafulli government proudly supports and values our primary industries. We took a bold platform to last year's election aimed at supercharging Queensland's primary industries. Since the election we have been working hard to implement our plan. We have already delivered historic changes, including inclusion of replanting and reseeding in disaster assistance, widened the definition of primary producer to increase eligibility and removed onerous red tape. These are just some examples of what we have already achieved. Our budget continues to implement what we said we would do. The Department of Primary Industry's budget of \$817.2 million—an increase of \$100 million from last year—demonstrates how seriously we value and support primary industries and the rural and regional communities they underpin. We are funding programs which the former Labor government planned to finish next week. My vision is to return to a culture where the department was seen as a true partner—an enabler, not an inhibitor.

Before the election, the Premier and I unveiled our bold vision to increase the value of Queensland's primary production to \$30 billion by 2030. Industry is excited that for once in a generation a government has set a bold vision which puts it front and centre. That is what our blueprint is all about. Over the past five months, more than 3,200 Queenslanders have contributed their ideas, insights and experiences to shape our blueprint, Primary Industries Prosper 2050. This outpouring of goodwill and intent is the largest stakeholder engagement exercise Queensland's primary industries have witnessed in at least a decade. The Crisafulli government knows and understands many issues which impact primary industries are adjacent to my portfolio responsibilities. That is why the whole of the government will take ownership of this blueprint. We know how to deliver.

Supporting this blueprint will be five-year action plans. They will be our benchmarks. These action plans are transformational and will help steer the DPI to realign the services it offers to better support industry. To fuel innovation and support these ambitious goals, our budget establishes a \$30 million Sowing the Seeds of Farming Innovation Fund. This landmark fund will support extension, research, technology and development priorities identified directly through our industry consultation process. The budget also includes a \$180 million Sovereign Industry Development Fund which, through the Deputy Premier's portfolio, will accelerate industry development through priority industries like biofuels. Funding of \$6.4 million to be spent across the Gatton Research Facility, the Redlands Research Facility and the Central Queensland Smart Cropping Centre will help ensure our producers have access to cutting-edge research and technology.

Queensland's primary industries face unprecedented biosecurity challenges. From varroa mite threatening our bee and horticulture industries, fire ants invading our unique landscapes, feral pigs destroying crops, to emerging threats that could devastate our export markets, the need for robust biosecurity has never been greater. This budget commits \$60.9 million to bolster Queensland's biosecurity efforts. It includes a milestone commitment to deliver the first tranche of 100 additional frontline officers strategically placed at biosecurity hotspots across our regions. These officers are the frontline defenders of Queensland's agricultural prosperity and will work hand in hand with local governments right across this state. Colin Fruk, 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 horticulture industries.

He went on to say that fire ants pose a major risk and that we finally have a government that takes the risk of their spread seriously. We are not merely responding to threats; we are getting ahead of them. We are working to resolve Labor's disastrous decision to close our most northern line of

biosecurity defence, the Cape York Biosecurity Centre in Coen. I will have more to say on that later this year. The former government's mismanagement of the National Fire Ant Eradication Program created major biosecurity risks. There were three scathing reports and a Senate inquiry about Labor's mismanagement. They were ignored and fire ants spread to now occupy 800,000 hectares of South-East Queensland. There are years of dedicated eradication work ahead of us.

We are leading the eradication program with the good governance it deserves while also building community and industry capability, focusing our compliance efforts on the highest risk areas. Reece Pianta of the Invasive Species Council welcomes our commitment, saying, 'The eradication efforts are working.' Increased suppression funding was a key recommendation of independent reviews that were either dismissed or, more concerningly, ignored by the former government. Just like we said we would, we are implementing those recommendations. We have committed an additional \$24 million over two years to deliver Fire Ant Suppression Taskforce aerial suppression activities to significantly reduce fire ant densities across affected areas. This funding is in addition to our eradication funding. As I did months ago, I suggest the shadow minister write to his federal Labor colleagues to support us in our increased suppression efforts.

Our collaboration with industry and beekeepers to manage the impacts of varroa mite demonstrates our commitment to working with, not against, those who understand these challenges best. We are partnering with stakeholders to develop and implement regionally focused action plans and additional funding to manage invasive species like feral pigs, ensuring our responses are tailored to local conditions and needs.

For generations, primary producers have dealt with adverse weather conditions. They have always had to manage their businesses to deal with many factors outside their control. Drought is an ever-present and devastating threat to primary production and the communities that rely on them. It is welcome news that no areas of Queensland are currently drought declared. We are now preparing for the future. This budget commits up to \$51.9 million over four years to support important programs like the Farm Business Resilience Program, the Regional Drought Resilience Planning Program and the Drought Preparedness Grant Scheme. This investment is not about crisis management; it is about building resilience before the next drought arrives. Queensland Farmers' Federation CEO, Jo Sheppard, welcomed our investment in biosecurity and support to prepare for future droughts.

We have had three natural disasters this year across the north, west and south-east. In a huge win for primary producers, we worked constructively with the federal Labor government on significant changes to disaster funding. Farmers can access assistance for reseedling and replanting destroyed crops, and changes to the definition of 'primary producer' mean more producers can access funding. So far, 562 grants have been approved with a total value of approximately \$4.3 million. The department of water has also waived water allocation fees for the next two years for disaster affected landholders. For years, producers have been crying out for this kind of support from their state and federal governments. We were able to sort this out with the federal Labor government. For a decade, the state Labor government did nothing. Dan Galligan of Canegrowers Queensland said—

It's a great thing that we've seen governments and Ministers working together to solve a problem particularly only seven months into this term. It's a tremendous thing to see problems being solved by Governments that are listening.

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—

Mr Speaker, Queensland faces an unprecedented challenge in building one million new homes by 2044. Central to this challenge is ensuring access to the timber required for construction. First, Labor had a plan which was never delivered, then they had an unfunded plan.

In 2019, Labor Premier Palaszczuk promised the industry an action plan. Premier Palaszczuk never delivered. It promised a two-year study into securing future supplies of timber. It was never delivered. Two weeks after last year's Budget, Labor came up with a new \$200 million plan. It was never funded and never budgeted for. They were hollow promises.

Our landmark *Queensland Future Timber Plan* will ensure Queensland has the necessary timber supply to build these homes while promoting the continuity of supply of state-owned timber resources. It is one of the first plans which will result from our 25-year blueprint.

Our plan recognises that sustainable forestry and housing supply are not competing priorities—they're complementary objectives that require careful planning and strategic investment.

It is a fresh start for an industry which was subject to an anti-forestry, anti-timber agenda under Labor.

Mr Speaker, this budget recognises that different regions face different challenges and opportunities.

We are partnering with Canegrowers Queensland to develop an industry led *Far North Queensland Cane Expansion Plan*. It recognises the unique potential of the far north region for agricultural growth.

We are providing \$12.5 million in support over three years for cane producers affected by last year's closure of Mossman Mill. This assistance demonstrates our commitment to standing side by side on a way forward continuing to ensure the next crop is harvested.

\$4.5 million over two years for a bigger and better Beef 2027 acknowledges the importance of bringing our industry together, driving economic activity in Rockhampton, our country's beef capital.

Mr Speaker, the future of Queensland's primary industries depends on having a skilled and agile workforce. Concerningly, Labor was going to end funding for workforce programs where the department worked closely with organisations like QFF and Queensland Fruit and Vegetable Growers. Funding was set to end next week.

We've saved this program and importantly we will make it more fit for purpose.

Our expanded program will see us partner with primary industry peak bodies, the Department of Education, and the Department of Trade, Employment and Training, to grow this essential workforce, ensuring our industries have the people they need.

Mr Speaker, Queensland's commercial and recreational fishing sectors are fundamental to our coastal communities and delivering food security.

This budget delivers up to \$3.3 million for replacements and upgrades to our vessels and marine equipment, ensuring our fisheries officers can undertake their regulatory functions with the modern equipment they deserve.

We know Labor made decisions based on ideology, not science.

It's incomprehensible that Labor secretly planned to shut down any form of fisheries science capability within the department.

I was astonished to learn that funding for this important part of fisheries Queensland would cease next week. We will be properly funding fisheries science within the department. It will not be cut like Labor had earmarked.

Mr Speaker, we committed to supporting our fishing sectors by only legislating scientifically backed changes to regulation and fairly compensating all fishers for any changes required.

It has already started.

Our commitment to review the scientific assessment of Spanish Mackerel populations in the Great Barrier Reef was commended last month by the United Recreational Fishers President, Jeff Knuth. He said: *"the previous Queensland Government's scientific approach had significant methodological limitations that led to unnecessary restrictive fishing regulation."*

Mr Speaker, just last week we lifted the Investment Warnings that were an albatross around the neck of the commercial fishing industry.

This represents a fundamental shift from the heavy-handed, ideologically driven approach of previous governments to one based on science, consultation, and fairness. The decision would help grow the industry which generates about \$354 million a year.

Queensland Seafood Industry Association executive officer David Bobbermen told the ABC he was *"ecstatic"* and it *"would give the industry a renewed purpose..... He said: "This is lifting the shackles off the wild-caught seafood industry.... (It) will encourage young people to enter the fishery and do so with confidence."*

The Australian Marine Conservation Society's Great Barrier Reef campaign manager Simon Miller, said he *"hoped the change would mean more innovation and modernisation in the industry to improve sustainable fishing practices."*

Mr Speaker, gone are the days of fisheries decisions being made based on left-leaning ideology.

Our \$88.2 million *Shark Management Plan* represents the Crisafulli Government's commitment to keeping beachgoers and water users safe, whilst protecting our tourism reputation and the jobs that rely on it.

This record investment to strengthen the Shark Program is the single biggest improvement since it began 63 years ago. We will be working with Surf Lifesaving Queensland to better equip them to protect swimmers.

Mr Speaker, the former Labor government was trialling drones. The Crisafulli Government is not only making the drone program permanent, but we are also doubling the number of beaches from 10 to 20.

Mr Speaker, this budget lays the foundation for the fresh start Gympie residents voted for. It addresses Labor's youth crime, health, housing, and cost of living crisis.

It delivers funding for a new permanent fire and rescue station in Gympie South, a business case for the Glenwood Ambulance Station, to buy land for a new Rainbow Beach police station, for local community organisations, upgrades at One Mile School, the Bruce Highway, and local roads.

Mr Speaker, this budget represents a fundamental departure from the approach of previous governments.

Where they saw primary industries as an afterthought, we see them as foundational to Queensland's economic prosperity.


Where they ignored industry voices, we've actively sought and incorporated their expertise. Where they delayed and deferred, we're delivering action and investment. Where they sought cuts to the department, we are delivering investment to grow its capacity and capability.

Primary industries are central to the Crisafulli Government's vision to deliver a better lifestyle through a stronger economy and a plan for Queensland's future.

Mr Speaker, Queensland's primary industries have never had a government more committed to their success.

This budget proves that commitment in the most tangible way possible through strategic investment, genuine partnership, and unwavering support for the people who help feed, clothe, and house not just Queensland, but the world.

We are delivering and will continue to deliver.

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferry Grove—ALP) (3.42 pm): Budgets are clear statements of what governments value. Where governments put their resources says everything about their commitments and how they value the people they represent. This budget certainly tells the people who live in the Ferry Grove electorate what this government values and it is not my constituents. This budget treats people in my electorate as an afterthought. They are people who build our homes, drive on our roads and send their kids to our schools. For the previous 10 years, the constituents of the Ferry Grove electorate have been represented. Labor governments have heard them and delivered for them. Labor governments improved their roads, their public transport infrastructure and their schools.

This budget, on the other hand, fails to deliver. It fails to deliver for our local schools, our local roads and our local services. It pushes the future over the horizon and out of sight as planned upgrades have been delayed or forgotten. Long-term plans have been made to deliver the infrastructure Brisbane's north-west needs to thrive and prosper and much has already been delivered, but much is yet to come. That holistic plan of necessary investments is now under threat as it is clear this government has stumbled at the first real hurdle.

On education, during my time in this place previous Labor governments have built over 60 new and refurbished classrooms. Those classroom investments were necessary to address existing classroom needs—some rooms are up to 90 years old—and the shortfall in classroom spaces as our local suburbs become revitalised with new families moving into the electorate. That population expansion has also pushed school numbers across the board in most of our local schools. That growth has necessitated other investment such as in the STEM Centre of Excellence for Ferry Grove State High School, which incorporates cutting-edge educational fabrication and engineering equipment to educate the next generation of Queensland inventors and innovators. It also includes the new learning centre at Newmarket State School, which incorporates its first-ever music room and instrument storage facility.

Mitchelton Special School also needed support. That is why the Labor government built new facilities and provided the largest upgrade the school has ever seen in its history. I note that earlier this week the Premier, the Treasurer and the education minister visited Mitchelton Special School in my electorate, to use it as an example of how great special schools can be and what their special school plans could look like. I commend them for visiting the school and educating themselves on what good governments deliver. They should take Labor's blueprint and replicate it.

Ferry Hills State School recently celebrated its 50-year anniversary. It has been the beneficiary of a long-awaited new amenities block. We focused on the details as we wanted to make sure our students are comfortable at school. We air-conditioned all Queensland classrooms because we wanted to keep kids cool and comfortable so that they can focus on learning. That is another great Labor initiative.

Other local schools have benefited from Labor's attention to the education needs of our students. Under Labor, four of our local schools received new and upgraded multipurpose halls. The most recent of those halls was built at Oakleigh State School. I was pleased that the education minister, John-Paul Langbroek, visited the school earlier this month to officially open that great Labor initiative. He was quite impressed by the new hall, as well he should be. Labor governments deliver the infrastructure that our students need.

Mr Langbroek: You're welcome.

Mr FURNER: Thank you. The Patricks Road State School hall had a significant upgrade to deliver the internal hall infrastructure the school needs. The school now has a sports undercroft that will make oval activities far better resourced. Ferry Grove High School grew so large it could no longer hold an all-school assembly indoors. Today, because of the investment of the Labor government, Ferry Grove High School can hold an all-school assembly in their double-sized sports and performance hall. Mitchelton State High School has also received a new hall thanks to the previous Labor government, in addition to a new resource and coding centre and covered double basketball courts. Labor governments deliver for education whereas the LNP are obviously still learning.

I turn to transport and roads. Anyone who has travelled in Brisbane's north-west along Samford Road in peak hour would know the value of effective traffic-busting programs. Today, Samford Road carries over 15 million car journeys per year. That is why Labor undertook the Samford Road intersection improvement program that delivered the first full traffic assessment of Samford Road in a generation. That has delivered a series of sensible, fully planned and cost-effective solutions to the various intersections. Earlier this month, the department completed works on the Glen Holm Street turning pocket, which is already saving people time on their way home from work of an evening. These are sensible solutions to long-term problems and have been delivered in systematic and cost-effective ways by Labor governments.

The next intersection upgrade that needs to be delivered as part of the program is the Osborne Road and Samford Road intersection. Surveys have been completed and the technical business cases have been submitted. It is ready to go, but it was not funded in this budget. Like so many other congestion-busting solutions, it has been pushed down the road and off into the never-never. That is interesting as the LNP candidate for Ryan committed to it at the recent federal election. The LNP committed to it and then dropped the ball. That is hardly surprising.

Everyone in this place knows that it is Labor that has looked out for the needs of public transport commuters. Labor committed to a massive expansion of parking at the Ferny Grove railway station. Under the LNP, commuters were not prioritised. Despite the best rebranding efforts of the new government's spin doctors, it was the previous Labor government that put commuters first by introducing 50-cent fares.

Every day leading up to polling day and at pre-poll at the last election, someone came up to me to thank me for Labor's 50-cent fares. In fact, only the other week I was with the member for Inala at a hearing. On behalf of themselves and their organisation, one of the witnesses expressed their gratitude for Labor's 50-cent fares. I heard copious times, not only at hearings but also from people interstate, about the success of this fantastic Labor initiative. These are Labor values. These are Queensland values. These are maroon values.

When it comes to cost-of-living savings, the LNP only came to the table when they were dragged kicking and screaming by the previous Labor government. Even then they had to rename the program and break out the colouring-in pencils just to feel safe. It is not just 50-cent fares that have been subject to the Premier's rebranding project. FairPlay vouchers, which were a roaring success, have been rebranded 'Knock On!' vouchers—sorry, Play On! vouchers. Those opposite could not even be bothered continuing the 20 per cent discount on rego and they have ditched the universal electricity rebate so that today average Queensland families will be \$1,000 worse off. The Premier promised that energy bills would be cheaper. Just like his promise that debt would be lower, that is a promise that is already broken. After less than one year of the LNP being in charge, Queensland has gone from surplus to deficit.


I turn to the meagre scraps the Treasurer has thrown our way. I cannot help but notice that this LNP government has taken to providing money to their cash-strapped mates in the Brisbane City Council and packaging it up as a state initiative. We all know what a desperate state the BCC is in. Last year the Labor government allocated \$3.9 million to them to fix Minnie Street in Upper Kedron, something I note has been claimed all over again by this Treasurer as his own idea. On top of this Labor initiative, the Treasurer has now added money, as I understand, for the Brisbane City Council to roll out CCTV and to build a sportsground in Upper Kedron. While these investments are welcome, it is clear they should have been provided by that council.

I also note that the government chose to build another great Labor initiative, the Ferny Grove Police Station, which was delivered by the Beattie Labor government. The men and women at Ferny Grove police do a great job. I am quite often down there celebrating their successes in keeping our community safe. This police station has served them well for the last 27 years. Labor builds projects that are valuable and built to last. It is great to see this government building on another Labor success.

In conclusion, when Labor builds projects we do it as part of fiscally responsible, well-managed Labor budgets—budgets which have consistently delivered surpluses to Queensland, unlike this year's reckless budget, which mortgaged Queensland's future. For all this debt, the Premier has still found money to advertise this bad budget in every major media outlet in Queensland. He has blown money on polling which will never see the light of day. What is in this polling that is so opposed to what Queenslanders want that they are so afraid to release publicly? Perhaps it is because Queensland might object to this LNP government fundamentally changing what patriotically Queenslanders stand for. For as long as I can remember, Queensland has been synonymous with maroon. What sort of

premier decides Townsville is not good enough for him so he skates off to the Gold Coast and then decides Queensland is not good enough for him so he changes the state colours to New South Wales blue? Seriously! If he does not like it, there is the door. It is bad enough that this budget itself fails to prioritise health, transportation and cost-of-living relief; they actually took the time to design new non-Queensland blue budget covers. It is, frankly, a joke.

I guess I should not have expected anything else from this bumbling Treasurer, but now that we have seen the details of this budget it is clear that the joke is on all Queenslanders. The Crisafulli LNP government's first budget is not boring; it is a bad, scurrilous budget of broken promises. The only good elements are Labor ideas. It overwhelmingly lacks vision from a government that sat in opposition for a decade. Debt is higher than they promised, there are delays in the infrastructure pipeline and millions of families will miss out on cost-of-living relief. Instead of delivering a fresh start for Queensland, this budget is a false start for families doing it tough. In contrast, Labor will always stand with Queenslanders, through the good times and the hard times.

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (3.54 pm): Today I rise to speak on the first budget of the Crisafulli LNP government—a budget that delivers on our promises, restores trust in government and puts Queenslanders first. For my community of Southport, this budget marks a real turning point. After years of neglect under the former Labor government, we are finally seeing meaningful investment in the people, services and places that hold our city together. The foundations of our health system, our housing system and our communities have been left crumbling for too long. This budget is about rebuilding those foundations with discipline, with compassion and with a clear vision for the future.

Let's not forget the mess we have inherited. For more than a decade Labor talked big, spent big and delivered very little. Housing budgets flatlined while homelessness exploded. Youth crime became a crisis, while funding for early intervention lagged behind. Southport residents waited in record numbers for access to basic services while billions were poured into flashy announcements with no substance behind them. This budget changes that course.

Let me start with housing and homelessness, because in Southport it is the issue people raise with me more than any other. For years our city has been at the centre of a housing crisis. The waiting lists for social housing have grown longer, the number of people sleeping rough has gone up and the pipeline of new homes under the former government remained frozen. The truth is: under Labor, Queensland's housing budget barely moved—no meaningful increases, no urgency and no leadership.

This budget begins to turn that around. We are delivering real housing outcomes for the people of Southport. The investment into West Tower is a clear example of that. This project will deliver 200 new units of supportive accommodation right in the heart of our community. I want to be clear: this is not just another apartment building; it is a proven model—one that combines stable housing with wraparound services like mental health support, drug and alcohol treatment, and employment pathways. This is part of 53,500 social and community homes that we will deliver by 2044. For people who have been trapped in the revolving door between homelessness, crisis care and the justice system, this is a pathway out. This is what real progress looks like. Housing is not just about bricks and mortar; it is about restoring dignity. It is about ensuring that everyone in our community has a safe place to sleep, a roof over their head and the support they need to rebuild their lives. That is what this budget delivers.

We are also investing in the services that keep our communities together. This year's budget includes \$2 million for the Gold Coast Community Legal Centre in Southport. This was one of our election commitments, and I am proud to say that we are delivering. For years this centre has done incredible work on a shoestring budget and operating from a former kindy—poorly maintained and poorly located. They help people who cannot afford a lawyer—people facing eviction, survivors of domestic violence, young people in legal trouble and seniors dealing with financial abuse. Tanya Diessel, CEO of Gold Coast Community Legal Centre, told me that their current facility is falling apart. This funding will allow them to move into a more appropriate and secure premises. They will be able to expand, reduce waitlists and make sure no Queenslanders falls through the cracks.

This budget also delivers \$2 million for U3A Southport—another promise we made and another promise we have kept. For years the U3A have operated out of borrowed rooms and hired halls. Despite those challenges, they have continued to grow. They have delivered outstanding programs for lifelong learning, social connection and community engagement for seniors. Now they will finally have a permanent home. Former president of the U3A Southport, Lou Stevens, has been a tireless advocate for expansion and a place to call home. I am looking forward to working with the current president, Trish Darnedde and committee member Kim Carter to find a bigger, better home for U3A Southport. Social

isolation and loneliness impact many in our community. This is more than just a building; it is about investing in our seniors. It is about respect for our volunteers and the quiet community leaders who make Southport such a special place to live.

More than a decade ago, Marco Renai started mentoring a few young men at his gym in Upton Street, Bundall. From these small beginnings, the Men of Business Academy was created through hard work and passion. Today, he and his wife, Amber, head up a huge team of volunteers, staff and supporters to teach, mentor and train hundreds of young men from rented buildings in the heart of Southport. This budget delivers \$10 million in funding to support the incredible work they do in early intervention.

The MoB Academy takes young men who have fallen out of the traditional education system and gives them structure, purpose and belief in themselves. These are kids who have faced real adversity, come from broken homes, disengaged and experienced trauma, and what they find at MoB is not just an education but a second chance, a place to call home. The results speak for themselves. MoB graduates are finding jobs, starting apprenticeships and giving back to their communities. This is Gold Standard Early Intervention done properly, and this investment will help them expand, reach more young men and keep changing lives.

Our government has secured additional specialist spaces for Keebra Park State High School. This will not just be for those students; it will also be for students across the electorate who will have access to the facility.

We have delivered a \$33.1 billion record investment into health. For years, Southport residents have been told that better health services are on the way, that upgrades are coming and that expansions are coming. Under the previous government, we saw delay after delay, budget blowouts and missed targets. Labor dragged their feet on the refurbishment of the Southport Ambulance Station. I can confirm that our government has provided \$14 million for this long overdue refurbishment, and it is all part of how we are providing a fresh start for Queensland.

I am pleased that this budget finally makes the investments we have needed for so long. We know that health is not just about hospitals; it is about access and it is about ensuring that people can get the care they need when they need it. This budget lays the groundwork for that.

This budget is not just about fixing problems; it is about building trust. For too long Queenslanders have felt like government was not working for them, that the promises did not match the outcomes and that the announcements were made and then quietly forgotten. We have changed that. This is a budget built on discipline. It is focused on delivery, not spin, and on outcomes, not slogans. As a government, we are only just getting started. We have backed our election commitments. We have funded the front line. We have shown Queenslanders what responsible, compassionate government looks like. Our budget will include \$147.9 million in new money to better equip our police with things like the latest tasers and tyre deflation devices. This is an example of how tough we will be on crime. This is a budget for Southport—a budget that delivers for the people who make our community strong.

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 in the *Record of Proceedings*.

The speech read as follows—

This Budget also restores the kind of discipline and planning that Queensland hasn't seen in a decade. For too long, our state was defined by short-term announcements, debt blowouts, and wasted opportunity. This Budget takes a different path—one that delivers, one that listens, and one that lays the groundwork for generational change.

The figures speak for themselves.

We're investing \$5.75 billion in delivering Faster Rail between Logan and the Gold Coast. It's a transformational project that will cut travel times, reduce pressure on the M1, and support job creation both during and after construction. This kind of long-range infrastructure is exactly what's needed for a city like the Gold Coast, one of the fastest growing regions in the country.

We've also committed to 15 new schools across Queensland—including six new special schools—to help our kids catch up, keep up, and stay in school. That's on top of \$300 in vouchers for education essentials and kids' sport, giving every family a bit of extra breathing room at a time when cost-of-living pressures remain high.

When it comes to health, this Budget goes further than any before it.

Queenslanders have waited too long for elective surgery, too long in ambulances, and too long in emergency departments. We are investing \$1.7 billion to reduce ambulance ramping and \$1.8 billion to stabilise surgery waitlists. That includes expanding the Surgery Connect program to make use of private hospital capacity and speed up access to treatment.

This government is also delivering more free healthcare than ever before under the Easier Access to Health Services Plan. Nine new CT scanners and six new MRI machines will be deployed to regional centres and satellite health hubs, ensuring that Queenslanders outside the southeast corner can get the diagnostics they need, closer to home.

And we are backing that up with a \$50 million investment in a new Victims Advocate Service, an initiative that will provide practical support, guidance and representation to victims of crime. This is something that has long been needed in Queensland, and I'm proud to support a government that is making it happen.

We're also boosting frontline capacity, with over 4,500 new health workers to be recruited over the next year. This isn't just about numbers on a page, it's about real people delivering real care where it's needed most.

New early intervention and rehabilitation programs are being funded to help young people make better choices, to stay out of the justice system, and to find the support they need before things go too far.

There's also a renewed focus on connecting communities.

We've committed \$100 million through the Country Roads Connect program to improve road safety and flood resilience across regional Queensland. That funding will go to the places that need it most—places that were too often overlooked under the last government.

We're also investing in grassroots sport with the Games On! Program, upgrading facilities from Cairns to Currumbin and from Longreach to Logan. This isn't just about elite athletes, it's about participation, community pride, and giving kids everywhere the chance to get involved.

There's a broader economic story underpinning all of this.

Labor's budgets were propped up by coal royalties, but the underlying weaknesses in the state's finances went unaddressed. This Budget marks the start of a responsible rebuild.

We've inherited record debt and bloated spending. Now, we're setting a new course. The Crisafulli Government is focused on results, not just receipts.

We've introduced a new nation-leading home ownership scheme, Boost to Buy, to help reduce the deposit gap and get more Queenslanders into home ownership sooner. It's a practical solution for a generation that's struggled to get a foothold.

We've abolished stamp duty for new homes purchased by first-time buyers and scrapped Labor's Patients' Tax, which penalised Queenslanders for going to the doctor.

Public transport fares have been slashed to just 50 cents, making Queensland's transport network the most affordable in the country. This will ease congestion, reduce household costs, and get more people back onto trains, buses, and trams.

And for those in the middle, the everyday Queenslanders who just want a safer street, a better hospital, and a more affordable home. We're delivering the kind of government they've been asking for all along.

Mr Speaker, this is just the beginning.

We're not pretending that the problems Labor left behind can be fixed overnight. We know that rebuilding trust, repairing systems, and restoring services takes time. But this Budget is a strong first step.

We've delivered on our election commitments. We've made smart investments that will stand the test of time. And we've shown Queenslanders that they can have a government that is capable, compassionate, and competent.

That's what this Budget delivers. And I commend it to the House.



Mrs NIGHTINGALE (Inala—ALP) (4.02 pm): I rise today to speak on the Appropriation Bill. Let me be clear from the outset: this is not, as the government would have us believe, a boring budget; it is a bad budget. That is not to say there is nothing good in it—there is—but those good parts are overshadowed by what is missing, what has been delayed and what has been deliberately left behind, like the people in my electorate of Inala. The promises made before the election have now been left far behind too, and Queenslanders are paying the price at the hands of a government with no direction and no destination. I will speak more about that later.

First, I want to speak to the good parts of the budget because there is actually a lot in this budget that we agree with, and I will tell you why: all of the good parts are thanks to Labor. For the benefit of the House, I will go through the Labor hits in this budget: 50-cent fares—Labor policy; Help to Buy—Labor initiative; health checks for kids—Labor; FairPlay vouchers—Labor again; and the capital program—a version of ours but theirs is smaller and slower. Every single good idea in this budget was inherited. Queenslanders expected bold thinking, but what they got was a watered-down, repackaged knockoff of the real deal wrapped in blue. Meanwhile, the issues that really matter were quietly pushed aside.

Let's talk about cost-of-living relief. This is a budget that blows away cost-of-living relief support for millions of Queenslanders. Before the election, the member for Broadwater promised he would deliver relief for as long as the crisis lasted. The crisis is still here, but the relief is not. It feels like the moment the last LNP campaign sign was pulled from a front yard the LNP promises went with it. All of that talk of delivery and relief is now just slogans packed up with the corflutes and tossed in the bin with the fresh start that is now rotting alongside it all. It is one broken promise after another.

We will have a budget deficit this year of \$8 billion, despite a promise to Queenslanders of lower debt. It is a budget that will make people wait longer for medical treatment. It has no clear housing plan, cancelled projects and growing waitlists quarter after quarter. Here is the kicker: their solution to the growing social housing list is to kick people off it. That may fudge the housing waitlist numbers but it will not help with homelessness. It is a budget that does nothing to solve the shortage of affordable and social housing.

My electorate is one of the poorest in Queensland. I speak with people every week who are struggling to feed their families. There are parents skipping meals so their children can eat. There are charities turning people away because the demand is simply too high. This budget gives them nothing. That is why Labor is proud to reaffirm its budget reply commitments. Unlike the government, these are promises Labor actually intends to keep: extend the build-to-rent 50 per cent land tax concession indefinitely to increase supply and drive investment; and provide \$10 million in additional funding to community services, neighbourhood centres and food charities to meet growing demand and improve food storage, refrigeration and delivery.

We will advocate for the national adoption of the Activate Australia's Skills campaign because unlocking people's skills and qualifications will see more people in secure, well-paid work. This is a fantastic project, especially in a multicultural community like mine where people have the skills to do the job, just not the recognition of the credentials. This is what Labor does. We do not make excuses; we make progress.

I also want to raise an issue I campaigned on directly. During the election, I committed to repurposing a disused school dental clinic at Durack State School into a flexible learning space and multicultural community hub. This would be a small investment with a huge return, helping disengaged students stay connected to school and giving multicultural families a safe and welcoming place to access support, education and opportunity. Early intervention like this is how we stop youth crime before it starts. Like so many local priorities, this does not appear to have made it into the budget either.

I went looking in the budget documents for signs my community was even on the radar. I did a word search for the number of times 'Inala' was mentioned. It was not—not even once, zero. I also searched the budget for 'Forest Lake', one of Queensland's largest suburbs. It is home to more than 25,000 people, but I found nothing, not a single mention. In fact, all of the suburbs in my electorate were overlooked in this budget, with brief mentions only for Wacol for upgrades to the air handling units at the Tick Fever Centre, for operations at the youth remand centre, for increased capacity at the Arthur Gorrie prison and for a rebadging of Labor's funding for the Queensland Police Academy. There has been no word of extra resources to fix the overcrowded working conditions at the Inala Police Station.

Although I welcome any expenditure in my electorate, this bad budget fails the areas most in need. There has been no mention of money for schools, for transport upgrades, for new health facilities or for community infrastructure. This is a budget that ignores the very real and growing needs of my community. People in my electorate are working longer, paying more and getting less in return. This 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.

What would I like to see in this budget? Let's start with: proper investment in public transport for our growth suburbs like an additional bus service on Blunder Road or extra parking for Richlands station; funding for school infrastructure and resources for students, like more teach aide time because \$100 per student just will not cut it, and respect for teachers and their EB; community health and support hubs, especially where youth mental health, housing stress and domestic violence need is on the rise; funding for homelessness and housing services like Inala Family Accommodation Project; and more funding for drug and alcohol services in my community, where the need is urgent.

Families are being torn apart by addiction. It is driving family breakdown, fuelling domestic and family violence, pushing young people into crime and putting enormous pressure on our already stretched health and child safety services. I hear it from local police. I hear it from school principals. I hear it from parents who are desperate for help and simply cannot get it. There is no excuse for this government to turn its back on a crisis that is playing out every day in our suburbs. Youth crime will not be solved by ignoring these drivers.

There is a lot in this budget that tells us exactly what this new LNP government cares about and, unfortunately, it is not people doing it tough. It is not the battlers. It is not the families living week to week in my electorate. It is certainly not the carers or the volunteers or the community organisations who prop up the safety net this government is letting fall through the cracks like MND Queensland.

I have spoken in this House before about the incredible work this great organisation does for people living with motor neurone disease, for their families and for their carers. They are a small organisation doing massive work, yet the Crisafulli government could not find a single dollar for them, not a single cent. In a media release, MND Queensland said they were 'extremely disappointed' by the government's decision to exclude them from this year's budget. Their acting CEO Alicia Edwards called it 'disheartening and short-sighted'. She was right. I table that media release for the benefit of the House.

Tabled paper: Media release, dated 26 June 2025, by MND Queensland, titled 'MND Queensland deeply disappointed by State Budget decision' [\[825\]](#).

What makes the lack of funding for MND Queensland even more galling is this: under Labor, we had committed \$600,000 to support this vital organisation—seemingly the same amount this new LNP government has quietly spent on taxpayer funded polling in just five months, polling they now refuse to release. Labor's \$600,000 would have gone to helping people live with dignity. It has been reported that the LNP's \$650,000 went to secret focus groups and marketing spin. They will not even tell Queenslanders what they asked or what they learnt.

Thanks to the Crisafulli LNP government, Queensland is now the only state in the country whose MND organisation receives no government support. Even New South Wales—yes, the Blues—fund theirs. I know we like to rib them during State of Origin, but on this issue the Blues have us beat. At least they know when to fund something that is vital. Meanwhile, here in Queensland the LNP did not fund MND Queensland but they did find money to change the coat of arms from maroon to blue.


If this government loves blue so much, I will give them a tip. Cornflowers are blue. That is the official colour of MND awareness. Instead of changing coat of arms and colour palettes, how about spending money on something blue that will fund equipment for people with MND—equipment people need to live? Instead, it went to blue bunting and colour palettes. It is absurd, it is offensive and it is a slap in the face to those who actually need help. That money could have gone to MND Queensland or Meals on Wheels or any number of food banks or community organisations that are stretched to breaking point.

I ask the new members in this place to reflect on these decisions. It just is not right. Sadly, these decisions show a pattern. This government is more focused on rebranding Queensland in its party colours than feeding families, housing people or easing the cost-of-living crisis. It is clear that this is a vanity project from a government that does not know how to put people first.

While the LNP is busy ignoring the Inala electorate and what matters for Queenslanders, I will not and Labor will not either. I will fight every single day in this parliament to make sure our community's voice is heard, to make sure the needs of Inala are not ignored, not shelved and not treated as optional because we matter and our kids matter, as do our workers, our carers, our pensioners—they all deserve better.

While I keep fighting for our fair share, the very least I expect is a budget that shows us where our money is going. This budget has so little detail it is almost insulting. When I was on the P&C, we had to produce better budget documents than this. We had to account for every dollar—show where the money is going and why. I have seen more transparency in a school tuckshop budget than in this one. Somehow the Queensland government, with billions at its disposal, thinks vague, glossy pages and missing timelines will do. It will not. Higher energy bills, higher rego fees, higher debt, broken free TAFE promises and failing to deliver cost-of-living relief will not do either.

It is clear that the LNP promised Queenslanders a kind of budget you would see on a Pinterest-perfect vision board—pretty colours and polished promises—but look closer and it is all style, no substance. It is full of design flaws like a staircase that leads to nowhere—built for likes, not for lives. This bad budget is filtered, framed and fake—styled for the feed, not for the future. Queenslanders deserve better.

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (4.16 pm): I rise to speak to the 2025 state budget, and what a budget it is! The Crisafulli LNP government is delivering the fresh start Queenslanders voted for and the change they deserve. I thank the Treasurer for this, his first budget handed down on Tuesday—a budget that delivers for the people of the northern Gold Coast. Firstly, detailed planning and design is underway for stage 2 of the Coomera Connector, between Shipper Drive and Yawalpah Road. This is in addition to the completion of stage 1 north, due to open in its entirety 10 months ahead of time later this year, with stage 1 central and stage 1 south due to open in 2027.

Coupled with that planning for stage 2 of the Coomera Connector, we are progressing planning to fix the nightmare at exit 54 and the Coomera Town Centre, which includes east-west connector roads north and south of exit 54 and consideration for an additional M1 interchange, as well as easier access to the new 600-bed Coomera Hospital.

Further north at Ormeau, planning and design is progressing for the upgrade and duplication of the exit 45 overpass, an overpass that has been a nightmare for local residents for far too long thanks to Labor's 'stuck in the slow lane' attitude. The good news is that the exit 45 overpass duplication is committed and will be built, with planning progressing to enable construction to commence perhaps as early as the 2027-28 financial year.

Other Transport and Main Roads projects have been confirmed in this budget including the Goldmine Road upgrade, noise barriers at Coomera Springs and exit 41, as well as planning for upgrades of Stapylton Jacobs Well Road between Christensen Road and Woolshed Road.

This coming Monday, the 732 bus service from Pimpama City to the Coomera train station gets an additional bus stop at Halcyon Greens to service that over-50s community of more than 1,000 residents and provide easier public transport access to Arcare aged-care facility so that loved ones can be more easily visited by family. It beggars belief that those opposite did not include the Halcyon Greens bus stop when planning was done, without consultation, for a service that has been hard fought for, desperately needed and four years overdue.

Earlier this week I spoke about the millions of dollars of improvements to our local state schools, so I will not repeat that here. I give a special mention to the new Coomera Special School, which is in planning, to enhance capacity on the northern Gold Coast with the current Coomera State Special School already at capacity.

All of this follows 10 years of a failed Labor government that was letting Queensland down—a desperate Labor government that would do and say something to cling to power; a government that caused a youth crime crisis, a health crisis, a cost-of-living crisis; and a government that treated your money, the taxes you pay, as their own and did not tell you the truth about what they were spending it on.

We have uncovered tens of billions of dollars in project cost blowouts that could have delivered critical infrastructure desperately needed across Queensland, none more so than in the electorate of Coomera on the northern Gold Coast, the fastest growing region in Queensland in the 16 years I have been in this place. There is no better example of Labor's deceit than the irresponsible way the Pioneer-Burdekin pumped hydro scheme was sold by Labor. That project would have cost around \$37 billion, over three times more than Labor told Queenslanders.

Under Labor the cost of living skyrocketed: a 19.9 per cent increase in power bills; a 29 per cent increase in car registration costs; a 29.5 per cent increase in transport costs; and a 79.6 per cent increase in insurance costs. As well, we saw a 36 per cent reduction in new home approvals and housing lot approvals were down 29 per cent. We also have the sad reality that 20,000 Queenslanders are sleeping rough and more than 50,000 Queenslanders are on the social housing waitlist. All of these challenges are compounded by the lowest home ownership rate in Australia—nowhere more so than the northern Gold Coast with 58 per cent home ownership as opposed to 62 per cent for Queensland, the lowest in Australia. Is it any wonder Queenslanders voted for the change they deserve and a fresh start?

In contrast to Labor's failures and deceit, the Crisafulli government promises to restore safety where you live with a raft of tough legislative measures that give our police and the courts the laws they need—laws that were watered down by Labor—and a promise to reinstate health services when and where you need them, with a Hospital Rescue Plan that delivers more beds and a credible plan to deliver them. Under Labor we saw a blowout in construction costs that resulted in the hard-fought-for Coomera Hospital project going from \$1.3 billion to almost \$2.3 billion. Sadly, that \$2.3 billion was only delivering 405 beds and not all of the services the northern Gold Coast community needed and deserved. That sorry tale was just the tip of the iceberg, with Labor's hospital construction program, originally costed at \$9.8 billion, blowing out to around \$17 billion. The Crisafulli government's Hospital Rescue Plan will deliver at least 2,600 beds, 600 of them at the Coomera Hospital. That is 50 per cent more than Labor offered northern Gold Coasters.

We have listened to Queenslanders who lost loved ones because ambulances did not arrive in time or were ramped outside hospitals just metres from the care they so desperately needed. We have listened to Queenslanders left waiting far too long for life-changing surgeries, some now permanently

impaired because of those delays. These are not just stories. They are the lived experiences of Queenslanders under a Labor government that failed to act. They demand not just words but real change. That is exactly what we are delivering.

Under Labor we saw 44.7 per cent ambulance ramping, the worst in Australia. Coupled with ambulance ramping, we have over 60,000 Queenslanders waiting for elective surgery and a record long waitlist of around 290,000 Queenslanders waiting to see a specialist. Included in our Hospital Rescue Plan, as I said earlier, we are delivering more than 2,600 new hospital beds, three brand new hospitals, the new Queensland Cancer Centre, 10 major hospital expansions and upgraded health services across the state. This plan follows a damning review into Labor's \$9.8 billion hospital build, a plan that was riddled with delays, underfunded projects and serious design flaws. As mentioned above, that \$9.8 billion plan is now forecast to cost \$17 billion. Incredibly, under Labor, taxpayers could have paid up to \$250,000 just to build a single hospital car space.

Let's have a closer look at the hard-fought-for Coomera Hospital. Under Labor's failed plan, it had nearly \$1 billion in cost blowouts, delays of at least six months, no pharmacy, no pathology, no outpatient department, no plan for the 600 new beds desperately needed, and no viable connection to the Coomera train station for patients or staff. Contrast that with our Hospital Rescue Plan, which will deliver at least 600 overnight beds, critical services like maternity, day surgery, operating theatres, an ICU, a revised master plan for better public transport access and a much needed multistorey car park. This is what delivering for Queensland looks like.

The Crisafulli government shows Queenslanders respect for their money, respect for the taxes they pay. We are delivering real and meaningful cost-of-living relief for families and first home buyers, everyday Queenslanders chasing the great Australian dream of home ownership. That is why we have extended the \$30,000 first home owner grant for another year through to 30 June 2026. Under the former Labor government this grant was due to expire at the end of the month, shutting the door on thousands of Queenslanders looking to break into the housing market. We are keeping that door open.

After a decade of Labor's housing crisis, we are taking bold action to fix what they failed to do. We are kickstarting new residential developments, abolishing stamp duty for first home buyers, building new homes and rolling out social and community housing across the state. This is all part of our Securing Our Housing Foundations plan, a core election promise delivered in our very first budget. We are also looking at a 20 per cent uplift in funding for specialist homelessness services—a \$208.9 million commitment—indexed annually through to 2027-28. That is long-term certainty for frontline providers and help for Queenslanders doing it tough. Let's be clear: Labor's housing failures left too many Queenslanders without a roof over their heads. They simply did not build the social and community housing needed for our growing population. We will do the heavy lifting to reverse that mistake by Labor, but our work does not stop there.

The Crisafulli government is delivering real cost-of-living support and easing cost-of-living pressures for Queensland families with the introduction of Play On! sports vouchers—\$200 vouchers available for either summer or winter sports. Parents with children aged five to 17 will be eligible to apply. The new initiative is designed to increase participation, particularly for children in regional and rural areas and kids living with a disability. This is particularly important for northern Gold Coast families. More kids go to school on the northern Gold Coast than any other electorate in the state. Labor's last budget papers clearly showed that funding for the previous sports voucher program was cut. They were not planning to continue it. The Crisafulli government is restoring and expanding this vital program. Originally created by the LNP more than a decade ago, these vouchers ensure children can participate in the sport they love, no matter the season. This is about supporting families, encouraging healthy lifestyles and giving every child the chance to get involved in community sport. This is real cost-of-living help. With this, the Crisafulli's government's first budget, we are just getting started. We are delivering a fresh start for Queensland.

Mr Deputy Speaker, you have 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—

The Making Our Community Safer Plan was developed after four years of listening to Queenslanders share their lived experiences during Labor's Youth Crime Crisis.

We heard from families too frightened to sleep at night after their homes were invaded. We've spoken with small business owners and staff who have lost their livelihoods following repeated break-ins. And we've listened to communities who feel unsafe because youth offenders are roaming the streets without consequence.

We have stood shoulder to shoulder with Queenslanders grieving loved ones lost to crime. We've supported families struggling to pay their bills or get to work after their cars were stolen. We've listened to the frustration of small business owners who can no longer afford to rebuild after being repeatedly targeted by armed criminals.

Every Queenslander deserves to feel safe—in their home, at work, and in their neighbourhood. Our plan is built on real stories and real experiences and deliver real solutions to make our communities safer.

We're taking strong, decisive action to fix the Youth Crime Crisis. Our Adult Crime, Adult Time laws are now in place, with tough consequences for 33 serious offences.

Labor's failures saw total crime up 27%, car theft up 101%, break-ins up 44% and assaults are up 198%.

Since the LNP have taken over and laws came into effect in December, early police data shows positive signs.

As of May 1st, we had an 8.2% reduction in stolen cars, 8.4% reduction in break-ins, 4.8% reduction in robberies and 16.9% reduction in wounding.

For too long, Labor allowed youth offenders to slip through the cracks. Weak laws, no consequences. That's over.

But that's just one aspect of what needs to be done.

The Crisafulli Government are committed to turning the youth crime crisis around, not just in the immediate future but for the decades ahead.

We're delivering for Queensland in this space with new crime prevention schools to re-engage at-risk youth and prevent the next generation of youth offenders.

Reoffending rates skyrocketed under the former Labor Government and these schools will help reduce the cycle of hardcore repeat youth offenders that flourished under Labor's weak laws.

The schools will be based on the Gold Coast, as well as Townsville, Rockhampton, and Ipswich, with capacity for up to 900 students across the State who have fallen out of mainstream schooling.

In fact, this Budget delivers a record investment in youth crime fighting programs, with these schools just one part of the mix.

Under the former Labor Government, weak laws allowed crime to flourish for over a decade, failing to hold offenders accountable and putting Queenslanders at risk.

We're putting more police on the frontline and strengthening laws to make our communities safer.

This is more than legislation—it's a promise kept, and a critical step in protecting Queenslanders from senseless acts of violence.

It will take time to reverse the damage, but we're committed to restoring safety in communities.

We are determined to give every Queensland kid the best possible chance to start school strong, with our healthy kindy kids program.

For too long, Queensland kids with learning difficulties were allowed to slip through the cracks, but we are ensuring they get the support they deserve.

Through targeted and practical intervention, we are giving Queensland kids the best possible start and backing parents with the support they need.

60,000 Queensland kids are set to benefit from free health checks at kindergarten through a new \$37.5 million Healthy Kindy Kids program being delivered in this, our first Budget.

Free health checks will include vision, hearing and speech development checks, as part of our commitment to deliver health services when you need them.

The Healthy Kindy Kids program will be rolled out and identify any early concerns to ensure young children have the right start in their educational journey.

Early Childhood Educators have reported undiagnosed health and development issues were continuing to cause children to fall behind in their early years of education, leading to long-term learning difficulties.

This in turn leads to frustration for our children, causing many to drop out of school, with many ending up in the youth justice system, instead of the education system.

We're also making sure the 2032 Games deliver lasting benefits for all Queenslanders.

Under Labour we had 1100 days of Olympic chaos.


We've introduced legislation giving the Games Independent Infrastructure and Coordination Authority—or GIICA—the power to override outdated planning rules to deliver venues like Brisbane Stadium at Victoria Park.

This means we can get on with the job—delivering the Games on time, on budget, and creating a generational legacy for our state.

The LNP is giving Queenslanders the fresh start they voted for—a government that listens, that acts, and that gets things done.

A government that puts people first, restores integrity, and builds for the future.

With this, the Crisafulli government's first budget, we're just getting started. We're delivering a fresh start for Queensland.

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (4.26 pm): This week the Crisafulli LNP government has handed down its first budget. The Crisafulli LNP government says it is a boring budget, but it is not; it is a bad budget. It is a bad budget for the Morayfield state electorate and a bad budget for Queensland. This dodgy LNP budget is full of deficits, debt and deception. It is dismissive of local needs. The Crisafulli LNP government promised a fresh start, but you cannot have a fresh start with a boring budget. You cannot have a fresh start with a bad budget. This is a bad start. This is a regressive first step. This bad budget sets the tone for the government. It is a budget of broken promises and it signals tougher times ahead for Queenslanders.

The LNP Crisafulli government promised lower debt, lower energy bills and that cost-of-living relief will be prioritised; however, this bad budget does none of those things. Debt is significantly higher, showing that the LNP cannot be trusted to respect taxpayers' money. Power bills will be significantly higher this year, showing that the LNP has already given up on their promise of cheaper power bills. In the midst of an ongoing cost-of-living crisis, the LNP has ripped out cost-of-living relief measures that help Queenslanders with their household budgets. The universal household energy rebate of \$1,000 is gone and car registration will go up this year because of the LNP's decisions.

I had a look at the budget. I am normally very thorough with the budget documents, but I have had a bit of help this year. I went to the Treasury website to look at the Capital Statement Map to see what was in it for the Morayfield state electorate. There are two blue dots on the Capital Statement Map for two projects. One is the Caboolture Hospital expansion, which is mostly finished. It started three years ago. The main building was officially opened 18 months ago. That is a Labor project; it is not a new project. The second one is the Resilient Homes Fund for the flood of a few years ago. That is not an LNP project. Otherwise, there is nothing on the Capital Statement Map on the Treasury website.

I went through the other document to see what was in the Morayfield state electorate. It has the Caboolture Hospital redevelopment, where the government is spruiking a budget of over \$360 million for an extra 130 beds, but that has already been delivered. They make you think it is a brand new project. I am happy to table for the parliament a news report from November 2023 with the headline 'Huge new hospital building opens'. The article states, 'Caboolture Hospital's new ... Clinical Services building ... has been officially opened,' and there is a nice picture of the then deputy premier, the then health minister and me cutting the ribbon. I table that document.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Redcliffe Peninsula*, dated 27 November 2023, titled 'Huge new hospital building opens' [826].

It is even more laughable because the building—which was funded by Labor, although the LNP are now claiming it as a new project—is finished and you drive past it all the time, and it has been nominated for the 2025 National Architecture Awards Program. I will table that as well to prove what a nonsense it is to claim that as a new project.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, containing an extract from the 2025 National Architecture Awards Program titled 'Caboolture Hospital clinical services building' [827].

There are some other projects: the Caboolture Hospital mental health intensive care unit, which is a project that was planned by the previous government that I am very proud to champion; and the paediatrics outpatients area, which is another project that was already in train. So far, there is nothing new from this LNP government for the people of the Morayfield state electorate.

I move to road projects. These are critical projects for growth areas like the Morayfield state electorate. There will be tens of thousands of people moving to the area over the next decade. I am reminded of those comedic magicians Siegfried and Roy who have the gold sheet and they try to make things disappear. Well, this is not a funny, magic act; it is not a joke. What we see in this budget is that QTRIP, the Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program—which should be named 'Q- Trick'—has had road projects cut from last year's QTRIP into this year. I wonder what the LNP have against Morayfield Road. One project that I have been championing—the Burpengary-Caboolture Road project stage 2, Aquatic Centre Drive to Graham Road—was listed in QTRIP last year. It even had its own investment ID and funding had started rolling out for it, but in this year's QTRIP it is totally gone.

I want to remind members of the history of Morayfield Road upgrades. This very project—stage 2 of the Morayfield Road upgrade—was actually cancelled in a similar fashion by, who do you think, the Newman government. I had to fight to get it in in my first term. Stage 1 was commenced and delivered, but the Newman government cut stage 2 and we had to fight to get it back in. Now this LNP government has come in and cut the very same project.

Government members interjected.

Mr RYAN: They hate Morayfield Road. The people of the Morayfield state electorate know it because this mob had two chances to show their support for Morayfield Road and they cut it every time. I want to table an article from December 2013 which said that stage 2 of the Morayfield Road upgrade was in doubt. The first stage was due to finish, but there was not enough funding from the government to finish stage 2 and it was removed from QTRIP. The Newman government did not support that project. I table that article.

Tabled paper: Article from *Caboolture News*, dated 11 December 2013, titled 'Pot empty for stage 2' [828].

They hate Morayfield Road, but it goes further than that. They hate transport investment in Morayfield because another project has been ripped out of QTRIP. Last year's QTRIP had \$400,000 in funding for the Morayfield transport and mobility study to do the important planning work to support the growth that is coming. Tens of thousands of people are coming to the area over the next decade. Guess what—the QTRIP from this year has ripped that program out as well. This government does not care about road investment in the Morayfield state electorate. That is in stark contrast to the record that previous Labor governments have had in the Morayfield state electorate.

In amongst the very few things in this budget for the broader Moreton Bay region, there is some funding for the Moreton Bay Meals on Wheels. However, I am concerned that this government will break its promise in respect of that funding. At the state election both parties made a commitment to provide funding to Moreton Bay Meals on Wheels. The Labor Party's commitment was to give that as a lump sum. We were led to believe that the LNP's commitment was also a lump sum, but we are hearing now that that funding will be broken up over four years. Moreton Bay Meals on Wheels need the funding now. They were led to believe that it was going to be a lump sum. This government is not only breaking promises around not cutting road projects and not cutting cost-of-living relief; they are breaking promises to charities like Meals on Wheels.

There is an interesting line item in Budget Paper 4 in respect of the Caboolture youth watch house hub. I commend the Queensland Police Service and all the partner agencies for what they do at that location; they are outstanding people. This was a temporary initiative of the previous government to support youth detention capacity. Without any announcement or any news at all, the temporary funding has now become permanent ongoing funding. What does this mean for this facility? This facility was always meant to be a temporary youth watch house hub until the Wacol Youth Remand Centre was built. The Wacol Youth Remand Centre is built and is operational—another great Labor Party investment in correctional capacity—so the Caboolture youth watch house hub is meant to be returned to the Queensland Police Service watch house network. However, what we see now is the government—without any announcement at all—saying it will be an ongoing, permanent arrangement for that youth watch house facility.

The people of Caboolture need to know the government's intention here. Are they converting this into a permanent youth jail? I put it that way because there was robust debate in the last parliament about these facilities being permanent youth detention centres. Where is this facility? It is in the main street of Caboolture, it is near a school, it is in the Caboolture CBD, it is across the road from restaurants. They do wonderful work there and I support them, but this government needs to be clear about their intention for this facility. Do they intend to permanently leave that facility as a youth watch house hub, meaning the Queensland Police Service will not get it back into the watch house network?

At the last election, the LNP made very few election commitments in the Morayfield state electorate. In fact, they only made two that impacted the Morayfield state electorate. The first was the commitment about the contribution to Morayfield Meals on Wheels, which was similar to the Labor Party. As I said, it appears the LNP are breaking that promise by spreading the money over four years, instead of it being the up-front lump sum as everyone thought. Their other commitment was \$500,000 towards upgrading Caboolture River Road. One of the things we did just before the change of government was to provide \$71 million for the upgrade of Caboolture River Road. I am not sure what \$500,000 towards upgrading Caboolture River Road is going to provide. The disappointing thing is that it is a broken promise; it is not in the budget. I cannot find a single line item which refers to \$500,000 being provided for the upgrade of Caboolture River Road. That is another broken promise.

This budget is disappointing in so many respects because it makes very little investments in the Morayfield state electorate. I want to refer to some of the additional research I did as part of looking into this budget. I ran the budget documents through ChatGPT. I ran Budget Paper 2, Budget Paper 3 and Budget Paper 4 through ChatGPT just to make sure I had not missed anything. I went page to page, and ChatGPT said that there were no investments in the Morayfield state electorate in Budget Paper 2

so I thought, 'Great, I haven't missed anything.' In respect of Budget Paper 3, it said that there were no investments in Morayfield, so I thought, 'Fantastic, I haven't lost my mind.' In respect of Budget Paper 4, it also said that there were no investments.

Whether it is AI, me or Ctrl-F, the budget documents do not have anything for the Morayfield state electorate that is beyond previous Labor Party commitments in the area. In particular, there is no funding for new schools in the growth corridors of the Morayfield-Caboolture area—no funding for a new school at Burpengary East, no funding for a new school at Morayfield South and no funding for a school at Caboolture West. These are growth areas which will see tens of thousands of people move into the area over the next decade.

There is also no funding for sports facilities. I have spoken in this House before about the critical need to allow sporting organisations and sporting clubs to apply for funding. Just give them the chance to apply for funding. I see the approach the government has adopted. It is almost like a colour-coded spreadsheet. They pick and choose the winners. They do not even allow people to apply for it. Very disappointingly, there will be no opportunity under sports infrastructure programs from this government in this budget for the Caboolture Snakes Rugby League Club to get funding for their new clubhouse or for the Caboolture Sports Cricket Club to get some funding for new lighting.

Finally, I want to touch on some very disappointing news. My good friend the member for Inala also championed this cause. It is a cause very close to my heart, that is, MND Queensland—motor neurone disease. I think everyone knows someone who has had motor neurone disease—a terrible disease. This organisation has been working hard. In fact, there was an event at Parliament House only a few weeks ago called Parliamentary Friends of MND, where members of the government turned up—I imagine in good faith—and heard from the people at MND Queensland. They turn up and get the hospitality but then do not champion MND Queensland. MND Queensland has been left out of this budget. Shame on the government!

This is a bad budget. It is a bad start for this government and I condemn the budget. I call on the government to next time think about the Morayfield state electorate and invest in local people.



Mr BENNETT (Burnett—LNP) (4.41 pm): What a change the October election has meant for Queensland. It is timely that we remind Queenslanders what we promised—respect for taxpayers' money, respect for our public servants and acknowledgement of those industries that drive our state's prosperity. We promised we would deliver our election commitments and a fresh start.

The budget delivers community safety, health, road, water and energy initiatives. We are funding responsible and ongoing cost-of-living relief. Many Queenslanders struggling with everyday expenses will benefit from a range of cost-of-living measures in the budget, from cheap public transport to power bill relief and an expanded solar renters program. This budget funds the services that those opposite failed to fund. This will prevent job losses, saving public servants from Labor's incompetence.

We are saving key infrastructure projects like Paradise Dam and Bundaberg Hospital that would never have been built. These projects were poorly scoped, badly managed and significantly underfunded. Let's never forget those opposite said it would take \$1 billion to build Paradise Dam and it is now sitting at \$4.4 billion, and the Bundaberg Hospital is now doubling in price—all hidden from the people of Bundaberg before the last election.

Before I explore this great budget, we can never forget, or let Queenslanders forget, what Labor's last budget revealed—the record debt, the deficits and, more seriously, the deception. When every member opposite stands to read their prepared speech notes condemning this budget, they should remember their legacy. Members opposite should all take this opportunity to apologise for debt projected to reach \$218 billion. That is debt per capita of \$40,000—the highest in the nation.

This budget ceases the out-of-control budget blowouts. This budget also reflects the reality of federal Labor's GST reduction to Queensland of \$2.3 billion. The budget also prioritises paying down Labor's ballooning debt and reins in public sector spending while delivering cost-of-living relief.

With all the scare campaigns from those opposite, a record \$33.1 billion will be spent on Queensland health and hospitals, which is a 10 per cent increase on previous years. Importantly locally, our \$18.5 billion Hospital Rescue Plan will deliver our new hospital, new beds and level 5 services.

The budget details a record \$116.8 billion Capital Works Program over the next four years, which is the largest ever infrastructure spend. It is great to see that huge investment will go towards roads. Some \$9 billion has been allocated for upgrades to the Bruce Highway and funding for the Isis Highway is secured. Many will be excited to see the increase in the Electricity Maintenance Guarantee to \$1.6 billion to maintain our generation assets. This will drive down electricity prices. We are funding our

frontline police officers with nearly \$150 million to better equip them with tasers, tyre deflation devices and body worn cameras and replace load bearing vests, tactical first-aid kits, roadside breath devices and portable handheld radios. There will be more police officers on the beat.

Queenslanders will get government help to buy a home worth up to \$1 million—the most generous shared equity scheme in the nation. Singles earning up to \$150,000 and households with two adults earning up to \$225,000 will be eligible under the Boost to Buy program. The LNP Crisafulli government is delivering for all of Queensland, and Bundaberg and the Burnett, including by cutting taxes like stamp duty, and GPs will be permanently exempt from payroll tax and the patients tax. This will protect bulk billing—something that many in my electorate were scared about losing.

There is a record health budget, with \$33.1 billion for health services. There will be a record investment in education of \$21.9 billion. We are also delivering the \$100 Back to School Boost. We are providing a new nation-leading \$165 million Boost to Buy scheme. There will be an injection of over \$209 million into crisis accommodation and \$37 million to enhance police responses. We are extending the first home owner grant to \$30,000.

This budget delivers for the health and wellbeing of Queensland women, including a new four-year, \$20 million return-to-work package. We are so proud of the \$560 million to be delivered to make our communities safer. That was something that was promised and we will deliver for our communities crying out for support. This budget ensures Queensland's environment is protected, with \$117 million to support natural resource management groups. We are investing \$26.3 million for our Supercharged Solar for Renters Program. We are reducing red tape for small businesses. We are extremely excited about the first \$1 billion of the \$2 billion Residential Activation Fund, and we look forward to seeing that rolled out in the next couple of weeks.

This budget sets the foundation for delivering the fresh start we promised. Here at home, every single local election commitment for the electorates of Bundaberg and the Burnett are fully funded. These include: \$142,000 for Brave Brothers in Bundaberg as they work to deliver Brave Place Safe Spaces and suicide awareness services; \$1 million over four years for Impact Community Services; \$300,000 for the Wide Bay Sports Academy out of the \$250 million Games On! grassroots infrastructure program; \$620,000 to the Bundaberg Netball Association; \$542,000 to the Burnett Bowls Club; and we have commenced the rollout of nine short-stay programs for youth who are demonstrating high-risk behaviours, including one to be rolled out in Wide Bay.

We will see more health workers on the ground, with 4,022 full-time-equivalent positions. We will see the progression of the planning stage for the Childers Multipurpose Health Service. I have mentioned the new hospital, finally rescued from oblivion. A new Paradise Dam wall will be delivered. Water security is of huge importance in my electorate and we could not be more excited to see that go ahead. The commencement of the new Bargara police facility is welcomed.

We will see maintenance of our schools at a cost of nearly a million dollars. Agnes Water State School will be getting \$180,000 for a new covered access ramp. There will be \$267,000 for upgrades to the water reticulation systems at Yandaran State School. Some 60,000 Queensland kids are set to benefit from free health checks at kindergarten. The government is delivering for Queensland, locking in a 20 per cent uplift in funding for homelessness services. Parents with children aged between five and 17 years are eligible to apply for the \$200 Play On! vouchers.

In conclusion, this budget delivers the fresh start Queensland needed and Queenslanders voted for to address the youth crime crisis, the health crisis, the housing crisis and the cost-of-living crisis. It is a great budget for my area and a great budget for Queensland, and we could not be more proud of the team who put this together.



Hon. MC de BRENNI (Springwood—ALP) (4.47 pm): I rise to speak to the appropriation and revenue bills before the House. I start my contribution by commending the Leader of the Opposition on his reply. Labor has outlined solid additional steps forward that we would be willing to take—a strong alternative vision for Queenslanders.

Labor asserts that a budget truly on the side of Queenslanders is one that makes sure pensioners, families on tight incomes and people with a disability do not have to choose between paying for groceries and paying the rent. Labor asserts that a budget that puts people first would have bold, not weak, measures aimed at lifting housing construction and supply. We believe in real action to create great trade jobs—great jobs in the construction industry—and the workforce Australia needs to truly lift the supply of homes. That is Labor's vision: kindness for Queenslanders who are struggling, more affordable places to call home and quality jobs that build this nation.

Budgets are a reflection of priorities, of values and of vision. This first LNP budget has made their priorities crystal clear. They have chosen to prioritise making life harder for Queenslanders—not easier. Harder for teachers, ambos, nurses, fireies, police and administrative workers. As the media reported, the budget is missing over \$1 billion to properly pay the public sector workforce. The LNP budget is a plan to short-change the Queensland front line.

Let's look in my own backyard. I have listened to locals on their doorsteps and in the aisles of our supermarkets. I sit with them in the clubhouses and in the school halls. I do not mind sinking a few schooners down at the pub with the veterans and the tradies. What I hear time and time again is that people just want a government that is on their side. Queenslanders just want a government that is prepared to put them first because people are actually struggling with filling up the fuel tank. They are actually struggling to fill up the grocery cart. They do want strong local schools and hospitals for their family. They are desperate for safer roads and better infrastructure. What we have seen from this budget is a government that is already turning its back on those Queenslanders.

All this week, the LNP's spokesperson on the budget, the member for Kawana, has carried on like a teenage brat about the colour of their budget brochures. Then there are the antics of the LNP Premier himself who purports to lead this state. Both of them sat in here making childish tooting noises to emulate the train lines that they will not build, as if this parliamentary chamber was some sort of playground or a sandpit.

Labor exposed their dishonesty about rebadging Queensland's colours from maroon to blue. When this Premier walks into this House with his blue budget papers, it means something. Published research proves the strong relationship between ideology and the use of colour. In essence, the colour blue in an ultraconservative context serves as a visual shorthand for a particular set of values, affiliations and political stances. We have seen a government spokesperson—neither the Premier or the Treasurer—take the lead on that direction while Queenslanders ask: where on earth are they taking this state? This budget answers that question. Queenslanders want to ensure we are always building, moving forward in an ever-changing world, yet the only thing that this budget changes is our state's colour. Last I checked, we were maroon. If you ask Queenslanders, I think that they agree.

In a budget there are always winners and losers. In our local community there are some winners. So many more, though, were left out in the cold. Take the welfare of ordinary households. The LNP budget tells us that helping households is not this government's priority. Energy bills will rise 614 per cent without the rebate. So much for a Premier who promised Queenslanders that electricity would be cheaper. Premier Crisafulli made a promise to Queenslanders, then he broke it, and he broke it deliberately—not because of external factors but because he chose to. The other household budgets were all Labor initiatives.

We live in a neighbourhood where most of us have to leave our community to go to work or to study, so when it comes to roads, disappointing is an understatement. The Daisy Hill to Logan Motorway M1 upgrade is one of the busiest stretches of road, not just in Queensland but in the entire nation. There is no timeline for getting it done. In fact, strewn apart are road projects that are now bereft of a specific timeline or dollar figure. For the LNP, through this budget, to let road projects blow out by hundreds and hundreds of millions of dollars makes it clear that they do not care about Queenslanders' money. When it comes to timelines, there is not a single completion date for any project.

There is also Valley Way in Mount Cotton. Some 711 locals signed a petition to make sure that project was in this budget, but here is the LNP catch: construction is not budgeted to start for years and years. The LNP may have decided that Mount Cotton locals will have to potentially wait another five years to see any changes on Mount Cotton Road. By then, congestion is likely to be worse and the allocated funding is likely to not be enough. Then there is the millions spent in planning for Beenleigh-Redland Bay Road. Now the project to double Beenleigh-Redland Bay Road appears to have been shut down by this budget. This road is seeing more and more traffic every day with the growth of the southern Redlands. The LNP government said in its election manifesto—

We will get our busy roads flowing again by upgrading critical traffic chokepoints.

That is just more weak rubbish from this government, and this budget proves it.


This one speaks volumes about a government that just does not listen. After all of the planning, public consultation and feedback on an incredibly dangerous intersection between Mount Cotton Road and Double Jump Road—an intersection that has seen so much pain and loss—the LNP budget appears to have dumped the Double Jump Road intersection upgrade. It has been cut out of their transport plan. I fear there will be more crashes and more fatalities. Over 700 locals signed a petition calling for the upgrades. This government chose to ignore them. The LNP government will have blood

on its hands as a result. They say they want people to get home sooner and safer, yet inevitably someone will not make it home because of the decisions that the LNP government made in this budget and it will be up to this LNP government to explain.

This budget fails to commit resourcing to our local police beats in Rochedale South and Springwood, despite a petition being tabled in this parliament this week with 2,000 signatures from the communities of Rochedale South, Springwood and Daisy Hill. How on earth can police use the extra weapons and the extra laws that this place has furnished them with if the police themselves do not exist? How can the government expect to make Queensland safer when they do not commit to resourcing our local police beats?

I can imagine the anger of families at Kimberley Park State School. Mums and dads by their hundreds called for a new outside school hours care building. They petitioned for it right across their community and Labor committed to it and the then LNP shadow minister agreed. He slinked down there one afternoon just days before the state election. He told the P&C it was clear that new facilities were needed. He said that they would work with the school community. Almost 1,500 local families signed the petition and this LNP government and this budget have ignored them. The now education minister has said no. The member for Surfers Paradise has hung the Leader of the House out to dry.

In summary, this budget is untrustworthy, it is dodgy and it is wrong. That sums up the LNP budget.

 **Mr KEMPTON** (Cook—LNP) (5.00 pm): I rise to applaud the Crisafulli LNP government's first budget handed down on Tuesday this week and congratulate the Premier and the finance team. David Janetzki, the Treasurer for Queensland and the member for Toowoomba South, was charged with a juggling act on a scale approaching that of Enrico Rastelli, the great—a juggler obviously. The Treasurer's performance is equally impressive as that of the grand master as he balanced diminishing income against rising expenditure in the face of the crippling debt inherited from Labor all in the context of the Olympic and Paralympic Games, which is just seven years away. That on anyone's account is a lot of pins in the air.

Under successive Labor governments Queensland has grown old over the last 30 years. Our roads are struggling under increasing loads, our health system is buckling under the burden, our frontline workers are falling behind in the face of increasing queues—just some of the examples of Labor's failures. Our great state has been doing more with less for far too long and is crying out for a fresh start. Under successive Labor governments' fiscal mismanagement, we are seeing Queensland's debt soar whilst essential services are delivering less and our infrastructure is in a state of disrepair. Labor has left every Queenslanders with an interest debt alone of almost \$10 billion per annum. That is \$2,000 for every man, woman and child per year.

An example of aging infrastructure without a plan is the Barron River bridge at Kuranda on the Kennedy Highway in the far north of the state. Over three million vehicles traverse this bridge every year as it is a vital, and the only viable, link from Cairns to the Tablelands. The bridge is over 60 years old and after a decade of neglect by Labor, the load limits were continually reduced until one lane was closed. Labor talked a lot but had no plan to replace this bridge. Under Labor's plan of doing nothing, we would see the load limits further reduced on the bridge until it was no longer safe for trucks, buses and heavy vehicles, all of which would have to find an alternative route.

On the other hand, our LNP government promised to replace the bridge to bring certainty and reliability to commuters and transport users. The \$245 million required as the state's share for the new bridge was included in this year's budget. We said we would do it and it will be done. For days and days Bree James, the member for Barron River, and I stood on the bridge waving placards claiming only the LNP would build a new bridge. This week Bree James and I have delivered on our commitment.

Another example of Labor's neglect and lack of planning is the Cooktown community health centre. The health facility is over 50 years old and comprises a ragtag of lean-tos and portable buildings. It is no longer fit for purpose. Labor talked and talked, drew a picture, promised the world and delivered nothing. On the day the Premier announced my preselection, on 7 May 2024, he promised to upgrade the Cooktown Hospital. I am pleased to see \$200 million in the 2025 budget to see that this happens. This is another example of our government doing what it says it will do.

Other examples in the budget of the LNP meeting its commitments in the electorate of Cook include several primary health centres, water and sewage plants, school improvements and upgrades, culture and tourism centres, walking trails and boardwalks, ongoing support for the Mossman cane


industry, security cameras—and so the list goes on. The people of Cook have much to smile about. Labor painted a pretty dismal picture for the future of Queensland over the last decade and was convincingly voted out of the competition in October 2024.

I return again to our Treasurer and his juggling skills. The 2025 Queensland budget delivers massive operational expenditure in health, education and frontline services just to arrest the decline in the integrity of those essential services; infrastructure expenditure to bring the state's facilities up to world standard; and reinvigorated management to ensure those standards are maintained. Transport infrastructure has attracted an enormous amount of the available funds as we embark on the enormous task of repairing the state's road network following years of underfunding for maintenance by Labor and devastation across most of the state following recent natural disasters. On top of this, our government has embarked upon an ambitious upgrade of our highways and is paying particular attention to the Bruce Highway, which ultimately services my distant electorate of Cook.

The Crisafulli LNP government's response to the youth crime crisis in Queensland has drawn heavily on the state's resources in terms of detection, arrest, detention and intervention. The response by our government was timely, proportionate and necessary to ensure the number of victims is reduced and people feel safe in their homes and on the streets. Green shoots are emerging which show some signs of encouragement.

There is an underlying principle in relation to Queenslanders' money: for every dollar spent there must be a benefit, be it economic, social, cultural or environmental. Queenslanders benefit in different ways from our careful and considerate use of their money. Being able to access his blockholder lease in Hope Vale following our road upgrade is as important to Bernard Hart as is uninterrupted travel between Cairns and Mareeba across the Barron River bridge for thousands of commuters.

Above all, this budget delivers a clear message to all Queenslanders: it is a foundation for a fresh start and it is a clear indication of how the Crisafulli LNP government has respect for Queenslanders, their lifestyle and their security—economic and personal. Finally, there is no show without punch. I wish to commend the meticulous work of the Deputy Premier, Jarrod Bleijie, as he supported the Premier and the Treasurer in the delivery of the first budget of the LNP government. I am proud to again be the member for Cook in this LNP government.

 **Mr SULLIVAN** (Stafford—Ind) (5.07 pm): Budgets are not just about numbers; they reflect values, and this budget says everything it needs to say about the values of this LNP government. It is a bad budget for Queensland. It is a bad budget for Stafford. It is a budget of broken promises. When it comes to the macro level and the promise of a reduction in debt—broken promise. When it comes to local issues, where is the \$900,000 promised for the Valleys Diehards Rugby League club—broken promise. When it comes to the stop-and-go at Craigslea State School—broken promise. Of course, when it comes to the \$10 million promised for the upgrade to Hamilton Road adjacent to Prince Charles Hospital—broken promise.


There is nothing that this budget does to deliver for the people of Stafford. The one thing they have delivered, which is a small amount of funding for Stafford Heights State School whiteboards, was already on the cards within the Department of Education, so to actually put that on their fancy printout is a bit of a joke. The other thing they have done, which is the fencing for Wavell Heights State School, was not the school's priority. When it was announced out of the blue by my opponent, the school said, 'No, our P&C and our school community are prioritising a prep play area.' I know that because I was at those P&C meetings. Had the LNP actually attended a P&C meeting, they would have known that. Instead, they are spending money on fencing rather than on what the school actually wants, which is a prep play area. It is very disappointing.

When it comes to public transport, those opposite have not invested any more in Gympie Road or Stafford Road, which are both state roads. It is quite disappointing that all they have done is tried to take credit for Labor initiatives, including at the Prince Charles Hospital and at the RBWH Herston precinct, which is close to my heart. They are trying to claim on their glossy brochures that they are delivering a Cancer Centre at Herston when it was announced by the Labor government years ago and work was already underway. To try to pretend that that is an LNP priority is an absolute joke. At the Prince Charles Hospital they tried to claim 93 beds, but they forgot to include in their glossy brochure that they have delayed those beds, even though work was well underway. With regard to planning and actual work, particularly when it comes to the ED and the paediatric ED, work was well underway. It is absolutely disgraceful that they pretend that that was their project and yet they are delaying that project which is an icon of the north side. I cannot believe what they are doing.

This is a budget of broken promises. There is nothing in here for local families but there is a cut to cost-of-living initiatives, especially for the most vulnerable, and that is something that is very important to the people of Stafford, particularly the people I work with such as those who work with Meals on Wheels and those who work with seniors groups. The electorate has a very high population of public housing, which I am proud of. With regard to the arrogance of those opposite to claim all of these initiatives when it comes to public housing in our area, they claim that a certain number of houses are coming 'online'. I turned the soil on them. They were Labor initiatives that we invested in and those homes—beautiful homes that I would be proud to live in—are now coming online, but to pretend that they are LNP initiatives is dishonest beyond belief. From the Treasurer, the Premier and the Deputy Premier down to the housing minister, be honest about where that funding came from, who started it, who delivered it and why we did it. As I said, it reflects our values and those projects absolutely reflect our values. I will leave it there because the—

An honourable member interjected.

Mr SULLIVAN: Thank you for that really polite parliamentary language. I will leave it there because, as I said, budgets reflect values and this budget reflects very poorly on those opposite.

 **Hon. AJ STOKER** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (5.13 pm): I rise with great enthusiasm to speak on the Crisafulli LNP government's first budget—one that I am pleased to say reflects the reorienting of this state towards the right priorities and the things that make a real difference to the quality of life of Queenslanders. I am really pleased to say that this budget recognises the needs of the Redlands more than any state budget we have seen for over a decade. It strikes an important balance between providing help with the cost of living, budget repair and delivering quality, reliable services where you need them and it speaks to many of the concerns that locals raise with me as I go around our community.

People are still fearful of their safety after Labor emboldened a generation of untouchables by watering down youth justice laws. They are worried about their access to health services after ambulance ramping hit a record 45 per cent at Redland Hospital during Labor's health crisis. They are concerned about the ability of young people and future generations to afford a home after a decade of Labor failing to build a pipeline of supply. They are trying to stretch their dollar further as they deal with the high cost of living. I am pleased to say that this budget takes meaningful action on all of these fronts and I congratulate the Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership on a budget that focuses on these very concerns, and that is a really difficult task given the mess that Labor left behind.

Usually when election commitments are made it takes a full term of four years before they get funded, but this budget is different. It fully funds every single election commitment I made locally and I know that is going to mean so much to our local community. Janese and the team at the Redlands University of the Third Age are busting to finish their building with the \$250,000 that is provided in this budget so that they can get on with running the courses and programs that help our community stay active and learning in their senior years. I know Darryl and the team at Wellington Point Bowls Club are eager to use the \$1 million that has been allocated for shade and surfaces to get players of all ages enjoying the benefits of active living while staying sun safe. Sean and the crew at Redlands Cricket are driving a passion for the growth of women in cricket at the grassroots and at the elite level with a project that gets a much needed boost of \$1 million for women's amenities. If we are serious about seeing women of all ages being served by a government, barriers to participation like this must be overcome.

The Point Lookout Surf Life Saving Club is an absolute powerhouse, patrolling multiple beaches and offering a vibrant nippers program, and we have committed to extending the tenure of the club at its current site. Lifesavers and Straddie beachgoers will also be safer, as the Shark Control Program has been doubled to cover both Cylinder and Main beaches with drone monitoring at a cost of \$300,000 per beach per year. I know people like Barry, Kim and Mark at Redlands United Football Club, along with many other clubs, will be thrilled to hear that the Play On! sports vouchers program—originally established by the last LNP government—is back with a bang. It will operate more fairly than during Labor's time in government, covering summer and winter sports, and it will be properly funded so that the vouchers do not run out like they so often did under Labor, leaving many families without.

Our local schools have great teachers and family supports and they will love the record funding of Education in this budget. Many local school facilities have been neglected in our patch over the last decade, so I am pleased to see this budget investing over \$700,000 in vital maintenance and \$1 million for a new amenities block for Birkdale South State School. The facilities at this great little school—a school with so much heart—were foul smelling, dark and unable to be kept hygienic and kids were

avoiding them, risking their health and being unable to concentrate in class as a result. I was outraged for families when I learnt of it and was determined to fight for this to be made right. Toilet blocks might not seem glamorous but, along with the member for Capalaba, I am so proud to deliver this for our community because it is about the health and dignity of these kids, their safety from bullying and making sure everybody gets a chance to learn. There is security of tenure for the Sycamore School to give families of children with autism choice in education. There is funding for extra classrooms for Redlands Special School. There is also \$73,000 for shade, seating and musical instrument upgrades for Ormiston State School. For all families with a primary schooler, there is \$100 per child to help with the cost of getting back to school each year.

Redlanders deserve better access to health services when they need them, I am so glad to see the Crisafulli government investing heavily in the Hospital Rescue Plan. It was so wrong that Labor went around announcing hospitals to all and sundry with none of the preparation work and none of the costings or funding that were needed to make them a reality. With that kind of operating, no wonder there was a health crisis.

Along with free kindy health checks for the littlest Redlanders, the budget gets started on stage 2 of the Redland Hospital expansion with \$150 million for a new 43-bed mental and allied health building. Heaven knows we need those extra 20 mental health beds. It would also be remiss of me not to mention the axing of Labor's patients tax which would have pushed up the cost of seeing a GP for us all. Under Labor, the Redlands had the dubious record of having the worst hospital ramping in the state so I am pleased to see a billion dollar boost to the Queensland Ambulance Service as part of the strategy to get ramping rates down. There is also provision for 4,500 additional health workers over the next year and a big boost to the Surgery Connect program to smash down the surgery waiting list that was allowed to balloon under Labor.

Redlanders know that making our communities safer is our first priority as a government. Along with Adult Crime, Adult Time, new early intervention and rehabilitation programs and a new victims advocate service, we are putting victims at the centre of the justice system with an overall investment of \$5.2 billion. We are backing in our police with 1,600 new recruits and \$147.9 million for the equipment needed for officers to do their difficult work and come home safely.

Hooning continues to be a big problem locally and so, with the help of the Cleveland Point Precinct Residents' Committee, I fought to get a \$600,000 investment in CCTV cameras to prevent it at the problem hotspot—that is, the VMR Raby Bay car park—as well as mobile cameras that can be used throughout the electorate to prevent hooning. It is a real safety concern in our patch. Just this week at Wellington Point a car went through a fence into a front yard. The constant noise is seriously damaging local amenity. These tools will help our council and police with prevention and enforcement. Speaking of amenity, Redlanders love their local wildlife and ocean life and we are caring for it with \$12 million for an RSPCA wildlife hospital at IndigiScapes and a plan to upgrade stormwater to deliver Zero Litter to the Bay by 2030, valued at \$35 million.

The budget includes a record \$116.8 billion in infrastructure investment across the state to unlock economic opportunity and get people out of traffic. It includes planning work for the upgrade of Cleveland-Redland Bay Road in Thornlands and funding for planning and design work on the Cleveland rail line, the first step toward duplication. The budget has a real plan to keep the dream of home ownership within the reach of young Redlanders with a Boost to Buy program, the abolition of stamp duty on new homes for first home buyers and the ability to rent out a room without losing concessions. It includes the extension of the \$30,000 first home buyers grant and there is also a \$2 billion Residential Activation Fund to fund the infrastructure needed to get more housing supply into the market without reducing the quality of life for people who already have their home. It will take us from being the state with the lowest rate of home ownership in the country to the very top within a decade. There is more investment than ever to increase the supply of social homes for those in need. It will give more Queenslanders a place to call home.

This budget recognises the Redlands like never before. Together with my colleagues, the member for Redlands, the member for Capalaba and our federal member, we are determined to deliver right across the Redlands an enviable standard of living that makes our corner of Queensland the very best place to live, to work, to raise a family, to retire, to build a business and to play. Together we are building a better Redlands. As you can see, I am determined to keep delivering for my constituents in our beautiful corner of this state. We will deliver safety where you live, a better lifestyle through a stronger economy, health services you can count on when you need them and a strong plan for Queensland's future.



Mr JAMES (Mulgrave—LNP) (5.23 pm): Today I stand before you with immense pride and anticipation as we expose the cornerstone of a brighter future for Queensland, the 2025-26 Queensland budget. This budget is not merely a collection of numbers and allocations; it is the embodiment of our promise for a fresh start. The Queensland government is delivering a record \$116.8 billion four-year capital program that will provide critical infrastructure for Queensland, the largest infrastructure pipeline in our state's history—\$29.3 billion—directly supporting 73,000 jobs across the state. Seventy per cent of this amount will be invested outside of the Greater Brisbane area supporting around 50,000 jobs in the regions. It focuses on four fundamental pillars: safety where you live, a better lifestyle through a stronger economy, health services when you need them and a plan for Queensland's future. We have honoured every election commitment made, ensuring each promise is funded by this budget. This dedication is reflected in the strategic and responsible cost-of-living relief that we provide to Queenslanders. It is targeted and timely, saving vital services and jobs and secures infrastructure and projects that otherwise would have been lost. The Treasurer's approach to the budget is calm and methodical, rooted in a deep respect for taxpayers money and a commitment to deliver what we promised. It is serious, mature and responsible.

Now let us delve into the specifics of this transformative budget. In relation to delivering safety where you live, my constituents are deeply concerned about the youth crime crisis. The Crisafulli government is actively addressing this, countering the effects of a decade of neglect and weak, deliberately watered down Labor laws. There will be 1,600 new police officers armed with more resources to turn the tide on youth crime and \$560 million for new world-leading early intervention and rehabilitation programs to prevent and break the cycle of repeat youth crime. The Making Queensland Safer Laws will ensure that adult crimes result in adult time, backed by additional justice system resources. A new professional victims advocate service will provide dedicated support to victims of crimes throughout the justice process. We are putting the victims first.

Small businesses and local governments will benefit from the Secure Communities Partnership Program with \$40 million in grants to enhance community safety and prevent crime. Specifically, upgrades to the Edmonton Police Station, with detailed planning to commence in 2025-26, and \$148 million to resource police with new tasers, ballistic vests and safety equipment to make our community safer. One of the two new youth justice schools for high-risk teens on youth justice orders, including community service orders, will be built in Cairns. The government is investing \$2.4 billion over six years from 2024-25 to increase adult prison capacity. The Cairns watch house will receive an upgrade. The youth detention centre will be built in Cairns with community consultation before deciding the location, unlike the opposition's approach. The Polair aerial crime-fighting operational capability will be expanded in Cairns and Far North Queensland and guaranteed for another nine years. Support for victims of crime will be funded with an increased budget of \$11.6 million over four years.

When it comes to delivering a better lifestyle through a stronger economy, we are committed to easing the cost of living. Queenslanders have paid a high price for the former Labor government's expensive failures across housing, crime, health and cost of living, hence the state has faced some of the steepest cost increases in the nation across rent, health care, sports participation, food, transport and electricity. Project costs have skyrocketed under Labor's CFMEU tax, hence a fresh start is required.

Far North Queensland will benefit from the Crisafulli's \$100 Back to School Boost vouchers for school students to help with stationery, uniforms and excursions. Children aged five to 17 will benefit from the \$200 Play on! vouchers for sport and active recreation, especially in regional areas like Mulgrave. The \$2 billion Residential Activation Fund launched prior to the election by our Premier in the middle of Mulgrave is an important initiative underpinning the government's commitment to see more Queenslanders in their own home sooner. This fund will provide for trunk and essential infrastructure, such as water supply, sewerage, power, telecommunications and transport—desperately needed in the suburb of Mount Peter. Half of this funding is guaranteed for investment in regional areas like Mulgrave.

Our Boost to Buy program will reduce the deposit gap for home ownership, with income limits set at \$150,000 for singles, \$225,000 for couples and a purchase limit of \$1 million. We are abolishing stamp duty on new homes for first home buyers and extending the first home buyers grant to \$30,000 for 12 months. The Crisafulli government is delivering a place to call home for more Far North Queenslanders, with 561 social and affordable houses in construction or contracted as part of the Securing our Housing Foundations plan. Our ambition is to deliver one million homes by 2044, including

53,500 social and affordable homes, with a record \$5.6 billion investment into new social and community housing initiatives. The Cairns region is receiving the lion's share of the state's Housing and Public Works capital works and maintenance budget.

Housing infrastructure is vital, but it is a chicken-and-egg situation. The Cairns rental market is extremely tight with a current very low vacancy rate of around 0.7 per cent. This indicates a significant shortage of rental properties, making it near impossible for people to find accommodation. However, if we cannot offer places to live then we cannot attract workers for the many jobs needed in our region. As I said, the Crisafulli government is delivering a place to call home as a priority.

We are delivering health services when you need them. Health services are a priority and we are delivering more than ever before. This includes the construction of three new hospitals and 10 major upgrades, alongside provision for over 4,500 additional health workers in 2025-26. Our record \$18.5 billion investment under the Hospital Rescue Plan will stabilise the elective surgery waitlist with \$1.5 billion to provide for 30,000 surgeries. Abolishing Labor's patients tax will make visits to a doctor cheaper.

We are uplifting the health operating budget by 10 per cent to \$29.4 billion to ensure critical health services are fully funded, with more health workers and more free health care than ever before. For the Cairns region, this includes our share of the \$1.8 billion allocated to stabilise the surgery waitlist, meaning more elective surgeries when and where Mulgrave residents need them, including by partnering with the private sector through the Surgery Connect program to reduce waitlists and have patients seen sooner. There is \$181 million to refurbish selected areas within the Cairns Hospital as part of the Hospital Rescue Plan; \$1.7 billion to reduce ambulance ramping by 30 per cent by 2028 and deliver more paramedics; \$60 million for the Cairns Health and Innovation Centre stage 1 to deliver extra capacity for clinical services and provide health education, training and research facilities; and \$29 million to redevelop the Queensland Ambulance Service with the addition of the Cairns operational centre.

The 2025-26 budget is delivering a plan for Queensland's future. A sum of \$166 million, as part of the \$390 million for stage 1 of the Cairns Water Security project currently under construction in Mulgrave, has been locked in. That is a critical infrastructure project for the future of our region. There is \$9 billion for major Bruce Highway upgrades and safety improvements, locking in the 80-20 funding deal with the Australian government. There is \$48.4 million to continue the valued Works for Queensland program to support local councils in regional Queensland to deliver grassroots priority infrastructure. That program is now permanent, allowing our councils to plan with certainty.

We are putting the 2032 Olympic Games back on track with comprehensive plans for transport, infrastructure, tourism and a \$250 million investment to boost grassroots sport participation in the lead-up to the games. Our local sports clubs in Mulgrave will benefit from legacy projects. A \$446 million investment will support Destination 2045, ensuring Queensland's tourism future with funding for aviation, event attraction and new product development. There is \$13.6 million to complete the expansion of the Great Barrier Reef International Marine College in Cairns. There is \$150,000 for the Cairns Turtle Rehabilitation Centre wildlife hospital. There is \$1.5 million for the Jeff Pezzutti Park activities centre upgrade in Mulgrave. There is \$8 million to deliver the replacement of the Cairns Fire Communications Centre. There is \$640,000 for Yarrabah State School's secondary campus amenities upgrade and \$600,000 for detailed design and planning for the Yarrabah multipurpose centre.

In the 2025-26 budget, the Crisafulli government has committed \$38.4 million for planning and enabling works for the first stage of the maritime Common User Facility, CUF for short, confirming our support for this regionally significant project. The proposed Common User Facility will include a 5,000 tonne ship lift and new hardstand areas. Unfortunately, the budget for the Cairns Common User Facility project blew out by hundreds of millions of dollars under the former Labor government and they hid it from Queenslanders prior to the election. That was a \$466 million budget blowout for the Cairns Marine Precinct under Labor. There is an old adage: if you fail to plan, you plan to fail. That is exactly why that project sat idle for three years before Labor handed it over to Ports North in late September, weeks before the election. Michael Healy, the member for Cairns and a minister in the previous government, failed the people of Cairns and our marine industry. The fact is that Labor lied to Far North Queensland when announcing the initial funding, with limited planning and costings.


I turn to political contrast. Where Labor left critical services, jobs and projects underfunded, we have stepped in and front-loaded spending to save these important measures. We are delivering targeted and responsive long-term cost-of-living relief, improving Queensland's living standards now and in the future.

Mr POWER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member may have strayed and used some unparliamentary language. I ask that he withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): Member, be careful with your language, please, and you can proceed.

Mr JAMES: With this budget, Labor's scare campaign is dead. They created a culture of fear and intimidation in our Public Service. We are empowering our Public Service by reducing reliance on external consultants and contractors, increasing internal capacity and establishing Queensland Government Consulting Services. Our stakeholders have welcomed this budget with open arms. P&Cs Queensland praised our commitment to education and cost-of-living measures, particularly the \$100 Back to School Boost, providing immediate relief to struggling families.

In conclusion, this budget is a testament to our promise for a fresh start. It is a blueprint for a safe, prosperous, healthy and forward-looking Queensland. Together, we are laying the foundation for a brighter future for all Queenslanders. Queensland is open for business.

 **Ms DOOLEY** (Redcliffe—LNP) (5.38 pm): I rise today, privileged and proud to be the member for Redcliffe—a community I was born into and have served since I was 16—to deliver my first speech in response to the budget. I thank Treasurer David Janetzki for his fiscal responsibility and vision for Queensland. I thank Premier David Crisafulli for charting a course to a better future and Queensland for all. Our community of Redcliffe—from Clontarf, Woody Point, Margate and Scarborough to Kippa-Ring and Newport—is full of remarkable residents who tell me that they want a safer, stronger and more prosperous Queensland. That is exactly what the Crisafulli LNP budget is delivering.

Every week and every day when I am out and about in my cherished community, whether it is cheering on my mighty Redcliffe Dolphins, standing in solidarity with Moreton Bay Says No to Violence or visiting local schools, kindies and sporting clubs, I hear people's concerns, hopes and frustrations. I advocate here for what they expect from our government.

Redcliffe, like all of Queensland, is still reeling from the consequences of crisis after crisis left behind by the former Miles Labor government: youth crime, cost-of-living pressures, a struggling health system, a broken child safety system and a housing crisis. This budget is our opportunity to reset—it is our fresh start—and I am proud to be part of the Crisafulli government delivering for Redcliffe and Queensland.

We are building three new hospitals and upgrading 10 more. We are investing in 4½ thousand new health workers in the next year alone. This means more nurses, more doctors and more paramedics on the ground. For Redcliffe that will mean another 210 beds, with new operating theatres so people can get their surgery sooner. I will continue to fight for dedicated mental health beds so that those who need care close to home can receive it. After years of Labor's neglect our health system needed action, and that is why the health minister has delivered the Hospital Rescue Plan.

We are also cutting ambulance ramping, with a \$1 billion boost to the Queensland Ambulance Service, and funding nine new CT scanners and six new MRIs across the state. More free health care is being delivered under our Easier Access to Health Services Plan, and surgical waitlists are being tackled head-on through expanded elective surgery through Surgery Connect, partnering with the private sector, so that people like Russell Clay from my electorate can get his surgery on time.

This budget has confirmed again the money needed to deliver the 210 beds for Redcliffe Hospital, which was underfunded by the failed Labor capital expansion plan. They were wasting \$54,000 a day paying for their CFMEU buddies to do nothing, due to failed consultation. Under the LNP's Hospital Rescue Plan, we will listen and redesign the hospital, taking on board the clinicians' recommendations for how the hospital should be designed to deliver safe and efficient health care. We will also fund and deliver new car parks at Redcliffe Hospital as part of our Hospital Rescue Plan. The expression of interest has gone out in the last few weeks.

This budget also provides a clear plan to tackle crime and restore safety across our peninsula and Queensland. We are delivering 1,600 new police recruits and tougher laws, including Adult Crime, Adult Time and Jack's Law, ensuring repeat youth offenders face real consequences and victims are put before perpetrators. Enforcement alone is not enough. Funding new early intervention and rehabilitation programs is vital—like the Redcliffe Area Youth Space and Edu Space, which is an innovative program. We have committed \$2 million to make sure that some of our most disadvantaged teens are steered away from a life of crime.

We are also investing \$44 million—I thank the police minister, Dan Purdie—to upgrade our Redcliffe Police Station. Under Labor, it had raw sewage coming through the walls due to no funding for building maintenance. In 30 years they have tripled in size—all squeezed into one tiny building.

Actually, I think the police minister said when he came to visit that it was the same as when he worked there; nothing had changed. We welcomed that announcement. We are also giving our frontline officers state-of-the-art tools—body worn cameras, stronger ballistic vests and tasers—to protect their community but also themselves. I give a shout-out to all of the hardworking police officers at Redcliffe Police Station.

This is a budget that delivers for Redcliffe by backing local community and sporting groups with our Games On! program. These groups are the beating heart of our peninsula. There will be lighting upgrades for the Dolphins Soccer Club and Peninsula Power. I acknowledge the advocacy of Craig Feuerriegel, president of Peninsula Power, and Ginette Barrett from Dolphins Soccer Club, who had copper stolen from their lights last year. This boost will make a difference for kids like Bronte who play and train at night and need the new LED lighting.

We are supporting women's changing rooms at Redcliffe Tigers—I thank president Gayle Wetzel for her unfailing advocacy; upgrades to Bramble Bay Bowls Club for a new cover and green; a new Wood-Mizer for the Redcliffe and District Woodcraft Society; funding for Kippa-Ring kindy's bike track; support for Miracle Mums Movement, who are delivering wellbeing workshops for survivors of domestic and family violence—I commend founder Lou Feltham Smith for using her experience of domestic violence to now empower other women through peer support workshops; new theatre stage funding for Mousetrap Theatre Company; new boards and security system for our incredible volunteers at the Redcliffe Peninsula Surf Life Saving Club, who keep Suttons Beach safe and deliver a fantastic nipper program; and for my old primary school, Humpybong State School, who are celebrating their 150th anniversary next year, upgrades to the tuckshop, safer bus shelters and a drop-off zone to ensure students are kept safe going to and from school. I take this opportunity to thank again the amazing P&C at Humpybong, who do an incredible job.

We are also ensuring that people can get home safely, after a tragic death this year at the deadly Miller Street and Elizabeth Avenue intersection, with transport and road upgrades. We are delivering \$7.5 million for congestion busting and safety upgrades at the Anzac Avenue and Elizabeth Avenue intersection to make sure people get home safely to their families.

For those who are experiencing homelessness in Redcliffe and around Queensland we are delivering the Peninsula Support Hub, in partnership with the City of Moreton Bay council. This is a safe, central base to better deliver services with the Salvation Army and the Breakfast Club Redcliffe, supporting our most vulnerable and disadvantaged.

Soon we will be opening 82 one-bedroom units of social and community housing for those over the age of 55, in partnership with the Brisbane Housing Corporation; we are locking in the 20 per cent uplift in funding for our specialist housing services, like Encircle's HOAP program, which deliver emergency housing; and supporting the vital Homeless Health Outreach Team, in partnership with the City of Moreton Bay council, which also supports those sleeping rough with mental health issues. To help get people into their first home, we are abolishing stamp duty for first home buyers and providing our nation-leading Boost to Buy scheme.

Redcliffe families are doing it tough. That is why this budget focuses on putting money back in their pocket. Public transport fares are now permanently 50 cents. There are also \$200 Play On! vouchers for kids—contrary to what those on the left have said, this was first an initiative of the LNP back in 2012—and the \$100 Back to School Boost for every school student towards school items. One of my favourites as a registered nurse is the free health checks for all kindy kids. This will help children like Wayne, who was thought to have behavioural issues but was found to actually have profound deafness. Due to kindy health checks, he has been able to get hearing aids. These are practical, real-life savings that matter.

We are also getting on with big projects that keep Queensland moving, like the major Bruce Highway upgrades. We are investing \$4.7 billion to deliver the 2032 games. Closer to home, the LNP Crisafulli government is investing in projects around the City of Moreton Bay that many of my residents in Redcliffe will benefit from: a new wildlife hospital and education hub at Dakabin; \$60 million for a new Moreton Bay TAFE centre of excellence that will help with education and tradie training, which many of my Redcliffe residents will use; and \$3.75 million for a new SES depot at Deception Bay. We also have Zero Litter to the Bay to keep our beautiful Moreton Bay and the shores around Redcliffe free from litter and plastic.

This budget focuses on making our community safer, delivering a place to call home, driving down cost-of-living pressures, delivering more free health care and building the generational infrastructure that we need. This budget is delivering for my beloved Redcliffe and for all of Queensland.



Ms MORTON (Caloundra—LNP) (5.50 pm): It is with great honour and great excitement that I rise today to speak to a budget that I am proud to be a part of. I am proud to be part of a team that is disciplined, motivated, responsible and delivering for the people of Queensland. Like many of us who form the LNP Crisafulli government, I became involved in state politics after watching the total destruction and economic mismanagement of our great state. Here we are today, and it is a great honour to be involved with a team that is focused on the needs of Queenslanders and the long-term future of our state.

This is the first budget we will deliver, and I congratulate the Treasurer on a sensible, future focused budget that is delivering for Queensland. I also thank the Premier and Deputy Premier for their vision, for listening to the people of Caloundra and for making up for the decades of underinvestment in our part of the world. I say to all of the individual ministers who have worked tirelessly in support of key infrastructure projects in Caloundra that they have done an amazing job, and the budget is certainly a body of work to be proud of. Delivering a fresh start for Queensland has been refreshing to support and everything we do is centred around what is important to the people of our state.

I say to the people of Caloundra: get excited! We have watched our population grow, and it continues to be one of the fastest growing areas in the country, with no sign of slowing. It is now our time. We promised a TAFE centre of excellence and it is coming. It is funded in the budget. This TAFE will have a focus on construction trades and will be located within our growing Aura community. A whole generation of kids and future generations will be able to access this education in Caloundra. Those construction trades will give our kids opportunities that they always had to travel to before and will equip our community with a skilled workforce to build the thousands of homes we need to address Labor's housing crisis. I say to the people of Caloundra: how exciting is it that we will have somewhere local to motivate and inspire a whole generation of our future workforce! Their futures certainly got a little brighter with this budget.

Also funded in the budget is a project that is near and dear to the Caloundra community. We have \$20 million for the urgent recommendations made in our Bribie Island and Pumicestone Passage inquiry. The community has driven this project, voicing concerns for decades. The former government was clear in their position: they would do nothing. Bit by bit we watched our island wash away until the Crisafulli LNP government said, 'We'll take action,' and we did. We commenced a comprehensive review, which was undertaken by experts in coastal erosion and leaders in their field. The terms of reference for the review included a scope for urgent recommendations to take action, and here is the funding in this budget. We now have the funding to undertake these urgent action items, including securing breakthroughs 2 and 3 and creating a channel for the safe use and passage for the coastguard. The commitment to this issue can never be understated for our community, and I thank my LNP team for listening and understanding. Their support for me and the people of Caloundra has potentially saved an entire suburb.

This budget funds the Turbine project, a project that could not have proceeded without this contribution. The Turbine project is the first of its kind in Australia. It is a food and beverage manufacturing hub that brings together emerging businesses to assist with and share the technology, education and resources for our brilliant manufacturing sector. Why is Caloundra the perfect place for the Turbine project? We have a strong, independent manufacturing industry in Caloundra, which includes businesses like HeliMods, Country Chef, Kilcoy Global Foods, Novacorr, ProtectorAI, Australian Off Road and My Teddy—to name a few. We are perfectly placed with those brilliant minds driving our manufacturing sector because they are generous with their wisdom and knowledge for the benefit of all.

This budget has funding for the Caloundra CBD town centre, which is part of the Create Caloundra precinct, and will fund the beautification of our city centre so we can continue to support our CBD businesses welcoming visitors to our town. People across the country have visited Caloundra for generations, and many Queenslanders have fond memories of happy days in Caloundra. Our local businesses in the CBD were hit hard by COVID, followed by a workforce crisis. We are now celebrating with them the investment into our town centre.

We have funded the VIRB Education Hub—an alternative access point for teenagers who have disengaged or are at risk of disengaging from mainstream education. The team at VIRB are having massive wins in addressing school disengagement and have offered a whole cohort of students a real chance at remaining engaged and supported in their learning.

Speaking of education, we have another win for Caloundra in this budget: a brand new school for our growing Aura community—a primary school with a capacity for 1,140 students. I am so excited to welcome the next generation of Caloundra locals to a fabulous new state school. It is so important

that children can attend school in their local area. It makes life easier and communities stronger. We all know the important role our local schools play in shaping our entire lives. The former Labor government pulled the pin on this project, leaving that land vacant in Aura. They failed to deliver, but the LNP Crisafulli government has come to the rescue again for Caloundra. We value our young families and their education.

The Wave will be life-changing for our region—public transport is possibly the most exciting project for Caloundra! It will connect Beerwah to Nirimba, then Caloundra, Aroona and Birtinya, where the hospital is located. From there, our community will be able to jump on to the metro bus and travel to the Maroochydore CBD and on to the Sunshine Coast airport. I would like to reassure the member for McConnel that the people of Caloundra are in fact very excited by this plan. After listening to a 30-year conversation about Sunshine Coast rail, they know that we will deliver it.

I am so excited to be part of a government that can deliver mass transport solutions. As an individual local resident, a mother and a person who does not like driving, with five children at home—many with part-time jobs—I lap up and down those congested roads and I could not be more proud of this plan, which is committed to reducing traffic congestion. We will certainly have our livability and choice enhanced.

This budget has almost \$44 million for expanding social and community housing in our region to address Labor's housing crisis. Every single day I hear stories in my community about homelessness or the risk of homelessness. The size of the social housing waitlist is well documented, and I congratulate the LNP housing minister on the work he has already undertaken to address this crisis created by the former government.

This budget provides funding for shades and other upgrades that are so desperately needed at the Landsborough community kindy. We all know the important role our kindies play in our society, and Landsborough community kindy is a well-deserving recipient of this support.

We are also funding the Dicky Beach Surf Club for lifesaving equipment, local sporting clubs and the Twinnies pelican rescue. We are supporting our local emergency services, including \$17.5 million for a replacement fire station at both Caloundra and Beerwah. We are supporting those who keep our communities safe.

Here is the big one—the issue that my people have at the top of their minds every single day: traffic congestion on Caloundra Road. If the people of Caloundra check out QTRIP, they will see the Caloundra Congestion Busting Plan is listed as a project for the first time ever. The former government did nothing to address our growing community and congestion. We have been left in a mess and I will always be working on traffic infrastructure for our community, which is where we have been failed the most. This is our commitment to the main issue that affects the people of Caloundra. After years of neglect of our road infrastructure, this big project will take time. Thank you to the transport minister for addressing our concerns. Planning is underway and it is very exciting to see movement.

Lastly, I am thrilled to see funding for making 50-cent fares permanent. As I use the train to come to parliament, I fully support this measure, particularly as we are seeing increased public transport options for the people of Caloundra.

The axing of the GP patients tax is an enormous achievement, and I hate to think what could have been done under the former government if they were given the chance to reintroduce this tax, making it harder for our community to access a GP.

Once again I congratulate my colleagues on a fantastic first budget and thank them for their investment and commitment to Caloundra. This is a huge step towards our community catching up on a decade of neglect.



Hon. JH LANGBROEK (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Minister for Education and the Arts) (6.00 pm): It is nice to follow the honourable member for Caloundra, with whom I was pleased to announce the school at Aura to which she just referred. It is my pleasure to speak on the 2025-26 state budget as the Minister for Education and the Arts and as the member for Surfers Paradise in the Crisafulli government. Hasn't it been an interesting debate, listening to those opposite who obviously still cannot cope with being in opposition! We have heard so much whingeing and whining, so much negativity from those opposite including, as I heard from the member for Morayfield, trying to read the SDS and find out all the details.

As a former member of the Public Accounts Committee, I remember Auditor-General's reports talking about the difficulty of opposition members being able to understand what is in the SDSs. It must be hard for those opposite who say they cannot find things in the SDS—that things must be missing from the SDS, as we have heard in question time a number of times. They just do not know where to look because they do not have 20 staff to help them individually.

When we hear from those opposite like the member for Lytton asserting that the LNP just fell over the line at the last election, I would like to point out a couple of statistics. In the 55th Parliament, Labor had 41 seats. In the 56th Parliament, Labor had 48. In the 57th Parliament, Labor had 52 seats and we had 35. Somehow, when we have 52 and they have 35, we just fell over the line! Seriously, where do these people come from?

When it comes to the education portfolio, which Labor love to claim is 'naturally' theirs, what did we hear from the opposition leader yesterday? They do not support the Back to School Boost, providing \$100 to cover out-of-pocket expenses for families. Why don't they want families to benefit from critical cost-of-living relief? It was a nasty speech. The style of it was copied by a lot of those opposite, and I will deal with that in a minute. It was a speech that, apart from the ad hominem attacks, which really go to the lack of class of the opposition leader, failed to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of teachers and other school-based staff. It is so low to criticise people individually about personal characteristics instead of debating the issues. That has been an issue here for a long time, and it continues.

There was no vision for education and no new education policy in the opposition leader's speech. Before the election there was a lot of talk about Free Kindy. There is complete silence now because their scare campaign is over. The budget confirms that we are continuing with Free Kindy. There was no mention of school performance, school infrastructure, NAPLAN or student behaviour in the opposition leader's speech. We have heard about food programs but Labor failed to disclose that they were going to end the School Breakfast Program on 30 June; we are extending it. This week I got questions about whether we should be teaching pornography literacy in schools—a significant issue mentioned on the front page of the paper today. Labor had tried to hide their plans to cut \$1.2 million from Respectful Relationships education on 30 June; we are extending it.

It is pretty obvious that, when it comes to education, those opposite have no real interest. We know that we have laid the groundwork for the fresh start that we promised the people of Queensland and we are delivering in a number of different areas. We are providing real cost-of-living relief. This budget is targeted, timely and responsible. It retains services that were at risk of being lost. It saves jobs that would have disappeared. It rescues infrastructure projects that would never have seen the light of day under the previous government.

We know about the last budget update and the true state of their economic mismanagement. Queenslanders will never forget Labor's desperate last-ditch election campaign, a flurry of reckless promises made up on the fly, a panicked return to their old playbook of higher taxes, bloated bureaucracy and spiralling debt. We all know who would be left to pay those bills.

I am proud to reannounce that this Crisafulli government budget delivers a record \$22.4 billion for education, early childhood and the arts, including \$1.285 billion in capital expenditure to build and upgrade school infrastructure—including capital grants to non-state schools—because our growing state demands a forward-thinking plan and not more excuses. Under Labor, Queensland's education system has been hampered by chronic underinvestment and short-sighted planning, with many schools overcrowded, classrooms neglected, and parents and teachers left with broken promises and broken buildings. That is why my colleagues on this side are thanking us for what we are actually doing in schools that have been neglected for too long by those opposite.

I got a grudging acknowledgement from the member for Ferny Grove about a school that I invited him to—which those opposite never did! I have had members on this side, including the Deputy Premier, who have told me that when those opposite were in government the ministers would be in their electorates but they would not even get the decency of an invitation to their own schools. How low is that!

We are taking action by delivering six new special schools and campuses in Central Logan, Coomera, Springfield, Redbank, Beenleigh, Moreton Bay South and Ipswich West. They are not in all of our electorates. We are putting schools where they are needed. There are two new primary schools—one in Ripley Valley and one that I have already mentioned in Caloundra South.

We are delivering a new high school in Gracemere. The shadow minister tried to claim that they had already announced it. They had Rockhampton for so long. We did not even win the seat when we got them down to seven in 2012. It takes us making an announcement about a high school and suddenly Labor is interested in Gracemere. We are delivering a health sciences academy in Rockhampton. The Minister for Youth Justice, the member for Currumbin, is delivering three new crime prevention schools and two new youth justice schools.

We also know that schools are not just bricks and mortar; they are centres of belonging, aspiration and opportunity. That is why we are delivering upgrades across the state including new and refurbished classrooms, specialist learning spaces and outdoor facilities.

We are also proud to have delivered the Better and Fairer Schools Agreement. Today I had an education ministers meeting, not in Adelaide. I did it via video from here so that I could take part in this important debate. We are providing \$2.772 billion over five years and \$9.356 billion over a decade—something the previous Labor government could not achieve. It was the first education ministers meeting since April 2024 because those opposite could not negotiate a deal with the federal minister, Jason Clare. We have been able to negotiate a deal and have agreed to 75 per cent school funding for the first time ever. Those opposite kept it at 69 per cent, or just over, for six consecutive years. We have secured a landmark deal, ending the education wars, ensuring that all Queensland state schools receive their fair share of funding.

In my remaining time, I am going to speak to a particularly nasty contribution from the shadow minister. If you listen to the contribution, it was not just nasty in words; it was shrill and it was shrieking. It was personally ad hominem in style, carrying on in the style of the opposition leader last night, and completely inappropriate if we want to talk about the importance of education and my desire to do this role.

I want to put this on the record: I am privileged to do this job as Minister for Education and the Arts, just as I was to be the Minister for Education, Training and Employment in our last term of government. To make personal statements about those types of things and whether a minister is doing anything with stakeholders—I am happy to have anyone look at my diary to see my activities. Do not tell us that stakeholders are concerned that if they complain about something they will be in trouble. They are trying to make up something that is not happening.

The shadow minister said that she has written to me three times, and she has. I am going to table her letters to me, to which she has had two replies and will get a third. I am always courteous. The shadow minister is not asserting that I have not written back, but she keeps telling us about a particular school in her electorate that she maintains needs something that she could have provided in the years when she was the minister. That is the point. Do not come to us now and say, 'I'm working hard on behalf of my community writing all these letters.' I table those two letters where the member is not sure whether she is looking at new classroom spaces or refurbishment, and there is a third letter. I table them.

Tabled paper: Bundle of correspondence between the member for Bulimba, Hon. Di Farmer MP, and the Minister for Education and the Arts, Hon. John-Paul Langbroek, regarding Cannon Hill State School [\[829\]](#).

Importantly, let's have a bit of courtesy in this place! Let's just get back to the decency we should treat each other with instead of the ridiculous carry-on that we see from those opposite now that, for the first time in 10 years, they are back in opposition.

We have invested a lot in the arts as well. Labor neglected it. They used it as a red carpet public relations exercise. I love hearing from those opposite about that particular sector. It was abandoned. Queensland is among the lowest per capita funders in the nation and key cultural projects faced major cost blowouts and delays. I do not have time to go through the specifics in my arts portfolio, but I will be working hard to do things for the 2032 Olympics, of course, because that is what Queenslanders expect. We have heard a lot about sport infrastructure.

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

The speech read as follows—

Mr Speaker, I have been contacted by countless constituents over the past decade, who are sick of hooning, antisocial behaviour, and streets that no longer felt safe and while Labor turned a blind eye—we will not.

Mr Speaker, this Budget delivers \$31.1 million for high-visibility policing in crime hotspots across the state, an initiative already making a difference on the Gold Coast, with operations underway at Pacific Fair, Robina Town Centre, and Harbour Town.

Mr Speaker, I have called for more frontline officers, and I am pleased to report that this Budget delivers 137 new police officers statewide, 9 of those to the Gold Coast, and the largest intake of recruits in over 20 years—with 546 currently in training and more than 2,200 applicants in the pipeline.

Mr Speaker, alongside hooning, the misuse of e-scooters and e-bikes has become a growing issue—particularly in Surfers Paradise and along the Oceanway and while these devices can be useful, without proper regulation and enforcement, they have become a safety hazard and tragically, lives have been lost.

Mr Speaker, in response to this growing issue, the Crisafulli government launched the Inquiry into E-Mobility Safety and Use, with public submissions concluding last (Friday) 20 June and I want to thank all Queenslanders who participated—especially those in my electorate who provided evidence and constructive suggestions.

Mr Speaker, one of the key reforms the Crisafulli Government introduced is the Making Queensland Safer Laws, including the expansion of the Adult Crime, Adult Time framework from 13 to 33 serious offences.

Mr Speaker, in my electorate of Surfers Paradise, the community was rocked by the tragic death of Jack Beasley in 2019 and I want to thank my colleague and Member for Bonney along with Brett and Belinda Beasley who have shown immense courage in advocating for change and as a result, Jack's Law was introduced to give police the power to detect weapons and a law that has now been made permanent.


Mr Speaker, homelessness is an increasing concern in every corner of Queensland including Cavill Avenue in my electorate, where small businesses and families are feeling the impact. Mr Speaker, one local business owner told me he saw a 15 per cent increase in trade within a week of targeted action being taken by police and community services and I want to acknowledge Minister Purdie and the QPS and Minister O'Connor and his department for their swift action in resolving this issue.

Mr Speaker, this Budget delivers the largest investment in homelessness services and crisis accommodation in Queensland's history because we know it's not just about funding, it's about coordinated, compassionate, and practical solutions.

Mr Speaker, this is not just a Budget it is a turning point for Queensland, this is a Budget that restores accountability, a Budget that strengthens our schools and empowers our educators, a Budget that breathes new life into the arts and celebrates our culture and a budget that makes our communities safer, our economy stronger, and our future brighter.

Mr Speaker, the Crisafulli Government is focused, united, and delivering by building better schools, backing the arts, restoring law and order, and delivering practical reforms that put Queenslanders first.

Mr Speaker, I commend the Budget to the House.

 **Mr G KELLY** (Mirani—LNP) (6.09 pm): I rise tonight to support the Crisafulli government's first budget. This is a budget for all Queenslanders, especially those of us who live, work and raise families in the regions. This budget begins the task of rebuilding Queensland and restoring trust that was lost in communities like mine, where Labor spent years turning a blind eye. For nearly a decade the electorate of Mirani was ignored, forgotten and taken for granted. There was plenty of spin and plenty of stunts but no outcomes. Let me tell you, Mr Deputy Speaker, that you cannot fake it in Mirani. You have to show up, plan ahead, roll up your sleeves and get things done.

In just eight months the Crisafulli government has done more for Mirani than Labor managed in 10 years. We still have a long way to go, but our people have not given up. They are still showing up, rain, hail or shine, because that is how we do things in Mirani. We are heads down, salt of the earth types, the type of people who keep this state running—quietly, reliably and without the fuss.

Mirani has one of the lowest unemployment rates in the state at just 2.2 per cent; Mackay sits on 6.4 per cent; and Rocky sits on 5.7 per cent. We punch well above our weight. We grow the food, we mine the minerals, we power the grid and we do whatever we have to without any dramas. But we have been overlooked for too long, and that is why this budget matters. It is not just a turning point; it is proof that someone is finally listening.

Take Stanwell Power Station, for example—my old stomping ground. I spent 16 years working there alongside locals who help keep the lights on across Queensland. Now, through the \$1 billion Electricity Maintenance Guarantee, this budget delivers vital upgrades and overhauls to Stanwell, supporting jobs and energy security for our state.

There is \$30,000 for the Sarina Progress Association to fund a feasibility study for upgrades at the Sarina Swim Centre. It might not sound like much, but it has already brought Mackay Regional Council to the table, finally giving Sarina the same support other pools get. That is what happens when government backs local ideas.

It is the same story in Mount Morgan. This budget includes \$50,000 for a tourism feasibility study. This town has been crying out for help for many a year. While we work to re-open the mine, we also need to back new industries, and this funding helps to do just that.

I have to celebrate the \$4.5 million going towards our Beef Week 2027. As a grazier, I know firsthand how much Beef Week means to our region—not just for the cattle industry but for jobs, tourism and regional pride. I look forward to welcoming you all to the beef capital in 2027.

This budget also backs grassroots sport through the Games On! legacy fund. We are delivering \$3.125 million to the Western Suburbs Rugby League Club—go the mighty Wests Tigers!—for new fields, new change rooms and four multipurpose courts. This is a once-in-a-generation upgrade not only for Rugby League but also netball, basketball, volleyball and more. Well done to Kingsley Theiber and the team at Wests! They had the vision and we are helping to bring it to life.

Many people in Mirani choose to live there for the lifestyle. Fishing is a big part of that. That is why the budget includes \$500,000 to upgrade the Inkerman boat ramp, improving safety and access for locals and visitors alike.

As I get around the electorate and speak with the locals, one thing is crystal clear: families are doing it tough. Whether it is groceries, uniforms or sporting fees, the pressure is real. The LNP government is backing families and delivering real relief with \$200 Play On! sports vouchers, a \$100 Back to School Boost, and free kindy health checks. That is real, practical support.

Families have also told me about run-down schools where maintenance issues have been left unattended for too long. Labor left regional schools on the backburner, but this budget delivers upgrades to Alligator Creek, Finch Hatton, Homebush, Marian, Marmor and St Lawrence state schools. These are the places where our kids learn, grow and build friendships. They deserve nothing less than the best.

Keeping our communities safe is the No. 1 concern of Queenslanders. After years of soft-on-crime policies, people have felt it in their streets, their homes and their businesses. The Making Queensland Safer Laws are starting to turn things around, restoring order and rebuilding public confidence. We still have a lot of work to do, and that is why I welcome the 1,600 new police recruits, including seven for Rocky, five for Mackay and one for Sarina, which is fantastic. We are also investing \$147 million for new frontline police equipment, including upgraded body worn cameras and new tasers. We are not just cracking down; we are acting early. This budget delivers \$560 million for early intervention and rehabilitation programs, because stopping crime before it starts is how we build safer communities.

We know that health and housing are just as important as community safety. This budget delivers major investments in both Rockhampton and Mackay hospitals, including: \$36.9 million for a new cardiac hybrid theatre in Rocky; \$91.9 million to expand the mental health ward at Rockhampton Hospital; \$2.2 million for a youth mental health facility; and 128-plus new beds and car parks for the Mackay Hospital. We are also backing grassroots mental health, with the Walk 'n' Talk men's hub in Rockhampton receiving \$200,000.

We are finally addressing the housing shortage. This budget delivers: 147 new homes in Central Queensland; 110 homes in Mackay and Whitsunday; \$1 million for Chances House Mackay to support vulnerable Queenslanders; and \$5.2 million for Vinnies to build a housing and support hub. We are also investing in frontline worker housing for teachers, nurses and police. In towns like Sarina this cannot come soon enough. Our schools are struggling with workforce shortages. It is not because people do not want to come; it is because we have nowhere to house them. It is the same story with police. We are recruiting, but they have nowhere to move into. This budget starts to fix that, and I will keep fighting to make sure it goes further.

This budget delivers where it is needed most: on our roads. Out here roads are not just a blacktop; they are lifelines. I have seen firsthand how a single flood can cut off a road to a community for weeks. There is no easy detour when you have to travel two hours to the next town. That is why Country Roads Connect matters. From Bruce Highway upgrades to remote road repairs, this budget backs the roads that keep Queensland moving because the Bruce is not just a highway; it is the thread that ties the state together.

Finally, I want to acknowledge what is not in this budget: the \$36 million Pioneer-Burdekin pumped hydro project—scrapped! It did not stack up financially, environmentally or socially. There was no consultation and no respect. The people of Eungella were treated appallingly by the former government, but we have made it right. The Premier and I stood in Eungella and told the community, 'This project is off the table.' To the people of Eungella: thank you. You stood your ground, you stuck together and you got the result you deserve—even though you are still left cleaning up the mess caused by Labor's chaos. This is a budget that restores trust, delivers outcomes and puts people first. It shows what happens when government listen to the regions and backs us in.



Mr WATTS (Toowoomba North—LNP) (6.19 pm): I rise to make my contribution on the budget. I would like to thank both the Premier, David Crisafulli, and my mate from the south side, the Treasurer, David Janetzki, for delivering for the people of Toowoomba. I have always been a strong local voice representing the people of Toowoomba, trying to make sure we get the things that we need delivered.

The first one in this budget, and the most important one, is a one-campus hospital. What was being proposed was going to be of no use to the people of Toowoomba. In fact it was going to cost \$300 million a year extra to operate two separate campuses and it would have delivered a poor service. With \$18.5 billion worth of funding for the Hospital Rescue Plan, the establishment of the single campus in Toowoomba at Baillie Henderson is a coup for our community. It delivers 538 beds, which is an increase of 118. That will help deal with both ambulance ramping and getting our waitlist down. This state-of-the-art healthcare facility has been desperately needed for a long time.

There is a \$1.8 billion investment in Surgery Connect. That means pensioners in Toowoomba will not have to be put on buses to get their eyes looked after in Ipswich or Brisbane, which is what has been happening. I appreciate Surgery Connect and I encourage local ophthalmologists to apply for it.

A second connection between Boundary Street and the growing community to our north in Highfields is desperately needed. It was completely botched by those opposite without consultation; it was not done properly. We are going to go back and revisit that business case. We need to get a connection road across to Boundary Street, but first we need to look at the road network locally and work out how it can be expanded so it can cope with the traffic that will be there in the long term. That is part of what is in this budget and that is great.

Talking of road safety upgrades, we will be trying to make it safer for kids around primary schools in Mount Lofty, Highfields, Newtown and Wilsonton. A lot of people here may not realise that we get a fair bit of fog at different times of the year in Toowoomba, and those schools have some particular issues with that. There is also a junction at Stuart Street that is not good for some of the senior school students going into Toowoomba State High School as they are learning to drive. It is particularly dangerous and I have seen a number of accidents there in the last year. I look forward to that being addressed.

The Toowoomba Sports Ground is not going to be an Olympic venue; it is going to be the Equestrian Centre of Excellence, and this budget allocates some of the funding for the planning and establishment of that. It will be a coup for tourism and small business in our area once that is built. We are hoping to get it built well and truly in advance of the Olympics so we can start hosting Queensland championships there. At the moment all competitions—not just age group—are held in Tamworth so this facility will make a real difference to anybody who is interested in equestrian in Queensland. It will be good for tourism and small business in Toowoomba, so it was great to see that funding.

The Toowoomba Sports Ground will get an upgrade. This facility was originally going to be part of the Olympics and that was not particularly popular. I think it was a very poor solution that was being put forward by the former Labor government. It was upsetting for the community because there was going to be temporary scaffolding which would get pulled down afterwards and we were not going to be left with much legacy at all. We have changed it so it will now be used for events in our community. It will get \$3.6 million for an upgrade and a tidy up, for some accessibility issues to be addressed and for a new big screen. I thank the minister for that.

A big discussion going into the election was safety where you live, and this is important for the people in Toowoomba. The former premier refused to come up and talk about crime in our community, even when someone was killed in our main street. I note that a shadow minister, Leanne Linard, went up to Toowoomba this week and started talking to people about what is not in this budget. When she was last in Toowoomba, people were asking her what she was going to do about crime, and her answer came back loud and clear: 'Absolutely nothing.' The people of Toowoomba have made their decision and the government has changed.

I appreciate the \$147.9 million in funding which is being put forward to resource community safety and tackle crime. I want to particularly make sure the police presence increases, not just in Toowoomba but across the whole of the state. There is \$225 million for rehabilitation because safety where you live means we have to prevent people from being recidivists. They will need some support and structure in their lives to get back on track, and that is what we will be doing.

There is a housing Boost to Buy program worth \$165 million which means there will be more affordable housing options and support for home ownership in Toowoomba. There is an \$8 million investment going on in Toowoomba at the moment with social housing. We are partnering with several private organisations and charities to expand that housing base. I would like to thank all of the ministers who have been involved in those initiatives because it will make a difference.

We announced the Manufacturing Hub during the election and it was a great announcement. Toowoomba has been a proud supplier of goods, services, employment opportunities and long-term career paths for manufacturing in the mining industry and the agricultural industry. More recently, a couple of people have been dabbling in the space industry and defence industries. It is interesting to have that hub come together so that different people will be able to learn, understand, use the facilities of that hub, expand their capacity and interact with other operators. I think it will be great for the long-term future of employment in Toowoomba. There is \$10 million for that Manufacturing Hub. That key investment will certainly help in our area.

I want to talk about cost of living and the Play On! vouchers, because a lot has been said about this. There was a scare campaign being run that this funding was going to be cut. Why would we cut funding that was an LNP initiative? The opposition limited who could get it and there was a fixed quantum; there were all these restrictions. We are expanding it to cover both summer and winter sports, reducing costs for families. We really want kids participating in community sport because it bonds a community when kids commit to playing on a regular basis. Parents get to meet each other, they talk, they volunteer in the canteen, they umpire and everything else. One day one of them might even make it to be an NRL referee—hopefully, a good one if they are from Toowoomba. Physical activity is going to be key going into the future, particularly for our youngsters. We want to make sure they are moving, we want to make sure cost is not a barrier and we want to help build community by funding that. The Play On! voucher program is a great initiative and will be enhanced by investments in facilities over time.

Mr Mander: It's locked in.

Mr WATTS: It is locked in, absolutely. The Back to School Boost funding gives \$100 per primary school child. It is interesting that some people have said, 'It's not much. Why can't they get more?' If they had not blown the budget historically, there would be more money to help but, unfortunately, year upon year we have seen the budget blown, we have seen cost blow-outs and we have seen things go over; we have seen all manner of squandering of taxpayers' money. We will take a different approach. We will be cautious with this. We will be methodical. We will be diligent in making sure we get the best return—whether we are investing in a Manufacturing Hub to increase productivity or we are trying to help with cost of living. We will make sure the help gets to the people who need it because they are suffering after the previous government squandered it causing inflation and other things to get out of control. That \$100 per child will help with school essentials and support parents, making sure kids get what they need to become good learners in that environment.

I have seen investment in local school halls. The kids at the Toowoomba North State School have been standing outside for years in an August winter, and I can tell you that it is not great in Toowoomba when the westerly winds start blowing during an August winter. They will have a brilliant \$8 million-plus sports hall. That community has a very high Indigenous and migrant enrolment and some of these kids are doing it tough. They will have a facility that will match any other facility in town so they can have their assemblies, school meetings and everything else there.

Mr Mander: You have one minute.

Mr WATTS: Well, I need to incorporate the rest because I have more words here. 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 in the *Record of Proceedings*.

The speech read as follows—

As the Assistant Minister to the Premier for Cabinet and South West Queensland, it would be remiss of me not to outline what this Budget delivers for a region that has long given more than it has received. After years of neglect under the former Labor Government, we are delivering real investment, real infrastructure, and real hope for the future.

Let's talk about what's being delivered—on the ground, in real terms.

In Charleville, a new CT scanner at the hospital means locals no longer must travel hundreds of kilometres for vital imaging services. We're also supporting the Charleville Airport Master Plan with \$50,000 to assess runway conditions and future development.

In Roma, we're investing \$5 million in the redevelopment of the Denise Spencer Aquatic Centre—a community asset that will benefit families, schools and local sporting clubs. New affordable housing units will be constructed across two council-owned sites, and 14 new homes for frontline workers are planned across Roma and Charleville.

At Roma State College's senior campus, \$1.5 million will refurbish Block J, delivering modern learning spaces. Mitchell State School receives \$518,000 to upgrade multi-purpose courts, and Quilpie State College will benefit from \$600,000 to improve accessibility.

In St George, \$100,000 has been committed to develop an aerodrome masterplan—ensuring aviation infrastructure remains a key driver of regional growth. At The Gums, a business case is being developed to address longstanding safety concerns at the intersection of the Surat Development Road and Leichhardt Highway.

Cunnamulla will see \$600,000 spent upgrading the community swimming pool. In Nindigully, \$45,000 is going into a town beautification and tourism masterplan. Wyandra will receive \$50,000 to fully upgrade its playground, and Bob Young Memorial Park in Quilpie will be enhanced with \$450,000 for new landscaping and paving.

Across the South West, nine social homes are under construction or contract. We're supporting Specialist Homelessness Services to provide temporary accommodation, outreach, and long-term support. This is part of our plan to deliver 53,500 new social and affordable homes statewide by 2044.

We are backing agricultural sustainability with \$4.9 million for telemetry device installation in the Murray-Darling Basin—critical for regional water security.

We're also investing in culture, with \$4.9 million for Indigenous art centres across the South West—supporting ethical, sustainable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and cultural tourism.

Planning for the future is underway, with business cases funded for two vital bridge upgrades—Eulo Bridge over the Paroo River and Loudon Bridge—to improve flood resilience and safety.

A \$6.1 million Microgrid Pilot Fund will support energy security in remote communities and resilience during extreme weather events.

Our youngest learners will benefit from the First 5 Forever family literacy initiative, with \$44,607 allocated to early education across the South West.

We're also part of Queensland's tourism future through Destination 2045. Backed by \$446 million statewide, it ensures communities like ours don't miss out on aviation support, event attraction, or tourism development leading up to the 2032 Games.

This Budget backs regional Queensland not with rhetoric—but with results.

After years of being overlooked, we are delivering infrastructure, education, housing, safety and economic opportunity to every corner of South West Queensland. It's not just a fresh start—it's long overdue respect for the people who keep this state running.

The first Crisafulli Government Budget, delivered by my electorate neighbour David Janetzki, cleans up the mess left behind by the former Labor Government. And make no mistake—it is a mess.

We inherited a fiscal time bomb. Labor took debt from \$72 billion to \$218 billion—a 203% increase in just ten years. Despite a record \$70 billion revenue windfall, Labor left Queensland with the worst ambulance ramping rates in the country, over 50,000 families on the social housing waitlist, and a public service at breaking point.

They promised everything, delivered little. We uncovered multi-billion-dollar blowouts in projects like Pioneer-Burdekin, Cross River Rail, CopperString and Borumba Dam—riddled with mismanagement and poor scoping.

Labor's pre-election announcements—state-run service stations, GP clinics, school lunches—had no funding beyond the press release. None were backed by frontline workers. All risked higher taxes and deeper deficits.

By contrast, the Crisafulli Government has taken a calm, methodical, and responsible approach to correct course. This Budget funds every election commitment, delivers the infrastructure Labor only promised, and saves vital services Labor was prepared to cut.

Most importantly, we are doing this without new taxes, without reckless borrowing, and without burdening future generations.

We are rebuilding internal government capacity—cutting consultant dependence and empowering the public service through Queensland Government Consulting Services.

Every line of this Budget reflects our respect for taxpayer money. We are investing in programs that work—not slogans that sell.

This Budget lays the foundation for a fresh start—not just in Toowoomba, not just in the South West, but across all of Queensland.

Because Queenslanders deserve better. And now, finally, they are getting it.

Debate, on motion of Mr Watts, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 6.30 pm to 7.30 pm.

COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date



Dr ROWAN (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (7.30 pm): I seek to advise the House of the determinations made today by the Committee of the Legislative Assembly at its meeting. The committee has resolved, pursuant to standing order 136, that the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee report on the Queensland Building and Construction Commission and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 by 15 August 2025.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

Dr ROWAN (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (7.30 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.30 am on Tuesday, 26 August 2025.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL**APPROPRIATION BILL****REVENUE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL****Second Reading (Cognate Debate)**

Resumed from p. 2309, on motion of Mr Janetzki—

That the bills be now read a second time.



Hon. PT WEIR (Condamine—LNP) (7.31 pm): I rise to deliver my speech to the budget handed down by Treasurer, the Hon. David Janetzki, on Tuesday afternoon. Let me begin my contribution with the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill which provides total funding of \$146.5 million for the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service for the 2025-26 financial year. This is a net increase in total funding of \$14.5 million from the 2024-25 budget. The majority of additional funding approved for 2025-26 will be directed to a range of significant capital programs not only within the parliamentary precinct but also electorate offices across Queensland.

Some of the headline projects will include: \$28.1 million over four years to deliver the remaining stages of the Parliamentary Annexe refurbishment program, following the completion of the tower floors in 2024. Planned works will focus on levels 3, 5 and 6 of the Annexe, together with external spaces on level 3. These works will deliver modernised functional work spaces for parliamentary staff and also deliver improved security and visitor management processes on level 3 of the Annexe.

Some \$2.9 million over four years will go towards upgrades to electorate office security and access control systems to improve reliability, support and remote integration. Some \$11.2 million over three years will be allocated to deliver priority electorate office relocation and refurbishment projects. This program will target approximately 31 electorate offices to deliver contemporary and suitable work spaces following the introduction of an additional staff member in 2024 and provide improved compliance, fit-out and security design standards. Some \$1.6 million will go towards replacing the existing AV broadcast system that supports public distribution of parliamentary proceedings and various committee hearings via the internet. I am sure we all look forward to these improvements being rolled out in the parliamentary precinct and in the electorate offices.

I would like to make a few comments on the Appropriation Bill 2025, with particular focus on the parts that will affect the seat of Condamine. All in the Toowoomba area and surrounds would have welcomed the Treasurer's commitment to the new Toowoomba Hospital. There have been concerns in the community that the design was being scaled back, but locals can now be assured that that is not the case. One of the glaring omissions in the previous plan was a lack of ophthalmology services. The fact that these services were not to be included was a source of great concern in the district. It would not be possible for me to inform the House how often this has been raised with my office. Our elderly residents currently have to travel to Brisbane or Ipswich to have procedures performed, away from their homes, family and friends. In recent discussions I had with Darling Downs Health Chair Dennis Campbell, I was told discussions are happening as we speak for these services to be included in the new build—

Mr Nicholls: It is in the plan.

Mr WEIR: It is in the plan—likewise, the Equestrian Centre of Excellence at the Toowoomba Showgrounds. While this was announced in the 100-day review on the Olympics, it was great to see funding allocated to this project. There is a real sense of excitement around the upcoming Olympic Games since these announcements have been made, including from my next-door neighbours. A young family lives next door to me and they have three young children—two young girls and one young boy. Like a lot of young children, they have been running around the backyard with broomsticks with a

horse's head stuck on it, jumping over hurdles and so forth. A horse float suddenly appeared. I was talking to my neighbour about a week ago as he was building a new shed. I said, 'Is that shed for the horse float?' He said, 'Yes, it is.' I said, 'Your girls would be very excited about the Olympics coming up.' He said, 'They are determined they are going to compete in the Olympics and they will be old enough to drive themselves there!' So, the dreams are already starting.

I welcome the increase in funding for fire ant management—\$24 million over two years. As members would be aware, there have been some fire ants found in the Condamine electorate in a few locations. Fortunately, it seems they have been found in time and have been eradicated, but this has highlighted that we are not immune to this threat.


I also welcome the funding of \$27 million for upgrades to the Toowoomba-Cecil Plains Road at Troys and Heinemann roads and the very busy roundabout at Torrington. I understand that these works are going to begin as early as next week. Locals will welcome the funding for the installation of a staggered intersection where the Jondaryan-Mount Tyson Road crosses the Toowoomba-Cecil Plains Road. We have seen fatalities at this intersection. It is good to see some funding finally allocated to this dangerous intersection.

The Goombungee State School's parents and teachers are very appreciative of the commitment of \$401,000 to upgrade playground equipment and the tuckshop. Both were in dire need of upgrades.

I note funding in the budget for a water treatment plant in Toowoomba to service four communities. As dull as that might sound, this will pave the way for more housing development in Westbrook, Wyreema and Cambooya. The lack of capable water treatment has been one of the big impediments to growth in these areas.

I commend Treasurer David Janetzki on this, his first budget. There are many aspects that will benefit not only the electorate of Condamine but also all of Queensland: the investment in health, police resources, early intervention and rehabilitation, social housing and home ownership, Play On! vouchers, schools and the Olympics, among many others.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I conclude by thanking you and all the Panel of Temporary Speakers. It has been a long and tiring week and emotions have run a bit high at times, but you have all done a great job. My thanks to each and every one of you. I commend the bills to the House.

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (7.38 pm): I rise here today to also contribute to the debate on the 2025-26 appropriation bills. Firstly, I would like to express my absolute gratitude to the Treasurer, the member for Toowoomba South, for delivering the first LNP budget in a decade. This budget represents not only a financial blueprint but also a renewed vision for Queensland—a vision that lays out a stronger foundation for our future and restores the dream of home ownership.

The 2025-26 budget focuses on four key areas: safety in the community, enhancing quality of life through a robust economy, ensuring health services are available when you need them and formulating a comprehensive plan for Queensland's future. However, for the last two days all I have heard is whingeing and whining from all those opposite. All these projects which could have been done 10 years ago—oh, they are so important now!

Obviously they were not important when they were in government. There may be a logic to it: maybe they want the LNP, who are obviously far better at government, managing the books and running projects, to do their projects because they are not very good at it. The length and breadth of our state we have seen failure after failure from the former Labor government. We have had cost blowouts on projects right throughout Queensland—projects like the Coomera Connector and Cross River Rail—but there is a future for Queensland.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr BOOTHMAN: I would like to take that interjection. After 10 years of Labor rule, there were all these little projects they could not work out. Even former cabinet ministers could not get projects up in their area—now they are all whingeing about it.

Let's talk about how good the LNP is. For the Coomera Hospital they wanted 404 beds. We will build 600 beds at that hospital. We will have a world-class hospital in Coomera which is what the residents of the northern Gold Coast want.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The member for Whitsunday, the member for Currumbin and the member for Gaven: none of you has the call. The member for Theodore has the call.

Mr BOOTHMAN: I have stirred them up a bit here! The Theodore electorate has had a drought of funding for too long. Those opposite refused to give us money for sporting groups. We got a couple of little road projects. We had a road project at exit 57—it was just line marking—that cost \$25 million. If the LNP had done that we would have done a good job and actually fixed it up properly, but under former minister for transport, the member for Miller—a couple of my residents call him interesting names—it was an absolute shocker.

The Theodore electorate gets some serious wins from this budget. One of the wins is that the riverbank upstream from the John Muntz Bridge will finally be fixed. We have been whingeing about this since 2017. In 2017, the Tamborine Oxenford Road—one of the main connectors in the Theodore electorate—washed away. Twenty thousand cars per day go over that bridge. They promised in the 2020 election that they would fix it, but they pulled the funding in 2023. It has taken an LNP government to come into this place to get the funding to finally fix it properly and protect all the motorists in that area.

There is more. Sporting groups will get the funding they desperately need. The Hope Island Coomera Cricket Club, a fantastic club, will get lights—something they have been barracking for many years. The Coomera Cubs Baseball Club will get the lights they want. It just keeps on going—all of these sporting associations will get money. There is a change room for Pacific Pines AFL. Helensvale Hawks are getting change rooms. This is a big win for the Theodore electorate and Theodore residents.

Let's also talk about our schools. Upper Coomera State College will see money spent on an STEM excellence program and a sporting excellence program. This school has been neglected by those opposite for too long. This money will be well spent on making that school the best state school on the northern Gold Coast. It will be the best state school. It will have running tracks and a STEM program which is second to none. They are things that my constituents are very proud of. Helensvale State School will get an outdoor learning centre. Park Lake State School will get air conditioning for their school hall. Around award season at the end of the year it is extremely hot in that school hall. It is unbearably hot. There was a former education minister, the former member for Cooper, I believe it was, who said that we get sea breezes on the Gold Coast. I can promise you now, we do not get sea breezes out at Park Lake! It is boiling hot in summer. This is something that they need.

My residents are excited that money is finally being spent in the electorate. Most important is the East West Connector to bridge the divide between the M1 motorway and the new Coomera Connector. We have interchanges which are at capacity and we need additional bridges to take traffic away from those interchanges so the people on the western side of the highway can use the Coomera Connector. That will make a real difference for local traffic in the Theodore and Coomera electorates. This is something residents are begging for. All we heard was crickets from those opposite—there was silence. If we are building a new arterial link, would members not think it be would prudent to put in an east-west connector so residents on the western side of the highway can use the new Coomera Connector? We would think that those opposite would put that into the planning, but, no, they did not. It took an LNP government, under the leadership of the main roads minister, to come up with this genius idea and say, 'This is what we need to do'. I thank the minister. This desperately needs to be done.

Finally, it is a breath of fresh air to finally have an LNP budget handed down in this place. We have listened to the whingeing and whining over the last two days in respect of all these promises they wanted fulfilled. They had 10 years to fulfil them. It is enough to drive somebody crazy. I will leave it at that. Again, thank you, Treasurer, for handing down an absolutely fantastic budget for the northern Gold Coast.



Hon. DF CRISAFULLI (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (7.47 pm): What a great honour to follow the member for Theodore after what was an impassioned show of how much he loves his community and how his community has not been well served over many years. To see the contribution from the member and know that some of those great sporting clubs, some of the beautiful schools—with or without the sea breezes—are able to get a contribution, I say, 'Well done to you, member.'

I make the observation that this budget does as we said we were going to do. There are many barometers for how this budget has been received by Queenslanders. By all means, there is the commentary that we have received. There is interest in a number of the schemes, and the Treasurer will talk about one of them in a moment. A number of third-party groups are lined up to say great things about it. There has been general goodwill from many of the representative bodies that have spoken well. If you want the No. 1 reason I know this budget delivers the foundation for a fresh start, it is the fact that the opposition has not been able to come up with any form of coordinated attack on it.

The reason I wanted to make my contribution towards the end of the debate is that I have waited to find out what that coordinated attack might be, and it has not come. It has been 'too much of this but not enough of that', it has been 'maybe this and maybe that'. There has been no coordinated strategy because those opposite know that this is a budget that does exactly what we said it was going to do. For them to fail in question time to even go close to making a credible attack on the Treasurer shows the quality of the work he has done. It has been a long time coming for this state to have a treasurer who respects the fiscal position of the state, who is able to work in concert with his cabinet and his colleagues and who is not at war with the people sitting beside him, and the results show that. It has been calm. It has been methodical.

The funds that we said would be delivered have been, the services we said would be bolstered have been and the scare campaign is over. We all lived through it: we lived through the personal denigrations, the backchats, the disgraceful attacks—it is over. This document puts it to bed. The lack of eye contact puts it to bed. It is over. It is exactly what Queenslanders voted for. They voted for change and I commend the Treasurer for delivering this budget.

I want to reflect briefly on one of the first things we spoke about, which was safety where people live. It is important that Queenslanders know that after 10 years of a youth crime crisis it is vital that fewer victims be the compass that guides us. Everything we do must be about fewer victims. There is money to make sure that we continue to do that. There is \$50 million for the Victims Advocate Service, 1,600 new police recruits, new police resources—and I reflected on what it would be like for police to have been calling for a number of those resources and to not have received them and how it would make them feel when they did not have the laws or the resources to do their job. That ends now following the funding of \$147.9 million. On the DNA debacle and operational capacity, I think about how anyone would feel about people who have been denied justice—rape victims—with guilty people walking free, innocent people living with that and to not have those elements funded into the future. I speak of crime prevention schools, secure community partnerships and helping small and family business.

I turn to easier access to health services. That was one of the areas where we saw one of the most disgraceful of all the scare campaigns and heard of some of the horrible things that were said to not just the hardworking people who work in those hospitals but the patients. I still remember driving home at the end of polling day. I was coming from Ipswich and there was a giant billboard that said that a so-called satellite hospital was going to be closed without any basis. There was not one kernel of truth, yet that could be put on a billboard. That satellite health centre has not only been saved; it has been strengthened and there are new facilities rolling out in them across the state. There will be three new hospitals, there will be 10 upgrades and there will be extra staff to resource them, not the fewer staff we were told about. Do honourable members remember all of that? Do they remember the fewer staff? There is extra staff—lots of them—and they need to know that there will be more staff because we value and respect what they do.

There is \$1.8 billion in surgery waitlist reduction. The other day the honourable health minister outlined that we have seen good early signs on those surgery waitlists. Despite that, the Leader of the Opposition in his contribution said something that was completely contrary to that.

Mrs Frecklington: Yeah, he lied.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I will not take the interjection, but I am picking up what the Attorney-General is saying. I am sort of picking it up and I am nodding, but I am not taking it! She is certainly not misleading the House.

Mrs Gerber: Minister for Integrity.

Mr CRISAFULLI: That is for sure. The honourable health minister outlined that and I listened to it and I reflected on what he said in the ministerial statement. Then I heard the Leader of the Opposition say something completely contrary. I do hope the House is given the opportunity to have that clarified into the future.

I turn to housing. The thing I really want to talk about is the Boost to Buy scheme because there is a generation of young people who have given up hope of owning their home. We want them to aspire to more. This project sets higher thresholds for people who are still struggling to get into the market. It sets higher income thresholds and higher property price thresholds, but it gives the opportunity to those who just cannot quite fill that deposit gap to get into the market. Nothing would please me more than seeing a generation of people becoming home owners, because it opens up the opportunity for people to achieve all they can in their life. If people want that, they deserve to be given a crack at getting it. Nothing would please me more than that.

In the end, it is supply where our focus must be. I look at our \$2 billion Residential Activation Fund, by which we will fast-track some money out the door. I want to thank both the Deputy Premier and the Treasurer for the way they have worked in earnest on that. I talk of the 20 per cent uplift for specialist homelessness services. Interestingly, that was another one of those projects. Do honourable members remember that one? Do they remember all the ghosts and all the bad things that were going to happen? Instead of pointing to the honourable member and asking her to justify the disgraceful scare campaign, I will instead point to the people who provide the service and say thank you because they do a mighty job. They are the difference between somebody being on the streets or in a warm bed. They are the difference between—

An honourable member interjected.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I will take the interjection from the member. I am not sure what it was, but I do not think it would be a truthful contribution, so I will take it.

I talk about home ownership for Indigenous communities. It is my turn to return the favour to the Mayor of Palm Island, Alf Lacey, because I have been told overnight he secured a major award in front of a whole heap of people in Canberra. He said some very complimentary things about this government. I say to the mayor: right back at you. I say: thanks for trying to get your people into home ownership and we will do all we can because people in Indigenous communities deserve that opportunity.

I turn to cost-of-living relief—targeted, responsible and long term. I talk about the \$300 opportunity for people with kids going to school and playing sport and the \$100 Back to School Boost. It is very modest and very minor but has the ability to make a connection between a student and a school. That is as important as the ability to make a contribution towards a stationery pack. The ability to form a connection between school and family means community. That is why it is an important initiative. There are the \$200 Play On! vouchers—remember, another scare campaign. I looked in the budget and I have to say that, when you are in the position that the honourable Treasurer is, you do not play the games that those opposite do. You want to see these things in the budget. You want to be surprised. You want to say, 'There's a few hundred million we don't have to find.' But no, there was not a line item!

In fact, let me turn back to housing just for one moment. There was not even enough money for crisis accommodation for the financial year we are in. Remember that? The honourable minister had to go to the cabinet to get money to put a roof over somebody's head—\$150 million—otherwise people would be on the street because they did not build homes and they did not even put in enough money to finish the financial year, let alone the forwards.

I continue on cost of living and I talk about free kindy health checks and the indexed electricity rebates for vulnerable households. We axed the patients tax. The member for McConnel keeps saying that there was no patients tax. There is no doubt they are going to bring it back. The former treasurer stopped talking to the former premier because of it. Of course, they want to roll it back in. I talk about the \$20 million Returning to Work program to support women re-entering the workforce, a very important initiative—

Mrs Gerber: Hear, hear! Real, tangible delivery.

Mr CRISAFULLI:—indeed it is—and a plan for our future. There is the Bruce Highway package, the deal they said was not possible. Do honourable members remember that one? It took him 2½ months, but I guess so. There are the new schools including special schools. I say to those opposite that there is no better opportunity for a family than the opportunity of choice, and nothing will please me more than to see six special schools rolling out across this state.

There is the Electricity Maintenance Guarantee, new opportunities for gas and CopperString—finally, money in the budget with a record investment. Destination 2045 is a long-term vision—45 new projects by 2045. We are rebuilding Paradise Dam by starting those works, are building manufacturing hubs on the Sunshine Coast and in Toowoomba and finally have an Olympics and Paralympics plan—a real plan.

I turn to our natural environment and its record funding—an increase for natural resource management, for 150 rangers, in money for Zero Litter to the Bay, of five new or expanded wildlife hospitals and of \$60.9 million for biosecurity and invasive species management. No wonder those opposite have found no credible attack point all week.

Finally, I want to turn to what it means to my part of the northern Gold Coast, and I say to the honourable member: it is not just your area that has been starved. There is finally money for the Jabiru Island bridge duplication—finally: a project that was on the forward works for this state over a decade ago and finally the people of Paradise Point and Hope Island will not have that congestion point. With regard to boat ramps, there is nearly \$1½ million for Paradise Point and Santa Barbara and the Hope Harbour marina refurbishment—thanks to the Department of Primary Industries—worth \$1.2 million. The honourable member for Theodore listed a whole heap of clubs including the Coomera Hope Island Cricket Club. I have good news for the Runaway Bay Cricket Club—\$500,000 from Games On!, and long may that continue. The Gold Coast Performance Centre at Runaway Bay will see an upgrade worth \$20 million.

This budget does deliver for Queensland, but it also delivers what we said we were going to do. It also delivers one more notch in the Labor Party's belt of scare campaigns that cannot be run again, because we all lived through them. We saw the same ones with the same graphics and the same writing and the same head shots and it was on repeat, and those opposite are still stuck there. They are broken. It is the same people who presided over the mess that this budget fixes—the same ones. They are in the same portfolios. They are refusing to move. Not a single one of them has backed a single thing that the Leader of the Opposition said. He is a corpse waiting, and all of them know it.


Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr CRISAFULLI: There is one thing for certain: for 10 years we have listened to it—for 10 years—and in one budget every scare campaign has been put to bed forever.

Mr SPEAKER: Before I call the Treasurer, Attorney-General, you know what I am going to say. I heard you use an unparliamentary word earlier. I would ask you to withdraw it.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I withdraw.

 **Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (8.02 pm), in reply: Following that outstanding performance and presentation from the Premier, it gives me great privilege to rise tonight to reply to the budget debate. I am going to take my full 30 minutes, colleagues, so you do not need to sit here for all of it. You do not need to stay here for all of it. You are very welcome to, but I am going to take the full 30 minutes because, as the Premier said, we have waited a very long time to be able to present a budget into this House. It has been nearly 11 years now since we last presented a Liberal National government budget in this House, so it has been a long time coming. As the Premier has said, this budget ends the scare campaigns. It officially ends the scare campaigns, and I am going to run through them over the next half an hour as I reply to the budget debate tonight.

I want to thank all members across the House and on this side for their contributions to the budget debate. In particular, I want to offer my congratulations to those members who made their first speech on the budget over the last couple of days. It is a proud moment to be able to represent your electorates and I took significant pride in listening to all of you speak so passionately about your areas, about your homes, about your regions, about your loved ones, about your community groups and about the good causes that you back in. It was a real pleasure to hear it, so congratulations to everybody who made their contribution reflecting how this budget delivers for their region, for their electorate, for their people, because they have waited a long time to have a budget that represents their interests rather than just simply glossy brochures and announcements to get through the next election.

I want to thank the Leader of the House because budget week is long. It is long and he has had to do a lot of organising. I acknowledge the efforts of the Leader of the House and his entire team to have such a smooth budget week. I want to formally thank the Premier, the Deputy Premier and the

finance minister for the hard work that was done during CBRC. I think I said at a couple of press conferences that this calm and methodical approach that we have taken to the budget would not have been achieved without the leadership of the Premier. Members heard just then what this budget and this opportunity means to the Premier. He brought that commitment every day to the budget process, and I thank him for his support during it. I also want to once more thank the Treasury staff who helped us prepare this budget—our first budget in a very long time—and we wanted to do it calmly, line by line, agency by agency, and that is exactly what we have done to honour our election commitments, to save the jobs and services and to build the projects and infrastructure that Queensland needs.

This is a budget that lays the foundation for the fresh start that Queenslanders voted for—it is—and it delivers for Queensland. It delivers targeted and responsible cost-of-living relief. The Premier touched on it, but I am going to do it as well. I am going to go through the targeted and responsible cost-of-living relief because it is recurrent and responsible, it is targeted, it is timely and it was carefully thought through to help those people who are doing it tough. It is done to help those people who are doing it tough.

There is the \$100 Back to School boost for primary school-age children no matter where they go to school—state school, Catholic school, independent school. We wanted to offer that support to those families who are sending kids off to school in 2026. With regard to the \$200 sports voucher program—formerly FairPlay under those opposite—it was a Liberal National program, by the way. I have to emphasise that. For the last few days we have had to endure those opposite carrying on like it was their idea. It was not. It was not their idea; it was a Liberal National idea in our last government. It was our idea. We started it. They were going to let it end. When was it ending? Next week. It was ending under those opposite next week. It was all over next week and we decided, 'No, we're going to make it permanent. We're going to put it in the budget,' because that is what the people of Queensland deserve. When you couple that \$200 voucher with two rounds a year, you are going to get an awful lot of families that can make the decision which sport is played when, which season, what time.

Mrs Gerber: It makes a difference.

Mr JANETZKI: It does make a difference. I take the interjection from the member for Currumbin. They get that opportunity to make that choice. So we have our sports vouchers now in the forwards. They are there.

We lifted the former Labor government's freeze on indexation for vulnerable households. There are 600,000 vulnerable households in Queensland and the former indexation had been frozen. We have lifted that, so the rebate for vulnerable households now goes from \$372 to \$386. For as long as I am Treasurer that will continue to be indexed and increased every year because those vulnerable households deserve to have that support. They deserve to have that support.

We have also extended the first home owner grant boost of \$30,000 for another 12 months. That is going to help a couple of thousand people. What we want more than anything else is to incentivise young people to get into home ownership. We make no apologies for that, and I am going to have a bit more to say about home ownership later. This budget also locks in permanently the Crisafulli government's 50-cent fares. It locks them in permanently. Those opposite were never locking them in. We did.

Mrs Gerber: It was a headline for them.

Mr JANETZKI: It was: it was just a headline; it was a gimmick. However, it means something to us.

A government member: We've put it in the forwards.

Mr JANETZKI: It is built in now: it is in the forwards. It means something to us. It is not just a gimmick. It is going to help people get home sooner. It is going to ease congestion on our roads. It is going to boost productivity. It means something to us.

This budget also front loads investments into jobs and services so that Queenslanders can reap the benefits sooner. It saves jobs and services. It invests into capital projects that Queensland needs for a growing population and to prepare for the games in 2032. When I think about some of the investments into jobs, into services and into projects that we have seen in this budget, I think about health with a 10.2 per cent increase, a total operational and capex budget this year of \$33 billion, and I think about the Hospital Rescue Plan—\$18.5 billion invested into hospitals around the state; the new hospitals, the refurbishments.

Mrs Gerber: Real people behind it!

Mr JANETZKI: Real people behind it, real projects. These new hospitals will deliver the health services for Queenslanders no matter where they live because everybody deserves that. In housing I think of the \$5.6 billion record investment. I think of the \$365 million investment into housing services and the 20 per cent uplift in specialist homelessness services. I think of the hard work that the housing minister has done advocating for that. This budget builds it in.

In the education department we have a \$21.9 billion investment in the budget—\$814.8 million in capex, six new special schools, two new schools. We were at Mitchelton Special School during the week talking to families there. We know what it will mean for them to have outstanding facilities. We need those facilities for a growing population. As we draw on the education deal that the Premier struck with the Prime Minister—

Mrs Gerber: They couldn't do it!

Mr JANETZKI: I will take the interjection. Those opposite could not do it. I think about the 1,600 police we have committed to in the budget. We have the \$147 million boost for tasers, body worn cameras and other equipment for the police that we talked about during the week.

When I think about the Olympics investment, I think about the question from the member for McConnel. Why would they get her to ask a question about the Olympics? We are not even sure if she wants Victoria Park. Unlike them, we want a games that Queensland can be proud of. Under those opposite it was years of wasted time, ridiculous plans, costings done on media releases, QSAC thought bubbles without a thought to how anyone would get there and temporary stands. It is extraordinary.

Mrs Gerber: They still support QSAC.

Mr JANETZKI: I think they do still support it. In this budget we have tipped in \$950 million out of a total spend for athletes villages and \$862 million on venues. We want to deliver a games that Queensland can be proud of. The budget lays the foundation for budget repair. The long-term investments that we are making into structural reforms will put downward pressure on prices and improve living standards. When I look at the Electricity Maintenance Guarantee—we need our generators operating at capacity so we need them properly maintained—we have lifted that from \$1.4 billion to \$1.6 billion, having already spent \$450 million in this financial year. When I look at the Deputy Premier's Residential Activation Fund, we have made a commitment to that in this budget. We know we need supply. Notwithstanding the key investments we are making into housing and our tax initiatives, we need more supply. That is fundamental. Under our Residential Activation Fund, we will have delivered \$1 billion in grants to councils and developers by 30 June next year. That is the kind of investment that we are making into supply because we are determined to work with local councils and developers to get more supply to the market.

We have achieved this budget repair against the backdrop of declining royalties. That is an area that I will not go into tonight. We know what that did to investor confidence. Those opposite promised 26 times they would not raise taxes and they broke that promise. We know that coal royalties are stagnant.

Mr Head interjected.

Mr JANETZKI: I will come back to that, member for Callide. There was one notable absence during this entire debate: there was not one mention from those opposite about the GST. I went to the tape. There was not one comment—not a peep, not a whisper, not a mention.

Mrs Gerber: The deputy opposition leader could have knocked on his neighbour's door and asked him outside.

Mr JANETZKI: That is exactly true. I will take the interjection. I love it. I will come back to it. The silence of those opposite over the last few days about cuts to Queensland's GST take is very different from how they used to talk about it. Just for a moment let us have a bit of a history lesson. The office of the member for Woodridge, as the member for Currumbin rightly points out, is literally next door to the federal Treasurer. They could reach out of their offices and shake hands.

Mr O'Connor: I don't think Dick is there much.

Mr JANETZKI: I am not sure how much time the 'Oracle of Woodridge' is down there. Bearing in mind the backdrop was that Queensland had suffered a cut to GST, the member for Woodridge said—

This is a very simple test of the leadership of the Leader of the Opposition. Do they support this cut to Queensland or are they going to finally stand up for Queensland? Some debates in this House are more important than others.

One can imagine the member for Woodridge saying that.

Mrs Gerber: I can picture it in black and white.

Mr JANETZKI: I can picture it in black and white too. He went on—

This is one of those debates. The impact of this sort of change to the financial position of Queensland would be absolutely profound.

Let us go to what the member for Murrumba said when Queensland had cuts to their GST from Canberra. It is interesting. He said—

The LNP in Canberra wants to cut Queensland's GST distribution by \$1.5 billion.

They were moving motions in the House. They were nearly marching down the street. The member for Nanango was the leader at the time. He went on to say—

She does not want to have to choose between Queensland and her bosses in Canberra, but the problem for her is that she has to choose; she cannot have it both ways.

Those opposite cannot have it both ways.

Mr Bennett: Their comrades are more important.

Mr JANETZKI: Yes, their political allegiances in Canberra are far more important than the people of Queensland. When it comes down to it, they will take their Labor political interests over the interests of Queenslanders. As \$2.3 billion of Queensland's hard-earned GST goes over the border there was not a single mention from anyone in the entire couple of days of debate. A couple of years ago the member for Murrumba was saying 'she has to choose'. Give us a break. Stand up for Queensland's interests. Stand up to your mates in Canberra. Pick up the phone. How many times did we hear 'pick up the phone'? Get on the blower to Albo. Member for Woodridge, go next door and talk to your mate Jim. We on this side of the House have been consistent. We always said we would fight for 50-50 health funding whatever the colour in Canberra. When the government changed in Canberra those on that side of the House did not want to know about it. There was absolute crickets.

I am worried that I will run out of time, so I will have to move on. Yesterday, I said that the member for Murrumba should not have given a budget reply speech; he should have given an apology, a statement of regret, a mea culpa—whatever it might be. He should have done that but he did not. Let's think about what he has to apologise for: record debt of \$218 billion, record debt per capita and the four crises of crime, housing, cost of living and health. I think he needed to apologise for the state election campaign last October and the utter lack of graciousness on election night as well.

I think the opposition leader should apologise for suggesting state owned everything: state owned medical practices, another state owned energy retailer and state owned service stations. I think the people of Queensland deserve an apology for that. Frankly—and the Premier touched on this perfectly—they should apologise for the scare campaign because it has been proven to be utterly false. This budget proves it was false because we have invested in the jobs, services, projects and infrastructure that we promised.

When the member for Murrumba gave his budget reply speech, what did we hear? We heard about tens of billions of dollars worth of unfunded and uncoded promises. I remember how those opposite would always ask, 'How are you going to fully fund and fully cost that?' Yesterday, by my count, the opposition leader made promises worth at least \$50 billion because they have never walked away from Pioneer-Burdekin, they have never walked away from state owned servos, they have never walked away from state owned medical practices, they have never walked away from state owned energy retailers and they have never walked away from a whole range of other projects.

Mrs Gerber: They were going to reintroduce the patients tax.

Mr JANETZKI: They would bring back the patients tax. They have never walked away from that. They have never walked away from any of it. My question to them is this: what taxes will you raise, because you cannot borrow all that money? How will they pay for it? Where is the fully funded and fully costed plan? They have a choice. What will it be? I think it is going to be taxes. The patients tax would be coming back. We know Labor love to tax unrealised gains. They have never seen an unrealised gain they did not want to tax. I reckon that is what we have to look forward to from those opposite.

The Leader of the Opposition agreed with the Crisafulli government's permanent 50-cent fares and a range of other jobs and services that are funded in this budget. It is excellent news that those opposite support our 50-cent fares being embedded in the budget. That is excellent. The Leader of the Opposition's centrepiece announcement is based on a policy that has had zero applications and zero concessions granted since they first announced it in 2023. That is not even a small target. I do not even know what that is. It is a nothing. We continue to support those measures but we do not need to wait for five years to make the announcement.

We saw an opposition obsessed with the colours of the cover of the budget documents and not the figures inside the documents that actually mean something to the Queensland people.

Mrs Gerber: You had to tell them the page numbers.

Mr JANETZKI: Yes. They were not real keen on the page numbers.

Mr O'Connor interjected.

Mr JANETZKI: My advisers are still working on it. They are trying to work it out and tell me whether the font is noto sans and what the GSM is. I think they are more worried about the font and the thickness of the paper than what is inside the documents, which is what matters to the people of Queensland.

The Leader of the Opposition is more interested in parroting lines for TikTok than giving a meaningful contribution in this parliament. That is pretty consistent. We have seen that for a long time. He spent more time trying to take credit or disavow a home ownership policy that he never came up with than he did apologising to Queenslanders for leaving over 50,000 of them on the social housing waitlist, reducing new lot approvals by 29 per cent and allowing rent to increase in the way he did. Somehow he spent an entire budget reply speech saying that he hoped the focus would be on Queenslanders and their needs, yet he spent more time talking about our government. He criticised me for mentioning Labor 12 times in my budget speech. I have gone to *Hansard* to check the record. He mentioned our government and the Liberal National Party 50 times, but that's just the Leader of the Opposition.

There has been a litany of mistruths, distortions and a few questions along the way from those opposite. There were too many to mention them all but I will run through a few quickly, just to make us aware.

The member for Waterford, a reluctant shadow treasurer on the best of days, drew on ChatGPT, as is customary for her. Sometimes, it just does not work out. She cooked up a ragtag bunch of non sequiturs as she struggled to present a coherent message or any meaningful understanding of economics. She talked of increased debt while reducing the debt per capita program while also not funding services. None of it made any sense. Talk about a magic pudding. The good news for the member for Waterford is that she probably will not be shadow treasurer next year.

From self-indulgent moody black-and-white photos on budget day to facile House histrionics, you can always trust the member for Woodridge to make it all about him. For that and his broken tax promises, it is probably an appropriate punishment that, for the rest of his time in this parliament, he will have to defend state owned service stations. I think that is an appropriate punishment for the member for Woodridge. He made some other contributions along the way. He criticised the government for keeping progressive coal royalties after claiming that we would get rid of them. He claimed that we were increasing debt and reducing spending at the same time. He struggled to work out whether this budget was increasing or decreasing the number of homes and whether that was good or bad. The member for Woodridge was all over the place. Five budgets in this House from the member for Woodridge was five too many.

For the member for Bundamba, I am happy to again confirm that we are funding the Mackay-Bucasia Road. That is on page 89, if he ever feels like reading the budget papers or QTRIP. The shadow energy minister claimed investment into our government owned corporations was reducing

next year. That is wrong. It will be up by \$700 million. The member falsely claimed that the government reduced the investment in and halved the size of CopperString. That is wrong on both counts. We have increased the investment to a record \$2.4 billion and we are building it from Townsville to Mount Isa.

The member for Sandgate raised concerns about our Boost to Buy program, saying that we did not provide enough details. The member for Sandgate also said that our Boost to Buy program was not worth it because it will help only 1,000 people. The member for Gaven criticised our Boost to Buy scheme as just a cheap knockoff of their plan, which is ironic, really, considering the federal Labor scheme that she legislated in Queensland when she was the housing minister. We are investing in nation-leading parameters: \$1 million no matter whether you live in the regions or in urban areas and the highest income thresholds of \$150,000 for a single person and \$225,000 for a couple. We are making a difference for home ownership. We are driving home ownership. On that count, the member for Murrumba said that the scheme was too small to make any measurable difference. He should go and tell that to the generation of young people giving up on home ownership. All members opposite who commented negatively on Boost to Buy should go and tell young people that that is what they think.

The opposition's inability to read QTRIP reached legendary standards during the course of the past few days. For the member for Ipswich: the inner-city bridge across the Bremer River in central Ipswich is in QTRIP on page 39. The member for Lytton could not find the Lindum railway station in QTRIP. It is on page 38. Get in and do some work. Read the papers. They do not have advisers hanging off them anymore. They should go and do some work. The member for Springwood claimed he could not find the Mount Cotton Road and Valley Way intersection in the budget papers. It is on page 36 of QTRIP. The member for Aspley claimed there was no money allocated for the Bruce Highway western alternative. He should look at page 50 of QTRIP. The member for Pine Rivers struggled to keep up with Mount Mee Road over Terrors Creek. It is on page 49 of QTRIP. They just cannot keep up with it.

The member for Inala said our four-year capital program was smaller than Labor's. It is not. I only found out this week that the member for Cooper is the shadow assistant minister for treasury. Who knew! I did not even know that was a thing. In her defence, though, of the five shadow ministers who follow me around in my various portfolios, the member for Cooper, unlike the member for Waterford, did in fact try to deal with some macro-economic conditions. I will give her that credit.

I thank the member for Morayfield for listing all the projects that are being funded and delivered by the Crisafulli government. The member for Gladstone claimed the budget contained no funding for renewable energy projects. Wrong! The budget allocates more than \$1 billion next financial year for the advancement of renewable projects. Finally, it is good that the member for Stafford got the Labor talking points. I am very pleased.

A government member: He's still on the email list.

Mr JANETZKI: He is still on the email list. I am very pleased that the member for Stafford got the talking points. One year ago the member for Woodridge said in his budget speech, which we will all remember—

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

Who could ever forget that is what he said. He brought the House down at the time, but not as he intended. After 10 years and everything that those opposite had put Queensland through, it symbolised how disconnected Labor was from the everyday worries of life—cost of living, health, crime and housing.

Queenslanders certainly made a choice about their future on election night, not that the Leader of the Opposition had the grace to recognise it. This is a budget that delivers for Queenslanders. It really is. We have very calmly and methodically gone through the key areas. We promised cost-of-living relief for those who need it most. We have funded the jobs, services, capital projects and infrastructure that Queensland needs. It is a budget that delivers for Queenslanders.

It will take more than one budget and more than one term to turn around the mess that those opposite left behind. We promised a calm and methodical approach to the budget with respect for taxpayers' money, and that is exactly what we are doing. We know that this is the start of a long journey and it will take more than one budget to turn it around. This budget marks an important first step. This budget is delivering for Queenslanders. This budget lays the foundation for a fresh start for Queensland.

Question put—That the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill and the Appropriation Bill be now read a second time.

Motion agreed to.

Bills read a second time.

Referral to Portfolio Committees

Mr SPEAKER: In accordance with standing order 177(2), the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill and the Appropriation Bill stand referred to the portfolio committees.

Second Reading

Question put—That the Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill be now read a second time.

Motion agreed to.


Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail

Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill

Clauses 1 to 30, as read, agreed to.

Third Reading

 **Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (8.33 pm): I move—


That the bill be now read a third time.

Question put—That the bill be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Long Title

 **Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (8.34 pm): I move—

That the long title of the bill be agreed to.

Question put—That the long title of the bill be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

MOTION

Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (8.34 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That, notwithstanding anything contained in standing and sessional orders, I be allowed to immediately move a motion without notice regarding the estimates 2025 process with a total debate time of 30 minutes before the question is put.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

COMMITTEES

Estimates Hearings

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (8.35 pm): I move—

That—

1. sessional orders, including the estimates 2025 program for each portfolio committee in table 1 circulated in my name; and
2. amendments to the standing rules and orders of the Legislative Assembly circulated in my name

both be agreed to, effective upon assent to the Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025.

Sessional Orders, including Estimates 2025 program for each portfolio committee

1. For the consideration of the Annual Appropriation Bills for 2025-2026, so much of Standing and Sessional Orders is suspended to enable:

(a) The portfolio committees to only hold hearings and take evidence on the areas of responsibility, on the dates and within the timeframes provided in Table1.

(b) The Leader of the House, after consultation with the Speaker, if necessary, to issue a memorandum changing the days and times for each hearing in Table 1;

(c) Where a Minister administers a number of distinct portfolio areas, matters relating to each portfolio area can only be raised during the hearing time specified for that portfolio in Table 1.
2. In accordance with Standing Order 177(5), each portfolio committee is to report to the House on the annual appropriation bills by Friday 15 August 2025.

TABLE 1 PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE, AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY, DATES OF HEARING AND TIMEFRAMES

GOVERNANCE, ENERGY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Monday 28 July 2025

AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY	SPEAKER	HEARING TIMES
Queensland Parliament	Speaker [1.5 hours]	PARLIAMENTARY SERVICE 2:00pm—3:30pm

GOVERNANCE, ENERGY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Tuesday 29 July 2025

AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY	MINISTER	HEARING TIMES
Premier and Cabinet Veterans	Premier and Minister for Veterans [4 hours]	PREMIER 9:00am—11:00am BREAK 11:00am—11:15am PREMIER 11:15am—12:45pm VETERANS 12:45pm—1:15pm BREAK 1:15pm—2:00pm
Treasury, Energy and Home Ownership	Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership [4.5 hours]	TREASURY 2:00pm—4:30pm HOME OWNERSHIP 4:30pm—5:00pm BREAK 5:00pm—5:30pm ENERGY 5:30pm—7:00pm

GOVERNANCE, ENERGY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE*Wednesday 30 July 2025*

AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY	MINISTER	HEARING TIMES
Finance, Trade, Employment and Training	Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training [3 hours]	FINANCE 9:00am—10:00am TRADE 10:00am—11:00am BREAK 11:00am—11:15am EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING 11:15am—12:15pm BREAK 12:15pm—1:00pm

STATE DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE AND WORKS COMMITTEE*Wednesday 30 July 2025*

AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY	MINISTER	HEARING TIMES
State Development, Infrastructure, Planning and Industrial Relations	Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning, and Minister for Industrial Relations [4.5 hours]	STATE DEVELOPMENT 1:00pm—2:30pm INFRASTRUCTURE 2:30pm—4:00pm BREAK 4:00pm—4:30pm PLANNING 4:30pm—5:00pm INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS 5:00pm—6:00pm

STATE DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE AND WORKS COMMITTEE*Thursday 31 July 2025*

AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY	MINISTER	HEARING TIMES
Housing, Public Works and Youth	Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth [3.5 hours]	HOUSING 8:30am—10:30am BREAK 10:30am—10:45am PUBLIC WORKS 10:45am—11:45am YOUTH 11:45am—12:15pm BREAK 12:15pm—1:00pm

AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY	MINISTER	HEARING TIMES
Sport, Racing, Olympic and Paralympic Games	Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games [3.5 hours]	SPORT 1:00pm—2:45pm BREAK 2:45pm—3:00pm RACING 3:00pm—3:30pm OLYMPICS AND PARALYMPICS 3:30pm—4:45pm BREAK 4:45pm—5:15pm
Transport and Main Roads	Minister for Transport and Main Roads [4 hours]	ALL PORTFOLIO 5:15pm—7:15pm BREAK 7:15pm—7:30pm ALL PORTFOLIO 7:30pm—9:30pm

HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE*Friday 1 August 2025*

AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY	MINISTER	HEARING TIMES
Health and Ambulance Services	Minister for Health and Ambulance Services [4 hours]	HEALTH 9:00am—10:30am BREAK 10:30am—10:45am HEALTH 10:45am—12:15pm BREAK 12:15pm—12:30pm AMBULANCE SERVICES 12:30pm—1:30pm BREAK 1:30pm—2:15pm
Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation	Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation [4.5 hours]	ENVIRONMENT 2:15pm—3:45pm BREAK 3:45pm—4:00pm SCIENCE AND INNOVATION 4:00pm—5:00 pm BREAK 5:00pm—5:15pm TOURISM 5:15pm—7:15pm

JUSTICE, INTEGRITY AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE*Tuesday 5 August 2025*

AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY	MINISTER	HEARING TIMES
Attorney-General, Justice and Integrity	Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity [3 hours]	ALL PORTFOLIO 9:00am—10:30am BREAK 10:30am—10:45am ALL PORTFOLIO 10:45am—12:15pm BREAK 12:15pm—1:00pm
Police and Emergency Services	Minister for Police and Emergency Services [3 hours]	POLICE 1:00pm—2:30pm BREAK 2:30pm—2:45pm EMERGENCY SERVICES 2:45pm—4:15pm BREAK 4:15pm—4:45pm
Youth Justice, Victim Support, Corrective Services	Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services [3 hours]	YOUTH JUSTICE AND VICTIMS 4:45pm—6:45pm BREAK 6:45pm—7:00pm CORRECTIVE SERVICES 7:00pm—8:00pm

PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE*Wednesday 6 August 2025*

AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY	MINISTER	HEARING TIMES
Natural Resources and Mines and Manufacturing and Regional and Rural Development	Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development [4 hours]	NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINES 9:00am—11:00am BREAK 11:00am—11:15am MANUFACTURING AND REGIONAL RURAL DEVELOPMENT 11:15am—1:15pm BREAK 1:15pm—2:00pm
Primary Industries	Minister for Primary Industries [3.5 hours]	ALL PORTFOLIO 2:00pm—3:45pm BREAK 3:45pm—4:00pm ALL PORTFOLIO 4:00pm—5:45pm

EDUCATION, ARTS AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE*Thursday 7 August 2025*

AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY	MINISTER	HEARING TIMES
Education and Arts	Minister for Education and the Arts [3.25 hours]	EDUCATION 9:00am—11:30am BREAK 11:30am—11:45am ARTS 11:45am—12:30pm BREAK 12:30pm—1:15pm
Women and Women's Economic Security, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Multiculturalism	Minister for Women, Women's Economic Security, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Multiculturalism [3.5 hours]	ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PARTNERSHIPS 1:15pm—2:45pm BREAK 2:45pm—3:00pm MULTICULTURALISM 3:00pm—4:00pm WOMEN AND WOMEN'S ECONOMIC SECURITY 4:00pm—5:00pm BREAK 5:00pm—5:30pm
Families, Seniors, Disability Services, Child Safety and Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence	Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence [3 hours]	CHILD SAFETY 5:30pm—6:30pm BREAK 6:30pm—6:45pm FAMILIES, SENIORS AND DISABILITY SERVICES 6:45pm—7:45pm PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE 7:45pm—8:45pm

LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SMALL BUSINESS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE COMMITTEE*Friday 8 August 2025*

AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY	MINISTER	HEARING TIMES
Customer Services, Open Data, Small and Family Business	Minister for Customer Services and Open Data and Minister for Small and Family Business [3 hours]	SMALL AND FAMILY BUSINESS 9:00am—11:00am BREAK 11:00am—11:15am CUSTOMER SERVICES AND OPEN DATA 11:15am—12:15pm BREAK 12:15pm—1:00pm

AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY	MINISTER	HEARING TIMES
Local Government, Water, Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers	Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers [4 hours]	FIRE 1:00pm—2:00pm DISASTER RECOVERY AND VOLUNTEERS 2:00pm—3:00pm BREAK 3:00pm—3:15pm LOCAL GOVERNMENT 3:15pm—4:15pm WATER 4:15pm—5:15pm

Amendments to Standing Orders

1. Standing Order 179. Open hearings—

Omit, insert—

‘179. Speaker is Chairperson for public hearings in respect of estimates

(1) Portfolio committees may only hold hearings and take evidence in respect of an annual appropriation bill (estimates hearings) on the dates allocated by order of the House at times agreed to by the committee between 9.00am and 9.30pm.

(2) A portfolio committee’s estimates hearings are open to the public unless the committee otherwise orders.

(3) In accordance with s.91D of the Parliament of Queensland 2001 Act,¹ when a portfolio committee is examining a Bill for an annual appropriation Act in a public hearing and the Speaker or the Deputy Speaker is the chairperson of the committee, the Speaker or Deputy Speaker has all the powers and duties of a chairperson.

(4) If the Speaker is present as a witness before a public hearing mentioned in (3), the Deputy Speaker is the chairperson.

(5) If during an estimates hearing it becomes necessary for a portfolio committee to deliberate in private under Standing Order 207, the Speaker shall not attend the private meeting, and the Committee Chairperson presides over the meeting.

(6) If during an estimates hearing the Speaker makes a ruling and any member challenges that ruling, it shall be decided by the portfolio committee and Standing Order 250 does not apply.

(7) The Speaker’s determinations about the maintenance of order, cannot be challenged in committee and Standing Order 250 does not apply.’

2. Standing Order 180. Opening hearing procedure

Omit, insert—

‘180. Opening hearing procedure

(1) In a portfolio committee’s estimates hearing:

- (a) the Speaker or Deputy Speaker is to call on the estimates of the proposed expenditure for the area of responsibility which the committee is to examine and declare the proposed expenditure open for examination; and
- (b) the Speaker or Deputy Speaker is to put the question “That the proposed expenditure be agreed to”.

(2) In respect of Government Owned Corporations and statutory authorities, a member may ask any question which the committee determines will assist it in its examination of the relevant Appropriation Bill or otherwise assist the committee to determine whether public funds are being efficiently spent or appropriate public guarantees are being provided.’

3. Standing Order 185, The Power of the Chairperson to order withdrawal of a disorderly member

Omit, insert—

‘185. Power of the Speaker to order withdrawal of a disorderly member

(1) At a portfolio committee’s estimates hearing, the Speaker or Deputy Speaker may, after a warning, order any member whose conduct in their opinion continues to be grossly disorderly or disruptive to withdraw for a stated period.

(2) A member ordered to withdraw in accordance with (1), shall immediately withdraw for the stated period.’

¹ Section 91D of the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001* provides:

91D Chairperson for certain public hearings

(1) If a portfolio committee is examining a Bill for an annual appropriation Act in a public hearing under the Constitution of Queensland 2001, section 26C the Speaker or the Deputy Speaker is the chairperson of the committee.

(2) If the Speaker is present as a witness before a public hearing mentioned in subsection (1), the Deputy Speaker is the chairperson.

(3) This section applies despite sections 91(3), 91A(3), 91B(3), and 91C(3).

4. Standing Orders, Schedule 7 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Omit, insert—

'SCHEDULE 7 – CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

In accordance with Standing Order 181(c), the following table lists entities to which direct questioning of Chief Executives at Estimates is to apply.

**Entities to which direct questioning of
Chief Executives at Estimates is to apply**

Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service	QIC Limited
Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service	Queensland Academy of Sport
Central West Hospital and Health Service	Queensland Art Gallery
Children's Health Queensland Hospital and Health Service	Queensland Audit Office
CleanCo Queensland Limited	Queensland Building and Construction Commission
Coexistence Queensland	Queensland Bulk Water Supply Authority (Seqwater)
Coordinator-General	Queensland Competition Authority
Crime and Corruption Commission	Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority
Cross River Rail Delivery Authority	Queensland Electricity Transmission Corporation Limited (Powerlink Queensland)
CS Energy Limited	Queensland Family and Child Commission
Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service	Queensland Human Rights Commission
Economic Development Queensland	Queensland Institute of Medical Research
Electoral Commission of Queensland	Queensland Mental Health Commission
Energy and Water Ombudsman	Queensland Museum
Energy Queensland Limited	Queensland Performing Arts Centre / Queensland Performing Arts Trust
Family Responsibilities Commission	Queensland Productivity Commission
Far North Queensland Ports Corporation Limited (Ports North)	Queensland Racing Integrity Commission
Games Independent Infrastructure and Coordination Authority	Queensland Rail
Gladstone Ports Corporation Limited	Queensland Reconstruction Authority
Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service	Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority
Gold Coast Waterways Authority	Queensland Theatre Company
Health and Wellbeing Queensland	Queensland Training Ombudsman
Land Access Ombudsman	Queensland Treasury Corporation
Legal Aid Queensland	Racing Queensland
Mackay Hospital and Health Service	Residential Tenancies Authority
Metro North Hospital and Health Service	Resources Safety and Health Queensland
Metro South Hospital and Health Service	Screen Queensland Pty Ltd
Motor Accident Insurance Commission	South Bank Corporation
National Injury Insurance Agency, Queensland Nominal Defendant	South West Hospital and Health Service
North Queensland Bulk Ports Corporation Limited	Stadiums Queensland
North West Hospital and Health Service	Stanwell Corporation Limited
Office of the Governor	State Library of Queensland / Library Board of Queensland
Office of the Health Ombudsman	Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service
Office of the Information Commissioner	Sunwater Limited
Office of the Inspector General of Emergency Management	TAFE Queensland
Office of the Queensland Integrity Commissioner	The Public Trustee of Queensland
Office of the Queensland Ombudsman	Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service
Office of the Work Health and Safety Prosecutor	Tourism and Events Queensland
Port of Townsville Limited	Townsville Hospital and Health Service
Public Sector Commission	Trade and Investment Queensland
	West Moreton Hospital and Health Service
	Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service

In addressing this motion, and following the passage of the 2025-26 state budget of the Crisafulli LNP state government—a state budget that sets the foundation for delivering for Queenslanders by providing economic stability, enhanced service delivery and long-term reform—we now look ahead to one of the most important democratic responsibilities of the Queensland parliament: the consideration of the annual appropriation bills through the budget estimates committee hearings. These committee hearings are vital and go to the core and foundation of parliamentary accountability. It is where the decisions contained within the state budget are properly scrutinised by this House. It is where ministers are held to account and where transparency with respect to government expenditure is not merely expected but required. Estimates is a central mechanism through which this parliament upholds its responsibilities to the people of Queensland to examine, to question and to test the overall performance of the state government.

This year, and through this motion, we embark on long overdue reform—reform that enhances the integrity, transparency and standing of estimates within the framework of parliamentary democracy in Queensland. This motion gives practical effect to key amendments contained within the Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 with respect to the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001. These amendments, as passed by the Legislative Assembly, are an important step forward. They fulfil a clear election commitment of the Premier to reform the budget estimates process and restore its intended function.

For too long Queenslanders have observed an estimates process that fell short of its purpose. Under the former government, what should have been a rigorous examination of public expenditure became a stage-managed exercise in avoidance and protection. The reforms contained within this motion reaffirm the foundational purpose of estimates for the careful and thorough examination of government expenditure, performance and effectiveness.


Under these reforms, and for the first time, the Speaker and Deputy Speaker will preside over all estimates public hearings. This change will bring consistency to proceedings and lift the standard of hearings across all committees. It is not merely about who sits in the chair but how they preside over the process. It is about ensuring rigour, impartiality and discipline in proceedings. Specifically, the motion provides for not only an additional four hours of time allocated to the total estimates hearings but also an additional day added to the schedule. The Crisafulli state government is committed to accountability and strengthening the estimates hearings.

The motion also enacts key changes to the standing orders. Standing order 179 now confirms that the Speaker or Deputy Speaker will preside at all estimates public hearings. It outlines procedures for absence, private deliberation, rulings and the maintenance of order. Standing order 180 formalises the opening procedure for estimates hearings with the Speaker or Deputy Speaker declaring the proposed expenditure open for examination and putting the question that it be agreed to. Standing order 185 confirms the Speaker's power to order the withdrawal of a disorderly member from an estimates hearing, reinforcing the need for discipline and decorum.

Further, as has been the practice in previous years, the motion contains a provision enabling the Leader of the House, in consultation with the Speaker, to vary the days and times of estimates hearings should exceptional circumstances arise such as illness of a minister or a natural disaster. This contingency is a prudent safeguard. The motion also updates schedule 7 of the standing orders, ensuring the continued application of entities to which direct questions of chief executives are to apply.

Finally, I take this opportunity to acknowledge the Parliamentary Service and the dedicated staff of the committee secretariats who support these proceedings with professionalism and discretion. I also thank in advance the many public servants who prepare rigorously for estimates just as they contribute tirelessly to the development of the state budget.

On behalf of the Crisafulli Liberal National Party state government, I thank them not only for their work on the budget and estimates but for everything they do each and every day to support the delivery of services and opportunities across our state. As such, I commend the motion to the House.

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (8.39 pm): The motion moved by the Leader of the House relates to the annual estimates process, a process where ministers, chief executives and other identified leaders of the Public Service meet with members of this parliament to scrutinise the budget to ask important questions about how Queenslanders' money is spent.

Because we have seen many examples this week of the Crisafulli LNP government not respecting taxpayers' money, it is important that the right people who are paid by the taxpayers of Queensland turn up and are in the room ready to answer questions.

We have seen over the years positions being added to and subtracted from schedule 7, which forms part of the motion before the House. Whilst I note that schedule 7 is primarily about chief executives, there are others on the list that has been circulated who are chief executive equivalents who are either on the list now or have been on that list in the past.

I note that this motion removes some entities, including the First Nations Treaty Institute. Why? It is because one of the first acts of the Crisafulli LNP government was to rush through legislation in this very chamber to abolish the Path to Treaty legislation, legislation that created the First Nations Treaty Institute. We all remember—Queenslanders remember—that they did that without consulting First Nations people. They did it without consulting the body that would be directly impacted. From memory, the minister in charge of the First Nations policy in Queensland did not meet with the Truth-telling and Healing Inquiry before it was axed.

Ms Enoch: No.

Mr de BRENNI: The shadow minister confirms that. I understand that they desperately tried to meet with the minister before that occurred. That speaks volumes. It speaks volumes about a lack of respect by not treating those individuals and the constituency they represent with decency, humility or grace.

The LNP rammed that legislation through to remove the treaty institute and to wind back that opportunity for First Nations people in a single day. The motion before us removes the First Nations Treaty Institute from schedule 7. While that may appear logical because the entity just does not exist anymore, we must always remember why it does not exist. It is because the Crisafulli LNP government are ideologically driven and act in their own interests and not in the interests of ordinary Queenslanders.

We also note that the Games Venue and Legacy Delivery Authority has been removed and the renamed Games Independent Infrastructure and Coordination Authority added. Why? It is because, in another of those first acts of this government, they rushed through legislation to change the name and the entity. This week we have also seen legislation rushed through the House after only the bare minimum committee consultation to give the government power to run roughshod over all laws to deliver games infrastructure. That is incredibly concerning, as the Crisafulli LNP government just do not have a strong track record of listening. They do not have a strong track record of consulting with Queenslanders on changes in a meaningful way.

This opposition will be continuing to hold this government to account not only on their promises but on their actions. One way we will do this is through questions to bodies such as the Games Venue and Legacy Delivery Authority. In relation to that, I move the following amendment—

That proposed schedule 7 be amended by inserting in the list:

Expert Legal Panel

Queensland Redistribution Commission.

Over the years oppositions have sought to amend schedule 7 to add in different entities to enable direct questions to be asked of them. The opposition believes that the Expert Legal Panel and the Queensland Redistribution Commission should be required to attend estimates to answer questions directly from elected members of the Queensland parliament on behalf of Queenslanders. These two entities we believe are chief executive equivalents, and we believe that non-government members should be afforded the opportunity to question them directly about their actions because they are being paid for by Queensland taxpayers.

The Crisafulli LNP government has hidden behind the so-called Expert Legal Panel, set up to provide them with advice that the Crisafulli LNP government has then relied upon to create laws in this House. We heard from many stakeholders who engaged in the parliamentary committee process that the Expert Legal Panel's advice should be made public. The Queensland opposition has sought on many occasions to have the advice made public and even to have the Expert Legal Panel front up to the Queensland parliament to answer questions. The Crisafulli LNP government denied those repeated requests.

That means that the Crisafulli LNP government is intent on governing in the shadows. The Crisafulli LNP government have drawn the curtains and are hiding behind bodies that they have set up, using advice that they say exists but they want to keep secret. It is like the Crisafulli LNP government left their integrity in the opposition office when they packed up and headed to 1 William Street.

It is time that the Minister for Youth Justice is more open and transparent. It is time that the government put their money where their mouth is and actually be transparent. It is time that the bleating of the then LNP opposition by the then shadow minister for integrity comes to the fore and is put into action. If they were open and transparent then they would allow the Expert Legal Panel chairperson to attend estimates and be asked questions.

The chairperson is a KC, and we know KCs are usually the ones asking the questions. The Queensland opposition is sure that the KC who was hand-picked by the Crisafulli LNP government—and who I might remark, as the media have reported, has connections with the LNP government—is more than capable of answering questions by non-government members about their work.

The amendment that I am proposing will also see the Queensland Redistribution Commission added to schedule 7 to be directly questioned. I know that the Redistribution Commission has the Electoral Commissioner on it who is already listed on schedule 7, but they will be at estimates in their capacity as the commissioner, not as the member of the Redistribution Commission. However, as the Queensland opposition has previously said, the work of the Redistribution Commission must be beyond reproach. The work they are doing needs to be respected and received by all Queenslanders. The way that this Crisafulli LNP government has gone about the appointments to this independent panel stinks. I say two words: John Sosso.

However, the appointments have been made and therefore the individual should be held accountable for their actions and decisions. They are being paid for by the Queensland taxpayer, and it is right and proper that they appear before the estimates process within the Attorney-General's hearings. The Attorney is also the Minister for Integrity. If the government and, indeed, the Attorney-General were truly acting with integrity then they would have no difficulty with our amendment.


The Crisafulli LNP government indicated before the election they wanted to enhance the estimates process. Budget week has also brought changes to the Parliament of Queensland Act to empower the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker to chair estimates hearings. Whilst this sounds okay in theory, we want to wish you, Mr Speaker, and the Deputy Speaker well. Without reflecting on you, of course, Mr Speaker, it is unclear how this process does in fact enhance openness and transparency. In essence, it is changing the chairperson from one elected LNP member of parliament to another. What would have been more open and transparent would be to have a non-government member chair the hearings, but that did not occur.

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I am trying to hear.

Mr deBRENNI: Only time will tell if the Crisafulli LNP government's experiment with the estimates process will work. We all know what happened under the former LNP government when they changed the estimates process. It reduced transparency and it became a farce.

We submit that this parliament should be provided with the opportunity to scrutinise the Crisafulli LNP government so that Queenslanders are able to clearly see the tricks behind this budget. We know that the devil is always in the detail, and the Queensland Labor opposition has heard from stakeholders that there are many nasty things buried deep in this budget which we will continue to expose. The Queensland Labor opposition is ready to interrogate this disastrous budget of broken promises because Queenslanders deserve a strong democratic system of government, and that is exactly what Labor will always fight for.

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (8.49 pm): I rise to support the amendment moved by the Manager of Opposition Business—that is, to add both the Expert Legal Panel and the Queensland Redistribution Commission to the list of entities whose CEOs can be directly questioned at estimates. I urge all members, if they believe in transparency and accountability, to support the amendment. In fact, 'transparent' is exactly the word used by the then manager of opposition business, the member for Glass House, when he moved a similar amendment last year seeking a list of additional people to be approved as witnesses at estimates. He said—

The whole intent of the estimates process is to conduct a forensic analysis of how the government is spending their taxpayers' dollars. It should be open, transparent and fair to ensure that Queenslanders can find out where their dollars are going and how efficiently and effectively the departments are being operated by the ministers, directors-general and statutory authorities.

I completely agree. Schedule 7 relates to chief executives who can appear at estimates to be directly questioned. There have been many examples over the years where others have been added who are chief executive equivalents. There are government owned corporations, commissioners and prosecution officers on schedule 7; and the Crime and Corruption Commission chairperson, who is technically not a chief executive, and the Office of the Work, Health and Safety Prosecutor. There is a mixed bag.

On the subject of the Expert Legal Panel, earlier this year this House passed a second tranche of the making communities safer legislation. There was a list of offences contained within that bill that were reportedly included on the advice of the Expert Legal Panel which caused much comment from stakeholders. It was pretty significant legislation. It will result in more young offenders being locked up for longer periods of time. Stakeholders were perplexed about the range of offences included, sometimes because there did not seem to be any coherence to them. The rationale and the links for grouping them did not seem obvious.

Other times, stakeholders noted that on the list of offences some had seen a significant decrease in the last 10 years and they were not sure why they required additional deterrence. There were many other question marks. Stakeholders wanted to see the advice upon which the legislation was based. The opposition wanted to see the advice. What did the panel rely upon in order to make their recommendations? It is highly unusual for the advice that is the basis of significant legislation not to be made public. I will quote some of the stakeholders. Amy McVeigh, from the Queensland Council of Social Services, said—

We know that the statement of compatibility refers to the Expert Legal Panel advice as the basis for expanding this framework and as evidence that these measures will improve community safety, yet we have not had the benefit of reviewing or considering that advice—

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order with respect to remaining relevant to the amendment. I seek your clarification and guidance on that.

Mr SPEAKER: Member, what is being debated is the amendment proposing that those two bodies be added to the list. If you could confine your contribution to that, that would be great.

Ms FARMER: Going back to the quote from the member for Glass House last year, who said that estimates 'should be open, transparent and fair to ensure that Queenslanders can find out where their dollars are going and how efficiently and effectively the departments are being operated by the ministers' et cetera, I am just clarifying what stakeholders are saying who represent those Queenslanders. I will go on. Helena Wright from QATSICPP said, 'We made it clear in our submission'—

Mr NICHOLLS: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order again on the question of relevance to the matter. This is not an opportunity to re-litigate a debate that was held some weeks ago in relation to the contents of a bill. This is a debate about the amendment that has been moved, not statements that are being made by someone in relation to a bill which has passed the House.

Mr SPEAKER: We are dealing with two matters: the motion moved by the Leader of the House and the amendment moved by the Manager of Opposition Business. That is what we are debating. If you confine yourself to that motion and that amendment, that will be good.

Ms FARMER: I am speaking to the amendment.

Mr SPEAKER: You can speak to whichever you like; there are two matters. Confine yourself to the motion and the amendment.

Ms FARMER: The amendment moved by the Manager of Opposition Business talks about wanting to have the Expert Legal Panel attend estimates and be questioned. In speaking to that amendment, I am seeking to establish the reasons why it is important for the Expert Legal Panel to appear. It is not just because members of the opposition believe it is important; key stakeholders and Queenslanders in general have raised that as being important. I am seeking to establish the importance of that and make the case for why that would be so important.

Mr SPEAKER: I am listening very closely.

Ms FARMER: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Helena Wright from QATSICPP, another peak body for youth justice, said, 'We made it clear in our submission ... because we believe'—

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order again, and it relates to remaining relevant to the amendment as moved. I seek your guidance again.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I heard the point of order from the Leader of the House. I submit to you, Mr Speaker, it is clear that it is well within the scope of my amendment that establishing the reasons for the inclusion of the Expert Legal Panel are relevant to this debate.

Mr SPEAKER: Leader of the House, I believe that the member was speaking to the need for that Expert Legal Panel, so you can continue on in that vein.

Ms FARMER: Thank you so much for your guidance, Mr Speaker. I was beginning to quote Helena Wright, who is from QATSICPP, the peak body for youth justice. She said, 'We made it clear in our submission as one of our recommendations because we believe that it is needed'—

Mr NICHOLLS: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance again. The amendment moved by the Manager of Opposition Business refers to inserting two panels. None of the people quoted by the member for Bulimba made any submissions in relation to this particular amendment or spoke to this particular amendment, nor are they relevant to the inclusion of these two organisations in the list of members. I submit that the member is not being relevant and has not been relevant in those references.

Mr SPEAKER: I am prepared to listen to the member's contribution as long as she confines it to why those two panels should be included. I think that is relevant because we are going to vote on it in a moment.

Ms FARMER: Thank you so much, Mr Speaker. These are people who wanted to strongly make the point that they want to hear from the Expert Legal Panel and they are relying on the estimates process. Kristy Bell, from the Queensland Law Society, said—

... the society would support the disclosure of that report—

that is, the Expert Legal Panel report—

so that we can ensure that legislative change is evidence based and the basis for which these amendments are made is disclosed so that we can appropriately consider whether or not they are justified.

Katherine Hayes, from the Youth Advocacy Centre, stated—

It's been very difficult for us to understand—

Mr STEVENS: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. What we are talking about is the motion moved by the Leader of the House, and that is in relation to the estimates process. The estimates process is about questioning the budget as we understand it and what is in the budget. There has been a motion moved about adding to the particular matters in terms of the estimates. We do not talk about the swings in Daisy Hill in the Springwood electorate adding to the budget. We would be here all night if we wanted to add things into the budget. This is about the conduct of the estimates and we need to be relevant to that. That means not wandering off on inclusions that may be heard through any supposed amendment.

Mr SPEAKER: I will get some more advice. The amendment is to add these two to the list. We need to ascertain what they will bring to the actual debate on the budget—not a long history of any other issues. It is why they will add value to the debate on the budget and the estimates process regarding the budget. Back to you, member for Bulimba.

Ms FARMER: Mr Speaker, thank you. I am sorry to be putting you to so much trouble with these people not accepting your rulings.

Mr Speaker, going straight to your point, the recommendations made by the Expert Legal Panel form the basis of the making communities safer legislation. The budget initiatives from the Minister for Youth Justice and others underpin the implementation of that legislation. It does directly go to the budget because expenditure that has been outlined in the budget directly underpins the rollout of that legislation. Mr Speaker, to save you so much trouble with these people carrying on when you have already said what you think, I will just quote a number of stakeholders.

Mr SPEAKER: No, I would ask you to be relevant to the actual budget.

Ms FARMER: Thank you. The Justice Reform Initiative talked about the Expert Legal Panel and the report that was produced by them and the submissions to the panel. They talked about there needing to be transparency and accountability around the decision to include those 20 offences in the Adult Crime, Adult Time legislation—

Mr SPEAKER: We are coming back to the budget. Member, if you have nothing more to add in relation to the budget, we will conclude and we will have a vote.

Mr CRANDON: Mr Speaker—

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Coomera, do you have a point of order?

Mr CRANDON: Not a point of order. I thought you were bringing the previous speaker to a conclusion and I was going to move the motion be put.

Mr SPEAKER: No. We have already had a motion on that.

Ms FARMER: Our position is that this legislation, the budget and the youth justice initiatives that are contained within the budget and have been talked about all week are underpinned by the recommendations of the Expert Legal Panel. There has been significant questioning of that legislation and the role of the Expert Legal Panel—

Mr SPEAKER: But we are talking about the budget, not legislation. We are talking about the budget.

Ms FARMER: So we submit that it is important that the estimates committee has an opportunity to question the chairperson of the Expert Legal Panel so that we can understand fully what those recommendations were for that then led to the budget which underpins its implementation. There have been ample questions from multiple—

Mr SPEAKER: The time for the debate has expired.

Division: Question put—That the amendment be agreed to.

AYES, 35:

ALP, 33—Asif, Bailey, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, Butcher, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Grace, Healy, J. Kelly, King, Linard, Martin, McCallum, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, Nightingale, O'Shea, Pease, Power, Pugh, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Smith, Whiting.

Grn, 1—Berkman.

Ind, 1—Sullivan.

NOES, 49:

LNP, 49—Baillie, Barounis, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Dalton, Dillon, Doolan, Dooley, Field, Frecklington, Gerber, Head, Hutton, Hunt, B. James, T. James, Janetzki, G. Kelly, Kempton, Kirkland, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lee, Mander, Marr, McDonald, Mickelberg, Minnikin, Molhoek, Morton, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Poole, Powell, Purdie, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Stoker, Watts, Vorster, Young.

Pairs: Lister, McMahon; Bates, Howard.

Resolved in the negative.

Non-government amendment (Mr de Brenni) negatived.

Division: Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

AYES, 49:

LNP, 49—Baillie, Barounis, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Dalton, Dillon, Doolan, Dooley, Field, Frecklington, Gerber, Head, Hutton, Hunt, B. James, T. James, Janetzki, G. Kelly, Kempton, Kirkland, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lee, Mander, Marr, McDonald, Mickelberg, Minnikin, Molhoek, Morton, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Poole, Powell, Purdie, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Stoker, Watts, Vorster, Young.

NOES, 35:

ALP, 33—Asif, Bailey, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, Butcher, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Grace, Healy, J. Kelly, King, Linard, Martin, McCallum, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, Nightingale, O'Shea, Pease, Power, Pugh, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Smith, Whiting.

Grn, 1—Berkman.

Ind, 1—Sullivan.

Pairs: Bates, Howard; Lister, McMahon.

Resolved in the affirmative.

ADJOURNMENT



Dr ROWAN (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (9.12 pm): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 9.12 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