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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

Thursday, 25 June 2026

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THURSDAY, 25 JUNE 2026

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 28 May 2026 the member for Gaven wrote to me alleging that the Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth deliberately misled the House with his response to question on notice 332 of 2026. The member alleged that the answer by the minister to question on notice 1440 of 2025 regarding Government Employee Housing properties—GEH properties—was evidence that the data that was requested existed and the minister was deliberately misleading when stating the department did not have this information.

The minister clarified in his submission that there is a difference between vacant GEH properties and GEH properties that are not tenanted. Once the department allocates the property to a government agency, the government agency is responsible for tenancing the property according to its requirements. The minister advised the department does not hold the data on which allocated properties are not tenanted at any point in time. Accordingly, I consider the minister has made an adequate explanation and 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 Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth and member for Bonney [\[1092\]](#).

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

Leave granted.

SPEAKER'S RULING—ALLEGED CONTEMPT OF PARLIAMENT

MR SPEAKER Honourable members,

On 28 May 2026, the member for Gaven wrote to me alleging that the Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth deliberately misled the House with his response to Question on Notice 332 of 2026.

Specifically, the Minister answered:

'The department partners with agencies under a headlease arrangement and consults directly with agencies regarding housing requirements for essential workers.'

Individual agencies are responsible for tenancy arrangements in line with their staff attraction and retention policies, employment contracts and service delivery requirements. Consequently, the member would have to ask the relevant agency whether a particular residence is occupied once a lease has commenced as the department does not have this information'

The member argued that when comparing the answer to QoN 332 with QoN 1440 of 2025 it is clear the Minister has deliberately misled the House. In QoN 1440 of 2025, the Minister provided how many Government Employee Housing (GEH) properties were vacant at a specific point in time. In QoN 332 of 2026, the Minister advised that data relating to properties that are not tenanted was not held by the Department.

I sought further information from the Minister about the allegation that has been made against him, in accordance with Standing Order 269(5).

The Minister clarified in his submission that there is a difference between 'vacant' GEH properties and GEH properties that are 'not tenanted'. Once the Department allocates the property to a government agency, the government agency is responsible for tenancing the property according to its requirements. The Minister advised the Department does not hold the data on which allocated properties are not tenanted at any point in time.

Standing Order 269(4) requires that in considering whether such a matter should be referred to the Ethics Committee, that 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.

Speaker Pitt stated in a ruling on 17 March 2022 with respect to Questions on Notice *'If the data is available it should generally be provided.'*

I am satisfied based on the Minister's answer that the data for GEH properties that are 'not tenanted' is not held by the Department. I also note that the Minister provided the data for 'vacant' properties in his submission to me to assist the member for Gaven.

Accordingly, I find the Minister has made an adequate explanation and I **will not** be referring the matter for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee.

Mr SPEAKER: There is way too much noise in this chamber this morning.

Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, on 29 May 2026 the member for Greenslopes wrote to me alleging that the Attorney-General deliberately misled the House on 14 May 2026. The statement by the Attorney-General alleged that the Leader of the Opposition did not feature on the opposition's election paraphernalia for the Stafford by-election. I note that the member for Greenslopes later tabled an election pamphlet that did feature the Leader of the Opposition. The matter was thus appropriately dealt with in the House.

I refer to my ruling of 27 August 2025 where I stated that I would not consider matters raised by third parties. The member for Greenslopes has not evidenced how his rights or privileges were interfered with. I also consider this matter to be extremely trivial. It is clearly a case of puffery and political exaggeration in the cut and thrust of parliamentary debate. Accordingly, 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 Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity and member for Nanango [1093].

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

Leave granted.

SPEAKER'S RULING—ALLEGED CONTEMPT OF PARLIAMENT

MR SPEAKER Honourable members,

On 29 May 2026, the member for Greenslopes wrote to me alleging that the Attorney-General deliberately misled the House on 14 May 2026.

The matter relates to a statement made by the Attorney-General during debate on a motion.

Specifically, the Attorney-General stated:

'the Leader of the Opposition, who does not even appear on any of their election paraphernalia.'

The member provided a document that was tabled in the House later on 14 May 2026 by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition as evidence this statement was factually incorrect. He also asserted that the Attorney-General was present at a pre-poll booth in Stafford and is the Minister responsible for the Electoral Commission of Queensland and therefore would have known that her statement was incorrect.

I sought further information from the Attorney-General about the allegations that have been made against her, in accordance with Standing Order 269(5).

The Attorney-General argued that the matter was trivial. She submitted that at the time she made the statement, she had not seen any election materials including the Leader of the Opposition. She also stated that having oversight of the Electoral Commission of Queensland did not mean she had examined all election materials by the Opposition. She concluded by arguing that her statement could not constitute a contempt because it cannot be said to amount, or have been intended or be likely to amount, to an improper interference with the free exercise by the Assembly of its authority or functions, or the free performance by a member of the member's duties.

Standing Order 269(4) requires that in considering whether such a matter should be referred to the Ethics Committee, that I should take account of the degree of importance of the matter which has been raised and whether an adequate apology or explanation has been made in respect of the matter.

I refer to my ruling of 27 August 2025 where I stated:

I note that this matter was raised by the Leader of the House yet concerned the Minister for Youth Justice. In the future, I will not be considering matters raised by third parties. The member who believes their rights or privileges have been interfered with is the appropriate complainant when it comes to matters or privilege.

This is clearly a matter that has been raised by a third party. The member for Greenslopes' rights or privileges have not been interfered with by the Attorney-General's statement. I also consider this matter to be extremely trivial. It is clearly a case of puffery and political exaggeration in the cut and thrust of parliamentary debate. In fact, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition called out the Attorney-General's statement later that same day and tabled election material that contained the Leader of the Opposition. The matter was dealt with in the House and raising this matter of privilege was frivolous and time wasting.

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

SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

Photographs in Chamber



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I wish to advise the House that the television pool cameras will remain in the chamber this morning to film the Leader of the Opposition's budget reply speech.

Visitors to Gallery



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I wish to advise members that we will be visited in the gallery this morning by students and teachers from Meringandan State School in the electorate of Condamine, so be on your best behaviour!

PETITIONS

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

Domestic Cats

989 petitioners, requesting the House to consider introducing legislation to require the containment of domestic cats, including keeping cats indoors or otherwise under effective control when outside and introduce measures, including education and penalties, to reduce environmental harm from improper cat litter disposal, and work with manufacturers to improve the environmental safety of cat litter products [\[1089\]](#).

Commonwealth Constitution

1,180 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure free publication of the Commonwealth Constitution 1901 and free online educational courses on the constitution to the people of Queensland [\[1090\]](#).

Petitions received.

TABLED PAPER

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

SPEAKER'S PAPER

The following Speaker's paper was tabled by the Clerk—

Speaker of the Legislative Assembly (Hon. Weir)—

[1091](#) Affirmation for appointment as Acting Information Commissioner of Queensland of Mr Alexander White, dated 24 June 2026

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Budget



Hon. DF CRISAFULLI (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (9.36 am): The 2026-27 state budget puts Queensland first. It recognises not only the challenges facing our state but also the enormous opportunities that lie ahead. It is a budget built on responsibility and delivery. When Queenslanders compare this budget with the approach being taken by the federal government, the contrast could not be clearer. Changes to capital gains exemptions and negative gearing in last month's federal budget unfairly penalised families and small and family business owners. Now the parliament is considering amendments to those changes after backlash caused Canberra to backflip. However, yesterday we discovered the grandfathered capital gains exemptions on investment properties will not apply if one of the co-owners dies or they divorce.

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I have already cautioned the chamber for being noisy this morning. Everybody needs to settle.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I will say it again. The grandfathered capital gains exemptions on properties will not apply if one of the co-owners dies or they divorce. It is a callous Canberra tax grab that hits the heart and the hip pocket. It is wrong. On behalf of all Australians, I am asking the federal government to show some compassion and walk it back. It is not right, and this place has to call it out.

While the federal government continues to ask Australians to pay more, our budget provides long-term, reliable measures that help ease the cost of living. Canberra's budget hit the hip pocket, but we are doing exactly what we promised—no new or increased taxes. I would love those opposite to find their voice and talk to Canberra about what is going on as well. At a time when householders are grappling with cost-of-living pressures, housing affordability challenges and rising bills, it could not be more important. We are providing cost-of-living relief you can rely on. The 50-cent fares are permanently locked in, including—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Waterford, if I hear you interject again you will be warned.

Mr CRISAFULLI: The 50-cent fares are permanently locked in, including on ferries, trains and the light rail—on all of them! There is the Back to School Boost, Play On! vouchers, lower electricity prices, a freeze on bulk water charges in the south-east—and we are not afraid to call out those retailers who have decided not to pass savings onto Queensland households. We will do whatever it takes in and outside this parliament to ensure Queenslanders get the benefit of those measures.

In Queensland we are also being punished by a broken federal GST system. It fails to recognise the contribution our state makes to the national economy. It is stripping billions from the state, leaving less for schools, hospitals and infrastructure. The federal government has also proposed changes to disaster funding. Queensland is the most disaster-prone state in the nation. We know floods, cyclones and bushfires, and we know the enormous cost of rebuilding communities after disaster strikes. Under the new disaster recovery framework, funding to communities impacted by natural disasters will be split 50-50 between state and federal governments. Traditionally, the federal government has paid a much bigger share, and for the level of government that takes three-quarters of the tax take I reckon that is fair enough.

Despite these challenges, our government has delivered a budget that is strengthening the foundations for a fresh start. It is a budget that invests in health, housing, education, infrastructure and community safety. Importantly, it does all of that without introducing new taxes on Queenslanders. It is a responsible budget. Above all, it is a budget that puts Queenslanders first.

Budget

 **Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (9.40 am): Our second budget is strengthening the foundations for the fresh start that Queenslanders voted for. We are delivering on our commitments. We are doing our bit to help Queenslanders through tough times, and we are making responsible decisions now and for the future. We are lowering debt and improving deficits with a surplus, and that is with no new or increased taxes, just as we promised.

Reaction from the market has been sound. Queensland Treasury Corporation spreads have outperformed since the release of the budget, as spreads moved 1½ basis points tighter to Commonwealth bond. In contrast, 10-year New South Wales Treasury Corporation spreads closed 0.25 basis points tighter to Commonwealth bond. This means that QTC has outperformed relative to New South Wales Treasury Corporation.

CBA said that the budget conveys a strong 2026-27 result and also noted that QTC had revised its funding task lower in the near term, which would be well received by market participants. Barrenjoey observed that the winner of this year's fourth State of Origin would be Queensland, with our interest-to-revenue ratio and debt-to-revenue ratio remaining below New South Wales's for the forecast horizon to financial year 2029. That means that on the back of this budget the money flowed stronger to Queensland than to New South Wales and Victoria after their budgets. While Canberra may take funding from Queensland, the market backs us.

Across Queensland, community advocacy groups, business and industry have also shared their verdict. The REIQ said—

Given global uncertainty and significant taxation changes at the Federal level, a State Budget that maintains a stable revenue and housing taxation environment was critical for market confidence.

Homelessness Queensland CEO Stephen Simpson said that the Queensland budget provides welcome certainty for the housing and homelessness sector, with continued investment in frontline homelessness services, housing responses and support for peak and industry bodies. Queensland Conservation Council welcomed the commitment by Minister Powell to invest \$11.3 million in our protected areas over the next two years. Queensland Renewable Energy Council CEO Katie-Anne Mulder said—

This ... is the rubber hitting the Roadmap.

The 2026-27 budget is delivering stability and certainty for households, business and industry. Our cost-of-living measures are fully funded. We have invested in the most continuous cost-of-living relief in Queensland's history. The LNP's permanent 50-cent fares will be legislated so those opposite can never again fail to fund this Crisafulli government cost-of-living measure. We are respecting taxpayers' money, strengthening the foundations we have laid and delivering the fresh start that Queenslanders voted for.

Budget, Infrastructure



Hon. JP BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (9.43 am): There is a real buzz in Queensland at the moment. It is in regional Queensland because last night we protected the Condamine Alluvium—something the Labor Party voted against. They even voted against the retention of the RIDA. Can you believe it!

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: He is laughing. He voted against it. We all saw it. I cannot believe that the Labor Party voted against regional Queensland either, but they did. I would laugh too if that was my record, mate.

A government member interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection; it is not only North Queensland—regional Queensland voted against the Labor Party because the Labor Party gave up on regional Queensland. That is why regional Queensland gave up on the Labor Party.

Whether it is in the bush or in the cities, there is a buzz across Queensland. There is positivity. Housing prices in New South Wales are going down, yet investment in Queensland is skyrocketing. I can announce today that the Crisafulli government has unveiled a transformational redevelopment of one of Brisbane's major inner-city industrial pieces of land on the South Brisbane waterfront. I am pleased to announce to the House today that Lendlease has been selected through a globally competitive process to deliver a brand new, mixed-use precinct at the old Visy site near South Bank. The new 7.1-hectare precinct—and for Sam's and Ariana's generation that is 17.5 acres—will feature more than—

Government members interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: Get the ruler out! The 7.1-hectare, or 17.5-acre, precinct will feature more than 4,000 brand new homes for Queenslanders as well as riverfront promenades.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: What did she say?

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: She wants the CFMEU to build it? Well, they won't be! There will be more than 4,000 brand new homes for Queenslanders as well as riverfront promenades, boardwalks, plazas, restaurants and retail spaces, enlivening an industrial estate in a prime location which is close to the CBD, our cultural precinct and public transport links. Importantly, 1.2 hectares—three acres—will be open public space that will be accessible to everybody.

Throughout this process, the government has ensured there will be key publicly available spaces that every Queenslanders can enjoy in all of these open spaces as well as shared pedestrian and cycling connections. From April 2027 Queenslanders will see the first works commence. The Visy glass factory will be demolished to commence the redevelopment, with the local community able to have their say from early next year. I thank Visy for their participation in this process and I wish them good luck with

their new redevelopment and expansion. They have been at that site for over 100 years. The project will deliver around 2,100 jobs per year during construction as well as 1,000 ongoing jobs post construction, reshaping an underutilised industrial estate into a world-class, city-shaping lifestyle precinct.

We promised that we were going to pull every lever possible to get homes delivered across Queensland. This project will deliver generational change and stands in stark contrast to the Labor Party's failed plan to turn the old Visy site into a broadcasting centre for the Olympic and Paralympic Games. They were going to replace an old shed with a new shed for broadcasting. Down the road we have the Convention & Exhibition Centre, which under our delivery plan will be the broadcasting centre.

Under Labor's plan, not a single new home was going to be developed and public access would have been restricted because it would have been a broadcasting centre. Everything Labor touched when it came to the games failed. They failed to plan. They failed to cost. They failed to deliver. The Crisafulli government, by contrast, has partnered with the private sector to deliver a project that will transform our state. That is why the private sector is flocking to invest in this great state.

Budget, Justice System



Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (9.47 am): The Crisafulli government inherited a justice system that was failing Queenslanders on an unprecedented scale. There was the DNA debacle, unfettered youth crime and repeated, wideranging and devastating neglect of our children in protection. Under those opposite, the wheels of justice did not just turn slowly; they simply fell off. That is why the Crisafulli government is focused on repairing the damage, putting victims first and delivering faster access to justice.

The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions is central to making Queensland safer; however, when Labor did not prioritise funding for the ODPP it was forced to do more with less. Charges referred for prosecution rose by 67 per cent between 2010 and 2025. There was significant growth in sexual and violent offences, court listings and Supreme Court bail applications, including a 47 per cent increase in bail workloads and an additional 24 call-over hearings each year, resulting from new court practices.

These pressures—together with trauma informed prosecutions, expanded victim engagement obligations, and the growing volume and complexity of digital evidence—require meaningful support. Without additional resourcing, the ODPP's ability to deliver timely, high-quality prosecution services is put at risk. In the 2026-27 budget the Crisafulli government is answering that call, with an investment of over \$10 million to boost criminal prosecution services across the state, focusing on regional areas.

There will be an additional 25 Crown prosecutors and solicitors to bolster frontline capacity. Significantly, two extra deputy directors of public prosecutions will be appointed to enhance capability. They will inject experience, expertise, guidance and mentorship to provide strategic leadership and management oversight of more complex prosecutions. This funding is on top of the additional \$31 million for the ODPP in the first Crisafulli government budget.

Queensland's prosecutors must be backed in to do their job and to hold defendants to account. Our targeted investment will bring relief to ODPP staff, reduce excessive caseloads and increase timely access to justice through our courts. Victims must have the support they need to access the faster justice they deserve. Under the Crisafulli government, they are getting it.

Budget, Police Resources



Hon. DG PURDIE (Ninderry—LNP) (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (9.51 am): The Crisafulli government is delivering for Queensland—more police, stronger aerial crime-fighting capability, new and upgraded police facilities, and critical police equipment. That is why we are investing \$7.2 billion into Making Queensland Safer.

This record funding comes just months after the Crisafulli government exceeded our election commitment to deliver 1,600 new police to the front line as Queensland police numbers surpassed 13,000 for the first time in the state's history. After a decade of decline, we are rebuilding the front line, but we are not finished. The Crisafulli government is investing \$23 million for recruitment and retention initiatives, ensuring our front line continues to grow. Soon, more recruits will be coming from North Queensland, with \$96 million locked in for stage 2 of the Kirwan Police Facility including a new state-of-the-art police academy, dog squad and other specialised facilities.

The record \$147.9 million investment in critical police equipment will continue to be rolled out across the state, ensuring our police have the resources they need to keep themselves and the community safe. In the wake of the tragedy in Wieambilla, the Crisafulli government is delivering more than \$5 million for the expansion of the QPS drones program. We are also upgrading the neglected weapons licensing system to ensure Queensland is ready for the National Firearms Register.

The Crisafulli government is making the necessary investment to deliver a safer Queensland. Importantly, we are also restoring respect for taxpayers' money—a concept that we know is foreign to those opposite. As revealed in this House, the former Labor government oversaw a catastrophic structural deficit which would have blown out to \$400 million. The QPS Independent Financial Review laid bare Labor's economic incompetence and blatant lack of respect for taxpayers' money. Overspending, weak financial controls, unfunded unsworn staffing growth—that is Labor's legacy for the Queensland police. Those opposite cannot pretend they did not know about it, because they commissioned their own report into QPS financial sustainability in 2022. Labor's QPS Phase 1 Financial Sustainability Review sounded alarm bells on unchecked spending, yet they sat on their hands and did nothing. I do not want to mislead the House. They did something worse than nothing. Instead of acting, Labor dug a deeper hole. Eighteen months after that report was written, Labor presided over the Stones Corner catastrophe, which I am sure we will be hearing more about soon.

I want to make this clear—and I hope those opposite are listening after their tired, endless and baseless scare campaigns: there will be no redundancies under the Crisafulli government. All contracts will be honoured, and the budget papers prove it. We will continue to rebuild the front line. We will continue to fix the mess that Labor left behind, because that is our commitment to Queensland and our hardworking police.

Budget, Youth Justice



Hon. LJ GERBER (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services) (9.54 am): The Crisafulli government's second budget is strengthening the foundations for a fresh start for Queensland. We are restoring safety where you live, putting victims front and centre, giving our frontline officers the support they need, and delivering new early intervention and rehabilitation programs to break the cycle of crime in this state.

We promised Queenslanders we would take action after a decade of decline and weak crime laws under those opposite, and that is exactly what we are doing. I am proud to update the House today that we will be introducing new laws that give courts a powerful new tool to take repeat offenders off our streets. Circuit Breaker Sentencing is a nation-leading, court ordered, intensive rehabilitation program for youth offenders that will be delivered in remote locations. It will be the last stop before detention. It removes youth offenders from the communities they have caused harm to while providing them with the structure, discipline, education and intensive rehabilitation they need to help them get back on the right track—on a pathway away from crime and towards education, training or a job.

Courts will be able to sentence youth to the program. Courts will also be able to order youth to be bailed to the program. Youth will participate in structured activities including hands-on learning—for example, agricultural activities or livestock management—where they can gain practical knowledge and the skills needed to help them get back on track. The program will operate in highly controlled settings, catering for up to 60 youth offenders across remote locations for up to six months—with every youth required to wear an electronic monitoring device to ensure the safety of the community. The program is expected to commence by the end of the year, with expressions of interest open.

The Circuit Breaker Sentencing program is tough, targeted and unashamedly focused on community safety and breaking the cycle of youth crime so we have fewer victims of crime in this state. It is focused on consequences for action but it is also focused on intensive rehabilitation. They must go hand in hand. Circuit Breaker Sentencing is a key pillar in the Crisafulli government's plan to make Queenslanders safer. We promised Queenslanders during the election we would deliver it. It is a genuine alternative to detention, and we are doing exactly what we said we would do. This budget continues that delivery with an \$80 million investment for Circuit Breaker Sentencing.

Under Labor's weak crime approach, youth offenders cycled through a broken system with no real intervention. Labor delivered budgets that failed to stop the cycle of crime in this state because they refused to even accept there was a youth crime crisis in the first place. The Crisafulli government is delivering real solutions and evidence-based reform to deliver long-term change to turn the tide on Labor's youth crime crisis and make sure every single Queenslanders can feel safe in their homes, in their businesses and in their communities.

Budget, Child Safety System



Hon. AJ CAMM (Whitsunday—LNP) (Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (9.57 am): This budget is about strengthening the foundations of the fresh start that we promised. We are supporting our state's most vulnerable. We are backing our vulnerable children. We are putting victims first. We are holding perpetrators to account. We are setting a new foundation for the child safety system to fix that broken system that we inherited from those opposite and that was laid bare in the commission of inquiry.

The number of children in residential care was to surge to over 3,000 in the forwards. We saw growth over the period of those opposite of 229 per cent. The annual cost of residential care escalated from \$300,000 per child in 2019-20 to approximately \$500,000 per child in 2024-25. That record is shameful, and the Crisafulli government is taking action. We understand the magnitude of the broken system that we inherited and the reform that we have to deliver, and we are getting on with the job. We have already set the policy direction that we are removing children under the age of five from residential care. I can update the House that that is going exceptionally well, and I thank the foster carers who are taking those children.

We have already established a cabinet subcommittee as we consider the commission's recommendations. This budget provides \$200 million to start the response and reform necessary to fix the broken system. We are building Queensland's first secure-care model and we are on track to deliver our election commitment to grow the number of child safety frontline officers by 20 per cent. Under those opposite, 80 per cent of foster and kinship carers would not recommend the role to a friend. Today I can announce that we are expanding the professional foster care pilot. On this side of the House we are laser focused on the wellbeing of children and delivering the reforms needed to deliver better outcomes for our most vulnerable.

This budget also continues our commitment to putting victims first and holding perpetrators to account in the fight against domestic and family violence, which rose under those opposite. We are continuing to roll out hope hubs, expanding the North Queensland 24/7 crisis DV hub response, supporting electronic monitoring for high-risk perpetrators and investing in frontline domestic and family violence workers across Queensland, with those jobs secured through to 2030. We are also investing in social infrastructure. This budget fully funds neighbourhood centre capital works that were unable to be delivered by those opposite. It provides certainty for food security organisations, financial counselling and emergency relief services.

For older Queenslanders it was pleasing to see the response from the Council of the Ageing, which said that it looks forward to working constructively with the Queensland government to build on the positive investments in this budget. This budget makes important investments in the systems that older people rely on. I am very pleased to work with many government members across their communities in delivering U3As, more Seniors Expos and more Seniors Card benefits and working to protect and strengthen the outcomes of the elder abuse inquiry.

While federal Labor delivered a budget of broken promises that threatens the aspirations of everyday Australians and the economic security of those most vulnerable, our budget reflects the priorities of the Crisafulli government in strengthening foundations to deliver safer children, safer families and safer communities.

Budget, Women



Hon. FS SIMPSON (Maroochydore—LNP) (Minister for Women and Women's Economic Security, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Multiculturalism) (10.01 am): This week's budget is strengthening the foundations for a fresh start for Queensland and Queenslanders. We are already seeing that in the lives of women like Katya from North Queensland. Like so many women, Katya experienced a difficult pregnancy that forced her out of a new job just two months after starting. Combined with hospital stays, it meant that Katya and her partner chewed through their savings. After the birth of their daughter, Katya was determined to return to work but the barriers kept coming. Having lost several dress sizes through illness, none of her clothes fit anymore. Katya said, 'There's nothing worse than having to apologise for the clothes that you wear when going for a job interview.' Another barrier was not having friends or family locally after recently relocating. Katya was taking her daughter to job interviews.

Then Katya applied for a women's career grant and finally the barriers started falling. She used it for new work wear, a haircut and child care so she could go to interviews. Katya told us, 'This grant can be life-changing. It's built my confidence. It's not only given me immediate opportunities; it's opportunities for the future.' Katya now works four days a week as an administrator and operations coordinator. Her story is exactly why this budget is investing in programs like Women's Career Grants to help women meet the real costs of returning to work. This is cost-of-living relief.

Queensland invests in women's aspirations; Canberra and Labor want to tax it. We know that supporting women to enable them to pursue their aspirations is good for individuals, good for business and good for communities. The Labor MPs opposite constantly misled the Queensland people with unfunded promises. The Crisafulli government is calmly and consistently restoring stability and delivering on our election commitments. Let me relate the thoughts of a female business owner who was here on budget day. She said, 'I'm really impressed with this government. It's wonderful to see the inroads you are making balancing social needs and impact with economic policy and commercial outcomes.' In Rockhampton recently I met with women's career grant recipients who said that for them this Queensland government's assistance has been life-changing to get a job and reposition themselves for the right career for them as they return to work. This is one of the many budget investments of the Crisafulli government that makes it a privilege to deliver for Queensland women.

Budget, Sport Infrastructure



Hon. AC POWELL (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation and Acting Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (10.04 am): I am proud to contribute to this budget as Acting Minister for Sport, Racing and Olympic and Paralympic Games, because this government is delivering for Queensland sport in a way the former Labor government never did. This budget is strengthening the foundations for a fresh start with better services through a stronger economy, creating a lasting legacy on the road to 2032 and beyond.

Part of that legacy is the largest upgrade in Suncorp Stadium's 23-year history. We are delivering a world-class fan experience featuring an Australian-first wraparound LED halo screen as well as new terraces, entertainment zones and an activated stadium precinct. This is real, tangible sporting legacy. I understand that the Leader of the Opposition has tried to claim credit for the planning for these upgrades, telling the *Courier-Mail*—

I don't know what they've spent two years on, just to pinch the low-hanging fruit.

I can confidently say this is categorically untrue. I am advised by Stadiums Queensland that Stadiums Queensland never put plans like these to the former Labor government. You simply cannot trust anything the Leader of the Opposition says. Labor had a decade and nothing like this ever got off the ground.

A full Olympic legacy is not built in our stadiums alone; it is built in clubhouses, on courts and fields, and through the organisations that develop our athletes. That is why for the first time ever our state sporting organisations have been given certainty. Through the sporting partnership fund we have secured four years of funding for the organisations that hold the relationships, run the programs and develop the athletes on the ground for the first time after a decade of uncertainty under Labor. These are the organisations that will turn the inspiration of a home games into a generation of Queensland athletes, volunteers and participants. Members should not just take my word for it; here is what our state sporting organisations had to say. Shantel Netzler, CEO of QSport, the peak body representing our state sporting organisations, called the funding fantastic. Sporting Wheelies CEO Dane Cross said he was excited by the certainty the Crisafulli government was able to provide. Gymnastics Queensland's CEO Chris Rushton stated that this provides their organisation with clarity as they head towards 2032.

We are also delivering meaningful and ongoing cost-of-living relief through Play On! Sports Vouchers, providing \$62.5 million every year and putting \$200 back into the pockets of Queensland families to keep their kids in sport. The Crisafulli government is also building the facilities where Queenslanders play through the hugely popular Games On! Grassroots Infrastructure Program and we are getting on with round 2, introducing the new Games On! Field of Play and Partnership Fund with an initial \$30 million in 2026-27 to upgrade the courts, change rooms and lighting in clubhouses, particularly in regions that spent a decade being ignored under Labor. Unlike those opposite, we are securing the future of our state's sporting organisations. We are providing real cost-of-living relief to get kids into sport and we are creating a lasting Olympic legacy on the road to 2032 and beyond.

Budget, Water Prices

 **Hon. A LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers) (10.08 am): Under Labor's decade of decline water bills in Queensland skyrocketed to the most expensive in the nation. Part of the reason for these price hikes was that Labor refused to introduce price oversight for these entities during their decade of decline, and since that time year after year we have had price hikes.

Mr Speaker, you would think it is a basic economic concept that the monopoly entity should have basic pricing oversight, but no. These council owned entities have become unregulated and unaccountable, jacking up prices on Queenslanders. The Crisafulli government will not stand for this. We have introduced the Queensland Competition Authority price oversight on these entities and we are going further. This week the Crisafulli government announced that we will freeze bulk water prices for two years, and we have indicated to Urban Utilities and Unitywater that we expect them to pass on these savings. Shockingly, we heard yesterday that they intend to continue hiking their prices. This is utterly unacceptable and we will not allow it.

My message to Urban Utilities and Unitywater is clear: freeze your water prices or we will take action. Do the right thing or lose the right to make the decision. If the boards do not lower their prices, we are prepared to come back into this House with legislation to do it for them. This will ensure these entities are accountable to the people they serve. The Crisafulli government is doing its bit to deliver relief that Queenslanders can rely on. The utility providers need to do their bit too.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

ABC Radio Program

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (10.10 am): Last week on Tuesday, 16 June 2026 ABC Radio Brisbane host Ellen Fanning hosted the Leader of the Opposition on her program when she made the following statement—

The Deputy Premier often says in parliament that Queenslanders voted against the Voice as a justification for not having experienced and qualified First Nations people in high-level advisory positions here in Queensland.

She then asked the Leader of the Opposition if 'that was a fair comparison to make', to which he said, 'I think that's the Deputy Premier saying the quiet part out loud.' Ms Fanning then said to the Leader of the Opposition, 'When you say he's saying the quiet part out loud, often when people say that what they mean is he's saying those racist words out loud,' to which the Leader of the Opposition said, 'That's how it reads to me.'

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I will hear this in silence

Mr BLEIJIE: On Friday, 19 June Ms Fanning made the following clarification and apology on her program with respect to the claim. She said—

I accept that I was misinformed, and Hansard does not record the Deputy Premier making such a comment.

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I need to quote the whole paragraph. She said—

I accept that I was misinformed, and Hansard does not record the Deputy Premier making such a comment ... Mr Miles suggested racism as a motivation [for those comments]. I accept the question was based on a false premise and I apologise to the Deputy Premier.

The apology by the ABC is too little too late: the damage has been done. The question is: who gave Ms Fanning the misinformation? I call on the Leader of the Opposition to release any communications with Ms Fanning that may have misinformed her, as she has claimed.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I draw to your attention that the member for Kawana's comments have moved well past a personal explanation and are treading into—

Mr Bleijie: I got called a racist. It is personal to me.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, you have been very clear to the parliament on the matters that can be contained in a personal explanation. This is not the forum for ventilating those sorts of complaints.

Mr SPEAKER: I will take advice on that.

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The content and the compliance of the Deputy Premier in relation to the standing order provisions with respect to personal explanations is in order. He is providing significant context for the benefit of the parliament under the personal explanation rules and orders of the House.

Mr SPEAKER: I will take a bit of advice. I was listening carefully to what you were saying, Deputy Premier. You are well aware that personal explanations should not degenerate into a personal attack. Just keep that in mind.

Mr BLEIJIE: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I note that Ms Fanning has offered an apology to me about this interview in which she claims she had been misinformed. With her apology, I ask: will the Leader of the Opposition show leadership and do the same?

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Question time today will conclude at 11.15 am.

Water Prices

 **Mr MILES** (10.15 am): My question is to the Treasurer. The budget handed down just two days ago promised a \$65 saving on water charges per year. A day after the budget Urban Utilities announced that they are putting up water prices by about \$60 a year.

Mr Crandon interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Coomera, you are warned. I will hear questions in silence.

Mr MILES: Did the Treasurer consult with Urban Utilities before announcing savings on water bills in the budget?

Mr JANETZKI: I will be clear: either they will have to act or we will.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: This is the start of a very long day.

Mr JANETZKI: Either they will have to act or we will. That is clear. That is what the minister said this morning and we could not be any clearer. On day 2 of post budget question time, the opposition have proved that they are never quite listening to what is going on. The minister has made it very clear what will happen. We could not be clearer: either they will need to act or we will. The minister has made that clear.

Mr Bleijie: And if we legislate, will they back it?

Mr JANETZKI: I will take the interjection from the Deputy Premier: if we are forced to act, will they back it in? Will those opposite back it in? When it comes to cost of living, they always talk a big game and then they never, ever back it in. We have seen that time and again. We are willing to act and those opposite will not act.

We have been very clear. The minister was clear yesterday and the minister was clear again this morning. Those opposite will mislead, they will obfuscate and they will fail to act, but we will act because we are determined to drive downward pressure on cost of living for Queenslanders. We do not just talk about it; we deliver it. We have seen it with our permanent cost-of-living support. The only ever cost-of-living support that was offered by those opposite was left unfunded in the budget; it did not matter whether it was the Play On! vouchers or freezing the electricity rebate for vulnerable households. It did not matter what they did when they were in government, they left it unfunded. They misled Queenslanders and they failed to lock it in.

We are going to lock something in. We are locking something in this week. We are locking in law 50-cent fares. It is locked in. We are locking it in. Those opposite never did that. They talked a big game but they could never deliver it. We are locking it in in this budget, and we look forward to doing it very shortly. Those opposite will fail to act but we will act. We will ensure we are putting downward pressure on cost of living for Queenslanders.

Water Prices

Mr DICK: My question is to the Minister for Water. It has been revealed that Urban Utilities will put up water prices by an average of \$60 a year. This increase is at odds with the cost-of-living relief announced just two days ago which will now see that saving floating away. Why has the water minister let Urban Utilities undermine the Treasurer's budget?

Ms LEAHY: It is interesting that we never heard anything from the Labor Party in the 10 years when water prices were going up. When water prices under Labor went up to the highest in the nation we did not hear anything. For 10 years they did not put the regulator in to have a look at the utility providers. They allowed the water prices to increase year on year for 10 years.

Government members: Who was the treasurer?

Ms LEAHY: Who was the treasurer?

Mr SPEAKER: I am trying to hear the minister.

Ms LEAHY: They never locked in any cost-of-living relief in relation to water prices. Over 10 years of Labor governments we saw water prices increase year after year. They did not lock in any relief. They did not regulate Urban Utilities and Unitywater. We have seen that time and time again—and who was the treasurer who presided over that? They did not listen and consumers—Queenslanders—were the ones who had to bear those costs.

We have frozen the bulk water price. We are acting. We are doing things to help Queenslanders with their cost of living—things that did not happen under Labor's 10 years, under their decade of decline. We are acting. We have put the Queensland Competition Authority in to look at the prices and to do that investigation—something that was not done for 10 years. They had their opportunity to do this and they did not. They were quite happy to sit there and not lock in cost-of-living—

Mr Bleijie: Prices went up.

Ms LEAHY: Prices were going up, but they did not lock in any relief for Queenslanders. We are prepared to act. We have frozen the bulk water price for two years and we expect the utility providers to pass on those savings.

Budget

Mr HUNT: My question is to the Premier and Minister for Veterans. How is the Crisafulli LNP government's second budget continuing to deliver on the commitments made at the last election, and is the Premier aware of any campaigns that have attempted to mislead Queenslanders?

Mr CRISAFULLI: I thank the honourable member for Nicklin for the question. Firstly, I want to give him a shout-out for his advocacy. I look at some of the injection of funding for housing with support in his region. I look at the contribution to his local schools including the Nambour Special School, which he is very proud of. The Everyday Foundation, which he has led the charge for, is making a difference in his community. I say good on you, mate.

The member asked me about some positive comments about the budget and then some observations about alternatives, so I will quickly race through these. The REIQ said—

After recent Federal Budget changes that have added complexity and uncertainty to housing, we're relieved to see a steady hand on the tiller in Queensland.

Well done, Treasurer. RACQ said—

Queensland's been playing catch-up, but today's budget helps us tackle the enormous pressures ...

Queensland Major Contractors Association said—

... what is particularly encouraging is the growth in QTRIP ... this represents a substantial increase in the amount of work planned across Queensland ...

Well done, Minister Mickelberg. The Property Council said—

... government's support of enabling infrastructure through the Residential Activation Fund and Infrastructure Activation Fund goes directly to the heart of the housing ...

Well done, Deputy Premier. Master Builders Queensland said—

The continuation of the \$30,000 First Home Owner Grant program, scrapping of stamp duty ... will all help put a roof over more Queenslanders' heads.

Well done, Treasurer. Q Shelter said that the government's investment in social and community housing is 'a positive step forward as the state grapples with' the crisis there. Thank you, Minister O'Connor. The RACGP said—

The College noted reforms to the patient travel subsidy scheme as a positive step ...

Thank you, Minister Nicholls. And—

The RACGP also welcomed investment in essential infrastructure for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, including 21 new projects ...

Well done, Minister Simpson. P&Cs Qld said the increased Back to School Boost to \$150 is welcome. Well done, Minister Langbroek. Fearless Towards Success said—

Rehabilitation is critical to make sure young people don't continue to make bad choices ...

Well done, Minister Gerber. Homelessness Queensland said the Queensland budget provides welcome certainty for housing. Well done, Minister O'Connor. The Association of Mining and Exploration Companies welcomed the injection of \$146 million in critical minerals. Great work, Minister Last and Minister Bates. Queensland Law Society welcomed the state government's investment in legal services and the courts, recognising it as a significant and timely commitment to justice. Well done, Attorney-General and Minister Gerber. PeakCare said they were really grateful to see the levels of investment in implementing the commission of inquiry recommendations. Well done, Minister Camm and Minister Frecklington. Queensland Police Union said, 'Cop Care will deliver world-leading programs ...' Well done, Minister Purdie. Queensland Conservation Council said—

QCC welcomes the commitment ... to invest \$111.3 million ...

Well done, Minister Powell. Queensland Fruit & Vegetable Growers said—and I say well done, Minister Perrett and Minister Leahy. Well done, for water. Australian Industry Group said—

This is a stable, sensible Budget with a clear eye on managing ... debt ...

...

Businesses need confidence ...

Well done, Minister Minnikin and Minister Janetzki.

The greatest endorsement of this budget came from the member for Murrumba, the member for Waterford and the member for Woodridge because, for the first time that I have seen in the history of this state, the day after a budget there was not a single press conference from the opposition. I guess others were doing the heavy lifting. This is a budget that delivers for Queensland. That is an opposition that is desperate, is going nowhere and has no solutions for the future of this state.

(Time expired)

Back to School Boost

Mr MILES: My question is to the Minister for Education. I table an answer to a question on notice where the minister confirms that just \$15.2 million has been expended of a budgeted \$47.1 million of his Back to School Boost.

Tabled paper: Answer to question on notice No. 280 asked on 25 March 2026 [\[1094\]](#).

Can the minister explain why less than half of eligible families have accessed the LNP's signature cost-of-living measure?

Mr LANGBROEK: Let me look at that, please, Mr Speaker. It is my answer. Who knows if it has not been redacted?

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I call the minister.

Mr LANGBROEK: It is a question that I am very happy to answer, because the Back to School Boost does not say that parents have to spend the money in the first term of the year. It is a Back to School Boost that is delivered in the first few weeks of the year, but it does not say they have to spend it in the first few weeks of the year, because it could be for an excursion, for books or for school camp. It seems pretty obvious. There is not an expiry date that says it has to be used by week 7 of term 1. If I look at this, it says—and I am happy to quote—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The minister is being directly responsive to the question. I would like to hear it.

Mr LANGBROEK: I am happy to quote from this. It is a question that was asked on 25 March, which was still in the first term. The answer was then provided. It states—

As of 24 April 2026, \$32 million credits have been provided of which \$15.2 million have been expended ...

Mrs Gerber: \$32 million provided.

Mr LANGBROEK: It has been provided. I am concerned that those opposite believe there is some aspect of the Back to School Boost that means it is like a card where we have to extend credit terms, that people could not just get a credit and it had to be expended within a year. The Back to School Boost can be used throughout the school year. We are proud to announce that we have increased it by 50 per cent in this year's budget; it is going up to \$150.

After listening to the arguments of those opposite, I am not quite sure what they are suggesting. I also point out that this is an amount that the Leader of the Opposition said was insignificant—something that those opposite had never provided at all—and somehow we now have a problem: they never provided it, we are providing it and now they say people are not using enough or quickly enough something that the Leader of the Opposition never provided at all and said was insignificant. 'One may smile, and smile, and be a villain.' That is from *Hamlet*. This guy does not even know where he is going—asking us questions like that about something that we have provided and that those opposite never did. They said it was insignificant and now they want to determine when Queenslanders should spend the money that we are providing—money that they never provided at all and that we have increased by 50 per cent.

(Time expired)

Budget, Workplace Safety

Mrs STOKER: My question is for the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations. How is the Crisafulli LNP government's second budget keeping Queensland workers and, in particular, workplace health and safety inspectors safe, and is the minister aware of any campaigns that have misled Queenslanders?

Mr BLEIJIE: I thank the member for Oodgeroo for the question. It is a great question. We back workplace health and safety independent inspectors across the state and we back our hardworking public servants and will always put their rights ahead of the rights of the dodgy CFMEU given the bullying in the CFMEU every day of the week. While we are talking about workplaces, it is not a very safe workplace in the opposition at the moment. For anyone who holds a position over there at the moment it is a very unsafe workplace for the position of opposition leader, but do not take my word for it; just read today's *Courier-Mail*. There are members leaking against him and asking their leader to get off TikTok and concentrate on policy. There it is—'TikTok Steven urged to log off'. I table a copy of that. That is from one of his members over there asking him to come up with some economic policy.

Tabled paper: Media article, undated, titled 'TikTok Steven urged to log off' [1095].

When we talk about workplace health and safety, let's look at the CFMEU royal commission. It is his chance today to rule out things like bringing back BPIC. Is he going to rule that out in his reply speech to the budget today? Is he going to rule out bringing back the patients tax? Is he going to rule out reintroducing the member for Woodridge's renters tax? Are they going to rule all of this out today? How are they going to fund all of their policies, because we know that he is going to get up in about an hour and do and say anything in his desperate attempt—

Mr Crisafulli: Desperado!

Mr BLEIJIE: He is a desperado; I take the interjection from the Premier. The serious element of the question is this: testimony was given by senior executive Andrea Fox from the Office of Industrial Relations. She gave testimony to the commission of inquiry that she was locked in a room with CFMEU executives and she said—

I felt very scared, and I think the thing about Mr Ravbar is it was really kind of an out-of-control rage behaviour, but I also knew him to be very powerful, and, you know, I would see him come into 1 William Street or leaving 1 William Street. I felt absolutely sick if I spotted him ...

She then said that she said to herself—

You're just going to have to really watch these two men, because this might get physical.

This is the Andrea Fox who still works for OIR at the moment. She then went on to say—

... I thought maybe he would lose control of his temper and punch me or something ...

That is testimony from a director of the Office of Industrial Relations against the former Labor government after being locked in a room. The opposition leader was asked about this testimony at a press conference and this was his response. In response to the lady who was crying on the stand giving testimony, the Leader of the Opposition said, 'Labor want to interrogate those witnesses.' So you have public servants—females—crying on the stand giving testimony about CFMEU bullying, thuggish and

misogynistic behaviour and the opposition leader is looking forward to the day when she relives her trauma on the stand so the Labor Party can interrogate these witnesses? That is the behaviour of the CFMEU! That is what we are trying to stop—that sort of behaviour and thuggery that those opposite continue to perpetrate in their policies! He wants long-serving public servants like Andrea to relive the trauma. We do not, and that is why he is not up to the job of being opposition leader. We look forward to your budget reply speech, desperado!

(Time expired)

Back to School Boost

Ms FARMER: My question is to the Minister for Education. Many parents and families have reported not being able to access the Back to School Boost until after the start of the school year, when major expenditure is incurred. Will the minister guarantee that the next round of Back to School Boost vouchers will be available to families before the start of term 1, 2027?

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! When we have order we will get a response.

Mr LANGBROEK: I thank the honourable member for the question. So now we have this bizarre question. From the Leader of the Opposition the question was about whether people are not spending enough of it quickly enough, which implies that those opposite would reclaim it if it was not spent by a certain time—because that is what we know Labor likes to do, sometimes retrospectively—and then the other part that those opposite do not seem to understand is that the money rolls over to the next year if it is not used. We also know that those opposite do not understand prudent spending. Maybe not all families want to access it straightaway because, as I have already said, it is called the Back to School Boost but it is not a law. It is not a law that says that it has to be used when you are back at school. It was \$100, which those opposite never provided—it is \$280 million over four years—and it has now been increased to \$150.

Those opposite said that it was an insignificant amount and now they are questioning whether it was appropriate for those people to be spending it as they would like to. We know that the Labor Party likes to determine when people should spend their money and how they should spend it, and if they do not spend it it will take it back. On this side of the House we can rely on Queenslanders to prudently spend their money appropriately whilst ensuring we are giving people cost-of-living relief. That is what we are doing for primary school students through the significant concessions that we provide, whether it is free kindy, whether it is the textbook and resource allowance that we give to students, whether it is transport for students with disability.

This government is providing far more relief than those opposite did, and the Back to School Boost is a classic example of it. It was \$100 this year. In terms of expenditure, I can update the House that at this time 58 per cent of the Back to School Boost money has been spent, so that is up from the 50 per cent outlined in the answer that I referred to in the response to the previous question without notice. So we are up to 58 per cent. What would those opposite suggest that we do with the other 42 per cent?

Mrs Gerber: They'd reclaim it!

Mr LANGBROEK: They would obviously reclaim it to try to help a budget that they cannot manage. I cannot be any more clear: we are ensuring Queenslanders in primary school receive a benefit that we have determined should be increased by 50 per cent—an amount that those opposite did not provide at all, that those opposite said was insignificant and are now complaining about some other aspects of. We will ensure that we work with teachers and schools. The other night the member for Kurwongbah acknowledged in his speech that he had had direct contact with my ministerial office trying to resolve the issues at a school in his electorate, and the member for Pine Rivers said exactly the same thing about concerns. Given that we want to reduce red tape, we will sort these issues, but most importantly—

(Time expired)

Public Transport

Mr VORSTER: My question is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. How is the Crisafulli LNP government's second budget delivering affordable and reliable public transport, and is the minister aware of any campaigns that have attempted to mislead Queenslanders?

Mr MICKELBERG: I thank the member for Burleigh for his question. It was tremendous to join with him, alongside the Gold Coast LNP team, to announce our game-changing investment on the Gold Coast—the GC Surfer in his part of the world and light rail from the hospital to Harbour Town in the member for Bonney's and the member for Southport's part of the world. Because of that investment, Gold Coast residents and visitors will be able to get from the airport all the way to Harbour Town for 50 cents under the LNP's permanent 50-cent fares. With regard to the LNP's permanent 50-cent fares, we made them permanent on 10 February last year and they are available on Translink buses, they are available on trains—not Airtrain admittedly but all other trains—ferries, trams, on-demand services throughout SEQ and all of the regional bus services that are delivered by Translink. As at 19 June, there have been more than 286 million trips under the LNP's permanent 50-cent fares, savings of \$621 million relative to the previous fare structure under Labor. We have seen patronage in South-East Queensland increase by 23.4 per cent. We have seen an increase—

Mr Power interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Logan, you are warned.

Mr MICKELBERG:—in regional patronage of 17 per cent; Cairns, 22 per cent; Townsville, 19 per cent; and Rockhampton, 25 per cent. There is good uplift right across the state. We have new bus services in Townsville connecting the airport to the CBD. In Cairns, connecting to the airport is funded as a part of this budget. That planning is underway.

What we have seen from members opposite is amateur political games, introducing private members' bills. Either it is an exhibition of their own incompetence or they genuinely want to see 50-cent fares wound back to only bus services.

Interruption.

PRIVILEGE

Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (10.40 am): I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. The minister is being deliberately misleading. I made a statement in the House last night. The minister was in the House. Mr Speaker, I will be writing to you about the minister being deliberately misleading.

Mr SPEAKER: You can write to me.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Resumed.

Mr MICKELBERG: They have tabled a bill—incorrectly. Either they are demonstrating their incompetence—they have incorrectly drafted it—or they are deliberately trying to wind back 50-cent fares.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! No props.

Mr MICKELBERG: Under a Labor bill there would be no 50-cent fares on trains, no 50-cent fares on trams and no 50-cent fares on ferries.

Mr de BRENNI: I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. The member for Aspley has just made it clear that he has made a statement in relation to this. The minister has continued. I will also be writing—

Mr SPEAKER: There is no point of order. The member for Aspley has indicated that he will write to me about the matter.

Mr MICKELBERG: Hopefully he uses his correct name when he writes to you. Either those opposite are incompetent or they are deliberately trying to wind back 50-cent fares.

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

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, did you personally refer to—

Mr MICKELBERG: I referred to Bart Bellish.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, I ask that you withdraw and use correct titles.

Mr MICKELBERG: I withdraw. Those opposite are either incompetent or deliberately misleading Queenslanders—or both. The Leader of the Opposition in his budget reply speech today needs to explain himself. Does he want to wind back 50-cent fares so it only applies to buses? Does he want to abandon the LNP's permanent 50-cent fares? We have legislation which will lock it in law. Will they support that legislation or will they oppose it? The Leader of the Opposition needs to come clean with Queenslanders today. Are they incompetent or do they want to wind back 50-cent fares? It can only be one of those two options, and Queenslanders deserve to know.

(Time expired)

Back to School Boost

Ms HOWARD: My question is to the Minister for Education. Hemi from Ipswich has told the opposition that he has been unable to purchase uniforms for his child through the Back to School Boost, despite the government's claims to the contrary. How many Queensland state schools cannot offer the Back to School Boost for uniforms, as the LNP promised?

Mr LANGBROEK: It gives me pleasure to rise to speak again about a signature policy brought in by this government in 2025, the Back to School Boost. I thank the member for the question, but I want to refer to what the opposition leader has said—and it is a direct quote: 'You couldn't get a bigger demonstration of how out of touch they are than their token \$100 contribution to the cost of sending kids to school.' That is what the member for Murrumba has said. We have said that parents can use this for books, for excursions and for uniforms if there is a uniform shop at the school. These were the issues mentioned by the member for Kurwongbah in his local community, and we are prepared to work with communities to make sure they are able to get the maximum benefit from this. As I have already said, 58 per cent of this money has been spent.

Now we have this inconsistency from those opposite. They do not think it is a worthwhile amount of money and they certainly do not support the fact we have increased it by 50 per cent—this is what those opposite seem to be saying—and now they are quibbling about the way it is actually applied in schools. Those opposite need to answer whether they support the Back to School Boost. Up to now they have said that they do not because it is a token contribution, yet we have increased it by 50 per cent—along with all of the other concessions that we make, and continue to make, for parents in schools and for students. Those opposite cannot have it both ways. Do they support the Back to School Boost or do they not support the Back to School Boost?

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The question is asking about a figure for the number of state schools where uniforms could not be purchased using the program.

Dr ROWAN: The minister is providing a comprehensive response to the Back to School Boost. There are many elements of it. He is drawing a complete thread between the questions they are asking. He is being responsive and he should be allowed to continue as he is providing critical information.

Mr SPEAKER: As I have heard, the minister has spoken about the Back to School Boost program throughout his entire contribution thus far.

Mr LANGBROEK: We have said that this Back to School Boost can be used in many different forms. It is a credit that those opposite never provided. We have now increased it by 50 per cent. What we would say to those opposite is that it is a credit. One cannot use it at the shops; it is a Back to School Boost. That contrasts with many of those credits that previous Labor governments had given, where all we saw was people spending it in other places—including funding people to buy illegal e-bikes. That is not what this government is about.

This is targeted relief and support for parents and students—working with our schools to make sure it can be delivered appropriately. We are not going to do it in the way those opposite do. We are certainly not going to reclaim it from people who do not use it. We have 58 per cent of it currently being spent this year. We are increasing it to \$150 next year. The Leader of the Opposition needs to explain in his budget reply today what he will do with the Back to School Boost. Will he be eliminating it? What is going to happen when those opposite give their budget reply? It is valuable and Queensland parents appreciate it.

(Time expired)

Budget

Mr McDONALD: My question is to the Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership. How is the Crisafulli LNP government's second budget showing respect for taxpayers' money and delivering a pathway to surplus for our state's future, and is the Treasurer aware of any campaigns that have attempted to mislead Queenslanders?

Mr JANETZKI: I thank the much loved honourable member for Lockyer for his question. I understand there is plenty of love in the gallery today from the communities of the Lockyer, Nanango and Ipswich West. It is wonderful to see so many people here today.

I thank the honourable member for the question, because it gives me an opportunity to highlight again how we are respecting taxpayers' money. We have delivered a budget with lower debt—\$73 billion less at the end of the forwards than those opposite would have delivered—and improving deficits, including a surplus at the end. Last budget we talked about a pathway to surplus. This budget sets out how we are delivering a surplus in 2029-30. We have done that through stable revenue growth—not building in uncertainty and instability, like those opposite and their mates in Canberra would deliver to the Queensland economy. We have delivered another budget of no new or increased taxes because, again, we want to deliver certainty and stability to the Queensland economy.

I contrast that with all of the scare campaigns and misleading behaviour from those opposite that we have seen over so long. A couple of them we have not spoken about this morning—and I know that the honourable member will appreciate this as he is a former police officer. Those opposite used to mislead Queenslanders into thinking they were investing in the front line. Yesterday we found out that it is the Crisafulli government that is investing in the front line, with 99.6 per cent of all new Queensland government employees last year being invested in the front line. Those opposite were running at 17 per cent into corporate—6½ per cent into corporate. It is this government that is investing and delivering into the front line.

On that side of the House they pretend to care about cost of living, but deep down they do not. To see this, all we need to do is look through their last budget papers where they would talk about 50-cent fares. 50-cent fares were plastered on the budget papers, but do members know how much was in there? Zip, nada, nothing. It was a misleading campaign from the now Leader of the Opposition. There was absolutely nothing in there for Play On! vouchers. They froze the vulnerable household rebate for 700,000 vulnerable households in this state.

Today it is up to the Leader of the Opposition to tell us his vision for Queensland. Will he add to the 15 new taxes that those opposite, when they were in power, delivered for Queenslanders or will it be simply more misleading and deceptive campaigns, like the cost-of-living fake campaign that we saw in their last budget? What will it be? We look forward to hearing from the Leader of the Opposition because we know it will just be more of the same.

(Time expired)

Gympie Road Bypass Tunnel

Mr RICHMOND: My question is to the Minister for Transport. Will the minister guarantee that construction will start on the Gympie Road tunnel before 31 December 2031?

Mr Nicholls: It was never going to start under them.

Mr MICKELBERG: At the outset I take the interjection from the member for Clayfield: you can guarantee the Gympie Road tunnel was never going to be delivered under Labor. We just heard about there being zero in Labor's last budget to make 50-cent fares permanent. In fact, they spent more money advertising 50-cent fares than making it permanent. I understand the member for Stafford was not in the parliament back then, but he was pulling the strings in the Labor back office. We know his fingerprints are all over BPIC. We have seen the policy platform that winds back worker rights. We have seen the policy platform that wants to increase the age of criminal responsibility to 14. That is the position of the member for Stafford.

Mr RICHMOND: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence and ask the member to withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: The member has taken personal offence and I will draw you back to the question.

Mr MICKELBERG: I withdraw. Perhaps the member for Stafford is auditioning to be the new apprentice for the overrun overlord. We are progressing planning on the North Brisbane tunnel, just as we said we would, unlike those opposite who whacked a bit of money in QIC then actually did nothing with it.

Mr Mellish interjected.

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

Mr MICKELBERG: I take the interjection from the member for Aspley, the architect of \$6.7 billion in QTRIP blowouts. He did nothing to advance the delivery of the Gympie Road North Brisbane tunnel.

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

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, the question was around the Gympie tunnel and timeframes. You have a minute and 35 seconds left.

Mr MICKELBERG: The timeframe under which the Gympie Road tunnel would have been delivered by those opposite is never. Those opposite had no intention of delivering this tunnel. Despite their 10 years in office, those opposite literally did nothing other than make an announcement to throw some money at QIC and then QIC did nothing with it. No doubt they will announce it. They love announcing things. They just do not do things. That is the key. Our government is committed to doing the planning work required to advance projects like the Gympie Road tunnel. We will continue to do that planning work in a calm, considered and methodical way. When we speak about tunnels, who can forget the Cross River Rail tunnel—a project they promised to deliver by 2024. Now we are at 2029.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The question was around 31 December 2031.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, you have 42 seconds to respond to the question as asked.

Mr O'Connor interjected.

Mr MICKELBERG: I take the interjection from the member for Bonney. I really welcome the endorsement from the member for Springwood that we will be re-elected in 2028 and will be the government to deliver this. He is already pre-empting it. He knows they are lost. Maybe it is the member for Springwood leaking to the *Courier-Mail* about the need to get off TikTok. It would make sense. We know he is dissatisfied that he is on the backbench again. It is very clear: Labor just want to let their CFMEU mates loose on another project. They never actually want to deliver projects, they just want to make announcements. They are all about the photo-op; they forget about the follow-up.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The minister continues to be irrelevant to the question.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, you have heard the question. You have 10 seconds left.

Mr MICKELBERG: I will continue to contrast our record of delivery. We will do the planning work required, something those opposite never did, and we will continue to deliver the infrastructure that Queenslanders need and Queenslanders deserve.

Budget, Health Services

Mr JAMES: My question is to the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. How is the Crisafulli LNP government's second budget continuing to deliver the health services Queenslanders need and is the minister aware of any campaigns that have attempted to mislead Queenslanders?

Mr NICHOLLS: I want to thank the member for Mulgrave for his question. He is a fierce advocate for the far north of this state and someone who is delivering real change for his electorate and the people of Far North Queensland, and continues to do so. Happy birthday for this week, member for Mulgrave! The member fought for the Cairns Base Hospital expansion, which was saved by the Crisafulli government, and now has our more than \$1 billion master plan to transform healthcare delivery in the Far North. Our \$35.5 billion record health budget is in sharp contrast to the false and shameful claims of those opposite. The Leader of the Opposition spreads fear and misinformation wherever he goes throughout this state and whenever he gets the opportunity. His relationship with the truth is strained. He dallies with it, but can never quite get there.

The facts are clear: the 2026 State of the Sector report released earlier this week shows the health workforce grew by over 4,800 full-time equivalents between March 2025 and March 2026. More than 50 per cent of the growth in the Queensland public sector in that 12-month period was in frontline

service delivery in the health sector. Contrast that with what the Leader of the Opposition actually said a year ago: 'The LNP's plan for cuts means frontline doctors, nurses and teachers will be sacked.' That is false, wrong and misleading and it bears no relationship to the truth—as the campaign for Stafford bore no relationship with the truth. We have already seen multiple members having to apologise.

Mr Richmond: Where were you?

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Stafford!

Mr NICHOLLS: You have not been here long enough to be offended.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Stafford, you are warned.

Mr NICHOLLS: We have heard apology after apology from Labor opposition members for misleading the House about the state of hospital services and about perinatal mental health beds. The first apology the Leader of the Opposition had to make was for misleading the House, showing again his dalliance with the truth. There is nothing new from a lazy opposition that for almost two years now have not come up with one new policy. We have seen the Leader of the Opposition apologise and apologise and his team continue to apologise.

Mr Bleijie: Found in contempt!

Mr NICHOLLS: Found in contempt as well. I take that interjection from the Deputy Premier. The question is: will we see anything new in his budget reply today? None of us on this side are holding our breath. He has no new ideas; he has no policy. He is miles away from being an opposition leader who can drive a claim, he is miles away from fronting the media—as we learnt today—and he is miles away from the truth. Long may it be that way.

(Time expired)

Social and Affordable Housing

Ms BOLTON: My question is to the Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth. In January 2025 we were advised the department was testing and reviewing several income limit methodologies for social housing. Could the minister please update the House on this and whether Queensland's entry eligibility criteria for singles will increase from \$32,000 to Victoria's \$62,000 per annum to provide assistance to our workers who are currently ineligible?

Mr O'CONNOR: I very much thank the member for Noosa for raising this important issue. I acknowledge that there are a lot of Queenslanders right now who are doing it tough after a decade where housing supply went nowhere near meeting the demand that we were seeing across our state.

With regard to the social housing income limits, there has been no review that this government ordered. The only review was from the former government which, in May 2023 I think it was, commenced work on a review that, frankly, was a hoax. It was a cruel hoax from the former government to make it look like they were considering this when more than 12 months after they started it they had done nothing—just as they did for the 10 years they were in power when they did not touch those thresholds at all.

The only thing we are focused on is increasing housing supply. That is what will give us more options in this space. After a decade when supply failed to keep pace with demand, there are too many Queenslanders on our housing register. Under the current thresholds that the member references, they are by the very definition our most vulnerable Queenslanders. They are the people who need and deserve social housing the most.

That is why we have been focusing on playing catch-up and making sure we can get the build program to the point we need it to get to. Over the past decade—and this is a figure that I repeat often because it is a disgraceful legacy of the former government—on average just over 509 social homes were added each year. In fact, one year, not even at the start of that decade but as recently as 2021-22, the former government added just 410 social homes and in the same year they sold 207—a net of just 203 homes in that year. We now have more than 6,500 social and affordable homes underway across Queensland, the overwhelming majority of which have been added since we were elected.

Ms BOLTON: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The question was regarding what we were advised, that the department was testing and reviewing several incoming methodologies.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, you heard the question.

Mr O'CONNOR: I will address that, Mr Speaker. I am very happy to talk about what we are delivering in Noosa, which includes four community homes with Coast2Bay in Noosaville. They are forecast for construction and completion later this month. We have 32 social homes at Tewantin with the tender awarded and we will have construction underway later this year. That is our No. 1 priority. I am very proud to say that we have assisted 4,423 households into social housing this year alone. We are seeing promising signs that the register is moving in the right direction. We have seen month-on-month decreases since October last year. Once we get it to the point where the supply is meeting the demand, we will have more options to consider the things the member is talking about. It is our No. 1 priority to increase housing supply of all types across our state.

(Time expired)

Victims of Crime

Mr KEMPTON: My question is to the Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services. How is the Crisafulli LNP government's second budget continuing to support victims of crime and drive down victim numbers, and is the minister aware of campaigns that have attempted to mislead Queenslanders?

Mrs GERBER: I thank the member for Cook for his advocacy. He more than anyone knows the impact of Labor's youth crime crisis. His community in Far North Queensland suffered terribly under Labor's weak laws and Labor's failure to invest in early intervention and rehabilitation. The member for Cook has fiercely advocated for strong laws. He backed Adult Crime, Adult Time. Do members know who did not back Adult Crime, Adult Time? Those opposite! They voted against it. The member for Cook backs our permanent electronic monitoring right across the state. The member for Cook advocates for and backs stronger laws, including in bail reform. Our budget delivers \$2.7 billion to keep communities safe, for crime prevention, for early intervention and for rehabilitation. That means more child safety officers. It means more frontline police. It is more funding for our courts. It is more funding for youth justice and early intervention. What youth crime policies do we see from those opposite? Today is their opportunity to talk about that.

The member for Cook asked about campaigns. We know that those opposite have a policy document that says they will make sure the age of criminal responsibility is raised. That means that youth offenders in communities such as Cook will not be held accountable for their actions because they are going to raise the age of criminal responsibility. Today, the Leader of the Opposition will deliver his budget reply speech. He has an opportunity to lay out for Queenslanders his youth crime policies and his policies to make Queensland communities safe. He has an opportunity to rule out the policy in this Labor Party policy document that says they will raise the age of criminal responsibility. If the Leader of the Opposition does not rule out raising the age of criminal responsibility in his budget reply speech today then we will know that it is their policy and that they will do it. We will know that, if they are given the chance, they will wind back our strong laws. They will take Queensland back to the youth crime crisis that ran rampant through communities such as that of the member for Cook.

Today, the Leader of the Opposition has an opportunity to rule out raising the age of criminal responsibility, an opportunity to lay out his policies to deal with the youth crime crisis that they started and an opportunity to make sure Queensland communities know what he is going to do to their communities. He comes into this chamber and says one thing, he goes into Queensland communities and says another, and his policy document says that he will stop holding youth accountable for their offences.

Queenslanders deserve better than that. Queenslanders deserve a leader of the opposition who is truthful. They deserve a leader of the opposition who will be accountable and who will tell them his policies. In his budget reply speech he needs to rule out raising the age of criminal responsibility. If he does not we will know for certain that, if given the chance, they will weaken our laws and raise the age of criminal responsibility.

Budget, Transport Infrastructure

Ms FENTIMAN: My question is to the Minister for Finance. In accordance with the minister's charter letter, did the minister advise the Premier of the \$460 million cost blowouts in the LNP's transport election commitments?

Ms BATES: I am sorry, Mr Speaker: could the shadow treasurer verify that comment?

Mr SPEAKER: Can that be authenticated, member for Waterford?

Ms FENTIMAN: I can authenticate both parts of the question. Firstly, the minister's own charter letter, which I am happy to table for the minister, requires her to let the Premier know about cost blowouts and, secondly, the leaked CBRC documents that were given to Channel 7 refer to the cost blowouts for the LNP election commitments—\$460 million on transport commitments.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 8 November 2024, from the Premier and Minister for Veterans, Hon. David Crisafulli, to the Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training, Hon. Ros Bates, regarding the Right Plan for Queensland's Future [1096].

Tabled paper: Extract, undated, from 7 News titled 'Secret Documents' regarding Department of Transport and Main Roads [1097].

Ms BATES: Can I see the documents?

Mr SPEAKER: They are on their way.

Ms BATES: I thank the shadow minister for the question. This is the first question since we came into government from the shadow treasurer, which I find pretty amazing given the fact that she—

Ms Fentiman interjected.

Mr Bleijie: I didn't even know you were the shadow treasurer.

Ms BATES: Exactly. I think she has just worked it out.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Minister, address the question, please.

Ms BATES: I am a member of the government leadership team. Alongside the Premier, the Deputy Premier and the Treasurer, I am a member of the CBRC, which oversees all of the financial decisions of this government. What I am not is the minister for transport and main roads. We are a team—unlike those opposite, who cannot even be in the same room together. Everyone knows that it is the Treasurer who is responsible for delivering the state budget.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

An opposition member interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Was that you interjecting while I was on my feet, member for Bundamba?

Mr McCallum: No.

Mr SPEAKER: Somebody over there was.

Ms BATES: I am really happy to inform the House of the \$119 billion infrastructure fund over the next four years which will deliver record infrastructure. Our budget will strengthen the foundations that we laid last year. The budget will provide—

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The question was about the minister's obligations set out in her charter letter to advise the Premier of cost blowouts. Did she do that?

Mr SPEAKER: I am listening. I am trying to listen. There is that much noise in this chamber that I would not have a clue what the minister was saying. Stop the interjections and we might hear.

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. In relation to the minister, she is being responsive to the question. The question could have been asked of the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, given the substantive content of the question, but she is being responsive. She was coming to some elements of the question which I think the opposition would want to hear.

Mr SPEAKER: Obviously you could hear something, but I could not because there was that much noise. The noise will cease.

Ms BATES: I reiterate that I am on the CBRC. We all work together. Of course I am aware of what our election commitments are and what our funding commitments are in this budget, unlike the former treasurer and the former minister for health who sat around the CBRC table and allowed programs to go unfunded, off a cliff and—

Ms Fentiman: I knew what was in my own charter letter!

Ms BATES: I do know what is in my charter letter, thank you very much. This comes from the worst child safety minister on record in Queensland, from the worst health minister on record in Queensland. I thank Jackie Trad for the questions because she is obviously still pulling the strings. Jackie's little puppet; you are a marionette. When was your last ski trip, little marionette for Jackie Trad?

Mr SPEAKER: Enough of the theatrics.

Ms BATES: Our budget will provide the stability and the certainty with no new or increased taxes, which did not happen over on that side of the House. We are going to respect taxpayers' money, not blow it on green hydrogen bubbles that they had to put a pin in.

Ms Fentiman interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Waterford, you are now warned.

Ms BATES: I can tell you that we respect our public servants. One of the things that I have done—I thank the Treasurer for mentioning that I will be looking after stationery as well; that is really good—is hunt down, through all of 1 William Street, one particular item. I actually found it under glass. It is this! It is a stapler! Who threw the stapler? For the benefit of the public servants, this will go back under glass so that they will not be threatened again by the member for Waterford.

Ms BOYD: Mr Speaker—

Mr SPEAKER: I call the member for Redlands for the next question.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member for Pine Rivers—

Ms Boyd: My microphone is still on.

Mr de BRENNI: The member for Pine Rivers clearly got the call and I move—

That the honourable member for Pine Rivers be now heard.

Ms Boyd: My microphone is on.

Honourable members interjected.

Mrs Young: Mr Speaker, I could not turn my microphone on.

Mr SPEAKER: The member has moved a motion. I would not know who called because of the noise in the House.

Ms Boyd: My microphone is still on, Mr Speaker.

Division: Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

In division—

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order while the division is happening. Having given the call to the member for Redlands, the member for Pine Rivers, who was complaining that she had the call and left her microphone on, proceeded to engage with you in saying, 'My microphone is on.' I believe that is a direct reflection on you, Mr Speaker. You having given the call to the member for Redlands, for her to leave her microphone on and then engage in discussion with you, Mr Speaker, across the chamber that she should be given the call, that her microphone is still on, is a direct reflection on you, Mr Speaker. I would ask if you would like me to write to you or if you will take action against the member for Pine Rivers.

Mr SPEAKER: We will talk about that after the division because there are a couple of matters.

AYES, 37:

ALP, 36—Asif, Bailey, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, Butcher, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Grace, Healy, Howard, J. Kelly, King, Linard, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, Nightingale, O'Shea, Pease, Power, Pugh, Richmond, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Smith, Whiting.

KAP, 1—Knuth.

NOES, 52:

LNP, 52—Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, Chiesa, Crandon, Crisafulli, Dalton, Dillon, Doolan, Dooley, Field, Frecklington, Gerber, Hatcher, Head, Hutton, Hunt, B. James, T. James, Janetzki, G. Kelly, Kempton, Kirkland, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lee, Lister, Mander, Marr, McDonald, Mickelberg, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Poole, Powell, Purdie, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Stoker, Watts, Vorster, Young.

Resolved in the negative.

Mr SPEAKER: The period for question time has expired. I will deal with a couple of things. To the Deputy Premier's point of order and to the member for Pine Rivers, we know the problems we have with microphones. Microphones do not automatically get you a call. We have seen that a number of times. In amongst the noise, I called the member for Redlands. That is that.

Secondly, when you are on a warning, it does not allow you to interject and yell in the House. Member for Waterford, you did and you were on a warning. You will leave the chamber for a period of one hour.

Whereupon the honourable member for Waterford withdrew from the chamber at 11.18am.

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

REVENUE (COST OF LIVING RELIEF LOCKED-IN LAW) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Appropriation (Parliament) Bill resumed from 23 June (see p. 1881), Appropriation Bill resumed from 23 June (see p. 1890) and Revenue (Cost of Living Relief Locked-in Law) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill resumed from 23 June (see p. 1891)

Second Reading (Cognate Debate)

 **Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (11.19 am): I move—

That the bills be now read a second time.

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.19 am): The Queensland I grew up in was the best place on Earth. The Sunshine State was a happy state, a proud state, a state built on hard work, entrepreneurialism, innovation, farming, footy, cricket, boardies and beaches, a state where everyone got a fair go, where a state school education gave children the start they needed in life, where if you wanted a trade qualification you could get one, and if you wanted a tradie, you could get one, too. People worked hard and they got ahead. Tradesmen, nurses and police could afford a home near where they worked. Children could dream of a future and go out and get it. Queenslanders were happy. That is the Queensland I love. That is the Queensland we all love.

That Queensland is slipping away under this LNP government. We believe good governments should aspire to make life better for the people we represent—better now and in the future. We believe budgets should be crafted to make life more affordable, services like health care more accessible and to leave our state in a better position for the future. This budget does none of those things. After nearly two years under this LNP government, Queenslanders are no better off. The big promises the LNP made before the election are not being matched by delivery. They are so focused on their daily announcements, on slick photo-ops and on watching their backs amidst internal division that they have lost touch with real life, with real Queenslanders, and this budget proves it.

Queensland is a strong state, but this government is squandering that strength. At a time when Queenslanders needed relief, this budget delivered excuses. When we could be building for the future, this government is delaying almost \$5 billion in projects our growing state needs. Budgets should reflect the needs of Queenslanders now and demonstrate a strong plan for our future. Budgets should reflect the aspirations of Queenslanders. This is the test of any budget, and on that test this one fails.

Queensland's economy is strong because it has been built by Queensland workers—workers on the front line: workers like Thomas, an apprentice diesel mechanic whom I met in Mackay this month—he is proud to be working on some of the big projects building our regions; workers like Alicia, a cancer-care worker whom I met outside this parliament as they campaigned against a real pay decrease; or Friday, one of the dedicated midwives I stood with—

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The members for Woodridge, McConnel and Gaven are not in their seats and are not able to interject during this speech.

Mr SPEAKER: I will watch closely.

Mr BLEIJIE: The member for McConnel is saying, 'Shame,' and she is not in her seat.

Mr SPEAKER: Everybody knows the rules around interjecting. I will watch closely. I will look after the House.

Mr MILES:—or Friday, one of the dedicated midwives I stood with as we rallied in defence of women's reproductive rights; and workers like Chrissy from Brisbane and Alannah from Logan—teachers I met as we marched together for better pay, conditions and, importantly, respect. Both sweet potato farmer Dean and macadamia farmer Geoff rely on Paradise Dam for water security. Neither of them are any better off than they were 18 months ago.

Let's call it for what it is: this budget is a debacle. Half of it was leaked to the media before the budget was even handed down. The promise of no new taxes was shut down immediately as the LGAQ confirmed the bin tax will be passed on directly to ratepayers. In fact, the LNP's signature cost-of-living—

Mr POWELL: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I believe the Leader of the Opposition has deliberately misled the House. I will be writing to you accordingly.

Mr SPEAKER: That is your right.

Mr MILES: In fact, the LNP's signature cost-of-living relief measures all but vanished as soon as they were announced. The \$150 Back to School Boost vouchers were the headliner, but data provided by the minister in April reveals that only a third of families had fully cashed them in—

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The Leader of the Opposition is being deliberately misleading. He has heard the responses to questions asked in question time. I will be writing to you about that matter.

Mr SPEAKER: You can do that.

Mr MILES:—with parents saying they cannot even put them towards uniforms or stationery, like the government promised. As it turns out, the promised lower energy bills will not be any lower when the bills hit the mailbox. Most embarrassingly, just as the water minister announced a freeze on bulk water charges she had to come out and defend water and sewerage price increases—increases that make the government's announced savings essentially moot. There is a wafer-thin surplus that is as delayed as the hospitals the LNP say they have rescued.

Ms LEAHY: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I did not say that. The Leader of the Opposition is being deliberately misleading, and I will be writing to you about that.

Mr SPEAKER: I will be getting lots of mail.

Mr MILES: There is a wafer-thin surplus that is as delayed as the hospitals the LNP say they have rescued. Queenslanders, who were looking to this budget for a lifeline, see that it does nothing for them. There is nothing to help Queenslanders as they stare at the rising costs of the bills on the kitchen table. There is nothing to help them with the rent that keeps rising, the power bill that has no relief or the grocery bill that keeps growing. That is what Queenslanders have to measure as they try to make ends meet every day.

By that test, the LNP are failing millions of Queenslanders, whom I speak for here today. Our tradies, nurses, teachers, police, miners, small businesses, farmers and tourism operators—the many public servants who teach our kids, staff our hospitals and deliver frontline services—are the Queenslanders who make this state so strong. Under the LNP, Queenslanders are not feeling that strength, and they certainly are not benefiting from it. That is the problem.

The numbers show us that Queensland has the fundamentals of a strong economy: demand is building, people are working, and public and private investment is driving growth. The Treasurer will rake in an extra \$3.6 billion in royalties and gain a budget boost from land tax and stamp duty—profits made off the back of skyrocketing house prices year on year. The Treasurer promised discipline; instead, this budget is a black hole of broken promises and blowouts.

At the last budget, S&P Global warned that Queensland's credit rating was at risk because of the decisions of the LNP government and said that delivering on the government's promised savings on consultants was critical for our state's retaining its AA+ credit rating. This week S&P Global said that this budget still leaves us in a weak fiscal position. The LNP's \$500 million savings plan will be built one highlighter at a time, but it is no highlight for Queenslanders, who will be left to foot the bill—the billion dollar bill—if this Treasurer fails to deliver.

At the same time, business confidence is in the toilet and fallen to a 20-year low. According to the Business Chamber, Queensland has recorded a third straight quarter slump. Businesses expect it to deteriorate even further, and the LNP has done nothing to help. Business Chamber Queensland's CEO, Heidi Cooper, said—

This is not a budget that backs business to thrive.

...

Queensland businesses are telling us they want real relief ...

...

This budget doesn't provide that relief.

Instead, they are sneakily cashing in on taxes, sneakily delaying infrastructure and sneakily hiding blowouts across the forwards. This goes to the heart of the problem with the Crisafulli LNP government: the Premier loves a media release and a photo shoot. While the LNP manage the message, Queenslanders are managing the consequences.

It is under the banner of 'discipline' that the LNP is trying to disguise what is really happening in this budget—projects have been pushed off and blown out. Before the election the Premier promised that projects would be delivered on time and on budget. He promised that generational infrastructure would be built—no ifs, buts or shortcuts. Instead, that generational infrastructure is stuck in the slow lane.

Delays are buried deep within the detail, but documents leaked to Channel 7 have laid bare billions in project deferrals and delays like future stages of the Coomera Connector which were promised to be delivered under the 2032 Delivery Plan. Instead, funding is deferred until beyond 2029. The M1 interchange at Coomera is delayed. The Biggera Waters light rail spur line was only announced this week, but documents show funding has already been deferred, and even more will be needed for interest repayments on private finance. On the north side, the Gympie Road tunnel will not be delivered until after 2032. That is despite the Premier saying that the tunnel 'has got to happen'—

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

Ms Boyd: Pause the clock!

Dr ROWAN: I take the interjection from the member for Pine Rivers, who I believe is on a warning.

Mr MILES: She asked for the clock to be paused.

Mr SPEAKER: I think she asked for the clock to be paused.

Dr ROWAN: I thought she was on a warning.

Mr SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

Dr ROWAN: My point of order is that the Leader of the Opposition has a history of misleading. In question time today there was a response provided by the Minister for Transport and Main Roads in relation to some of the elements that are being discussed now. He is being deliberately misleading. I ask him to authenticate or verify these statements.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The Leader of the Opposition has a right to contribute to this debate and reply to the budget speech. These frivolous points of order are clearly designed to obstruct the member from exercising his rights. I would submit that some advice to the government to stop obstructing members in this debate would serve the House well.

Mr SPEAKER: I will take advice. Leader of the House, I already have three emails coming. That is your right. If something is not correct, you can write to me on a matter of privilege.

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, I asked for verification and authentication. That was my specific point of order.

Mr SPEAKER: Member, can you authenticate these statements?

Mr MILES: These documents were all tabled during question time.

Mr MICKELBERG: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The Leader of the Opposition has specifically referenced CBRC documents and he said they were tabled in question time. That is not the case. The opposition tabled screenshots from a news interview, not any document that they are using as the source document. I am sure all of us can table a photo of a TV story. The Leader of the Opposition is relying on documents that he has specifically referenced—

An opposition member interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member, sit down until I am finished this point of order.

Mr MICKELBERG: The Leader of the Opposition is relying on documents he has specifically referenced.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr MICKELBERG: I have not finished yet, Mr Speaker. I am happy to keep going.

Mr SPEAKER: No. I have had enough.

Mr MICKELBERG: But, Mr Speaker, I have not finished my point of order. The Leader of the Opposition is relying on documents he has specifically referenced in the form of CBRC documents. He has provided no authentication—no information to authenticate his position whatsoever—and, in order to be able to substantiate his position, he needs to.

Mr SPEAKER: I will take advice. To the point of order, if you consider that the member has said something misleading, you can write to me. Authentication is usually a matter for question time, petitions, motions—that sort of thing. If you take exception to anything in the member's speech, you can write to me. I call the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr MILES: Thank you, Mr Speaker. The Gympie Road tunnel on the north side will not be delivered until after 2032, despite the Premier saying that the tunnel 'has got to happen' and 'You can't have so many people at the mercy of one congested road.' To Brisbane's west, the Mount Crosby Road and Warrego Highway interchange upgrade was once considered urgent by the member for Moggill—so urgent that he said delays to the project were an insult to local motorists who rely on it. That project is also delayed.

Dr Rowan interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! You will be warned if you continue.

Mr MILES: These deferrals and delays are seemingly just to cover the cost of major blowouts to the LNP's transport election commitments. Leaked documents show that an extra \$927 million was approved for these projects—projects that by their own costings document should have only cost about \$460 million, and that is not even counting the Wave, which now likely totals over \$12 billion for half a rail line and a busway. It might just be the Premier's biggest broken promise yet—to deliver projects on time, on budget and treat your money with respect. The Premier said he did not want to see projects put into the never-never. At this rate, Queenslanders will never, never see these major builds delivered.

It is not just capital works. What is most concerning is the creeping hollowing out of frontline services. We are seeing hiring freezes—dressed up as 'vacancy management'—and cuts delivered not openly but by attrition. The Public Service is crying out against these quiet cuts that are stretching the already busy workforce to breaking point. The *Brisbane Times* was told by Transport and Main Roads staff that 'morale's terrible' and 'work is quite quickly slowing down because there's just not enough people to do it'. We hear it is the same story at the Director of Child Protection Litigation, the Department of Education and even Indigenous housing.

The LNP point to headline FTE figures, but decreasing administrative and back-of-house roles there to support the front line will not reduce the amount of work that needs to be done. It just pushes the load on to those who already have a full workload. Even the front line is victim, as the Queensland police is about to be gutted of administrative and support personnel. It is understood as many as 400—

Mr PURDIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member is misleading the House. I would like him to validate his accusations. I will be writing to you about that, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: If you have an issue, Minister, you write to me.

Mr MILES: The Acting Police Commissioner confirmed these cuts himself. The fact is that not continuing to employ up to 400 police jobs will only increase the pressure and workload on frontline police. This overload will continue as crime prevention, intervention, rehabilitation and support services are wound back—

Mr SPEAKER: Hold on one second. I saw the minister about to rise. Minister, if you have an issue, you can write to me. Everybody has a chance to speak to this bill. You may take that opportunity perhaps to address that.

Mr MILES:—like the important work of Murri Watch, who offer youth cultural support services to those in watch houses. Their funding was cruelly cut by the government despite the risks it poses for young people in detention. Then there is MaraWay, who were brought on to deliver the LNP's

rehabilitation election commitment only to find out in an email that they had their funding cut effective immediately. When speaking with the CEO, she told us that she was gutted by the news. In fact, they had four kids on camp and she did not know what the funding cut meant for them or their families.

Ms SIMPSON: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member is using unparliamentary language which has been ruled against previously. I draw your attention to that and ask for a withdrawal.

Mr SPEAKER: I ask you to withdraw that, please.

Mr MILES: I withdraw. Even our PCYCs are not safe from the slashing. The award-winning and hugely successful Project Booyah has reportedly been scrapped on Brisbane's south side. These were just some of the programs that were helping get vulnerable young people out of a cycle of—

Mr PURDIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member is again being misleading. I will be writing to you about this again. He is being deliberately misleading and he needs to verify what he is saying.

Mr SPEAKER: You can write to me.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The convention that was applied to the delivery of the budget speech by the Treasurer—

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr de BRENNI:—is that members refrained from interjecting. That was the standard that was applied. There were no points of order during the Treasurer's speech. All of these points of order you have addressed are frivolous and vexatious, seek to disrupt and are highly disorderly.

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. A longstanding convention of our parliamentary democracy is that we have accurate information provided, and when there are statements made in the House that are deliberately misleading, cannot be verified and are factually inaccurate, I as Leader of the House, ministers and members of this House will rise on points of order under the standing orders to ensure the integrity of this democratic and parliamentary institution. It is their right as members of this House to do that, whether at the time or in writing to you afterwards. That is what members are doing in exercising their rights with respect to these matters.

Mr SPEAKER: As you said, you can write. There are serious repercussions for making misleading statements in the House. Anyone who feels that has occurred can write to me. I am sure the Leader of the Opposition is very well aware of that.

Mr MILES: These are just some of the programs that were helping get vulnerable young people out of the cycle of crime. These programs were already in place and delivering outcomes. Now they are gone and Queenslanders will be less safe as a result. In Cairns, unlawful entry is up more than 27 per cent compared to last year and car theft is up 23 per cent—all because this government will not fund programs that give those kids something safe and healthy to do, like midnight basketball in Cairns.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I ask the member to validate those figures.

Mr SPEAKER: I have made a ruling on that. If you have an objection to something the member says, you can write to me.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I believe the member on his feet is deliberately misleading the House and I will be writing to you in that regard.

Mr SPEAKER: You can write to me.

Mr MILES: In Townsville, where the LNP has cut funding to the JT Academy, the latest data shows that robbery is up almost 60 per cent. As expert criminologist Dr Terry Goldsworthy said, the Queensland LNP government 'risks becoming a victim of its own hubris'. He also stated—

By constantly shifting between different metrics, the government makes it difficult for people to judge whether they're actually reducing crime.

These explosive statements followed the police minister grandstanding in parliament to boast that stolen car insurance claims were down before later having to admit that police data showed the stolen car rate had increased.

Mr PURDIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I am writing to you. I take personal offence. He is being deliberately misleading, trying to attribute financial year data from an independent report to one month's data.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, we are not going to debate now. You can write to me. There is a process.

Mr PURDIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. He referred to me personally, and I take personal offence and I ask that he withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: The member has taken personal offence and asks that you withdraw.

Mr MILES: I withdraw. It is unsurprising from a government that keeps getting caught cherry-picking data and manipulating statistics to try and trick Queenslanders into believing their plan is working. It is why the Police Service's own secret polling showed Queenslanders had lost faith in the data provided by police, because when they see the Premier congratulating himself for fixing crime they know better. They know what is really happening in their communities. They know the Premier has not fixed crime; he has just fixed the figures. This government's brazen misuse of police data for political benefit has left Queenslanders wondering what they can trust. We need a way to measure which measures are working and which are not and rebuild faith in the crime data provided to the public—rebuild trust and confidence so that when you say something it means something.

That is why today I announce Labor will establish an independent community safety statistics bureau accountable to the parliament. Modelled off the New South Wales Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, the independent office will facilitate the management and publication of crime statistics for Queenslanders free from political spin. It will also be a resource for media, members of parliament and the public and have its operating parameters, audit functions and accountability measures built into law. Queenslanders need to be safe and feel safe, which starts by having trust in the numbers used by their government.

These are not hollow words like the Premier's broken promise to hold his ministers to account or create a parliamentary budget office. The Queensland community safety statistics bureau will embed truth, transparency and real accountability in the discourse around crime. It will ensure the goalposts in legislation so leaders can be held accountable—unlike the Premier, who staked his job on driving down victim numbers only to walk it back the day before the election. The LNP promised more but are giving less. The LNP promised action, but all we get are slogans. The Premier promised transparency, but instead we get suppression. It is simple: police statistics without the politics. That is what Queenslanders want and what Labor will deliver.

Sadly, it is not just crime data they are misleading Queenslanders about. Their health data is pretty rubbery, too. They say that ramping is going down from the record levels overseen by this health minister, but somehow amidst that fall the time our ambulances are spending at the ramp as lost time is up—by a lot. They say the surgery waitlist is down, but the number of Queenslanders waiting to see a specialist has hit record highs. That waitlist for the waitlist is now longer than ever. Under the LNP, more than 68,800 extra Queenslanders are waiting for a specialist appointment. That takes it to a high of more than 362,000 who are waiting just to get diagnosed or see their specialist, and almost 50 per cent are waiting longer than clinically recommended for care.

This includes Queenslanders like Jeanne from Burpengary. Jeanne has extreme back pain that prevents her from moving or sleeping properly. She was classified as a category 2. After waiting the standard 60 days, Jeanne contacted the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital to find out why she had not heard about her appointment. Jeanne has now been told she will not get her appointment until after January 2027. Patricia from Ipswich West waited over 15 months for an orthopaedic appointment, just to be put on a waitlist for the waitlist for a hip replacement. These are real people in real pain. Jeff up in Gladstone waited over 547 days for a urology appointment. Khushbu waited over a year for her category 3 surgery, only to have it cancelled after she had already been admitted to hospital.

Those wait times are not something sick Queenslanders can afford, and this bad blue budget promises to make it even worse. It short-changes the health and hospital services and asks sick Queenslanders to wait even longer. The budget completely ignores the demand and growth in pressures on our hospital systems. It assumes that demand for specialist outpatient—

Mr NICHOLLS: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member is misleading the House in relation to the budget outcomes, as have been explained to both him and his so-called shadow health minister on a number of occasions, and I will be writing to you to identify and reiterate those changes.

Mr SPEAKER: As is your right.

Mr MILES: It assumes that demand for specialist outpatient appointments will be lower than this year, down by approximately 3,710 weighted activity units.

Mr NICHOLLS: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The Leader of the Opposition is again misleading the House, misconstruing the budget papers and displaying his ignorance.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr J Kelly interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Greenslopes, you are warned. Minister, you will be writing to me?

Mr NICHOLLS: I will be writing to you to highlight those inaccuracies.

Mr MILES: And it assumes that demand for emergency departments will be down by 3,411 weighted activity units. Overall, the LNP have forecast that demand will only grow by one per cent. Compare that to the growth to date from the 2022 budget, which sits at almost nine per cent on average per year. Is it really the advice of Queensland Health that our growing and aging population will somehow rely on health services less over the next few years? No-one believes that demand for health care is going down. The only thing that is going backwards is the investment in direct service delivery.

Mr NICHOLLS: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Again, the Leader of the Opposition is obviously unable to read the budget papers, which show a 7.3 per cent increase in the health budget. I will be writing to you again in relation to his misleading of the House.

Mr SPEAKER: That is your right.

Mr MILES: It is no wonder the AMA Queensland president, Erica Gannon, said—

Doctors will be disappointed that the government's spend on health this year has not kept pace with either demand or inflation.
And—

... we need to increase public hospital capacity to deliver more timely treatment to Queenslanders no matter where they live.

Where is the state funded growth in direct public hospital service capacity? While we welcome the government getting behind Labor's calls to increase the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme, the 11 cent increase is tokenistic at best and falls far short of what we were advocating for. It was Labor that invested an extra \$70 million in the patient travel subsidy in the 2024 budget. It was Labor that increased the accommodation and fuel payments and removed red tape rules to access the scheme. That is what real investment looks like. Instead, regional Queenslanders will continue to choose between care and what they can afford. That is why it is critical that the largest hospital building program—especially in regional, rural and remote Queensland—is delivered, with new hospitals, expanded hospitals, more beds, more theatres, more capacity. On this side of the House we know that you cannot treat tomorrow's patients with yesterday's infrastructure.

Since coming to office, this LNP government has delayed, reviewed and slowed the very projects that communities were relying on. That is an age-old trick in the classic LNP playbook: commission a review, ask for a series of excuses to cut projects you promised to build, and make the cuts you wanted to do in the first place. This health minister has form for that. He was the Treasurer who orchestrated and oversaw—

Mr NICHOLLS: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at the comments made by the Leader of the Opposition and I ask that he withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: The member has taken personal offence and asked that you withdraw.

Mr MILES: I withdraw. Under Newman, the member for Clayfield justified the cuts he made by saying—

Mr NICHOLLS: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at the comments made by the Leader of the Opposition and I ask that he withdraw.

Ms Mullen interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Jordan, I am taking a point of order. The minister has taken personal offence and asked that you withdraw.

Mr MILES: I withdraw. He said he had to do it because the independent review that Peter Costello prepared for him said he had to. It is the same with the Sangster review, and they all think they got away with it. Queenslanders are paying the price for their delays hidden behind that sham review.

At so many of our busy hospitals, expansion work had already begun: contracts awarded, concrete poured, lift shafts built. This could be the first government ever to demolish brand new hospitals that were under construction. Instead of delivering, this government has chosen delays and chosen to hide how much the hospital builds will really cost.

Queenslanders were promised action: bigger, better hospitals; expanded services; real improvements. Instead, they have been given more reviews, explanations and excuses. Every delay has consequences. Every delayed hospital means fewer beds delivered on time. Every slowed project means longer waits. Every day lost increases the pressure on frontline staff. Health infrastructure is not optional; it is essential. When governments fail to build for the future, patients pay the price. Right now, they are paying for decisions that have left critical projects in limbo with no clear timeframe for delivery. The people who suffer are not politicians; they are the patients waiting in pain for surgery, they are the families sitting in a crowded emergency department, they are the nurses working another double shift and the paramedics waiting outside a hospital for a bed to become available. As it stands, there are no timeframes and no clear budgets for hospital expansions in Townsville, in Mackay, at the Prince Charles and at the Queensland Cancer Centre: hundreds of beds and we have no idea when the first Queenslanders will receive treatment in them. These are builds that were in the pipeline and are now a pipedream.

Queenslanders deserve a government that plans ahead, a government that builds, a government that understands that growing communities need growing hospitals. Instead, they have a government that has slowed the delivery of critical health infrastructure at the exact moment Queensland needs it most. Meanwhile, this health minister has cut public care for young transgender Queenslanders looking to access care—Queenslanders who were working with their doctors, with experts, on the best pathway of care. That is what it should be: led by patients, not politics.

In a cruel blow, the LNP has also cut IVF care for women with cancer. Women who are going through one of the toughest times of their life—

Mr NICHOLLS: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Again, the Leader of the Opposition is misleading the House in respect of that claim, and I will be writing to you in respect of those misleading statements.

Mr SPEAKER: You have that right.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I wish to draw to your attention a repeated pattern of contempt. I want to point out three things to you: the continued frivolous points of order that you have instructed to cease; the disorderly interjections; and the instructions being issued by the government whip for members of the government to walk past the television cameras to interrupt their view. This has happened multiple times, and I draw your attention to it because it is a desperate and disgusting abuse of this House.

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, in relation to the Manager of Opposition Business's first point of order—in relation to impugning the rights of members to be able to rise to bring to your attention statements that are made in the House which are deliberately misleading, unable to be verified and false—it is their right to be able to rise under the standing orders in this House and bring that to your attention and either have those matters dealt with contemporaneously or alternatively write to you about those. I submit to you that the Manager of Opposition Business should consider that matter with respect to the issues that he raised. In relation to the second part of his point of order, I am unaware of any matters associated with that.

Mr SPEAKER: I will take advice. We have a few things here. I remind everybody to duck underneath the camera when you are walking near it so it gets a clean shot. It is anybody's right to rise on a matter of privilege. Unfortunately, during the Treasurer's address he was constantly interjected on. That convention was breached the other day and it is happening again today. It has happened on both sides of the House. Both sides of the House are guilty of this. Member, you have the call.

Mr MILES: Women who are going through one of the toughest times of their life only to have a politician pull the plug on their hope of one day being a mother—

Mr NICHOLLS: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Again the Leader of the Opposition is misleading the House and is deliberately mistruthful. I will be writing to you in respect of that matter.

Mr MILES: Labor believes that public fertility services should be expanded for Queensland women, not cut. These are the choices made by the LNP that punished frontline workers, punished vulnerable Queenslanders and cut the services people rely on most. The Premier said he would clear

waiting lists, but in government he has let the specialist waitlist explode. The Premier said he would listen to doctors, nurses and paramedics. Instead, he is ignoring expert advice in favour of ideology. The Premier said he would get ambulances back on the road, but they tell us they are spending longer on the ramp while the data changes to avoid scrutiny. The Premier promised to deliver more doctors and nurses, yet after 18 months incentives to attract frontline health workers to the regions have been cut and Queensland is stuck on the waitlist for a workforce plan. This is not health care that is there when you need it; it is the LNP taking Queensland Health backwards while Queenslanders are left worse off. Let me be very clear: billboards do not build hospital beds. Good people and good policy on the front line do. That is exactly what we are working on. It starts by listening to the experts, to give our health heroes what they need to heal.

I have said time and again that housing affordability and accessibility could be the greatest challenge of this generation. We are in the grip of a growing affordability crisis and it has only gotten worse under this LNP government. For too many Queenslanders, the basics are slipping out of reach. Rents are rising, mortgage stress is deepening and saving for a home is taking longer than ever. Young people are staying at home because they have no real alternative. Families are being pushed further from jobs, schools and services. Even frontline workers are being priced out of the communities they serve. This is no longer simply a housing challenge; it is a cost-of-living crisis and it has worsened on this government's watch because housing underpins everything. It is the foundation of stability, of opportunity, of a decent life. When it becomes unaffordable, the consequences spread through the workforce, through the Public Service and through the strength of our communities. This is the defining pressure of this generation. It requires leadership, serious investment, clear planning and decisive action. Instead, we are seeing this government actively make it worse. Queensland Council of Social Service CEO, Aimee McVeigh went so far as to say—

There isn't a cost of living or housing package that will make a difference to families now.

The LNP have clearly failed to deliver.

State governments control some of the biggest levers that shape housing affordability: planning, social housing investment, tenancy law, infrastructure phasing, first home buyer incentives, workforce and disaster recovery. By that measure, the Crisafulli government is directly responsible for setting the policy levers that determine whether and how quickly conditions improve. Instead, their decisions are making the deepening affordability crisis harder to solve. Under the Deputy Premier and his ideological opposition to affordability, the LNP have removed affordable housing targets for significant new developments. This has come at the worst possible time.

More than 10,000 social and affordable homes were in the pipeline, the majority of which were set to be in reach of working people—working couples who are doing their best just to get ahead. They were to be in places like South Brisbane, Toowoomba, Robina and Woolloongabba where these builds would be connected to public transport, healthcare hubs and communities. This month Labor revealed that the Deputy Premier used his extraordinary power not for good but, instead, to direct developers building affordable housing to stop. Instead, these developers will be required to sell or rent those homes at market value—36 at Lutwyche on Brisbane's north side and 550 at Lakeview, Robina on the Gold Coast. That developer on the Gold Coast promoted the project as specifically delivering housing that was affordable for the teachers, nurses and retail workers who serve the community. With this abuse of power by the Deputy Premier, there is now less affordable housing in the pipeline while social housing stock ages and waitlists blow out. It corrects the record on the Deputy Premier's claim that making housing affordable means it will not be built. These were developers ready to build affordable homes who were told by the Deputy Premier they would not be permitted to. The signal that sends to other developers will see fewer proposals for homes that working Queenslanders can afford.

Despite the promises, they have not fixed the planning bottleneck facing our state and have not properly sequenced the big builds on the horizon. Because of that, renters are carrying the heaviest load; affordability has fallen to record lows, particularly in regional Queensland; and for those hoping to buy the pathway is narrowing. Prices have surged—sometimes double-digit growth in a single year—pushing home ownership further out of reach. Last year prices in Brisbane increased by more than double a teacher's annual salary—in a single year.

For many Queenslanders, saving a deposit is no longer a question of skipping avocado toast; it is a question of whether it is possible at all. That is not the opportunity they were promised and it is not a situation this government is doing enough to turn around. It means the dream of owning a home is

becoming less about hard work and more about whether your parents can lend you a helping hand. It will force the government to choose between hospitals and housing or stadiums and swimming pools as they compete for the same workers, materials and contractors.

For Queensland renters on the edge, there is nothing in this budget that strengthens their position—not a single meaningful reform to rental security despite the growing reality that more Queenslanders will rent for life. Without stronger protections, those renters face a cycle of instability, frequent moves, rising rents and little certainty that they can stay in the place they call home. When we look at other states, the contrast is clear. In New South Wales, the government are using their powers to upzone land near transport nodes and they have released a book of preapproved plans for low-rise homes for a dollar, paired with a 10-day fast-tracked approval timeline. They are also expanding their presale finance guarantee that backs apartment and affordable housing presales. In the ACT, the government has acted to cap rents and put a stop to no-grounds evictions to give renters security. In South Australia, affordable housing is mandated in land release and on significant developments and they also offer affordable housing land tax concessions. South Australia has also just abolished stamp duty for eligible downsizers. This is what is possible when governments are willing to act—to set rules to back renters to drive supply—but that requires leadership, and right now that is what is missing.

My team and I have travelled around the state listening directly to Queenslanders, and one issue that keeps coming up is affordability. Queenslanders are feeling it in their everyday lives—at the supermarket, at the petrol bowser or when the power, water or rates bill arrives. These are the routines of daily life and they are becoming harder to keep up with.

At the same time, pressure on the system is growing. There are almost 9,000 more people on the social housing waitlist and they are waiting longer for a place to call home because of the LNP. The eligibility criteria for that waitlist remains unchanged, despite the case for a modern income threshold that reflects current costs and income levels. It is not fair that the LNP are removing people from the list—some of them might be on support payments—just because the income from those support payments now exceeds the 20-year-old income test. It is not fair and it does not reflect the reality of the current housing market or its modern pressures.

It is why today I release Queensland's Labor's paper *The housing affordability crisis in Queensland*. This is our issues analysis of the unrelenting housing affordability pressures facing everyday Queenslanders. It is what industry and stakeholders tell us is wrong and it summarises their suggestions to fix it. It is a paper we will be taking around the state to capture the priorities of renters, first home buyers and home owners as we chart a pathway through the housing crisis. We want Queenslanders' voices to be elevated, to have their say on the solutions that build and plan—solutions that back renters, first home buyers, essential workers and vulnerable Queenslanders.

There have already been some good suggestions from industry. The Housing Industry Association calls for infill subdivisions to be unlocked. This could include allowing more townhouses and duplexes to be built near transport hubs. Master Builders Queensland used its budget submission to seek an expansion of the small business apprenticeship pilot that recently closed. That is a good idea and I am glad the government listened. We welcome the inclusion of further funding in this budget. The Property Council of Australia has called for tax reform to encourage investment. The Queensland Council of Social Service has called for more diverse social and affordable housing, a review of social housing eligibility and completion of the stage 2 rental reforms that started under Labor. That includes a portable bond scheme. The McKell Institute has backed that portable bond scheme and is calling for the interest on the bonds held by the state to be given back to renters.

Rental bonds are the hard-earned savings of renters. It is their money. They should get the interest on it and they should be able to transfer it between properties. I think that is only fair. It means when you go from renting to putting a deposit on your own home your bond can form a bigger part of the deposit, or if you go to upgrade to a bigger rental your bond might already be enough for the new place. That is why a future Labor government will create a seamless bond transfer scheme and pay interest on rental bonds. These are the types of proposals we will be talking to Queenslanders about and building on in coming years. They are the kinds of solutions that will be the bedrock of our housing affordability plan for Queensland.

Central to housing affordability is accessibility. It is no secret that we need to build, and build quickly, to keep pace with growth. To do that while we also build the roads, rail, Olympic and Paralympic infrastructure promised, we need the workforce—a skilled workforce. We need more apprentices and trainees on the big jobs. The Deputy Premier might be happy to beg, borrow and steal workers from

other places, but I want Queensland tradies building Queensland homes. People do not take up a trade by accident and it does not happen overnight. We need an army of Queenslanders to build the homes of tomorrow, yet under the LNP the latest data shows that trade apprentices and trainees in training in Queensland is down about five per cent compared to 2024. We need to reverse this trend if we are going to fill the projected construction worker shortfall before the Olympic and Paralympic Games. It starts by reversing the LNP's short-sighted end to the successful \$1,000 cashback for first-year apprentices in the housing construction sector next year. The training minister knew that free tools for tradies funding was due for renewal. She could have pushed for this program to be locked in over the full forwards. Instead, it wraps up next year which, by the LNP's own measure, is a cut.

Queensland apprentices are already facing cost barriers to apprenticeships amidst this affordability crisis. With this funding not being locked in over the forwards, the LNP is making it even harder for Queenslanders to get into a trade. Without this measure and as cost-of-living pressures bite, fewer people are picking up the tools in favour of other industries where starting salaries are higher. We need to give young people—

Ms BATES: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The Leader of the Opposition is deliberately misleading the House. The number of apprentices in a year was over 13,000 already qualified—

Mr SPEAKER: No, we are not debating anything.

Ms BATES:—and I will be writing to you—

Mr SPEAKER: If you have a point of order, you tell me what the point of order—

Ms BATES: My point of order is that I will be writing to you. A number of comments that he has made are misleading the House.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I had waited until the member had moved on to another subject matter, but the member reflected on me earlier by saying I had an ideological position on affordability. I take personal offence at that and I ask the member to withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: The member has taken personal offence. I ask that you withdraw.

Mr MILES: I withdraw. We need to give young people more reasons to choose a trade. It is why a future Labor government will waive rego fees for priority trade apprentices for the length of their training and, to encourage more small and family businesses to take on an apprentice, we will waive rego for their workplace supervisor too. It represents a saving of up to \$590 a year, which is massive for an apprentice whose weekly wage can start from as little as \$640 a week. It is just one thing we can do to get more Queenslanders on the tools on Queensland job sites, backing Queensland tradies to build Queensland. That means free rego for chippies, sparkies, roofers, painters and plumbers and their apprentices, putting money back in their pockets to boost skilled workers in our economy to ease the pressure while they build the houses Queensland needs.

Tradies do not get to benefit from 50-cent fares when they have a tray full of tools or a trailer load to pick up between jobs. They do not get to work their hours around the bus or train timetable, and you are more reliant on your own car when you live or train in a regional community. It is part of our plan to build Queensland for the future. It is in Labor's DNA—at the core of what we believe—to listen and build good policy that helps people, good policy that rewards hard work, that backs skills and ensures Queensland has the workforce to build the homes of the future. Only Labor will deliver the homes, the security, the tradies and the apprentices that our state needs to drive down the rising cost of living and build a future every Queenslanders can be proud of.

Despite the government branding this budget as a cost-of-living budget, if you do not have a primary school aged child or a concession card this budget does nothing to address relentless affordability pressures now or into the future. Even its signature cost-of-living Back to School Boost program has been a bust, with less than half of the vouchers being taken up by families in need as at 24 April, and the mismanagement of the scheme has left parents baffled as to how to even redeem them. A family in Moreton Bay has told us that because their uniform shop is run by the P&C they cannot redeem the voucher on uniforms. Another parent from Far North Queensland told us the same thing, and at the same time their child's school raised the student resource scheme to \$100, meaning the voucher was eaten up by fees straightaway.

Labor will always be a strong voice for financial security and will always prioritise delivering the cost-of-living relief that Queenslanders need. The Premier, despite promising to lend support to Queenslanders when they need it, has left them high and dry in this budget. It is why Labor says something must be done on housing, on energy, on the cost to fill up your car. RACQ's analysis shows

the record high for petrol was set at almost \$2.60 a litre in March and for diesel a high of \$3.27 per litre was set in April. That makes Brisbane the second most expensive city for petrol and the most expensive for diesel, and it is not too much cheaper in the regions. Queenslanders fuelling up need a break from being smashed at the bowser. It directly affects parents getting the kids to school and those paying more just to get to work.

Across the board Queenslanders are watching more and more of their household budget chewed up by their fuel tank. Even before the global fuel crisis, Brisbane had the most expensive unleaded petrol price of any capital city in Australia. It cannot be explained away by global oil prices. Families are paying more than they should while fuel companies continue to impose massive overnight price hikes with little warning. Queensland Labor has a plan to change that. Our cheaper fuel plan will cap daily fuel price increases at five cents per litre and we will introduce stronger reporting requirements so Queenslanders know what the price will be the next day.

Mr MICKELBERG: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I just seek your guidance whether the Leader of the Opposition is anticipating debate in relation to a private member's bill before the House.

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

Mr SPEAKER: You have a point of order?

Mr de BRENNI: I do have a point of order, Mr Speaker. It is for the chair to exercise that discretion, but both matters before the House are bills—both superior proceedings. A reference to a topic addressed in one bill, I submit, does not of itself enliven the anticipation rule and therefore there is no point of order.

Mr SPEAKER: There is a bit of discretion with regard to private member's bills, and I think a similar issue was raised last night. You are aware of the process, Leader of the Opposition, so I give you the call.

Mr MILES: It is a practical reform designed to give motorists more certainty, more transparency and more money in their pockets, and now we know exactly what those savings could look like. RACQ modelling shows motorists could save up to 23 cents per litre under Labor's proposed laws.

For a family filling up two cars with 50-litre tanks every week, it could mean savings of up to \$1,200 a year. That is money that could go towards groceries or help cover mortgage repayments or rent—money that could pay school expenses, electricity bills or insurance premiums. When Queensland families are under enormous cost-of-living pressure, those savings matter. RACQ's modelling confirms what we on this side of the House have been saying all along: there is a better way to manage fuel prices. The experts have done the work, the evidence is there, the savings are real and other states have already acted.

All that is standing in the way is the Crisafulli LNP government, just as they are on renewable energy projects. In fact, the LNP are not just standing in the way; they are actively opposing them. That is despite the Australian Energy Regulator highlighting that wind projects and battery storage have directly driven down the cost of energy bills. The problem is: in Queensland this will not continue. Clean Energy Regulator data shows that, as at May 2026, only one renewable energy generation project has reached a financial investment decision since the start of 2025. Even the one renewable energy project the LNP did commit to—Borumba pumped hydro—has been delayed and its funding evaporated. It is clear that the pipeline of new builds that has driven down bills is drying up and generation potential is stalling as investors look interstate and overseas, where governments are more supportive. As the projects commenced under Labor finish and are not replaced with new builds in sequence, Queenslanders risk missing out on further energy bill decreases.

The LNP's ideological opposition to renewable energy generation and storage will instead drive up costs for every Queensland household and put Queenslanders out of work as jobs are lost from the regions, making it harder to keep the lights on for working families. It is why Labor is calling on the Premier to use the extra billions in royalty windfalls juicing up his budget as the initial injection into a dedicated cost-of-living fund. It is a budget boost delivered directly from the pockets of Queensland drivers and it should go back to those Queenslanders most impacted. A cost-of-living fund could be used to help those struggling right now. We used royalties to give back to those who needed it through energy rebates, 50-cent fares and rego discounts. Before the election the Premier said that he would do the same—deliver cost-of-living relief when it was needed. Again, he said one thing and did another.

Following through on his promises is something the Premier could do today to make the lives of Queenslanders just a bit easier. After all, that is what politics is all about—at least it is for me. It is the reason I joined the Labor Party and got into politics in the first place: to stand up—not just for some and not for the powerful but for everyone; to stand up for the belief that, no matter your postcode, your surname or your bank balance, you deserve a fair go and a good start in life, a good education, a secure job and a crack at owning a home.

I believe in the opportunity to build a good life right here in Queensland. That is what Labor stands for. Right now, many people do not believe they have that opportunity, no matter how hard they work. They do not feel like they are being heard or represented by this government. How could they, when this LNP government uses our parliament for grandstanding, self-promotion and Trump style politics? This is a government more concerned with ruining your favourite streaming show or podcast with their blatant political ads and propaganda than actually doing something that might help Queenslanders. There is no corner of Queensland that is safe. That is Queenslanders' money used to peddle party political colouring and slick slogans—at what cost?

Labor will always stand up for a fair go. That is what Labor has always done and what drives me today. Leadership should not be about titles, ego or headlines. To me, it is about service. It is about showing up every single day and listening. Leadership is about understanding the pressures that hardworking Queenslanders are under and doing everything you can to help. The best leaders are the ones who never forget who they are here to represent: the nurse finishing a night shift; the apprentice trying to get ahead; the family worried about the mortgage; the pensioner choosing between food, fuel and seeing the doctor; and the small business owner working every hour they can to stay afloat. They are the Queenslanders I stand up for—even if that nurse was born in India; the apprentice is the son of a migrant; the family worried about their mortgage is from New Zealand and just became citizens; or the pensioner escaped Europe during World War II. Those Queenslanders are not to blame for the affordability crisis, but now One Nation and the federal LNP are using them as scapegoats—and the silence from the state LNP in standing up to Pauline Hanson or their federal party lets down every single one of those proud Queenslanders who have moved here, or whose parents or grandparents did.

It is about time someone in our state called out the shameful, race fuelled hatred that has invaded our political discourse. These people aspire to divide our community and the Premier says nothing. They are inciting abuse and violence against hardworking Queenslanders for nothing but their own political advantage, and still the Premier says nothing. Labor will always stand against racism, hatred and blame, and we will support the communities whose cultures contribute to our great state.

A future Labor government will double the funding for multicultural community celebrations and festivals, bringing the funding pool to \$2 million in grants available, and will more than double the funding available for multicultural projects that build an inclusive and united Queensland, boosting the funding from \$1.8 million to \$4 million in grants per year—to provide more opportunities for all of us to experience the many cultures that make up our state and to build unity and harmony over the hatred and division peddled by so many right now. For First Nations Queenslanders, Labor will double the funding provided for NAIDOC and Reconciliation Week community celebrations and events, after it was reduced by those opposite, because our shared history cannot be silenced or rewritten. First Nations Queenslanders should not be invisible. The LNP's quiet purge of Indigenous people, positions, policies, flags and acknowledgements sends a message to Indigenous Queenslanders that their government does not want to see them. Labor believes that every Queenslanders should feel recognised and celebrated by their government. They are why I am here and who I think about every day.

Labor delivers because we are focused on people, not politics—on solutions, not a blame game. We are focused on building a better, stronger, more united future for Queensland, not just winning the argument of the day. Labor is focused on what matters. I have always been optimistic about Queensland's future, not because our challenges are small but because Queenslanders are resilient, ambitious and have the tenacity to get the job done. I know what we are capable of when we work together. We have a responsibility to leave Queensland better off—that is what Labor believes. We have a belief that progress is possible when governments are a force for good and when they fight for people—to back every Queenslanders regardless of their job, faith, culture or background—and put real money on the table that is not just talk; it is action on the ground in our communities.

At the end of the day, my Labor team and I are focused on one thing—Queenslanders—and that focus will never change. To create intergenerational opportunity, security and fairness is what motivates me and drives our movement. It is what will always guide me as Queensland's Labor leader, and it is

what is sadly lacking from this LNP government. Trust, truth and transparency were the central pillars of the Premier's promise. Queenslanders have instead seen the LNP's chaos and secrecy and a cabinet consumed by its own problems. In just 18 months, a minister has stood aside after a referral to the Australian Federal Police and the Premier is under pressure to explain why Queenslanders should trust the decisions being made around his cabinet table. At the same time, we have seen reports of deep divisions brewing within the LNP government. Underperforming ministers are scrambling and there is a reshuffle looming over the cabinet. We have a Premier trying to hold together a team that is already coming apart.

While those opposite are focused on themselves, Queenslanders are focused on their families. They are worried about rent, they are worried about mortgages, they are worried about hospital waitlists, youth crime, fuel prices and whether their kids will get the same opportunities they had. That is the real failure here. The LNP promised a fresh start, but this looks a lot like the same old LNP: jobs for mates, decisions made in the dark, cuts to services and when questions are asked Queenslanders get spin instead of substance—lots of talk, but no action. Queenslanders deserve better than a government paralysed by scandal and division.

Labor will keep holding this government to account because integrity matters, trust matters. Queenslanders should never have to wonder whether their government is serving them or just serving itself. I have made it clear that my team and I entered this term with a clean slate. Opposition provides time to reflect and to reconnect, to listen and to act. We are doing that. It is our time to develop meaningful and accessible policy that reflects our values and reflects what Queenslanders need: policy that is representative of the Labor government I will lead and the Labor government we want to be. That starts by acknowledging where we went wrong—something I have been upfront with Queenslanders about; to hear the message they sent to do better and to be better.

After more than 18 months of this LNP government, the gap between promise and performance is impossible to ignore. The Premier promised to ease cost-of-living pressures, instead Queensland families are being hammered at the auction and the bowser while this government sits on its hands. He promised stronger health services, instead new and expanded hospitals have been delayed, projects have been thrown into limbo and waiting lists continue to grow. He promised to cut waste and restore discipline to the state's finances, instead consultant spending remains sky-high, debt continues to climb and the Treasurer has delivered a budget that asks Queenslanders to pay more while getting less. Time and time again Queenslanders have been promised action and handed excuses. That has become the defining feature of this LNP government.

Queensland has enormous opportunity, but this government has refused to make the most of it. Under the LNP, delay has replaced delivery, excuses have replaced action and political spin has replaced practical solutions. Queenslanders deserve better than that, better than a Premier who broke his vows to Queensland and better than a Premier who is all spin, slogans and suppression. They know their rent has gone up and their mortgage has not gotten any easier to afford. They know their grocery bill is climbing, as is the cost just to fill up their tank, and they know the services they rely on are under pressure. They know this Premier and this Treasurer are more interested in headlines than lending a helping hand. What Queenslanders tell me is that they want a government they can believe in and a government that backs its people. That means investing in housing, it means delivering infrastructure and supporting frontline services, it means real cost-of-living relief that is there for people doing it tough, it means using the strength of our economy to build opportunities not excuses, it means housing affordability, health care, cost of living, jobs and our economy—those are my focus now and for our future.

Our state's story should not be one of wasted potential, it should be a story of growth that people can feel, where young people get a start, families get ahead, regions get their fair share and workers are respected. With a strong economy comes stronger communities. That is why Labor will continue to fight. We will fight for cheaper fuel, affordable housing and stronger health services. We will fight for real cost-of-living relief. We will continue to stand up for the Queenslanders who work hard, play by the rules and expect their government to do the same. Labor believes Queensland's best days are still ahead of us. We believe in making life more affordable. We believe that the wealth generated by Queensland workers and Queensland resources should help Queensland families. We believe governments should be judged not by what they promise but by what they deliver.

Over the next two years Queenslanders will have a clear choice: a government that promised everything but is delivering disappointment or a Labor team with a plan to tackle the challenges facing our state and the determination to get on with the job. This budget is not a plan for Queensland's future, it is a budget of broken promises and blowouts, a budget that settles for less when Queenslanders can achieve so much more.

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (12.35 pm): If the Labor members opposite who were leaking against the Leader of the Opposition about his TikTok videos were waiting with bated breath for the transition from TikTok to policy, it has not been achieved today. We have the incredible situation that not even the shadow treasurer wants to be in the video shot. She deliberately got herself kicked out of parliament because she wanted nothing to do with that budget reply speech.

Mr DICK: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at the words used by the Deputy Premier about me and my change of seat and I ask him to withdraw.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I said the shadow treasurer. He is not the shadow treasurer. He may want to be the shadow treasurer.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Member for Woodridge, I was listening to the contribution. I did not hear you personally referred to. In that case there is no point of order.

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

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member has taken offence. Would you withdraw, please?

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw. I think the Deputy Leader of the Opposition is anticipating the soon-to-be reshuffle and where he wants to be.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DICK: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at the reference and the words used about me and I ask the Deputy Premier to withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Deputy Premier, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition has requested you withdraw. Would you withdraw, please?

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw. I quote from a *Courier-Mail* article by Hayden Johnson where he was writing about the opposition and their future. He wrote—

The first 12 months would be used to understand from Queenslanders why they abandoned Labor and the second 12 would be when policies were crafted and announced.

Then he went further—

After 19 months in opposition, the Labor leadership has not released a new policy to sell to Queenslanders. That has prompted frustration—magnified after the swing away from the party in Stafford—that the hard work hasn't been done.

The article then states—

'We've got to be different from the government,' one Labor MP says. 'It's hard to get fired two-and-a-half years out (from an election) ... but we need something.'

I would say to the Labor MP who leaked that that I do not think that the Leader of the Opposition delivered you anything today.

A government member interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I will get to that in a second. The Leader of the Opposition announced a bureau. He said the bureau will be similar to the New South Wales bureau. Here is a fact about the New South Wales crime statistics bureau: it reports quarterly. Our Queensland government data is released monthly. Those opposite will be less transparent with police and crime data and victim numbers because they are copying New South Wales.

Mr Nicholls: They've got form. They did it in health, remember, last time?

Mr BLEIJIE: Indeed! I take the interjection. They say it is based on the New South Wales system. I can advise the honourable Leader of the Opposition that the New South Wales system does not report to parliament. Our minister does. Their whole policy around this bureau they are establishing, based on New South Wales, is an absolute farce. I held out great hope for the second announcement because the Leader of the Opposition held up a document. I thought, 'My God, that is the first policy document that he has released as Leader of the Opposition.' Then, by his own admission, he said it was not actually a policy document, they are just going on the road to talk about the paper.

A government member: It's a housing handout!

Mr BLEIJIE: It is a housing handout! I say to the Leader of the Opposition: when you are going around Queensland to talk about your housing handout, do not fall in the holes that we have dug to deliver homes because there are so many holes being dug under our Residential Activation Fund. As he goes on his listening tour, he should not trip over our shovels, excavators and bulldozers. There is so much happening. When he is travelling regional Queensland, obviously he is walking or driving around blindfolded because there is so much action in regional and rural Queensland and South-East Queensland.

This was meant to be the big saviour of his leadership. He was meant to announce all of these policies. All he has done is say that they will set up a failed bureau similar to New South Wales, with less transparency under his policy than we have in Queensland at the moment. He has a pamphlet and he is going to talk to people about the housing crisis. I say to the Labor Party: the time for talking about the housing crisis is over. People want action, which is why we are delivering a record investment in social, community and affordable housing and a record investment in infrastructure, with \$119 billion over the next four years. I have to say that I am taken aback. I was expecting more from the Leader of the Opposition today.

Mr Nicholls interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from the health minister. I held high hopes that he would come in here with an actual alternative vision for Queensland but he did not. I think we have to take into consideration what was not in his speech today. Here is another thing: he talks about the cost of living but he did not commit to the electricity rebates that they delivered in government. He did not recommit to that today, which means it was an election hoax, just as we said it was at the time. It is all talk because if he believed in it so much he would have delivered it today.

At the end of his speech he goes into low, slow, dulcet tones because he thinks it is more electable or whatever. He says, 'We have a responsibility to make Queensland better.' Where was that responsibility when he was the premier of the state? Where was that responsibility when he was the deputy premier of the state? He lectures about planning reforms. Where was that responsibility when he was the planning minister of the state? Where was that responsibility when he was the environment minister of the state? Where was that responsibility when he was the health minister of the state? All of a sudden, after a year and a half of an LNP government, the leader of the Labor Party says, 'We just have to make Queensland better.' I wish they had that view in the 10 years they were in office. If they did, now we would not be dealing, as we are, with the housing crisis, the health crisis, the cost-of-living crisis and the youth crime crisis, all created because of the policy failures of the members for Woodridge, McConnel, Murrumba, Waterford—all of them. He says, 'We are new. We are refocused.' I look across there. No, they are not.

A government member: Same old faces.

Mr BLEIJIE: It is the same old faces in the same Labor caucus. It was a desperate attempt from the Labor leader to withstand the attacks from his own side on his leadership. It is clear that he has failed in his leadership in a year and a half. We know and the Labor Party know that he is gone. This was his chance to change that.

It was no surprise that during the opposition leader's speech honourable members and ministers were calling out his mistruths and his misleading statements. Not only has he been found in contempt for deliberately misleading parliament; he has had to apologise on a number of occasions. Labor members opposite have had to apologise for misleading statements made about the hospital during the Stafford by-election. Every time we sit, they come in here and have to apologise. He is so desperate. They are making things up. They are trying to set a reality that does not exist. They are living in a parallel universe.

If he thinks for one minute that that speech will save his leadership, he is as bad as we all think he is. You can see it on their faces when he delivers his speeches. We saw the backbench of the Labor Party counting down the clock, saying, 'Jeez, there's 20 minutes to go so he's going to get to the big policy decisions. He's going to get to the Olympic and Paralympic Games.' Does he support the stadium? Does he support the National Aquatic Centre or the boost in the program, which we have increased by 50 per cent? Does he support our freeze on bulk water charges? Does he support regional and rural Queensland? None of that was in there.

He says he is now going on more listening tours. Just act! The people of Queensland want action, and that is what they have from this new government. They have no new real policies in opposition. There are no admissions about their decade of decline. There was no apology to Queenslanders for their decade of decline. They promised they would be different, but they are not. You cannot be different when you have the same people in the Labor Party leadership team such as the member for Woodridge, who oversaw the debt blowouts, the budget blowouts and the CBRC bad deliberations. He still sits there as the deputy leader.

Mr DICK: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at those words and ask the Deputy Premier to withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): I will take some advice about that—unless, of course, the minister would like to withdraw.

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw. You cannot have fresh faces when you have the shadow industrial relations minister who oversaw, in nearly a decade of decline, the industrial relations system basically handed over to, run and controlled by the CFMEU and no protection for workplace health and safety officers, according to testimony given in the CFMEU commission of inquiry.

Ms GRACE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take offence at those words and ask that they be withdrawn.

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw. As I have said, we have to be careful about what was not in the speech today. Today the Leader of the Opposition has not ruled out bringing back BPIC, the CFMEU tax. We know it is in their policy platform. He has not ruled out raising the age of criminal responsibility. He has not ruled out bringing back Pioneer-Burdekin, their \$37 billion black hole. He has not ruled out getting rid of the school boost. He has not ruled out their policies relating to declining health services and in terms of the highest ambulance ramping we had ever seen in Queensland's history. He had no plans to reduce ambulance ramping and no plans to build the housing of the future.

This is the same old Labor because they did not accept the election result in October. They cannot accept it. He has not accepted it. That is why they are relying on their failed policies of 10 years and are continuing with them today. If we look to the new homes we are building across the state, it is aspirational. He did not rule out bringing back his \$2.4 million per dwelling 'affordable' housing plan. He did not rule out bringing back the renters tax, which was the brainchild of the member for Woodridge that Anastacia Palaszczuk had to cancel and he did not even know about it.

Mr DICK: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at all of those words and I ask the Deputy Premier to withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Deputy Premier, the member for Woodridge has taken offence. Would you withdraw, please?

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw. I would take offence if I was the member for Woodridge because it was a call from Canberra. He did not even know that Anastacia Palaszczuk made the announcement at National Cabinet that she had ruled out the renters tax. He or his office then went on the record and said, 'Oh yes, it's gone—for now.' He believes in it. He will introduce a renters tax.

Mr DICK: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take offence to all of those words and I ask the Deputy Premier to withdraw.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I talked about Anastacia Palaszczuk. I did not mention him. He cannot take offence at everything about Anastacia Palaszczuk, despite the fact that he was part of the team that got rid of her.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Deputy Premier, I was listening carefully to your comments. I took it as a referral to the member for Woodridge. I ask you to withdraw, please.

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw. No matter where you live in Queensland, the Crisafulli government is delivering. We know the challenges facing Queenslanders—we were handed a basket case after a decade of the Labor Party—no matter where you live.

I have to address the Sunshine Coast in my last three minutes. The Sunshine Coast was promised the world by the Labor Party, but they never delivered a cent for the Sunshine Coast. I am so proud to be in a government that is now delivering for the people of the Sunshine Coast: the Wave, heavy passenger rail and a metro from Beerwah to Caloundra to Birtinya and right the way through to the airport. Again I acknowledge my personal conflict of interest, which I have raised a million times before when talking about the Wave stage 2. The Sunshine Coast community want those projects. The Caloundra Congestion Busting Plan will bust congestion on Caloundra Road. We have started the Mooloolah River Interchange upgrade. The Currimundi United Football Club is getting a new clubhouse. The Currimundi Sport and Recreation Community Hall is getting refurbishments, with another \$1 million commitment. We are upgrading the Sunshine Coast Stadium.

The Sunshine Coast is getting so much investment, and we deserve it on the Sunshine Coast. We have waited too long for Labor to deliver and they never did in government. That is why the LNP government are delivering for the Sunshine Coast with our ministerial colleagues and all colleagues on the Sunshine Coast because the Sunshine Coast is going to be part of the economic bright future for this great state of Queensland. The Labor Party failed to deliver for the Sunshine Coast. We are getting on with the job and delivering generational infrastructure not only on the coast but also all around Queensland—a \$119 billion investment in capital pipeline over the next four years.

The opposition continues to run their scare campaign, the mistruths and the misleading statements. That is what the Leader of the Opposition is known for. That is what the shadow treasurer is known for. How many times has she had to come in here and correct the record and withdraw comments because she has been found to have possibly misled? It is in their DNA. Mistruths and misleading is in Labor's DNA. Queenslanders did not buy it in October 2024, and they are not buying the mistruths and misleading statements from the Labor Party.

We just had a one-hour opportunity for the Leader of the Opposition to set a different course of direction, an alternative vision for the state, and all he did was tell mistruths, make misleading statements and deny the issues that exist in Queensland and his role in those issues facing Queenslanders.

We are getting on with the job, delivering for the state. Through the budget reply speeches, we will hear from all our members, particularly in rural and regional Queensland, about the positive future and direction for Queensland under the Crisafulli government, not the despair and disdain the Labor Party have for Queensland. They had it for 10 years and they still do.

We do not know what their Olympic and Paralympic legacy will be. We do not know whether they support the Brisbane Stadium; they did not say it. We do not know if they support rowing on the mighty Fitzroy River or whitewater rafting in the Redlands and areas down there. We do not know if they back it because the Leader of the Opposition did not mention it. We do not know if they support equestrian in Toowoomba, sailing in Whitsunday and Townsville or archery in Maryborough. We do not know because the Leader of the Opposition had an hour to tell everyone and he failed to tell everybody what his plans are.

Here is the deal: we know they will raise taxes if they get elected again. They have a secret plan for taxes. They have a secret plan to get rid of 50-cent fares for trams, trains and ferries. That is their secret tax plan. You cannot trust the Labor Party. If that was a speech delivered for Queenslanders to get on board with the Labor Party, it failed to deliver. You could see it in the backbenchers' eyes—they did not believe it; they did not believe their leader, just as Queenslanders do not believe him. That is why he is achieving under his leadership the worst result in a by-election in Queensland's history for the Labor Party.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Members, before I call the member for Waterford, I want to remind all members that it is not just a convention but it is actually in the standing orders to acknowledge the chair as you enter and leave the chamber. I have noticed at least one member, while I have been sitting up here, who has not done that. Let's do it, members; it is a rule of this place.

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (12.52 pm): I want to open my contribution with some quotes from Queenslanders about this budget. Lesley asks, 'Can someone, anyone tell me one, just one thing, that this government has done to assist me or any other Queenslander with the cost of living?' That was a comment from the Treasurer's own Facebook page. Here is one that was left on the member for Pumicestone's Facebook page: Kevin says, 'There is absolutely nothing in it beyond bendy buses and the cost-of-living relief given out by the former Miles government. It is a total joke.'

These are not comments from economists, political commentators or the Labor opposition; these are comments from everyday Queenslanders, Queenslanders who looked at this budget and asked, 'How does this help me or my family?' For too many Queenslanders, it does not.

I want to put on the record a quote from economic research institute, e61 Institute. They said about this Treasurer—

He will reveal numbers that will fall somewhere short of beautiful, and a long way from perfect. Credible and improving would be better adjectives to aim for.

Unfortunately, it would seem things are neither credible nor improving.

This budget is a debacle of broken promises and blowouts. I am devastated that I have only 15 minutes to speak about this budget because that is nowhere near time enough to cover all of the failures. They want to talk about a decade of decline; this budget has been in two days of decline—rapid decline!

The LNP have insisted they would save nearly \$7 billion on consultants and contractors. Who remembers that—their big savings target? They promised the only victims of their costings would be the big four consultants, but instead the victims have been Queenslanders. Last year, the government managed to provide an update on their consultant spend in the budget. That blew out by \$1 billion. I could not help but notice there was no such update this year. Don't worry, they will definitely achieve their savings this time by going after the stationery. Luckily they have the member for Mudgeeraba there to count the highlighters!

Ratings agencies have previously raised how important it is that the government achieve their promised savings on consultants. Perhaps that is why the Treasurer has not met with the ratings agencies since July last year and why the finance minister of Queensland has not met with the ratings agencies at all.

Now their entire budget strategy is based on delaying infrastructure, collecting royalty and tax windfalls and hoping for the best. This is not a fiscal strategy. Queenslanders were promised generational infrastructure, but the LNP government is putting the 'go slow' on vital hospital and road infrastructure. Delaying is not debt repair. The government has a royalty windfall of over \$3 billion. Queenslanders deserve their fair share of that windfall. It is just a shame Queenslanders will not see it in the form of any real cost-of-living relief or timely infrastructure delivery. This government is simply delivering less: turning rail and light rail into buses stuck in traffic, delaying the Gympie Road tunnel, delaying the Mount Crosby interchange and delaying the Coomera Connector, condemning Queenslanders to generational gridlock.

Queensland has always enjoyed its status as a low-tax state, but that advantage is closing. When it was last measured in the 2024-25 budget under Labor, Queenslanders paid \$780 less in tax per capita than the average in other states. Under this government, that gap has now closed to \$650. Tax as a percentage of GSP continues to grow and grow—all this from a Premier who spruiks he is lowering taxes. In opposition, he said he would act on payroll tax and stamp duty on insurance, but in government it all seems a little too hard. The Business Chamber of Queensland has said, 'This is not a budget that backs business to thrive.' Does that not say it all?

Let's talk about their sneaky bin tax. The Local Government Association of Queensland said—

Millions of Queenslanders living within the levy zone will now continue wearing an increasing State Government bin tax on their rates bills.

It does not matter how sneakily you spin it, whether it is called a tax, a levy or a charge, householders are paying for that increase.

After all that delay and uplift in tax receipts and royalties, the Treasurer is now projecting the smallest of operating surpluses in 2030. That is no small feat. Achieving an operating surplus has not been achieved since June 2024 under Labor. Thank you, member for Woodridge! As the *Courier-Mail* editorial this week rightly points out, that wafer-thin surplus relies on simply taking off the books for now the spend on a range of infrastructure projects and, I would add, rolling out more speed cameras to catch Queenslanders to rake in fines.

What about the credit rating? Despite raking in over \$3 billion in coal and gas royalties, Queensland still faces a likely ratings downgrade. 'Queensland ... still has a very weak fiscal position,' said S&P. They said the state's operating deficit was likely the largest of all Australian states in fiscal 2026, reaching about six per cent of operating revenue. I would like to remind the Treasurer that S&P gave Queensland a stable outlook following Labor's last budget, so this is all his own doing.

Over the last couple of weeks I have been around the state talking to Queenslanders about what they wanted to see in the budget. The message was consistent wherever I went: Queenslanders want and need things to be more affordable. There is no reason in this country Queensland cannot be the most affordable state to live in, work in and do business in. But in less than 24 hours, the government's whole cost-of-living promises have gone to water. They said they would freeze water charges, but a day after the budget, Urban Utilities have said water prices for households will increase.

They promised families more on the back-to-school bonus, but only a third of families eligible have accessed the bonus. Most Queenslanders either do not know about it or cannot use it. Families with high school students miss out altogether. A poll from the *Brisbane Times* had only 16 per cent of responders say it would actually help their family. Contrast this with the relief we are seeing in New South Wales who this week delivered hundreds of dollars in toll relief for motorists and \$100 off car rego.

One of the biggest challenges for Queensland, if we are to deliver the infrastructure we need, is the skilled workforce to build it. At a time when we need more tradies, the LNP's budget has fewer TAFE teachers and they have axed free tools for first-year apprentices. That is why I am so proud that the Leader of the Opposition, Steven Miles, and Labor have committed to waiving rego for apprentices and their trade supervisors. This is such good news for our young apprentices. Hopefully, it will enable them to stay in their trade and complete their apprenticeship. It is wonderful news for our small businesses—rewarding those tradies who take on an apprentice. That is cost-of-living relief that will actually make a difference.

Let's get onto the health budget. The health budget is a joke, quite frankly. For the first time in decades—

Debate, on motion of Ms Fentiman, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.

YOUTH JUSTICE (CIRCUIT BREAKER) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. LJ GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services) (2.00 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Child Safe Organisations Act 2024, the Public Guardian Act 2014 and the Youth Justice Act 1992 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Youth Justice (Circuit Breaker) Amendment Bill 2026 [[1098](#)].

Tabled paper: Youth Justice (Circuit Breaker) Amendment Bill 2026, explanatory notes [[1099](#)].

Tabled paper: Youth Justice (Circuit Breaker) Amendment Bill 2026, statement of compatibility with human rights [[1100](#)].

Behind every stolen car, every unlawful entry, every robbery and every assault is a victim—a Queenslanders whose sense of safety has been shattered and whose trust in the justice system depends on our willingness to act. The Youth Justice (Circuit Breaker) Amendment Bill 2026 is about acting. It is about consequences. It is about rehabilitation that actually works. It is about making sure there are fewer victims of crime in this state.

This bill delivers on our government's \$80 million election commitment and introduces a sentenced alternative to detention. This is the next stage of the Crisafulli government's Making Queensland Safer plan. Circuit Breaker is a court ordered, intensive rehabilitation program that removes youth offenders from the communities they are causing harm to and places them in a structured residential program designed to break the cycle of repeat crime. Circuit Breaker is the last stop before detention. It will be the only one of its kind in Australia. It gives courts a powerful new tool to deal with repeat offenders.

This bill exists because of what those opposite failed to do for a decade. Under Labor, the rights of offenders were consistently placed ahead of the rights of victims. Labor made detention a last resort. They abolished breach of bail as an offence for youth. They made youth criminal histories inadmissible in adult court. They closed the Childrens Court to victims and their families. They weakened youth justice laws and then watched as the consequences played out in our communities, our homes and our businesses.

Under Labor, serious and repeat youth offenders were returned to the same community they harmed, without any intervention. Communities were left frustrated, victims were left unheard, courts were left without the tools they needed and the same youth kept cycling through the system without any meaningful change. The result was a youth crime crisis, with victim numbers rising 193 per cent on Labor's watch. That is not just a statistic; that is the toll of a decade of weak laws, failed programs and a government that put ideology ahead of community safety.

Labor had every opportunity to act. They did not. Instead, they made announcements and failed to deliver results or change. Queenslanders rejected this approach. They want stronger laws, real consequences and a government that puts victims first. That is what we are delivering. Turning the tide on Labor's youth crime crisis requires a comprehensive response. We have already removed detention as a last resort. We have legislated Adult Crime, Adult Time. We have made electronic monitoring permanent and statewide. We have placed the impact on victims at the centre of sentencing considerations. We have delivered the largest investment in Queensland's history in early intervention, crime prevention and rehabilitation. We know that strong laws and meaningful intervention must go hand in hand, and Circuit Breaker is the next step in this plan.

Circuit Breaker targets youth offenders who need structured, court ordered intervention to break the cycle of crime. This bill amends the Youth Justice Act to give the courts two ways to order a youth to go to Circuit Breaker. The court can sentence a youth offender to a Circuit Breaker order for three to six months. The court will also be able to order a youth to Circuit Breaker as a condition of bail. Circuit Breaker gives courts a powerful alternative to sentencing youth to detention or remanding youth in custody to protect the community. This bill ensures youth will be required to reside at the Circuit Breaker site, comply with the program and its requirements, wear an electronic monitoring device, abstain from further offending, participate in directed activities and not leave the site without prior approval of the chief executive.

Let me be clear: Circuit Breaker is not a replacement for detention and where detention is appropriate it should be ordered. Circuit Breaker is a genuine alternative to sentencing a youth to detention or remanding the youth in custody. It is the last stop before detention. If an offender does not comply with their Circuit Breaker order, they could face detention.

Before a youth can be ordered to Circuit Breaker, the chief executive must assess the youth as suitable and advise the court, a placement must be available and the youth must not have previously been sentenced to a Circuit Breaker program. The suitability assessment ensures the chief executive can advise the court on a variety of factors that may affect whether the youth is suitable for Circuit Breaker. In practice, this may include the youth's age, gender, health history, parental support and offending behaviour.

A court can only order a Circuit Breaker condition on a grant of bail where the court has considered the risks to the community and has determined that Circuit Breaker would reduce the risk of the youth reoffending and where remand would have been the only other option. This means Circuit Breaker can only be ordered as a condition of bail where it would mitigate the risk the youth may pose and the only other option for that youth would have been to remand them in custody. This reflects that Circuit Breaker is the most intensive bail condition that a court can order for a youth. If a youth breaches a condition of their bail, they may be subject to a breach-of-bail charge and be brought back before the court.

The bill also provides that the period of time youths spend at Circuit Breaker on bail can be counted towards their sentence. In relation to Circuit Breaker as a sentence, the sentencing considerations in the Youth Justice Act will continue to be applied, including the changes we made in our first Making Queensland Safer Laws that put the impact on the victim as the primary consideration in sentencing.

The bill also amends the Child Safe Organisations Act to prescribe Circuit Breaker providers as child-safe entities and reporting entities and ensures the Child Safe Standards and the Reportable Conduct Scheme will apply. The bill also amends the Public Guardian Act to prescribe Circuit Breaker sites as visitable sites, meaning it will be part of the community visitor program. Both of these independent bodies are important for oversight and keeping youth in the program safe. The Department of Youth Justice and Victim Support will be required to monitor the operation of Circuit Breaker programs and sites. This layered oversight framework ensures accountability at every level for the providers, for government and for the program.

Circuit Breaker will deliver meaningful rehabilitation through structure, discipline and personal responsibility. Programs will be delivered by approved non-government providers, with the Circuit Breaker providers to be prescribed by regulation. Participants will be supervised at all times. The cornerstone of Circuit Breaker is a focus on strict daily routines and hands-on learning, where youth gain practical experiences in the daily operations of a remote or rural property.

Alongside that practical learning, Circuit Breaker will include age-appropriate education, programs for developing communication and life skills, programs that encourage positive behaviour and programs that support future employment. Importantly, a Circuit Breaker program may also provide vocational education and training that enables a youth to attain a qualification. Because Circuit Breaker sites will be at remote or rural locations, youth will be removed from the communities they have caused harm to and will have an opportunity to make positive choices for their future without the negative influences that caused them to slip into a life of crime in the first place.

Breaking the cycle of crime does not end when Circuit Breaker concludes. Youth will be supported to reintegrate into their communities and continue engaging with education, training, employment and support services. The objective of Circuit Breaker is not simply to interrupt offending behaviour; it is to create lasting change.

Circuit Breaker does not stand alone. It is part of a comprehensive strategy that provides intervention at every stage of the crime continuum here in Queensland. It complements our early intervention and rehabilitation initiatives—Kickstarter, Regional Reset, our crime prevention schools, our youth justice schools and our Staying on Track program.

Together, these reforms deliver intervention from the first signs of disengagement through to intensive court ordered rehabilitation for serious and repeat offenders. Effective youth justice requires both consequences for actions and a genuine opportunity for rehabilitation. It is not one or the other; it is both. Circuit Breaker delivers both.

Labor left behind a system that failed victims, returned offenders to the same environment that drove their crime and offered no meaningful intervention before detention became inevitable. They had a decade to act; they did not. The Crisafulli government is delivering stronger laws, consequences for actions and intervention that works to break the cycle of crime.

This bill will restore confidence in the youth justice system, restore safety to communities and deliver fewer victims of crime. We made a commitment to Queenslanders that we would turn the tide on Labor's youth crime crisis and restore safety, and that is exactly what we are doing. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. LJ GERBER (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services) (2.10 pm): 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 Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr J Kelly): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee.

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL**APPROPRIATION BILL****REVENUE (COST OF LIVING RELIEF LOCKED-IN LAW) AND OTHER
LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL****Second Reading (Cognate Debate)**

Resumed from p. 2075, on motion of Mr Janetzki—

That the bills be now read a second time.

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (2.11 pm), continuing: I was getting to the health budget this year. Before I do that, I said earlier that the Treasurer had not met with the ratings agencies since July 2025. I was six days out. It was 6 August 2025. Still, that is an incredibly long time when we are facing a ratings downgrade that he has not met with ratings agencies. Of course, the finance minister had not met with them at all.

I get back to health. For the first time in decades, this budget relies on fewer people going to the emergency department and fewer people needing a specialist appointment than in the years before. I have a newsflash, Treasurer: we have a growing and an aging population. Growth funding means funding our hospitals to do more every year, not less. The LNP are condemning Queenslanders to waiting months and years longer for a specialist appointment and waiting hours and hours and hours longer on the ambulance ramp at our hospitals.

The reality is that housing affordability has got worse not better under this government, and this budget lacks the ambition to do anything about it. Queensland is already struggling to build enough homes to meet demand, and this government is well behind on building enough to meet our National Housing Accord target. That is why I am so proud that the Labor opposition has tabled our housing affordability paper. When it comes to those renting and doing it tough, we will not be leaving them behind. A future Labor government will introduce a portable bond transfer scheme, allowing renters to move from one property to another and, most importantly, will give renters their interest back on their bonds. We recognise that that is their money.

I am also so proud to be part of a Labor team that has never treated women's economic security as an afterthought. It is extraordinary that it seems this LNP government has forgotten about women's economic security. Where is their strategy they promised? It was due in March. Where is it? While we are asking questions, where is the rest of the Women's Economic Security Statement? The statement tabled by the government is only four pages long. I can think of a lot of things that are longer than four pages like the former Labor government's Women's Budget Statement, and I table that.

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2024-25: Women's Budget Statement [[1101](#)].

That is 48 pages. What about the menu at Cafe 63? Even that is longer than their women's budget statement, and I table that.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'Sixty three' [[1102](#)].

What about the information pamphlet inside a box of the contraceptive pill? That is longer than the LNP women's budget statement, and I table that.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'Lucinda' [[1103](#)].

In fact, so embarrassing is their women's budget statement that this instruction manual for an IKEA stool is longer than the LNP women's budget statement, and I table that.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'Bekvam' [[1104](#)].

Queensland women deserve more than four pages and no new policies or ideas from this government.

Mr Head interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr J Kelly): Order, member for Callide!

Ms FENTIMAN: This budget contains funding for multiple men's sheds across Queensland—five in fact. That is great.

Mr Head interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Callide, you are warned.

Ms FENTIMAN: I love our men's sheds; I do—but there is not a single women's shed that has received funding in this budget.

When it comes to the prevention of domestic and family violence, this government has spent \$22.7 million less than it budgeted. At a time when services are telling us that they are overwhelmed—they are crying out for support—they have actually failed to spend the money they set aside. This budget now plans to spend \$38.5 million less than last year. For the organisations doing it tough on the ground supporting women and children escaping violence, that is a devastating blow, particularly when in New South Wales, who handed down their budget this week, their frontline DV services got a 50 per cent funding uplift. In Queensland, our frontline DV services got nothing.

I also want to know whether the police integrity unit is going to be funded in this budget. Just last month the chair of the CCC described the delay as 'frustrating' and warned of continuing concerns about how complaints about police are handled. In a week where we have seen another horrific story of a police officer accused of allegedly abusing his position to commit serious violence against multiple women, this government must act now. It is such a shame that there is no funding in this budget for that unit.

Closer to home I have been out and about across Waterford. People want action on cost of living, housing and continued investment in health. Unfortunately, there is not a single new project in this budget for Waterford. I have been calling for an aerial appliance to be stationed at the Loganlea Fire and Rescue Station because our local fireys have said they need it to do their job safely and to keep the community safe. How has the government responded? By budgeting less for new fire trucks than was allocated in last year's budget.

My wonderfully diverse and multicultural community in Waterford will be pleased to hear that Queensland Labor has committed to double funding for multicultural community events and projects. In Logan, we understand that diversity is our strength, and we reject the politics of fear and division and, even more importantly, unlike this Premier and those LNP members opposite, we are prepared to call it out.

This budget was leaking before it even got off the ground. Now its flagship water relief has gone straight down the toilet. The Treasurer keeps saying this is a no-frills budget. Queenslanders might be forgiven for wondering whether he knows the difference between the frills and the pie filling because, when he sneakily delays critical projects—billions and billions in infrastructure projects that Queenslanders need now—and leaves families without meaningful cost-of-living relief, he is not trimming the decorative pastry around the edge. He is taking bites out of the pie itself and leaving nothing for Queenslanders.

This budget has been a debacle for this government. In two days their cost-of-living signature policies have completely disappeared. Urban Utilities comes out and says, 'Yep, we're actually going to put up the cost of water,' when they promised to freeze the cost of water for two years. The back-to-school bonus is an absolute bust. Over two-thirds of families are finding it difficult to access this back-to-school bonus. There is no real cost-of-living relief at all in this budget. All it is doing is delaying the infrastructure projects that Queenslanders need right now.

On this side of the House, Queensland Labor has today actually put forward policies that will make a meaningful difference—encouraging year 11 and 12 students right now who are thinking about a trade to help build a better future for Queensland to get involved in a construction trade, to help them complete their apprenticeship by helping them with the costs and, also, giving something back to our hardworking small business owners by allowing those tradies who take on an apprentice to get their rego for free. This is practical and will help us build the houses that we need for tomorrow and build a better future for Queensland.

On the other side, the LNP are downgrading Queensland's future. Let's be honest, we are looking down the barrel of another downgrade, and that means that Queenslanders' money will be spent on interest repayments for debt rather than the cost-of-living relief they deserve and the infrastructure we need now. This is a bad budget full of blowouts and broken promises. This budget is going to cost Queenslanders more and they are going to get less.

 **Hon. BA MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (2.19 pm): What a rambling, incoherent contribution both by the member for Waterford and by the man whose job she covets, the Leader of the Opposition. The member for Waterford could not even bring herself to sit next to the Leader of the Opposition for his budget reply speech and went to the old Labor playbook move of getting kicked out.

Ms FENTIMAN: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr J Kelly): Pause the clock. Resume your seat, member for Buderim. What is your point of order?

Ms FENTIMAN: It is convention not to remark on members' absences. I also find the comment personally offensive and I ask the member to withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will take some advice. Member for Buderim, I remind you of the convention around not commenting on members' absence from the chamber. The member has taken personal offence and I ask you to withdraw.

Mr MICKELBERG: I withdraw. The Leader of the Opposition said that he speaks for Queenslanders. He only speaks for 8.37 per cent of Queenslanders from Hinchinbrook. He speaks for eight per cent fewer Queenslanders in Stafford than he did before the by-election. The sharks are circling for the Leader of the Opposition, that much is clear. The leaks are coming from the Labor backbench. We read it in the *Courier-Mail* today. What we saw in that pathetic budget reply speech from the Leader of the Opposition were more of the same old Labor tropes and mistruths trying to drive fear.

The commentary of the Leader of the Opposition, using language like 'purge' when speaking about Indigenous representation, is disgraceful. That language was deliberately chosen by the Leader of the Opposition to whip up fear. It is a deliberate choice to try to stoke fear. In contrast, our government's entire cabinet was in Cherbourg not two weeks ago listening to Indigenous voices—something more than those opposite ever did when they were in government. They never took their entire cabinet to an Indigenous community. They like to grandstand, but their record speaks more than their grandstanding words will ever.

When the Leader of the Opposition put together his budget reply speech he knew that he had a problem—it is not a new problem for Labor, but it is a problem nonetheless—and that is their lack of policies. What does Labor do when they have no policies? They start another scare campaign. This time their scare campaign is that important infrastructure is not going to be built. Ignoring the obvious fact that Labor did not build that infrastructure, it is important to get a few facts on the table.

Firstly, let's have look at Coomera Connector stage 2. You would think that given the federal Labor government was providing funding for stage 1 they would also be keen to provide some funding for stage 2, but you would be wrong. The current design work on stage 2 is only being funded by the Crisafulli government. I can hear silence from those opposite; they know it is true. They know that the only level of government funding for the Coomera Connector is the Crisafulli government. Their Labor mates in Canberra have done nothing. In fact, all their Labor mates in Canberra do is put a handbrake on major projects like the Coomera Connector. They do it with EPBC delays; that is their approach. If those opposite really cared about delivering the Coomera Connector, they would pick up the phone to Canberra tomorrow or stand with the member for Aspley, the former minister, and call on Albo to fund it.

A government member interjected.

Mr MICKELBERG: If he has the courage to do so. Instead, what will we hear from those opposite? We will hear crickets, because they do not really want to see this infrastructure built. Then there is the light rail extension to Biggera Waters, a project Labor never even thought about, let alone prioritised. They never even considered it, but our government is getting on with the job and building it. Despite the announcement, despite the fact that we are getting on with the job and Queenslanders will see it in 2028, they are saying the project has been defunded. I do not know how you can defund something that has not been funded by those opposite ever. Nonetheless, that is their argument.

Then there is the Gympie Road tunnel. Those opposite had 10 years to progress work on that tunnel. Instead, we got 10 years of inaction. That is their record. In fact, the member for Aspley could not even finish upgrades on Gympie Road in his own electorate. For anyone who has driven down that section of road—

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

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Resume your seat, please, member for Buderim. What is your point of order, member for Aspley?

Mr MELLISH: There are a couple of things. The minister is being deliberately misleading. I am happy to write to you. I also take personal offence and ask the member to withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: If someone is misleading the House there is a process to follow in relation to that. It does not need to be brought to my attention. You can pursue that in other ways. I will issue a general warning that if anybody raises that as a point of order I will issue a warning. The member has taken personal offence. You can withdraw.

Mr MICKELBERG: I withdraw. The residents of Aspley take personal offence—

Mr MELLISH: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I was directly referenced again. I take personal offence and ask the member to withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member has taken personal offence. I ask you to withdraw.

Mr MICKELBERG: On the point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker, I seek your guidance. I spoke about the residents of Aspley. I did not speak about the member for Aspley in any way. I understand that the convention is to absolutely withdraw in the event I am speaking about an individual. I was not referring to the member for Aspley.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will take some advice. Resume your seat. Thank you for that clarification. There is no point of order. You can resume your contribution.

Mr MICKELBERG: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. As I was saying, the residents of Aspley should take offence at the fact that Gympie Road looked like a construction site until recently, when our government came in and cleaned up the mess left by the former Labor government. Rather than finish work they proposed to start on Gympie Road, they left it. They ran out of money. Their economic mismanagement was so great that they ran out of money in the member for Aspley's own electorate when he was the minister for transport and they just stopped work. They did not think, 'What can we do differently? How can we throw additional funding at this? How can we change what we are trying to do?' They just stopped work and left it. I saw an abject failure, and it is a testament to what we saw under the former Miles Labor government.

Let's have a look at the Warrego Highway. The Leader of the Opposition led with his chin on that one. He obviously forgot about the petition response he wrote back in 2017.

Opposition members: Ha, ha!

Mr MICKELBERG: I hear those opposite. I would be laughing about the fact that in 2017 they had an opportunity to upgrade the Mount Crosby interchange. This is what he said, and I will table this document when I am finished. He said—

Funding to progress this project further will now be subject to competing priorities across the state.

Evidently, those competing priorities did not entail delivering that project for the benefit of the people of Ipswich and those to the west.

Tabled paper: Copy of response from the former acting minister for main roads, road safety and ports (Hon. Dr Miles MP) to a paper petition (2794-17) presented by Mr Madden and an ePetition (2748-17) sponsored by Mr Madden, from 86 and 305 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to expedite the completion of the upgrade of the Mount Crosby and Warrego Highway interchange [1105].

For further proof you need only look at Labor's last budget, which showed that the majority of funding for that project was cut and pushed out beyond the forwards. Let's be very clear: those opposite had a choice today. They had a choice to come in here with a genuine policy alternative—

Ms Boyd: They did.

Mr MICKELBERG:—and they did not. I take the interjection from the member for Pine Rivers. She said, 'They did.' Let's have a look at their comments in relation to paying interest on rental bonds. Let's wind back to July 2022, when the member for Woodridge was treasurer. What did they do back then? They changed the structure such that they took rental bond revenue, the interest earned on rental bonds, and put it in consolidated revenue. Their actions speak louder than words.

Let's have a look at the fuel policy they spoke so much about, which is based on RACQ modelling that we still have not seen in full, I might add. Referring to page 4, RACQ's own modelling has shown that wholesale prices jumped by more than five cents a day on 10 occasions during the period. It begs the question why retailers would sell at a loss. It is a nonsensical position to suggest they would restock when they are selling at a loss. On page 8, RACQ's own modelling has errors. The median value on table 15 is higher than the maximum, so how can we trust that a policy works when the figures are not even correct? Where are Sydney or Melbourne in the modelling? We asked the member for Aspley to provide that in the original submission. He conveniently omitted that, and perhaps that is because it disproves what—

Mr MELLISH: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence and I ask the member to withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr J Kelly): I will take some advice. Member for Buderim, if you referred to the member for Aspley personally, can you please withdraw?

Mr MICKELBERG: I withdraw. I put to Queenslanders that those opposite do not have an evidence base to support their tenuous fuel position that they put forward. The only thing they are relying on is comparing Brisbane to Perth, which assumes that the cost structures across both of those states are the same, and they are not, particularly in regional parts of our state. If those opposite are genuinely committed to prosecuting an argument based on facts, then they should table the advice. They should table that modelling in full—not the parts that are convenient but in full. Even the parts that are convenient for their argument have flaws.

Let's turn to that wonderful LNP initiative of permanent 50-cent fares. It has been disclosed—and I spoke about it this morning—that Labor's attempts at legislative change would have excluded trains, ferries and light rail from 50-cent fares. That is a fact. In fact, the member for Aspley came in here yesterday and admitted it. Either they deliberately wanted to exclude trains, ferries and light rail from 50-cent fares, or they are incompetent. Which is it?

Mr MELLISH: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence and ask him to withdraw. He is a bit obsessed with me this arvo.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will take some advice. There is no point of order. I did not hear anything personal.

Mr MICKELBERG: As I called on the Leader of the Opposition this morning in question time, he had an opportunity to say whether this was a deliberate attempt to walk back from an LNP initiative to make 50-cent fares permanent on rail, buses, trams and ferries. That is our record; that is our position. In fact, we will be enshrining it in legislation. Labor's record is to try to walk that back. That is either incompetence or deliberate deceit. Which is it? Is this laying the groundwork for Labor to walk back the 50-cent fares should they form government in 2028, or is it incompetence?

Let's look at crime. Their record was crime up 193 per cent. What did we hear from the Leader of the Opposition in his speech? He spoke about a community safety statistics bureau that would publish data less frequently than the Queensland police do now. This would be another bureaucracy designed to talk about the problem rather than fix the problem. We already know their policy platform says that they want to raise the age of criminal responsibility to 14. That is their record, and we know it is binding as well. Let's be very clear: that Labor policy platform is binding on every single one of those members opposite—every single one. The Leader of the Opposition had an opportunity to come in here and state clearly that that was not Labor's policy—that they would be keeping the age of criminal responsibility at 10, as it is and as it should be in my view—but he did not do that. Instead, he chose to talk about creating another bureaucracy to talk about the problem rather than fix the problem.

I am incredibly proud to be part of a government that is delivering a record \$55.9 billion investment in roads and rail over the forward estimates. This is an investment that is about strengthening the foundations of a fresh start and building Queensland's future. It demonstrates our commitment to delivering major transport infrastructure, strengthening public transport, improving road safety outcomes and supporting connectivity right across the state—not just in the south-east but in

regional centres and right across the state. Together, we are delivering a more reliable transport network that is built not just for our current needs but also for generations to come. I did not hear the Leader of the Opposition talk about the Bruce Highway at all, not once. We are getting on with the job. We have \$9 billion, funded 80-20 with the federal government, which is something those opposite said you could never do. They rolled over and they accepted 50-50. They could not get a deal done but we did it within the first four months of coming to government and we are getting on with the job.

We have \$4½ billion in projects that will be contracted by the end of the next financial year on the Bruce Highway Targeted Safety Program. That is something those opposite could never do and they know it, which is why they cannot talk about it. We are focused on the things that matter most to Queenslanders; they are focused internally. We know that the Leader of the Opposition has the sharks circling. We know the backbench has lost faith. We know the Leader of the Opposition is flat out counting to 19 to count the numbers in his caucus.

To be very clear, we will continue to work to deliver for Queenslanders. This year's QTRIP delivers exactly on our promise to do just that. We have \$6.6 billion to maintain the road network. We inherited an \$8 billion maintenance backlog from those opposite because of the incompetent ministers who were my predecessors in this role who oversaw a decade of decline for Queensland roads. We have \$5.7 billion for the Logan and Gold Coast Faster Rail, and we have started the work. They loved the project but they could not start work on it and they never got on with it. We have awarded contracts and we are doing the work. For the Wave stage 1, we have contracts awarded and we are getting on with the job.

I look forward to those opposite going back to their communities and telling them that this budget delivers \$34.3 billion for roads, \$19.25 billion for railways, \$1.6 billion for bus infrastructure, \$312 million for active transport, \$300 million for maritime infrastructure, and \$103 million for multimodal and other infrastructure. It will support 33,000 jobs just through QTRIP alone. That is 33,000 Queenslanders in a job because of the Crisafulli government, when those opposite only have rocks to throw and only want to complain from the sidelines. We are not only investing in the infrastructure; we are also providing the much needed support for Queensland families. Our investments are all about delivering a strengthened economy and keeping Queensland a great place to live, work and play.

This is a budget for Queenslanders no matter where they live. I want to talk about what it means for my community on the Sunshine Coast. My community on the Sunshine Coast knows that those opposite never care about the Sunshine Coast, and that is why they have no representation on the Sunshine Coast whatsoever. Those opposite failed the Sunshine Coast over the last 30 years they were in office. The Mooloolah River Interchange was cut by Labor; we are delivering it right now. They said they would do heavy rail to Caloundra by 2015; an LNP government is getting on with it. We are delivering the Wave all the way to the Sunshine Coast Airport. Those opposite failed the Sunshine Coast every single time, and residents know it.

I am pleased to be part of a government with a budget that delivers for the Sunshine Coast, including for the kids at Mountain Creek State School who will have a covered basketball court and shade sails over their playground areas under the Crisafulli government. Those opposite could not even think about that, let alone deliver it. Our government is committed to delivering and we will continue to do just that.

(Time expired)



Hon. CR DICK (Woodridge—ALP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.36 pm): Not once, but twice—the Crisafulli LNP government has now squandered two budget opportunities. The LNP have now wasted two budgets not delivering Queenslanders the real, genuine and substantial cost-of-living relief they were promised by the Premier. Heading towards the halfway mark of this government, the LNP's most striking characteristic is its record of costing Queenslanders more but delivering them less. No government in Queensland's history has taken more from Queenslanders and given them less. The LNP are raking it in. Next financial year the LNP will bank an extra \$1.5 billion in stamp duty alone over what they forecast.

What about the LNP's approach to the waste levy? Logan Mayor Jon Raven blasted the LNP, saying the government 'doesn't have a waste strategy; they have a tax strategy'. What is the benefit to the LNP government? An extra \$570 million over the next four years. Yet Queenslanders are still struggling through the LNP's affordability crisis. Queenslanders have made their assessment of the budget and this Treasurer, and in one word that assessment is 'bleak'. The *Courier-Mail* called it the Treasurer's 'no plan' budget and, much like the Crisafulli government itself, described it as 'a seriously tough budget to love'.

Instead of delivering real cost-of-living relief now, as organisations like QCOSS have called for, the LNP have provided savings on water bills that have evaporated faster than rain from a summer storm hitting a hot Queensland road. On the same day our bumbling Treasurer delivered his budget, New South Wales Premier Chris Minns did what all good Labor leaders do: he provided real cost-of-living relief to the people of New South Wales, with \$100 off private vehicle registration and up to \$520 off road toll charges. We might have won the last State of Origin game, but Queensland comprehensively lost the budget State of Origin to New South Wales earlier this week.

Fear not, says the Treasurer. He hopes to find savings of \$500 million from the public sector. Where are those savings coming from? The Treasurer and his hapless finance minister, the member for Mudgeeraba, say they hope to find half a billion dollars in savings from the public sector by starting a war—a war on highlighters. The Treasurer sent his hapless finance minister out and told her to go from door to door across the Public Service to raid the stationery cupboard. What is next? Punishing post-it notes, hammering hole punchers, nobbling notebooks? Ros's razor gang—budget cuts by paper cuts.

Ms SIMPSON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member did not use appropriate titles in his contribution.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr J Kelly): I remind you of the need to use correct titles.

Mr DICK: This is not a budget strategy; it is an episode of *Utopia*.

At the same time, the government has been happy to gift Adani \$500 million in a secret royalty deal, the details of which have been kept hidden from Queenslanders. What is it? It is another sneaky act by this sneaky LNP government. No wonder Queenslanders are fed up by this phoney Premier and his fake government.

The hits do not stop there. The Premier's budget is an exercise in 'radical optimism', according to the *Australian* newspaper, relying on ambitious revenue projections and streamlined costs. Where have we heard that before? We have all heard it before—from the Premier. The Premier said he would find 'new revenue and streamline costs' when he was the sole director of the training company SET Solutions, and how did that go? It resulted in trading while insolvent and millions of dollars owed to creditors.

Ms SIMPSON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance to the budget. I draw your attention to the standing orders.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members. Budget speeches have a very wide latitude and I am going to continue to allow the member for Woodridge to make his contribution.

Mr DICK: Now the Premier is doing the same trick with the budget of the state of Queensland, promising new revenue and streamlined costs. A man who ran a business while it was insolvent is promising the budget is in safe hands.

The *Australian* went on to call out the Treasurer's rose-coloured budget that is built on ambitious revenue forecasts and bullish predictions. It says—

Queenslanders are also expected to suspend disbelief when it comes to the cost of building the 17 venues required to host the looming 2032 Brisbane Olympic Games.

These are venues that the Treasurer says will be delivered within the Olympic funding envelope of \$7.1 billion despite this budget providing no real details on the costings of any of the 17 venues, just one mention of one venue cost.

This is a government with a serious problem when it comes to transparency. Just this morning the Deputy Premier could not answer basic questions on the former Visy site. Taxpayers have paid \$165 million for that property and yet the Deputy Premier does not think Queenslanders deserve to know if the site will remain in public hands. How is that for transparency? In the Deputy Premier's arrogance he says, 'Just trust me.' It is a hard ask for Queenslanders to trust the member for Kawana. In fact, this government is a government which Queenslanders have to plead with to keep its promises. As I raised in the House last night, there is a billboard that stands by the Warrego Highway in LNP heartland and the image shows farmers standing side by side with the following caption: 'LNP, keep

your promise'. Clearly, even farmers from the LNP's own heartland do not trust this government or this Premier to keep or honour their promises. It is little wonder given the Premier's and the government's track record of not being honest or trustworthy.

The trickery, the fakery, the sleight of hand, the fudged crime figures and the manipulation of crime statistics is eroding public confidence. As our leader announced this morning, Labor will establish an independent community safety statistics bureau. It will mean everyone can access crime statistics knowing that the information will be free from LNP political spin. It will mean that truth and transparency once again characterise the public conversation about crime.

There is another very inconvenient truth that this budget highlights. Under the LNP government working Queenslanders have become the forgotten people.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Cease your quarrelling across the chamber.

Mr DICK: While this LNP government prioritises actively going out of its way to stop the construction of affordable homes for frontline workers, those same workers are battling sky-high fuel prices, rental payments and mortgage bills. The Premier and his deputy promised to not cut jobs and not cut services but to build more, tax less and reduce debt. They promised to keep Queensland's AA+ credit rating. To pay for their election commitments and avoid a ratings downgrade, they promised to cut \$7 billion in consultants and contractors. The LNP have insisted they would save nearly \$7 billion on consultancies and contractors. The LNP promised the 'only victims' of their costings would be the big four consultants. The Premier swore black and blue the LNP would be tough on consultancies and tough on the causes of consultancies. How did the 'victims' of the LNP's consultancy savings drive go? Last year the government missed their target by \$1 billion—missed it by that much. That is pretty good for the so-called victims and other consultants but not so good for taxpayers.

For the Woodridge electorate and my constituents, this budget delivers very little. In Tuesday's budget speech the Treasurer did not mention the word 'Logan' once. As far as the LNP are concerned, there is a black hole from Rochedale South to Windaroo. For my constituents this is a budget that takes more and delivers less. In the electorate of Woodridge our community has been clear about the priorities that matter most to locals, yet once again the LNP government and this budget fall short where it counts.

In last year's budget, residents were promised a new Logan Central police station. The need is obvious. The case has been made. A year after the 2025 state budget the only thing the government has delivered is more black mould at Logan Central Police Station.

Mr Purdie interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, member for Ninderry.

Mr DICK: What our government has seen over the years is just so typical of the LNP and this police minister: all talk and no action. We called for more anti-hooning cameras across Logan to tackle dangerous behaviour on our roads and improve community safety. Despite ongoing concerns from residents and a petition run by my fellow Labor Logan MPs, there is no funding commitment in this budget. When it comes to emergency services, Logan has again been left behind. We called for a dedicated police Rapid Action and Patrol Group to strengthen frontline responses to crime and antisocial behaviour as well as funding for a permanent aerial firefighting appliance to improve emergency response and protect the growing community. Both were practical investments in community safety, but both have been overlooked by this Treasurer and this budget.

Perhaps most disappointing is the failure to fund the Woodridge night village that was called for by me and Ari, the YMCA youth member for Woodridge. At a time when more people are experiencing homelessness and local services are under increasing pressure, our community is crying out for greater support, but they got nothing. One of the most concerning omissions in this budget is that there is still no indication that the active transport corridor, the bikeway in the original design of the Logan and Gold Coast Faster Rail project, will be restored.

The people of the Woodridge electorate and Logan deserve better than broken promises and a budget that costs more while it gives them less. Similar to parents in Ipswich, local parents from Yugumbir State School have contacted my office concerned that they simply cannot access the Back to School Boost specifically for school uniforms. That is just another example of the LNP government led by a Premier who is all photo-op and no follow-up. Our community deserves action, not excuses.

On this side of the chamber, we will never forget working Queenslanders. That is why I am so proud that Labor will waive rego fees for priority trade apprentices for the length of their training. Labor will invest in the people who will build Queensland's future. It is one tool we can use to support the chippies, sparkies, roofers, painters and plumbers and their apprentices to get ahead. Here is another thing we can do to help Queenslanders: give them some relief at the bowser at the servo. Labor's cheaper fuel plan would limit fuel hikes to a maximum of five cents per litre per day. The RACQ reckons measures like those contained in Labor's plan could save up to 23 cents per litre. That is real cost-of-living relief.

I am proud that a future Labor government will double the funding for First Nations and multicultural community events and projects. Labor will provide more support for renters by supporting a seamless portable bond scheme and return of rental bond interest to Queensland renters. Make no mistake: the LNP government has overseen a full-blown housing affordability crisis and Labor will work to fix that. We have a duty—all of us—to fix the housing affordability crisis in this state. We just cannot turn a blind eye, as the Crisafulli government has done time and time again, and pretend the problem does not exist.

Labor will always stand up for Queenslanders and we will always stand up for a united Queensland, which brings us to another Crisafulli LNP government failure—its failure to repudiate the bile and nonsense and divisive actions of One Nation. The Crisafulli LNP government has made it clear it will do deals with One Nation, just like the federal coalition. That is because the LNP is petrified of One Nation in this state, but Labor is not. Labor will always stand up against racism and discrimination. Labor will always champion what unites us and not use the language of division and disunity.

The community of Woodridge that I am honoured to represent is made richer, stronger and so much more vibrant because of the way we embrace diversity and the way we celebrate that diversity. It is why Labor will significantly increase funding for multicultural community celebrations, festivals and NAIDOC Week. It is why a Labor government will double the funding available for multicultural projects that build an inclusive and united Queensland. Unlike One Nation's fellow travellers—the LNP—Labor will never capitulate to One Nation. After two budgets Queenslanders can see the difference between the LNP, which governs through announcements, and Labor, which governs through action. This budget asks Queenslanders to pay more while they get less—a budget of bad news and blowouts. Queenslanders deserve so much better than that.

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (2.50 pm): I rise to make a contribution on behalf of the electorate of Southern Downs on the 2026 budget of the Crisafulli government, and I am very impressed. I want to keep my contribution short. I have the whip sitting next to me. He is keeping an eye on me to ensure I do not speak for more than five minutes. I could take the full 15, but I know that everybody wants a turn to speak, so I am going to keep mine short. I want to first of all address cost-of-living measures, because this is something that people do raise with me as I get around my electorate. The thing which people have raised with me more than anything else is the patient transport subsidy scheme.

Mr Stevens: Hear, hear!

Mr LISTER: I take the interjection from the member for Mermaid Beach. Regional and rural members such as myself would be aware that many people depend on that scheme to enable them to travel, for example, from Stanthorpe or Goondiwindi to Toowoomba or Brisbane for their medical treatment.

Mr Stevens: Or Richmond to Townsville.

Mr LISTER: I know you are a Richmond local of long ago, member for Mermaid Beach. That subsidy has been increased by almost 33 per cent. That is a very significant increase which will make a big difference to those people who are doing regular trips to Toowoomba or Brisbane from my electorate of Southern Downs. I know that many people have raised that with me and I am really pleased that the Crisafulli government and in particular the Treasurer and the health minister have listened and delivered that in this budget.

Vehicle registration will be capped to below the inflation rate, and that is another very significant thing. This is a structural improvement. It is not a sugar hit, but it is going to help people's bottom lines, particularly when it comes to the essential part of keeping a car or a business vehicle on the road.

The Back to School Boost is a very important contribution to the parents of primary school kids. It is being increased by \$50 to \$150 per head. If you have several kids in school and you are trying to put together the schoolbooks, the shoes and the uniforms at the start of the year, along with the stationery, it is a big expense. That is another thing which helps people who are living on a razor's edge in times of high cost of living.

The \$200 Play On! vouchers have been extended, and that is another thing which has been really great. I know that many families struggle with this, and I talk to them when I have my own kids playing soccer at Stanthorpe or Ballandean or somewhere like that on the weekend. The cost of getting lots of kids in sport is quite significant. In spite of the fact that many good people volunteer to provide those services, it is not getting any cheaper. If you want your kids to participate in sport, you have to have the money and those Play On! vouchers are fantastic in that regard.

There are free kindergarten health checks. Over \$8.8 million has been dedicated to providing free vision, hearing and speech development screenings for all kindy kids. I have a four-year-old daughter, Amelia, in kindy. She is going to prep next year and I am really looking forward to seeing her avail herself of those tests, because early intervention in these things is very important.

Housing is a very important matter in my electorate of Southern Downs. I think it would be fair to say that I have the lowest vacancy rates in the electorate that I represent of anywhere in the state. Lawrence Springborg, the Mayor of Goondiwindi Regional Council, tells me that the vacancy rate there is effectively zero. That is a real brake on the economy. It is really difficult for people who are trying to afford housing and it is also very difficult for employers who are trying to get staff. I want to praise the government on the Residential Activation Fund, the Land Activation Program and Queensland's community housing investment pipelines which are seminal programs to rapidly increase the amount of housing that we have, because we have to increase the supply if we are going to challenge this housing crisis.

QCHIP is delivering in Warwick in that there are currently 35 new social and affordable homes under construction. I am in discussion with a number of community groups and churches in my electorate that are interested in availing themselves of this program to deliver affordable and social housing for people in my electorate of Southern Downs. It is going to make a huge difference and it is about getting through red tape and getting things done. With regard to the Land Activation Program, I am currently discussing with Economic Development Queensland opportunities in my electorate and I am really hoping that the government will have something to announce about this in the not-too-distant future. It is about getting unused crown land and converting it to ready-made housing blocks for the needs of that community, and that is another terrific thing.

I also want to talk about Emu Swamp Dam. I want to thank the member for Warrego and Minister for Water, Ann Leahy, the Treasurer, David Janetzki, and the Premier for coming to the party on Emu Swamp Dam. Stanthorpe is the town that ran out of water entirely and people were living in very difficult circumstances. I saw tragedies unfold where families could not wash their kids and they did not have water at home.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr LISTER: I cannot believe that members of the Labor Party would interject, including the member for Logan, when I am talking about the circumstances that my constituents found themselves in when we ran out of water because of Labor. We have put money into resurrecting Emu Swamp Dam and I am very proud to see that. The Speaker has reviewed and approved the rest of my speech on the budget for incorporation. As such, I ask that the remainder of my speech be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I look forward to getting back to my electorate and talking about the wonderful provisions in this budget.

The speech read as follows—

The Crisafulli Government is delivering steady, measurable improvements to fiscal outcomes while simultaneously driving unprecedented improvements to frontline services. Where the previous Labor government delivered short-term, un-costed and un-funded sugar hits in a desperate, last-minute bid to cling to power, this budget implements targeted, sustainable, and responsible long-term support to structurally elevate the living standards of all Queenslanders now and well into the future.

We are strengthening these structural foundations at a time when Queensland families are doing it exceptionally tough. Our communities are confronting a severe national affordability crisis, persistent inflationary pressures, and global supply chain price spikes driven by ongoing instability in the Middle East. In direct response, this budget proudly unleashes the largest ongoing cost of living relief package in Queensland's history, providing a massive \$9.3 billion in total support for the 2026-27 financial year alone—representing a vital \$700 million increase over the previous year's relief measures.

We are facing unprecedented, highly disruptive uncertainty around funding to our state and the stripping away of Queensland's rightful share to be frittered away on failed Labor states down south.

This federal failure mirrors the reckless legacy of Labor's last state budget here in Queensland—a legacy defined entirely by debt, deficits, and deception. Under their watch, total state debt was left on an uncontrolled, compounding trajectory that would have reached a catastrophic \$290 billion. Through good management, we have curbed that trend, forecasting total state debt to sit at \$216.5 billion at the end of the forward estimates in 2029-30.

To repair this damage, this budget invests a historic \$12.3 billion state-wide housing package to unlock land, accelerate private construction, support first home buyers, and protect those at risk of homelessness. A cornerstone of this state-wide intervention is our aggressive expansion of the Residential Activation Fund (RAF), which we have doubled in Round Two to a massive \$1 billion investment.

Across the length and breadth of Queensland, the RAF is systematically breaking the infrastructure gridlock that prevents new housing estates from coming to market. By funding the heavy trunk infrastructure—including municipal water connections, major sewerage mains, stormwater reticulation systems, intersection roadworks, and electrical grid substations—the RAF has already successfully unlocked development-ready land for more than 98,000 new homes state-wide.

This is directly supported by our Infrastructure Activation Fund, which utilizes a cumulative \$2.4 billion in available funding, combining state resources and negotiated federal pools. This massive fund is explicitly targeted at unlocking master-planned, development-ready land parcels across regional growth corridors, directly delivering 20,500 new homes specifically allocated for first home buyers across Queensland.

To ensure that regional communities receive their fair share, at least half of our total housing programmatic pipelines are strictly ring-fenced for regional, rural, and remote areas outside the South East corner, ensuring that areas like the wider Darling Downs, Maranoa, and Southwest Queensland receive the exact same level of structural support as metropolitan centres.

Simultaneously, the Land Activation Fund (LAF), backed by \$27.1 million in operational funding, is being deployed state-wide through Economic Development Queensland. EDQ is using this mandate to cut through local government red tape, identifying surplus, dormant, and non-performing public land holdings across every regional municipality in Queensland. The LAF systematically clears red tape, rapidly transforming empty government land into high-density, affordable residential developments.

This state-wide supply push operates in tandem with the Queensland Community Housing Investment Pipeline (Q-CHIP). Q-CHIP's "always-open" procurement portal represents a radical departure from traditional, bureaucratic grant applications. It gives Community Housing Providers the long-term financial certainty needed to sign multiyear contracts with regional Tier 2 and Tier 3 builders.

Across the Darling Downs and Southwest Queensland, Q-CHIP is actively financing regional housing arrays, constructing energy-efficient, multi-unit residential structures, and specialized crisis accommodation. This massive structural push is further bolstered by our state-wide Boost to Buy home ownership scheme, which has opened the doors of property ownership to thousands of Queenslanders who have registered interest and successfully settled on their homes within the program's first six months alone.

Speaker, a society cannot prosper if its citizens live in fear. This budget drives an unprecedented \$7.2 billion total investment into making Queensland safer. This funding delivers stronger criminal laws, boosts police numbers on the beat, establishes state-of-the-art early intervention frameworks, and fully resources our court systems.

To reinforce our overstretched police service, we are investing \$23 million to aggressively recruit frontline officers to protect our growing regional and urban communities. This is backed by a massive \$495.9 million investment over four years to construct, completely overhaul, and upgrade police stations, specialized forensic facilities, and community police beats across the state—including major regional works such as Stage Two of the Kirwan Police Facility.

We are also moving swiftly to fix the structural failures within our forensic systems, allocating \$37.1 million over four years to completely clear the DNA testing backlog and re-commence gold-standard, rapid forensic testing at the state's primary laboratory, ensuring that victims of crime receive swift, scientifically unassailable justice.

In the youth justice space, our administration is delivering the legislative teeth and physical capacity required to handle repeat offenders. We are funding the critical expansion of the Woodford Youth Detention Centre, delivering 32 additional high-security beds to ensure that dangerous young criminals are securely separated from the community.

But we recognize that incarceration alone cannot solve systemic regional crime. That is why this budget funds the establishment of specialized, highly structured Crime Prevention Schools and Youth Justice Schools across Queensland. These facilities are designed to mandatorily re-educate and reform young people before they enter the adult correctional system.

For our regional, rural, and remote areas, we are deploying a specialized \$80 million remote, rehabilitation-focused program for youth offenders. This intensive initiative removes young offenders from their negative peer networks in urban areas and places them into highly structured, disciplined, and culturally responsive regional rehabilitation environments, forcing them to break the cycle of reoffending.

Simultaneously, we are moving aggressively to protect victims of domestic and family violence across all regions of Queensland, fully funding the ongoing electronic monitoring trial program for high-risk domestic violence offenders.

To drive deep, lasting institutional reform across our child protection and safety systems, we are investing \$200 million in the 2026-27 financial year alone to implement the comprehensive recommendations of the recent independent inquiry. We are establishing a permanent, independent Queensland Protection Commission to oversee these reforms, backed by a long-term commitment of more than \$250 million over four years to implement the structural 'In Plain Sight' response, fundamentally safeguarding our state's most vulnerable children.

This budget delivers a record-breaking \$35.5 billion health budget across Queensland, focused squarely on expanding frontline medical staff, upgrading regional hospital emergency departments, and undoing the damage of systemic ambulance bypassing.

To support young families across every regional community, we are investing \$37.5 million over five years to expand free kindergarten health checks, embedding developmental clinicians directly into regional early learning centres to identify auditory, visual, and behavioural health challenges well before children enter the primary school system.

For our vast, decentralised regional populations outside the South East corner, the Patient Transport Subsidy Scheme (PTSS) is an absolute necessity. When regional Queenslanders living across the Darling Downs, Maranoa, and the Far West face specialized, highly complex medical conditions such as advanced oncology treatments, paediatric surgeries, or complex cardiac interventions, local clinical options are often unavailable. Patients must travel hundreds of kilometres to access tertiary care.

Recognizing this geographic reality, this budget structurally overhauls the PTSS, significantly increasing the baseline mileage and accommodation subsidy rates statewide. By lifting these rates, the government is ensuring that escalating fuel costs and inflationary motel pricing do not prevent country patients from attending life-saving specialist appointments, preserving equity of health access regardless of a citizen's regional postcode.

Water security is the primary economic engine of regional Queensland. Without long-term water reliability, our multi-billion-dollar agricultural sectors, our livestock industries, and our regional towns cannot survive. This budget reinforces water infrastructure across the state, prioritizing local supply resilience and sustainable management.

Beyond our localized investments, our state-wide Energy and Water Roadmap implements an ironclad structural intervention for urban and agricultural consumers alike. In the South East, bulk water prices will be frozen for two years, saving households an average of \$130 and providing vital billing certainty.

Across our regional networks, we are investing heavily in water recycling, treatment plant overhauls, and regional catchment safety. We are ensuring that our major agricultural food bowls across the Darling Downs and Southwest Queensland have the capital backing needed to maintain heavy irrigation networks, protect groundwater tables, and construct localized weir and off-stream storage systems, insulating our primary producers from severe, protracted drought cycles.

Finally, we are backing this economic productivity by keeping our regional communities connected through a heavily fortified transport network. Despite the federal minister's highly disruptive funding uncertainty regarding commonwealth-state road distribution models, Queensland's state budget steps into the breach to protect regional motorists.

We are continuing the rollout of the Country Roads Connect program, a targeted statewide asset maintenance initiative designed specifically to widen narrow country roads, install high-visibility tactile line markings, and execute major structural pavement rehabilitation across high-volume regional freight corridors.

This budget represents a disciplined, structural, and positive addition to what the Crisafulli Government has already done to strengthen our state's foundational systems. It rejects temporary political fixes in favour of permanent reform.

Through our targeted regional housing funds—the RAF, the LAF, and Q-CHIP—we are breaking development deadlocks and constructing homes.

Through our historic \$7.2 billion community safety commitment, we are hiring frontline police and building high-security youth detention infrastructure.

Through our record \$35.5 billion health budget and boosted Patient Transport Subsidy Scheme, we are guaranteeing healthcare equity for every regional family.

And through our strategic investments in water security and country roads, we are protecting the primary producers who feed and clothe this nation.

This is the fresh start Queensland voted for. It is a comprehensive, balanced, and fiscally responsible plan that builds safer communities, stronger regional infrastructure, and a secure economic future for the Southern Downs and for the entire state of Queensland.

I commend this budget to the House.



Mr SMITH (Bundaberg—ALP) (2.56 pm): If only the member for Southern Downs incorporated every single time he ever spoke about Emu Swamp Dam, this parliament would have moved so much faster. This is another blue budget that refuses to deliver for the blue front line—the men and women who wear our mighty blue uniform right across the Bundaberg region. Once again we have seen this LNP government put community safety at risk in my community by again not funding the allocation of funds that we had for the Bundaberg Police Station upgrades to ensure that it was a modern facility—something that was put forward by the Commissioner of Police at the time as being such a vital upgrade to community safety.

It was in our Capital Statement when we were in government. In the 2024-25 budget it was a line item. It was there showing that the total estimated cost was \$20 million. What have we seen? In last year's budget we saw a cut to the funding, but then the police minister said, 'No, it'll be in the forwards. It'll be there in the future,' but again there is no money allocated for the Bundaberg Police Station in this budget. What those opposite have done is taken the money that was allocated by the former Miles Labor government to the Bundaberg Police Station and reallocated it to the Bargara Police Station. Instead of servicing both, this is what the minister said last year in the incorporated version of his speech—

Acting on police advice, we will fund both Bundaberg and Bargara police stations.

However, the police minister has not put any money towards the Bundaberg Police Station in this budget.

Just to have a look at the comparison around community safety, in the Bargara QPS division in the year from 25 June 2025 to 24 June 2026 there were 495 offences, and we thank our police for doing the incredible work that they do in the Bargara QPS division. In the Bundaberg division there have been 5,848 offences. So where is the real need for that money to go? We should absolutely ensure that we get Bargara up and running, but we need to ensure that the Bundaberg Police Station, where 5,848 offences are coming through, is well and truly equipped. What we know is that the police minister has not even funded a single cent towards the Bargara Police Station, because last year in the Capital Statement for 2025-26 there was a line item saying that there would be \$5,500,000 spent. However, in the Capital Statement for this year there is zero expenditure in the last financial year—zero expenditure. With regard to that \$5½ million that was meant to be spent in the last financial year, not one cent is even written down here in the Capital Statement.

In fact, the money reallocated to this financial year has halved, to only \$2½ million. They cut the money out of last financial year and they have also cut half of the money out of this financial year. It is absolutely crazy. How can police trust this police minister when he keeps taking the vital projects that we need across our community out of the Capital Statement and does not even spend one cent on our police stations across the Bundaberg region in two budgets? It is absolutely outrageous.

When it comes to community safety, the LNP have a record of not delivering when it comes to fire and emergency services as well. They have done nothing on the second Bundaberg fire station. The land remains vacant. The land was purchased by the Palaszczuk-Miles Labor government; the Capital Statement in 2023-24 clearly highlighted the \$2 million that was spent to purchase the land. The election costings show that \$11.5 million would have been delivered by a re-elected Labor government to build that second fire station.

Why is that second fire station so important? I checked with our hardworking Queensland Fire Department and they have made it very clear. There has been an 86 per cent increase in incident attendances since 2020. Queensland fires across the Bundaberg region have attended 86 per cent more incidents since 2020. If the second fire station had been around at that time, half those jobs would have gone there. It would have provided more fires and more trucks out in the community; there would be the ability to ensure that, if there was a fire out at Bargara and a fire over at Bundy North, there would not be pressures on our fires to attend to those jobs. In Bundaberg in 2020, 945 incidents were attended; last year it was 1,762. To date this year alone, there have been 871 incidents attended to by our hardworking fires. Again, there is no money in the budget, in the Capital Statement or in the Budget Measures, talking about the forwards—not a single cent.

The Deputy Premier talks about the RAF and unlocking more land along the coastline out around Innes Park, Elliott Heads and Bargara in the electorate of Burnett, but he is refusing to ensure it is serviced by our Queensland fires in the best way they know how, which is to have more fires out there and a second fire station allocated for the benefit of the electorate of Burnett. Again, there is not a single cent. The member for Burnett has not been able to deliver one cent spent on the Bargara Police Station and not one cent spent on a second fire station for Bundaberg. What is the bloke doing? Who knows? He is very quiet now, and he was very quiet during the budget.

When it comes to new projects, I mention the new Bundaberg Hospital. It was going to be 120 beds and then it was going to be 200 beds. 'It won't be across two campuses'; 'Oh, wait, whoops! It will,' because they are only building stage 1 come the Olympics and stage 2 will be—well, they have actually not said when they are going to build it. They have not said when they are going to start it; they have not said when they are going to finish it. They have said that they will deliver stage 1—that is 100 fewer beds than at the current hospital site—by the time the starter's gun is fired for the 100 metres at the Olympics. They are going to build a stadium that they said they would never build before they build the hospital that they said they were always going to build.

What is happening when it comes to the actual delivery of key services? Whether it is community safety in terms of our police, whether it is community safety in terms of our fires or whether it is community health and wellbeing in terms of our health services, this LNP government continue to go missing. They have gone missing so badly that they will not even put the Bundaberg Hospital as a line item in the Capital Statement. On page 79 of this year's Capital Statement it says, 'Major Hospital Infrastructure' and then there is a footnote. The footnote says—

This program includes new hospitals at Bundaberg, Coomera and Toowoomba—

I feel like the Premier earlier today when he was doing the race call—

the new Queensland Cancer Centre, expansions at Ipswich, Logan, Hervey Bay, Princess Alexandra, Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee, Townsville University ...

There are 16 projects in the one line item and only \$2 billion. They cannot even say how much money will be allocated to the new Bundaberg Hospital.

Hervey Bay is included in that conglomeration of 16 projects. The member for Hervey Bay was in the media last week talking about how great the expansion was—the construction that was issued by the former Miles government; it started under our watch. Of course, we need to go back to what the member for Hervey Bay said. The member for Hervey Bay when he was a councillor said—

No amount of ad hoc construction at the Hervey Bay Hospital can substitute for a well-considered strategic service and capital masterplan.

The member for Hervey Bay said that I misquoted him in the news. Well, it is there. He said, ‘Oh, no, I was talking about a service and a masterplan.’ Okay, well, he further said—

Poor planning, a growing population and a focus on building Bundaberg’s Level 5 hospital risks putting the future of Fraser Coast patients in jeopardy.

According to the member for Hervey Bay, building a brand new hospital in Bundaberg is actually putting the lives of patients in the Fraser Coast in jeopardy. That new hospital that the member said he would deliver when he was a councillor at Fraser Coast must be in the budget papers, right? It is not there. In fact he went on to say—

This makes no sense when Fraser Coast has a projected population increase of 27.5% over the next 20 years, high rates of chronic disease and is geographically better suited for a Level 5 regional service.

When is it going to be coming to Hervey Bay? When will he be demolishing the TAFE that he has always talked about and delivering a brand new Hervey Bay Hospital? In his own words, ‘no amount of ad hoc construction at the Hervey Bay Hospital can substitute’.

Mr Power: Caught out.

Mr SMITH: He was absolutely caught out. While I am talking about the member for Hervey Bay being caught out, I note that our leader took a strong position in his speech today that Queensland Labor will always stand against racism, xenophobia and those who decide they will support it in any way. We are talking about Pauline Hanson and anyone who believes that her xenophobic views of a monocultural Australia are in any way not pseudoracism and a pseudo call to arms for racism. We need to make sure that we call it out so that when there are members in our community who say of Victoria, ‘Highest immigration equals most violent crime’—

Mr Power: Who said that?

Mr SMITH: I will come to that, member for Logan. Just calm down. I know it is exciting! When we have members in our community putting on Facebook that mass immigration is wrecking Australia and members in our community saying, ‘It’s not Islamophobia; it’s Islam disgust that normal people have,’ that should be called out. We should not be inviting people like that to our LNP Christmas parties in Hervey Bay. We should not be inviting those people to get a photo with the Premier. I table a photo of that particular individual—a perennial One Nation candidate in Hervey Bay and Hinkler who is spreading on his Facebook page anti-immigration and racist remarks.

Tabled paper: Extract, undated, from Facebook page of Damian Huxham, relating to the Premier and Minister for Veterans, Hon. David Crisafulli [1106].

He was then invited by the member for Hervey Bay to the LNP Hervey Bay Christmas function to get a photo with him. The member for Hervey Bay includes that individual in a photo with him.

Mr PURDIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. I know of your ruling earlier about latitude, but I think this is straying way outside the long title of the bill.

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

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr J Kelly): I will deal with the first point of order, member for Hervey Bay. I have lost count of how many budget speeches I have sat through in this chair. There has been a long convention of wide latitude; I have no intention of changing that. What is your point of order, member for Hervey Bay?

Mr LEE: I take personal offence and I ask that the member withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member has taken personal offence. Would you mind withdrawing?

Mr SMITH: I withdraw. Our leader talked about ensuring we will put more money into multicultural events. I can assure members that comments such as those I read before—‘It’s not Islamophobia; it’s Islam disgust’—will not be accepted at the multicultural events that we fund when we are in government. We will not be inviting people who use such disgusting language to our branch meetings and Christmas party functions. I certainly will not be dragging that individual over to the Labor premier and saying, ‘Let’s get a photo together.’ That will not be happening, I can absolutely assure members of that.

While we are on the topic of this side of the House and what we would do, I want to speak to the backbench of the LNP. We know that the backbench of the LNP wrestle with a particular policy decision. They had a little bit of cover last sitting week with the health minister, who got them all to drink the Kool Aid and said, ‘No, no, no. Don’t worry, the Katter motion won’t be changing anything around abortion.’

After estimates we will come back and there will be a vote on whether or not funds should be put forward through this House to ensure that women can access termination of pregnancy. That will be an active decision, not a passive decision, of those backbenchers of the LNP. They will need to make an active decision on whether they will support this Appropriation Bill that will fund women and girls to access termination of pregnancy. That is what is in the Appropriation Bill: funding through the Queensland Health Service Delivery Statements.

Will the member for Mackay stick by his principles of saying, ‘No, nothing will change. I did not believe that election commitment at the time so I am going to cross the floor. Maybe we are going to put money in for women and girls to access termination of pregnancy, but I will tell my church that is not what I believe in’? Will the member for Rockhampton stand up and say to her prayer warriors that she absolutely supports more funding in this budget for women and girls to access termination of pregnancy? Will the member for Hervey Bay stand up in his speech and talk about how much he supports more funding in this budget for women and girls to access termination of pregnancy? Will the member for Maryborough, will the member for Pumicestone, will the member for Redcliffe, will the member for Townsville, will the member for Mundingburra—do not forget the member for Cook—

Mr BAROUNIS: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. There is no doubt the member for Bundaberg is very entertaining and I am enjoying his speech, but I think he crosses a few lines here. I am part of the backbench and I take personal offence and I would like him to withdraw his comments.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will take some advice. Member for Maryborough, you were mentioned in the collective rather than the specific, so you cannot take personal offence.

Mr SMITH: We know it is important that women and girls have access to health care, whether it is through surgical termination of pregnancy or access to MS-2 Step. Members of the LNP will be responsible for the money that goes through the government coffers into the Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service, into every other HHS across this state, to ensure women and girls can access the health care they deserve, that is their right, no matter how much those opposite want to take that right away.

When it does come time for the vote, we will see whether or not the member for Mackay is so brave and bold to stand up and cross the floor again. We will see if any more of those LNP members go back to their churches and say, ‘I don’t actually support termination of pregnancy, but don’t worry, nothing is changing.’ We will see. If this backbench support the Appropriation Bill, then termination of pregnancy is their choice.

(Time expired)



Mr HEAD (Callide—LNP) (3.12 pm): Maybe the member for Bundaberg could refresh his own memory on what the Labor government did to maternity services in this state. When it comes to delivering health services for women in the bush they have no legs to stand on. What they did to women’s health services in the bush and across communities like Gladstone was disgraceful. It was atrocious. It is fascinating that the member for Bundaberg is so fixated on a party that at the last state election only polled 7.6 per cent in his electorate. Maybe he has realised he is doing such a bad job he has to start attacking a party that did not even get 10 per cent of the vote in his own patch.

When we came to government we uncovered the true state of Queensland’s finances: hidden costs, blowouts, botched programs—you name it, we found it. Under Labor, the 2026-27 operating deficit would have been \$9.2 billion. The Crisafulli government has made nearly a \$3 billion improvement on this with no new or increased taxes. We are delivering for Queensland through a stronger economy with lower debt and a return to surplus while building Queensland’s future and

delivering on what we said we would by honouring our election commitments. This is while weathering many storms, from international events to a federal Labor government turning its back on Queensland. Queenslanders will never forget Labor's desperate election scare campaigns, complete with ludicrous policies like state-owned servos, state-owned GP practices and state-sliced school lunches. Labor's legacy is one of debt, deficit and deception.

Budget papers were used as advertising and left little for Callide. They did not fund many programs into the future, meaning we had to find money to plug their budget black holes. Their last budget was so bad the Australian *Financial Review* said it was a clown show. Meanwhile, federal Labor's inequities in the GST carve-up penalised Queensland for its decentralisation and its commitment to the national wealth creating gas industry. We were getting penalised for allowing our gas sector to succeed. Canberra claims approximately 85 per cent of taxation revenue. They need to step up and stop cutting programs to Queenslanders.

We are delivering a record \$35.5 billion health budget and are continuing to heal Labor's health crisis. This includes \$11.7 million to boost the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme fuel subsidy and faster reimbursements through system upgrades. The fuel subsidy will increase to 45 cents per kilometre, up from 34 cents, which is the biggest increase in over a decade. This will benefit rural and regional Queenslanders who are required to travel to access health services.

For Callide, the Hospital Rescue Plan includes progressing the business case for upgrading the Biloela, Chinchilla and Jandowae hospitals and an additional \$6 million to complete the Moura Multipurpose Health Service aged-care expansion. The business cases will consider a range of options to address the long-term healthcare needs of the local community. This is a vital planning step to ensure government funding is allocated appropriately and will improve patient outcomes, enhance service capacity and deliver long-term economic and social benefits to the community. As I have strongly advocated for, this process will include community consultation to ensure locals can provide feedback to these legacy projects in their own communities.

The Mundubbera-Durong Road is a vital link for the communities I represent. I have advocated for the widening of it for a very long time. In this budget, for the first time since 2014—which was under a previous LNP government—widening this road finally rates a mention in the budget papers. Yes, it is for planning, but this is a huge step forward, recognising that it needs doing. Widening the remaining 11 kilometres of this road is an important step to allow road train access to the North Burnett, creating freight hub opportunities and helping cart food and produce across the region. Importantly, it will drastically improve safety for all users of this road, including tourists and locals.

We are delivering upgrades to the Calliope State School drop-and-go area, one of my election commitments. This will ease congestion and improve safety for students, carers, the local community, teaching and support staff at the school's pick-up and drop-off zone. I look forward to seeing these works commence later this year.

There will be Burnett Highway upgrades between Gayndah to Mundubbera, including improving access to the Binjour Bowls Club. I know the hardworking Binjour Bowls Club committee will be excited to hear this. The intersection of Ideraway Road will also be receiving an upgrade sometime in the near future. This intersection has been notorious for accidents over the years.

We are supporting the North Burnett Regional Council with over \$6 million allocated through the Works for Queensland and the Local Government Grants and Subsidies Program, including \$556,000 and \$507,000 for Mundubbera and Biggenden wastewater network upgrades, \$15,000 for upgrades to the raw water dosing system in Mundubbera, \$45,000 for upgrades to recycled water at Eidsvold and \$113,000, \$53,000 and \$28,000 for Eidsvold, Biggenden and Gayndah respectively for sewage treatment plant upgrades. A needs assessment will also be undertaken for housing in several North Burnett towns to support housing availability and unlock land for future upgrades. I appreciate the pain being felt in this region due to the financial situation of the local council. I continue to advocate for more programs that will support them. It is also clear Canberra needs to reinstate more funding through the Financial Assistance Grants.

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

The speech read as follows—

The Boyne Burnett Inland Rail trail from Mundubbera to Many Peaks has been allocated funding to improve bridges and the trail. This is supporting a passionate local community group.

This budget goes beyond local projects, delivering structural change right across the state. We are delivering for Queenslanders with more affordable, reliable and sustainable electricity. \$5.2 billion in this budget will continue to deliver the Energy Roadmap. We are passing on lower power prices in full to Ergon customers in the Energy Roadmap Price Drop, saving households around 7% and small and family businesses 8%.

A record Health Budget includes progressing the Hospital Rescue Plan, delivering more health workers, more ambulances and more health services. We're expanding free kindy health checks with \$37.5 million over five years to help families with cost-of-living pressures.

In November 2025 we officially opened new accommodation for staff at the Biloela Hospital including three, one-bedroom and three, three-bedroom units. In February 2026 we expanded hours at the Nurse-led Walk-in clinic in Gladstone which achieved a record number of presentations in the first two months and flowed onto reduce presentations at the Gladstone Hospital Emergency Department.

I was proud to be part of a community information session for the return to birthing services at the Biloela Hospital on 29 April. The Biloela community are looking forward to seeing the return of birthing services for low-risk pregnancies very soon and I will continue to advocate for the return to birthing services in Chinchilla.

We are delivering more frontline workers in Queensland than ever before to provide a stronger Queensland public service. This means more police, teachers and health workers to provide vital services to the Queensland community. We are investing \$23 million in recruiting more frontline police officers to keep Queenslanders safer and delivering new and upgraded police stations. The Chinchilla Police Station has been outgrown, and I will continue to advocate for an upgrade that is needed to meet the needs of that community. The Theodore and Wandoan Police stations don't currently have all ability access, and I'll continue to advocate for upgrades to solve issues like this across the electorate.

We are delivering a 50% increase in the Back to School Boost resulting in support to the value of \$150 for every primary school student in Queensland. Importantly \$1.855 million has been allocated across 51 schools in Callide to address the maintenance backlog at the hands of the Labor Government and a further \$855,000 for minor works.

\$775,000 has been allocated for Mundubbera State College to deliver a primary sporting undercover area, \$520,000 for a covered access ramp at Block C for Gayndah State School, \$514,000 for Miles State School to replace the passenger lift in Block A, and \$234,000 for Binjour Plateau State School for water reticulation systems upgrade.

This budget includes funding for the second round of the Games On! Program which includes upgrades to grassroots sporting facilities, while continuing to roll out round one upgrades. This funding is backing Queensland sporting clubs in every corner of the state, including for Callide, \$25,000 for the Gin Gin Little Athletics club and \$30,000 for the Calliope Football Club. Callide is better for the fact that we have hard working people dedicated to their local communities.

We are investing in ongoing maintenance to training infrastructure for state owned TAFE Queensland facilities including \$44,000 for the Chinchilla TAFE.

This budget includes continued support for small businesses to hire and train apprentices, boosting trade services and kickstarting new critical minerals projects with the \$250 million Queensland Critical Minerals Fund to plan to extract, process and export to the world.

We've locked in \$200 Play On Sports Vouchers for the next four years to support families, these would have otherwise ended under Labor, who failed to include funding for this program across the forwards. This will help more children become involved in sport and encourage healthier communities into the future.

As well as funding for Cooranga Weir and Paradise Dam this budget allocates \$361,000 for upgrades at the Jandowae Dam to achieve safer flood discharges during rain events, lowering risk downstream to the town of Jandowae as part of the Local Government Grants and Subsidies Program. We need to take another serious look at water infrastructure projects for the future. Nathan Dam has been proposed for a very long time, but perhaps it's time this proposal turns into a reality. This water source would provide long-term reliable water in the heart of Callide.

This budget delivers for the Wide Bay Burnett region with \$11.15 million in funding for Cooranga Weir planning. This important project will deliver improved water security, essential drought mitigation to the region and unlock new economic opportunities.

\$59.8 million is allocated for the Paradise Dam improvement project to correct Labor's failures to not get it right the first-time round. This project will support Wide Bay Burnett agriculture and strengthen the region's future.

There has been great progress to reinstate the Gin Gin Driver Reviver, and I'll keep working until we see this through. I thank the community for their tireless advocacy to date.

There are various roads of concern across Callide that require future attention. These include the Burnett Highway, Leichhardt Highway, Fitzroy Development Road, Gladstone Monto Road, Duckpond Road at Takilberan and the Chinchilla Wondai Road.

Intersections upgrades are also important for road safety. Intersections I continue to advocate for upgrades to are Dawson Gates Road on the Warrego Highway, and Cania Dam Road turnoff on the Burnett Highway.

Heavy vehicle passing lanes on the Leichhardt Highway and overtaking lanes on the Dawson Highway would be great investments into the future.

The Gayndah Mount Perry Road needs sealing, and I acknowledge the Country Roads Connect program that is delivering some works on this route. I'm going to keep advocating for this important link to be sealed, alongside a passionate community who has been fighting for it for many years.

The Wandoan community has been passionate about the need to upgrade the Wandoan Jackson Road. This important link also needs to be upgraded sooner rather than later.

Housing has become one of the biggest challenges across Callide after Labor's decade of decline. We have many roles to fill in the public service going forward, and it is a struggle to find suitable accommodation for candidates. This is pain felt by local businesses, too. It's clear we need to continue to invest in government employee housing into the future, to provide suitable housing for hard working public servants in rural communities.

Biosecurity is of huge importance to the agricultural industry and must be taken seriously. We have made a significant investment to bring 100 more frontline biosecurity officers online across our state this term. More of these in Callide's communities going forward would be welcome. It's clear we also need more facilities across the region such as washdown bays and effluent dumps for our livestock transporters.

This is a budget delivering a clear pathway to Queensland's success, and one that strengthens the foundation for a fresh start by delivering better services and building a stronger economy for our future. The Crisafulli Government is delivering for Queensland.

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (3.19 pm): We are almost halfway through this term of government. After 18 months, their second budget was delivered on Tuesday. The chamber was full. I have never seen a more lacklustre, bored backbench than we had on Tuesday. There was no energy at all in the room. They could not even back in their own Treasurer. Members will remember a moment when the Treasurer announced a particular initiative and there were crickets through the entire chamber. It was so bad that we on the opposition side were actually asking the government members of parliament to support their own Treasurer. That is how bad it got.

Why are the government MPs so absolutely flat that they cannot bring themselves to back in their Treasurer? It is because it is a bad budget. This budget will cost people more and give them less. That is exactly what it will do to our Bundamba community: it will cost us more and it will deliver us less. Some \$4.9 billion in critical funding for health infrastructure, transport projects and other kinds of infrastructure is being delayed. Some of those projects have been put in the never-never, like the Mount Crosby interchange.

The government is making more off Queenslanders than ever. There are record levels of revenue coming in with stamp duty and increased coal royalties—thanks, Labor—but this budget is not providing the help that people need and deserve to deal with the affordability crisis that they have created. There is plenty of money for their vanity projects such as their signature project for the Sunshine Coast, the Wave, which we have learned has blown out to \$12 billion. That comes after they broke their promise not to build a new stadium at Victoria Park.

This is a budget of bad news and blowouts, dressed up to look boring in the hope that nobody will notice. Queenslanders looking to this budget for practical help will see practically nothing for them. While the LNP are reaping the profits from elevated prices and royalties from Trump's war, they are not actually supporting Queenslanders at home who are dealing with a cost-of-living crisis. Unaffordability is at record levels. The Premier said that he would deliver cost-of-living relief as long as Queenslanders needed it. This budget does not deliver it yet Queenslanders need it.

When it comes to education in our local community, last year's budget had \$814.8 million over four years for a variety of projects that included a new special school or campus in Springfield and Redbank. This year, there is an obscure 'new schools' category where the funding is now held centrally and is supposed to cover eight schools across Ipswich, including Ripley Valley, as well as Beenleigh, Coomera, Moreton Bay South, Wynnum Manly and Townsville. Why the subterfuge? Why has a project from last year's budget, which had its own budget line item, all of a sudden been rolled up into some obscure category with a little footnote? Why is the government not being transparent?

In this budget, education growth projects for Ipswich have been severely defunded, with less than half the money that was spent in last year's budget. They have rolled up school hall funding. Why? They should tell us where they are going to build school halls. Where is the new primary school at White Rock going to be and when is it going to be built? When are the doors going to open so that students can walk in and get an education?

This budget has delayed almost \$5 billion worth of infrastructure. The Ipswich Hospital stage 2 expansion is delayed by a year. That means another year when there will not be an extra 200 beds or a bigger ED, even though our rapidly growing community needs that hospital expansion. Comparing last year's budget to this year's budget, again we see a hospital expansion project that had its own single line item rolled up with a bunch of other hospital expansion projects that have only been allocated about \$2 billion. That raises very real questions. Has our Ipswich Hospital expansion been descoped? Will there be further delays? Will there not be 200 beds? This is Queensland's payday. This is taxpayers'

money and Queenslanders have a right to know. Everybody in our community has a right to know what is happening with their tax dollars. We need an expanded hospital. Labor delivered it in terms of the project funding and now we are seeing it delayed and possibly descope by this LNP government.

I will move on to transport. The delays to key transport infrastructure will condemn our local community to sitting in traffic for longer. In this budget there is no new additional funding for the Centenary Motorway, despite over 1,000 people signing a petition calling for a pedestrian overpass across the Centenary Highway at South Ripley. Labor had done the planning for the Darra to Yamanto section of the Centenary Highway but, yet again, any real action has been stalled. I can see nothing in this budget that will make any improvement whatsoever.

The Mount Crosby interchange upgrade has been punted off into the never-never. We are still waiting for stage 2 of the Ipswich bus improvement program, which is due this year. It was fully funded by Labor in our last budget and, almost two years on, the government is dragging the chain with more delays and more subterfuge. There is nothing in the budget for the Ipswich to Springfield rail line. They are happy to spend billions and billions of dollars at the Sunshine Coast or on the Gold Coast, but the LNP government is not spending in Ipswich.

One bright spot in the budget, which I mention as part of this cognate debate, is locking Labor's 50-cent fares into law. What a great idea! We are governing from opposition. It is a good idea—so good that even they know it. I am happy to support that. Of course, it is not so great when you consider that the 50-cent fares are being undermined by the fact that trains are still running at about half capacity or with only three carriages. This week Queenslanders marked a terrible milestone with over 10,000 train services cancelled since earlier this year, under this government. What an absolute debacle.

Looking at housing, the allocation for upgrades to Ipswich social housing in this budget sees a reduction of \$711,000. All the social homes in our community need maintenance and upkeep. I think every member in this House would be able to agree with that. However, under this government we see a reduction in the maintenance budget.

There is no funding for a synthetic athletics track in Ipswich. We do not really see any specific budget allocations for improved sporting infrastructure at any of our local clubs. Once again, it has all been pooled and put into central funding allocations.

When it comes to all of the infrastructure projects that Queensland needs and deserves going forward, I am so proud to be part of a Labor Party that is committing to real initiatives that will help workers into jobs such as free registration for construction apprentices, which was announced by the Leader of the Opposition earlier today. That is a really practical policy that will help where the rubber hits the road, pun intended.

I move on to energy. In my capacity as shadow minister for energy, once again there is a lack of direct universal energy rebates. We have seen the government crowing about the downward pressure on electricity prices that has been provided by Labor's renewable projects which has resulted in a dip in wholesale prices, but the information that is coming through from my community into my office is that retailers are still increasing power prices by upping the supply charge. What is the energy minister doing about that? This government does absolutely nothing about that.

With regard to blowouts, the Energy Maintenance Guarantee started out at \$1.4 billion, last year it went to \$1.6 billion and in this year's budget it is up to \$1.8 billion. That is a \$200 million escalation in the government's signature energy policy. They will probably need at least another billion because Callide Power Station, the one that keeps blowing up, is now being sued by one of the joint venture partners for a billion dollars. I did not hear the member for Callide mention that.

There is a \$657 million reduction on last year's Brigalow gas peaking project. Why would that be? I think it is because the government is going to sell it and it will be privatised.

Let's look at the Gladstone transmission project. This year's budget sees \$1.79 billion removed since last year. There was a \$3.6 million underspend. This is a very important transmission project, yet the government is not spending the money and have defunded \$1.79 billion, but that pales in comparison to the swindle that is the LNP's plan for CopperString. In last year's budget, CopperString had a \$13.9 billion total cost. In this year's budget, the estimated total cost, all of a sudden, is \$1.172 billion. There is \$420 million budgeted for this year with no further spending listed beyond 2026. That means that CopperString has seen \$12.7 billion disappear from the budget papers. How could this happen? There should be an explanation. The energy minister needs to go up to North Queensland

and explain exactly what is going on here. What are the Townsville MPs doing about this? How could they possibly vote for this budget when it is going to defund the signature project by over \$12 billion? I suspect it is because it is going to be privatised.

We have seen reductions to pumped hydro projects like the Big-T and Borumba. The last budget had a total spend of \$18.4 billion and \$1.3 billion for the connection. In this budget, there is no allocation at all for the transmission lines, and there has been a reduction in funding of \$17.6 billion. Congratulations! The Crisafulli LNP government is going to build a pumped hydro energy storage project that is not going to be connected to anything. Wow! Isn't that a great idea? There is no money in the budget for it. No wonder stakeholders like the Queensland Renewable Energy Council, in their latest industry report, said that it was local, not global, uncertainty weighing on the Queensland renewables sector and policy stability remains the top-ranked risk. Proponents observed frequent changes to assessment requirements, and uncertainty around energy policy settings are adding complexity to project development and extending timelines.

This is a budget of sneaky, underhanded reductions, delays and privatisation. The LNP's budget is costing Queenslanders more but giving them less.

(Time expired)

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): Before I call the member for Hervey Bay, I draw the House's attention to the presence in the gallery of the Hon. Matt Foley, former member of the House and attorney-general. You are welcome, sir.

 **Mr LEE** (Hervey Bay—LNP) (3.34 pm): I rise to speak to the cognate debate and to highlight some of the fantastic outcomes in my Hervey Bay electorate. This budget is indeed great news for Hervey Bay. The Crisafulli government's groundbreaking second budget is strengthening the foundations in Hervey Bay. Hervey Bay is rapidly growing and with that growth comes an obligation to ensure our infrastructure and services keep pace in a measured and responsible manner. This budget takes a considered approach to meeting these obligations with targeted investments in priority areas that I have consistently raised both within this House and within the Hervey Bay community.

Turning now to some of our critical infrastructure announcements, a key priority has been the provision of a new Hervey Bay fire and rescue station. In 2024, in a desperate pre-election bid, Labor misleadingly and deceptively claimed to have delivered a new Hervey Bay fire and rescue station. During my 2025 budget speech, the member for Pine Rivers asked, 'What about the Hervey Bay fire and rescue station?' This is what commencing a budgeted delivery of a new Hervey Bay fire and rescue station looks like. I table a copy of *Delivering for Wide Bay-Burnett*. That is what delivering for a new Hervey Bay fire and rescue station looks like.

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2026-27: Regional Delivery Plan—Wide Bay-Burnett [1107].

I have previously placed on record my strong advocacy for this essential piece of infrastructure. Our firefighters perform an essential role in protecting lives and property, and deserve equipment and facilities that reflect modern operational requirements. The existing station has served the community for decades. However, as our region grows, it is essential that our fire and rescue services are supported with fit-for-purpose infrastructure.

In a similar context, I now turn to the importance of community safety and policing in Hervey Bay. I have consistently supported the delivery of a new police station in Hervey Bay to support frontline policing services and maintain public safety and community confidence. Our police officers work diligently to maintain safety and order, and it is important that they are supported by modern facilities that enable them to perform their duties safely and effectively. I look forward to further consultative engagement with our local QPS leadership in delivering a new police station.

The River Heads pontoon is a critical piece of infrastructure within my Hervey Bay electorate, and the repair and installation will provide safe and reliable access for recreational fishers, residents and visitors. Again, this is what delivering looks like after Labor misleadingly claimed the pontoon was funded. I look forward to federal Labor's \$2.5 million promise to deliver a new nearby River Heads boat ramp. I table a copy of the media transcript of that announcement.

Tabled paper: Transcript, dated 17 April 2025, titled 'Press Conference, River Heads—Labor's Boat Ramp Commitment' [1108].

I have consistently advocated for upgrades to key transport corridors including the Booral Road and Boundary Road intersection. I am delighted that Department of Transport and Main Roads works have finally commenced. This roundabout will improve safety, ease congestion and support the 12,000 motorists who daily commute the intersection.

I turn to the subject of the Hospital Rescue Plan. The Hervey Bay Hospital expansion will be further complemented, thanks to our hardworking Minister for Health and Ambulance Services, the Hon. Tim Nicholls, by delivering a new magnetic resonance imaging machine. It beggars belief that a public hospital the size of Hervey Bay does not have an MRI machine. It will soon, thanks to the Crisafulli government.

I am on the record as stridently advocating for the development of a well-considered Hervey Bay Hospital precinct master plan. This proposition is further underscored in the independent Sam Sangster review into Labor's failed capacity expansion program, which was well described as 'an exercise in futility'. A master plan is critical to meeting the existing and future healthcare needs of our rapidly growing Fraser Coast community, yet the members for Miller and Bundaberg seem confused. I am happy to educate them that politicking and whimpering outside hospitals, glib slogans, mistruths, deceptions and scare campaigns are no substitute for a well-considered Hervey Bay Hospital master plan.

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—

We are pleased to advise that the Urangan Bowls Club is to receive \$290,400 and Hervey Bay Bowls and Social Club is to receive \$747,032 under our disaster recovery program. This announcement follows damage to the bowling greens following ex-tropical cyclone Alfred.

We are continuing to deliver on the Hervey Bay Hospital Expansion and last week I had the pleasure of being briefed on its progress. Hervey Bay will soon have an additional 25 general medical beds including 4 specialist coronary care beds and a state-of-the-art intensive care unit comprising 10 ICU beds. The new Hospital development is vertically integrated to an advanced and leading-edge helipad.

The Crisafulli government is committed to delivering 53,500 social homes by 2044. In Hervey Bay, we are doing our part with 26 social homes under construction in Pialba and 17 social homes under construction in Urangan. I look forward to turning the sod in due course for the development of a further 18 social housing units for seniors.

Last week, I was pleased to announce the completion of the Shorelyne Affordable Housing Development which delivers 32 affordable homes for low-income seniors, 65 years and over and low-income single women 50 years and over.

As the local Member for Hervey Bay, I am committed to continuing my advocacy and working constructively with small business, community organisations and frontline services to ensure the best outcomes for Hervey Bay.

This budget represents a positive, constructive and practical step forward for Hervey Bay.

We have delivered on our pre-election commitments of \$190,000 for nightlights at the Hervey Bay AFL and Cricket Club; \$40,000 to renovate the change rooms at the Hervey Bay Hockey Club, \$25,000 for a heat-sealing machine at Fraser Community Meals on Wheels and \$100,000 to replace the roof and external guttering at the Bayside Transformations Alcohol and Drug Rehabilitation Centre.

As a veteran of the Australian Defence Force, I was delighted to announce that the 9th Battalion Ceremonial Guard Inc is to receive funding under the Department of the Premier and Cabinet's 2025 Honouring Our Veterans Grants Program.

The funding will be used in delivering the 9th Battalion Ceremonial Guard Veterans Tribute and Historical Display Program project. This is great news for the Hervey Bay veteran's community.

Hervey Bay is the world's premier destination for whale watching and globally recognized as the first certified Whale Heritage Site by the World Cetacean Alliance.

At our back door, Fraser (K'gari) Island is the largest sand island in the world. The Island is a UNESCO World Heritage site and further highlights the region's environmental significance. That's why the Crisafulli government has also committed \$2.2 million to upgrade infrastructure at Central Station on Fraser (K'gari) Island.

Hervey Bay is a vibrant and expanding city and one of the fastest growing areas in regional Queensland. Hervey Bay is home to an estimated 60,000 residents and is projected to grow to 68,000 by 2036.

According to a Fraser Coast Futures 2036 Report, the Fraser Coast population is rapidly growing, averaging about 2.4% per annum over the last four years and the regional population is projected to grow a staggering 25.21% over the next twenty years.

The Fraser Coast, including Hervey Bay, has a median age of 52 against a Queensland median age of 38. Thirty-five percent of our population is aged over 65 and we have some of the highest rates of chronic disease in Australia. It is critical that Hervey Bay Hospital has a fit-for-purpose masterplan for the next 10 to 15 years and more importantly a roadmap for a staged implementation.

The Fraser Coast has a \$6 billion economy and is expanding at an average annual rate of 7%. This far exceeds the Queensland economic average growth rate of 3%.

The top five Fraser Coast industries are: healthcare and social assistance; construction; retail trade; manufacturing and education and training. Manufacturing is the Fraser Coast's largest export industry.

In 2025, we had 1,354 residential building approvals and the Fraser Coast welcomed an estimated 60 new residents per month.

The Sheraton Hervey Bay is set to proceed with the construction of a 16-storey residential tower and a 12-storey hotel tower on the esplanade in Torquay.

A 16-storey residential apartment complex and a 10-storey hotel with a wellness centre and food and retail precinct has also been approved for the Hervey Bay City Centre.

The Residential Activation Fund (Round 1) has delivered \$1.45 million for the construction of 73 apartments on Hockley Lane.

It is critical that our rapidly growing region is supported by a well-considered water security strategy. As a former Fraser Coast Regional Councillor, I was actively involved in the formulation of a water security plan. I commend the Fraser Coast Regional Council (FCRC) on the development of a business case for the construction of a 25 km bi-directional pipeline that will connect the Lenthalls Dam and the Mary River catchment.

I will continue to advocate for State government funding to prioritise the implementation of the Fraser Coast Water Grid project. FCRC has recently lodged an application for state government funding under the Residential Activation Fund (Round 2) to prioritise this project.

As one of the fastest growing regions in Queensland, it is essential that the State government invest in the development of 'fit for purpose' infrastructure and services that meet the emerging needs of our Hervey Bay community. Historically, a rapidly developing Hervey Bay has been persona non grata when it came to the former Queensland Labor government investing in our long-term growth.

The Crisafulli government's Destination 2045 Tourism Plan is exciting news for Hervey Bay as we prepare for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to leverage on our well-established tourism industry including restaurants, cafes, retail shops, cultural attractions and magnificent beaches.

I look forward to working with Fraser Coast Tourism and Events to ensure that we have a robust tourism workforce plan to support our local tourism and small business operators.

The Crisafulli Government's second budget continues to build on the foundation for a fresh start for Queenslanders by addressing youth crime, health, housing and the cost-of-living crises.

This stands in stark contrast to Labor's incompetent and desperate budgetary process.

Labor's 2024/25 pre-election budget and commitments was built on a house of cards including unfunded commitments like 12 Steve's Servos; a \$1.4 billion manifesto for free school lunches; 50 state-run bulk billing medical practices; the re-purchase of Powerdirect (after Labor sold it to AGL Energy in 2007) and other unfunded promises.

On 11 June, 2024 the Australian Financial Review suitably described Labor's State Budget as a 'populous clown show that...trashes Queensland's traditional reputation as a low debt, lower taxing, business friendly jurisdiction'.

Leading economist Chris Richardson, who has scrutinized Queensland Labor's budgets, was particularly critical of Labor's ballooning debt and inflationary spending. Labor's populist cash splashes and cost-of-living rebates were inflationary, ultimately poking the 'inflationary bear'.

In 2024, Standard & Poor's assigned the State of Queensland a long-term issuer credit rating of AA+ and a short-term rating of A-1+, with a negative outlook. This is just one tier below the absolute highest AAA rating. However, the downgrade furthermore underscores the fact the Crisafulli government has inherited a fiscal mess after a decade of debt, deficit and deception.

The capital program presented in the Mid-Year Fiscal and Economic Review (MYFER) for the period 2024-25 to 2027-28 was \$129.9 billion, a \$22.6 billion increase over the 2024-25 Budget forward estimates of \$107.3 billion.

The MYFER \$22.6 billion included the estimated material cost escalations as well as unfunded infrastructure commitments made by the former Labor government.

First Cross River Rail passenger services was expected to commence in 2029, after the former Labor Government originally promised Queenslanders, the project would be completed for \$5.4 billion by 2024. The Crisafulli Government revealed the final price tag of Labor's Cross River Rail cover-up and failures was \$19 billion.

Furthermore, the Crisafulli government inherited a \$6.7 billion road and transport blowout including an \$11 million blowout on the Hervey Bay Booral and Boundary Rd intersection and a \$19 million blowout on the Maryborough-Hervey Bay and Pialba-Burrum Heads Rd intersection.

The Queensland Productivity Commission's (QPC) Report: 'Opportunities to improve productivity of the construction industry' exposed a 9% decline in Queensland's productivity in the construction industry since 2018, equating to 77,000 fewer new homes.

Labour productivity in the construction industry had increased just 5 per cent in the past 30 years compared to 65 per cent in the market economy over the same period.

The QPC also projected Best Practice Industry Conditions (BPIC) would cost Queenslanders up to \$20.6 billion over the five years to 2030, with fewer homes built and entrenched higher rents.

The Crisafulli Government has permanently removed BPIC from the Queensland government's procurement policy.

The Crisafulli government's independent review of Labor's botched Queensland Health capacity expansion program found the price tag of the former government's hospital capacity expansion program (CEP)—originally costed at \$9.8 billion—was projected to reach \$17 billion.

The Hervey Bay Hospital expansion under Labor had blown out from \$40 million to \$94 million.

A 2025/26 Queensland Audit Office Health Report highlighted that under the former Labor government there was a \$587 million increase in deferred and postponed high-risk capital maintenance; payroll management of overtime and lack of cyber security controls.

Baroness Margaret Thatcher, the former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom once said, "The state has no source of money other than the money people earn themselves ... There is no such thing as public money; there is only taxpayers money."

The Crisafulli government is restoring respect for Queenslanders' money.

Labor's legacy to Queensland was one of debt, deficit and deception.

Labor's misleading and deceptive conduct was writ large in Hervey Bay when residents observed Labor's 2024 spurious pre-election claims that they had delivered a new fire and rescue station, a new Hervey Bay Hospital multistorey car park; an upgraded Maryborough-Hervey Bay and Pialba-Burrum Heads Road intersection and a new River Heads pontoon. These manifestly false representations were either completely or partially unfunded or subject to further Federal government negotiation.

As the Member for Hervey Bay, I will continue to calmly and methodically build a strong, responsible and enduring foundation for public and private investment to sustain our rapidly expanding Hervey Bay population.

I will continue to persuasively and doggedly advocate for the timely development of strategic growth projects such as the Urangan Harbour precinct; co-location of the Hervey Bay TAFE campus with the University of Sunshine Coast campus; a cardiac catheter lab at the Hervey Bay Hospital; implementation of the Hervey Bay Hospital masterplan; additional federal funding to upgrade the Maryborough-Hervey Bay Highway and Pialba-Burrum Heads Rd intersection; completion of the Fraser Coast Integrated Transport Strategy; supported accommodation for our homeless youth; and safe and stable accommodation for victims of domestic and family violence.

In closing, this budget is a positive and constructive step forward for Hervey Bay.

I am deeply conscious of Kipling's 'unforgiving minute' and the importance of 'filling sixty seconds worth of distance run'. I will use every opportunity to advocate for stronger sustainable investment in our Hervey Bay infrastructure and services to meet the growing needs of our community.

I commend this Budget to the House.



Ms MULLEN (Jordan—ALP) (3.39 pm): 'Operation Budget Boring' is well underway. Despite the government's best spin, this is a budget that delivers very little for the people of Queensland. People in our communities are hurting. We have seen continuing impacts from the conflicts in the Middle East, which is something the government itself has acknowledged in the Budget Strategy and Outlook, which states—

Disruptions to oil and gas supply has led to a surge in global prices which are expected to flow into economy-wide inflation pressures in the near term.

The LNP government are profiting from this conflict. They know that Queenslanders need help, but the only new initiative they could offer was freezing bulk water prices for two years. This amounts to a saving of \$65 per year, per household. That is it. That was the only new cost-of-living initiative the government announced, but now we understand that is not even on the table, with the water retailers hiking up costs and confirming many residents in South-East Queensland council areas will not even receive the savings. What an embarrassment for the Crisafulli LNP government and their hapless water minister.

When we look closely at all of their other supposed cost-of-living measures, they may have changed the names and wrapped them in blue but they are all Labor's policies and initiatives: Back to School Boost—Labor initiative; Play On! vouchers—Labor initiative; free kindy—Labor initiative; kids health checks—Labor initiative. The Treasurer's big announcement was that 50-cent fares would be legislated—welcome to the party, comrades. If you want things done in this state, just ask the Queensland opposition to introduce legislation and the government will follow.

In a community like mine, representing the two fastest growing regions in Queensland, it is deeply concerning to see a reduction in weighted activity for both Metro South Health and West Moreton Health services, as outlined in the SDS. For Metro South, this would impact Logan Hospital with a reduction in activity funding for outpatients, subacute care and the emergency department. For West Moreton, this is presenting a reduction—get this—in prevention and primary care. It is one of the most critical areas where we can be proactive when it comes to the health of people in Ipswich and it is being reduced. The Treasurer could not answer the opposition's questions on this, dismissing our concerns. When the environment minister can dismiss the increase in the waste levy to population growth but the Treasurer refuses to take population growth into account when it comes to the activity funding for our two fastest growing regions, something is clearly not right.

The LNP government is also continuing to flog the dead horse around funding for the Mater Springfield public hospital, but our community knows the truth. This was a Labor project—supported by Labor and delivered by Labor for the people of Greater Springfield and the broader western corridor. Our former Labor government's decision to build a new hospital in Springfield is vindicated, given we are already seeing on average 100 emergency presentations each day, including 30 through ambulance arrivals.

Education continues to be vitally important to the people of Jordan. I represent one of the youngest electorates in this state, and I am proud to represent 19 schools. It was good to see that the new primary school for Flagstone was referenced, but it is one of eight new schools to be built. We need clarity on the timing and the funding of this as soon as possible. There is no clarity on this at all. I was at Flagstone State School only last week and the school is seeing continued growth from the priority development area developments.

The special school campus in the Springfield-Redbank area has supposedly started to be constructed at Woogaroo Creek State School through a modular model, and a principal has now been appointed for those two campuses. That joint campus is a very new model of delivery for Queensland, and I will be pressing the government to ensure it is well supported to succeed. So many of our local families have been asking for a special school in our region—again, a project planned under Labor and one I am proud to support. I believe families have the best understanding of their children's needs and deserve choice when it comes to education.

Sadly, though, there has been no update or funding for the senior campus for Springfield Central State High School. This is very concerning, and I will be following this up with the minister, who was quite dismissive when I asked him a question on notice recently. I will not allow our community to be ignored because we need action on the future of Springfield Central State High, which is already bursting at the seams, despite refurbishments approved and funded by the previous Labor government which are only happening now.

The same goes for the new Greenbank high school. The member for Logan and I had a win for our community, forcing the LNP government to purchase the land for the new high school, but there is no update or funding in this budget. The school must be developed by 2029. That is when the first cohort of prep students at Everleigh State School across the road will reach year 7, and we cannot expect Park Ridge State High School to be the catchment school for this pipeline of students as well.

The most disappointing aspect of this year's budget, once again, is infrastructure, particularly funding for road and transport projects for Ipswich. The Minister for Main Roads has completely ignored our calls for a real plan for the Centenary Highway. The Centenary Highway, as I have said multiple times in this chamber, is critical to the people of the western suburbs and the Ipswich areas of Springfield, Redbank Plains, White Rock, Ripley, Deebing Heights and Yamanto.

Our communities deserve to see a public-facing master plan for this section of the highway that specifies the upgrade projects along the corridor and prioritises them. We are being left behind. All we are asking for is some attention for the fastest growing region in Queensland. The minister and his department are literally drip-feeding the remaining funding Labor committed for the Centenary Highway. There is no new funding, no solutions, no update—nothing. It is not good enough that our Ipswich communities have to watch the LNP government spend billions on their so-called generational infrastructure projects on the Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast—effectively two buses, one of which will not even have dedicated lanes. Our Centenary campaign will continue. It will grow. We will continue to put pressure on this government to stop ignoring Ipswich and fund us appropriately.

If the government want to talk about generational infrastructure, I am happy to give some real examples. Let's start with the Ipswich-Springfield rail line, which is in limbo. Labor funded the preliminary options analysis. We know it is finished and we want it released, but the government claim that they do not release early planning documents. That is rubbish. The former Labor government released the options analysis summary report for the Salisbury-Beaudesert rail project when it was completed. We funded the detailed business case. We understand it has started, but the Ipswich City Council elected representatives and staff have been sworn to secrecy by TMR and have been told they cannot tell state members in the area what is happening. What is that all about? Why are public servants being politicised in this way? Our communities deserve to know what is happening with this important rail corridor, and the vague mention in QTRIP will not cut it.

More generational infrastructure is the Salisbury-Beaunes rail line—another critical project for the people I represent in the massively growing communities of Greenbank, New Beith and Flagstone. Labor at both a state and federal level have funded a business case, but, again, QTRIP is very light on detail. There is no funding allocated in this financial year and a vague comment around corridor preservation, which we saw last year. Clearly, nothing has happened in more than 12 months.

Overall, it is a very disappointing budget for the people of my electorate of Jordan. There is no real cost-of-living relief; there is limited investment in education and health; and transport and road projects have been pushed out to the never-never.

I also wish to comment on a few matters within my shadow portfolio. Sadly, the disappointments continue. This budget is best described as lacklustre, particularly for home owners and industry. There is no vision, no ambition and no real plan on how this LNP government will move forward on the bloated infrastructure construction pipeline. While other states are making critical investment into new programs like modern methods of construction and expanding workforce development pipelines, this government has sat on its hands, giving no new or increased funding towards developing our own MMC strategy or the workforce to support it. These concerns are shared by stakeholders. The Property Council stated in their budget response—

... without more progress on dedicated research and funding—as we called for in our Pre-Budget Submission and as seen in today's New South Wales budget, we won't realise the productivity gains needed to grow capacity and deliver at scale.

There was a real opportunity for this investment in the budget. Instead, Queensland is set to lag under the Crisafulli LNP government. When it comes to housing reform, I am just glad that Labor is putting forward some really good, practical solutions like free rego for construction apprentices. That is really good policy.

It has also been well reported that the QBCC staff have been overburdened by ballooning caseloads. With no new investment in QBCC staffing levels, it appears the minister is fully satisfied for that to remain the case. I feel sorry for the staff but, even more so, I feel sorry for those Queenslanders who remain waiting for their cases to progress—Queenslanders like Michelle, who explained how she felt 'ghosted' by the QBCC after submitting a claim for defective and unfinished building work in 2025. She said—

They were completely dismissive. No one rang, no one contacted me. When they finally did contact, they pretty much told me nothing and said they can't do anything about it.

Or Amanda, who said—

Had issues with our builder. Went through with mediation as directed by QBCC. When the builder didn't uphold his side, QBCC cast our claim to the side, stating that we needed to resubmit and go through mediation again. It took 12 months just to get back to where we started. Still with the same problems, while being further out of pocket.

Or Mel, who said—

What positive impact is the QBCC having on the industry? With so many negative experiences, Queenslanders need to see a significant change.

We keep hearing from the minister that changes are on the horizon, but we are almost two years into the LNP's reign and Queenslanders are still waiting and clearly will continue to wait.

Mr O'Connor interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): Member for Bonney will put his comments through the chair.

Ms MULLEN: Queensland is proudly one of Australia's most diverse states, with vibrant multicultural communities from every corner of the world contributing to our economy, our culture and our social fabric. So I was disappointed, though not surprised, that this LNP government has presented a lacklustre budget full of wavering commitments and far-right virtue signalling that treats culturally and linguistically diverse Queenslanders as nothing more than a box to be ticked.

No bold vision for strengthening social cohesion—just a measly \$1.5 million 'cohesion package' or is it a 'partnership package', or maybe it is both. I do not know and I suspect that the LNP do not know either. It is just whatever needs to be said to check the box which is why there was not even one mention of multiculturalism in the Treasurer's budget speech.

Then we look at their 'flagship' multicultural infrastructure funding. What a doozy! Of the total \$1.25 million that the LNP claimed was on the table for the first round of applications, only half of the funding has been allocated in 2026-27. That is either a lot of disappointed multicultural community organisations that were turned away in the inaugural first round or possibly, and worse, they have made

it so hard to apply for that half is all that could be distributed. At a time when conservative political forces have targeted our multicultural communities, policy and investment should not be a tokenistic afterthought buried within broader programs. It needs dedicated investment and a clear strategy.

In stark contrast, our Labor opposition stands in proud solidarity with Queensland's diverse and multicultural communities. We understand that communities need accessible services, strong settlement support, language assistance, community leadership programs and initiatives that build social cohesion, respect and understanding across cultures. That is why I am so proud that under a re-elected Labor government we will double the funding to \$2 million per year for the Celebrating Multicultural Queensland program that will support more organisations across our state to host cultural festivals, community events and multifaith gatherings. Whether it is Diwali, Ramadan, Lunar New Year, Matsuri or Paniyiri, we all want Queenslanders to share in the glorious melting pot that is Queensland because we recognise them as not just gatherings or events for their own sake but opportunities to create spaces for greater understanding, acceptance and unity.

We have also committed to doubling the funding for the Strengthening Multicultural Queensland program to \$4 million a year that will allow more and multiyear projects that work to build an inclusive, harmonious and united Queensland. Labor will always champion multiculturalism, and we will fight against any premise of forcing a monoculture on our country—a concept that is dangerous, divisive and hateful for so many Queenslanders in our state. On this side of the House, we will stand up to One Nation, unlike the Queensland LNP, who will just do dirty deals with them.

In conclusion, once again we have a state budget delivered full of deceptive figures, delusional narratives, disappearing programs and general disappointment. This is another budget that costs you more but gives you less.

 **Hon. RM BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training) (3.53 pm): In October 2024 Queenslanders voted for a fresh start. They voted for a government to get on with the job. Last year our first budget lay the foundations for that fresh start, and this year we strengthen them. It was a surprise that this lazy opposition brought up their unsuccessful programs that they never intended to keep. Labor's apprenticeship tool program struggled to attract recipients. We had to extend it to spend the full allocation which probably explains why the Leader of the Opposition did not commit to bringing the program back. We are fully funding free apprenticeships, and our commitment to extending the Small Business Apprenticeship Pilot Program has been welcomed by industry and the opposition.

Our focus is on fixing Labor's skills mess and supporting Queenslanders into the secure and skilled jobs they need. We will never forget the mess Labor left behind, and Queenslanders will never forget either. The Crisafulli LNP government were elected to fix it, and that is exactly what we are doing. This budget recognises pressure on families and businesses, stays focused on delivery and delivers a better lifestyle through a stronger economy.

This budget also delivers for my electorate of Mudgeeraba. For families in Advancetown, Austinville, Bonogin, Lower Beechmont, Merrimac, Mudgeeraba, Natural Bridge, Neranwood, Numinbah Valley, Reedy Creek, Springbrook, Tallai, Robina, Carrara, Clagiraba, Gilston, Worongary and Tallebudgera Valley, a budget is about safer communities, better services and whether government is listening and delivering—and this budget delivers.

It provides \$30.3 million to upgrade the Gold Coast-Springbrook Road causeway at Austinville, with work already underway to improve flood resilience and access for the community; \$18.5 million to upgrade visitor facilities at The Settlement precinct and Purling Brook Falls Circuit in Springbrook National Park; \$17.9 million for infrastructure and security upgrades at Numinbah Correctional Centre; \$9.8 million for a new heated 25-metre pool at the Mudgeeraba Aquatic Centre; \$1.5 million for the Gold Coast Community Legal Centre to continue providing legal support for those who need it; \$820,000 to transform the playground at Gilston State School into a modern outdoor learning area; more than \$850,000 for maintenance and minor works across schools throughout the electorate; \$100,000 to support Austinville Landcare's work restoring and improving the health of Mudgeeraba Creek; and families will benefit from initiatives including the expanded Healthy Kindy Kids program and the Back to School Boost for every primary school student.

These are practical investments that address local needs and support families. I will fight every day for Mudgeeraba, and I am proud to be part of a government delivering for my community and for Queensland.

In my portfolios of finance, trade, employment and training, this budget has one clear purpose: to strengthen the foundations of a stronger economy and build the workforce Queensland needs. That starts with disciplined finances, responsible decisions and respecting taxpayers' money. That is why this budget delivers no new or increased taxes for the second year running, when families and businesses are already under pressure.

Queensland has a major delivery task ahead: roads, housing, energy, regional projects and the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. They are delivered by skilled workers—apprentices, tradies, engineers, technicians—and businesses with the confidence to invest and grow. This \$1.6 billion Trade, Employment and Training budget matters. It backs Queensland's industries, exporters, workers, apprentices and trainees. It lands when businesses and families are looking for certainty.

The Crisafulli LNP government's plan respects taxpayers' money, backs investment, supports trade and trains the workforce industry needs. It will help unlock Queensland's critical minerals sector through the \$100 million boost to the \$250 million Queensland Critical Minerals Fund. It delivers the pipeline of skilled workers needed to build Queensland's future, including \$104.8 million for TAFE Queensland and CQUniversity to support high-quality training delivery.

Queenslanders will continue to have access to free training places, even when the Albanese Labor government is putting them at risk, plus funding for more free nursing places in 2027 to strengthen Queensland's health front line. This year we funded 2,000 places. That is 2,000 future enrolled nurses in the pipeline. There is \$68.9 million to continue delivery of four new TAFE centres of excellence in Rockhampton, Caloundra, Petrie and the Southern Moreton Bay Islands. It backs Queensland to be Australia's premier destination for international education and training through \$2.8 million in continued support and it provides \$44.2 million to meet growing demand for apprentices.

The Leader of the Opposition has nothing to say about trade or Queensland exporters, despite the pivotal role trade has in our economy because he knows he closed Queensland for business. Labor talked about skills while employers were left struggling to find workers—well, not anymore. Labor talked about training while too many Queenslanders were left without a clear pathway—well, not anymore. Labor talked about the future but failed to prepare for it—well, not anymore.

The Crisafulli LNP government is getting on with the job of delivering. We are backing critical minerals, trade, TAFE, apprentices and skilled workers. The Speaker has reviewed and approved my speech for incorporation. As such, I ask that the remainder of my speech be incorporated into the *Record of Proceedings*.

The speech read as follows—

This Budget keeps the momentum going because it understands a simple truth.

Queensland's future depends on a stronger economy.

And a stronger economy depends on disciplined finances, stronger trade, more jobs and better skills.

That is why the portfolios of Finance, Trade, Employment and Training are central to this Budget.

They are how government respects taxpayers' money.

They are how Queensland businesses reach the world.

They are how employers find workers.

They are how apprentices and trainees build careers.

And they are how Queensland prepares for the future.

Finance is about trust.

Queenslanders deserve to know their money is being managed with care.

They deserve to know programs are delivering results.

They deserve to know agencies are being held to account.

And they deserve to know government is making responsible decisions today and for the future.

For too long, Labor confused spending with delivery.

It confused announcements with outcomes.

Queenslanders paid the price.

The Crisafulli LNP Government—takes a different approach.

Every dollar in this Budget comes from Queenslanders who work hard, pay their bills and expect government to show the same discipline.

This Budget backs what works—better services, stronger growth and decisions that deliver value for taxpayers.

This Budget delivers no new or increased taxes for the second year running.

That is a clear signal to families, businesses and investors that the Crisafulli LNP Government is focused on certainty, discipline and better value for Queensland taxpayers.

A strong Budget also needs to back growth.

Queensland cannot reach its potential by looking inward.

We need investment.

We need international engagement.

And we need more Queensland businesses with the confidence to take the next step.

That is why trade matters.

Queensland has what the world wants.

Our food and agriculture.

Our resources and energy.

Our advanced manufacturing.

Our education and our training.

Our tourism and innovation.

And our people.

Because when Queensland businesses sell to the world, Queenslanders benefit at home.

Export supports jobs, regional communities, small and family businesses, and local economies.

It also tells the world Queensland is stable, reliable, ambitious and Open for Business.

That is the message the Crisafulli LNP Government is taking to the market.

Because this is the QueensLand of Opportunity.

Critical minerals are a clear example of that opportunity.

They are not just resources in the ground.

They are part of the global supply chains the world needs for energy, defence, manufacturing and technology.

Yes, Queensland has the resources.

But having the resources is not enough.

We need to extract, process and export them.

We need to attract investment to do that.

And we need to turn what we have into long-term jobs and economic strength for Queenslanders.

That is why this Budget will help unlock Queensland's critical minerals sector through an additional \$100 million for the Queensland Critical Minerals Fund.

The 2026-27 Budget also commits \$420 million to CopperString—as part of a total \$3.2 billion-dollar investment.

CopperString is about more than power.

It is about unlocking the North West Minerals Province.

It is about supporting regional jobs.

And it is about giving investors confidence that Queensland is serious about critical minerals.

Together, these investments tell investors Queensland is serious.

They tell industry Queensland is ready.

And they tell regional communities the Crisafulli LNP Government wants them to share in the opportunities ahead.

This Budget also backs Queensland's international education and training sector.

International education and training is Queensland's largest services export.

It supports jobs.

It strengthens our global relationships.

And it brings students from around the world to live, study and work in Queensland.

The Crisafulli LNP Government knows Queensland is Australia's premier study destination.

That is why we are delivering a further two point-eight (\$2.8) million dollars in increased funding to continue support for the sector.

This is about more than enrolments.

It is about Queensland's reputation.

It is about export growth.

And it is about making sure Queensland is seen as the land of opportunity, quality and confidence.

A stronger economy also needs skilled workers.

That has never been more important.

Queensland is preparing for one of the largest delivery periods in our State's history.

We need workers for roads, housing, energy, resources, health facilities, regional projects, critical minerals and the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The Games will bring enormous opportunity, but the opportunity does not begin in 2032.

It begins now.

It begins with the apprentices we train.

The TAFE teachers we support.

The skills pathways we build.

The regional workforces we strengthen.

And the small businesses we back to take people on.

Every major project, every new investment, every growing business and every regional opportunity depends on people.

The electricians, fitters, mechanics, construction workers, apprentices and trainers who build, maintain and grow Queensland every day.

That is why this Budget puts skills at the centre of economic policy.

Skills drive jobs.

Jobs drive confidence.

And confidence drives growth.

The Crisafulli LNP Government is focused on training that leads somewhere.

Training that leads to a job.

Training that meets industry need.

Training that gives a young person a start.

And training that gives employers the skilled workers they need.

That means listening to industry, backing TAFE, supporting apprentices and trainees, and making training practical and relevant.

Queenslanders do not want programs designed for a brochure.

They want skills that lead to employment and pathways that make sense.

That is what this Budget supports.

The sixty-eight point nine (\$68.9) million-dollar investment to continue delivery of four new TAFE Centres of Excellence is a major part of that plan.

Rockhampton, Caloundra, Petrie, The Southern Moreton Bay Islands.

These Centres will support training linked to the workforce needs of growing communities and key industries.

They will give Queenslanders's access to better facilities.

They will help employers access skilled workers.

And they will strengthen TAFE's role as a central part of Queensland's economic future.

This Budget also provides forty-four point two (\$44.2) million dollars to meet growing demand for apprentices.

That tells us something important.

Queenslanders want to work.

They want to train.

They want to build a trade.

The role of government is to make sure the system can keep pace.

That is what this Budget does.

It backs apprentices, employers, industry and the skilled workforce Queensland needs.

This Budget also recognises the role of regional Queensland.

Our regions grow the food, mine the resources, welcome the visitors, build the products, train the workers, create the exports and power the State.

When regional Queensland succeeds, Queensland succeeds.

That is why our approach to employment and training must be practical and local.

A young person in Rockhampton should be able to train for a good job.

A business in Cairns should be able to reach new markets.

And a community in Bundaberg should be backed with practical solutions.

Every region should know the Crisafulli LNP Government sees its value and backs its future.

There is a clear thread through this Budget.

Disciplined finances.

Stronger trade.

Skilled workers.

That is the portfolio story.

And that is how this Budget strengthens the foundations for Queensland's future.

Good financial management gives business confidence.

That confidence supports investment.

Investment supports trade.

Trade creates demand and jobs.

And those jobs require skills, training and opportunity.

That matters because Queensland has a decade of delivery ahead.

We need the workers to build the homes, roads, projects, venues and industries our State needs.

We need the skills to make the most of Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

And we need the confidence to turn Queensland's advantages into long-term jobs and prosperity.

That is what this Budget is designed to do.

It turns the fresh start Queenslanders voted for into practical delivery.

And it makes clear the Crisafulli LNP Government is focused on the future.

Those opposite will have plenty to say.

They always do.

But Queenslanders have seen the difference.

They have seen a Government focused on delivery.

A Government prepared to make decisions.

A Government that takes financial discipline seriously.
And a Government backing trade, skills and Queensland's place in the world.
Because Labor had its chance.
The greatest chance to serve Queenslanders.
Instead, Labor left pressure, decline and excuses.
Labor weakened the foundations.
The Crisafulli LNP Government is strengthening them.
That is the contrast.
And Queenslanders know it.
Last year, we laid the foundations for a fresh start.
This year, this Budget strengthens them.
It strengthens them through disciplined finances.
Through stronger trade.
Through new investment.
Through TAFE, apprenticeships, and skilled workers.
And through a clear plan to build Queensland's future.
The job is not finished.
No serious Government would pretend otherwise.
But Queensland is moving in the right direction.
The plan is clear.
The work is underway.
The foundations are stronger.
And the Crisafulli LNP Government will keep delivering for Queensland.



Hon. MC BAILEY (Miller—ALP) (3.59 pm): This Crisafulli LNP government budget will cost Queenslanders more and deliver them less, especially in health, mental health and ambulance services, where broken election promises and poor performance guarantee it. This is a budget of bad news and blowouts: so many election promises broken; budgets blowing out; doctors and nurses ignored in favour of outdated ideology; and an outpatient waitlist crisis with a 23 per cent blowout in the last year and a half since their election. This is not a meat pie budget; it is a pork pie budget.

When tested recently, Premier Crisafulli ran away from the standards of integrity he set in opposition in a sprint that would have been competitive against the marathon world record holder Sabastian Sawe. On the back of losing a minister, we have seen constant leaks from both the government and the bureaucracy as dissent grows within this mean and tricky government of spin, slogans and suppression. This is a government and Premier not living up to the standards they have set: a government hostile to keeping its election promises; a government with outdated ideologies instead of best practice medical practice and advice; a government blocking hospital expansions and health services; and a government treating this chamber with contempt with its Bjelke-Petersen style muzzling of debate, constant last-minute amendments, a pattern of frivolous points of order against standing orders, and the misuse of urgency provisions as a tactical device to prevent proper scrutiny of legislation. We were promised an open and transparent government by Premier Crisafulli, but from day one we got Temu Trump tactics with a slippery Premier and his amateur thespian sidekick the member for Kawana, who would run behind Trump all day, every day holding his coat and hairspray if only he had the opportunity.

During an interview about this budget the health minister was publicly unsure whether to support Premier Crisafulli. Minister Nicholls was asked the simplest of questions by journalist Taylah Fellows: did he prefer Premier Crisafulli or the member for Kawana? It was a simple question. After an excruciatingly long six seconds, after much thought and internal dialogue Minister Nicholls finally grudgingly lumped his support for Premier Crisafulli. He spat out the Premier's name as if he had bitten

into something that had gone off. And he had, because this budget is off. It is another bad, blowout budget from a powerless Treasurer out of his depth—cuts, delays, blowouts, no responsibility taken, no energy rebates, numerous Labor infrastructure projects wrapped in LNP blue.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): The House will come to order. Member for Bonney, I am looking at you.

Mr BAILEY: Paul Gallen would be proud. The LNP promised this budget would make Queenslanders' lives easier, but this will make it harder. Queensland families looking to this budget for help will see practically nothing in it. While the LNP government is cashing in on coal and gas royalties from Trump's war, Queensland families facing a statewide cost-of-living crisis are seeing precious little of that money passed on to them. Premier Crisafulli promised he would deliver in this budget but he has not.

Queenslanders remember what Premier Crisafulli promised: no health cuts; 2,200 new hospital beds by 2028; doctors and nurses back in charge; openness and transparency; no new stadiums; heavy rail to Maroochydore by 2032; and that he would honour Labor's 2024 budget. But then he got elected, and it is clear that Premier Crisafulli is full of it. All of those election promises were broken: cancer treatment workers were threatened with a 25 per cent pay cut; loyal public servants lost their jobs; and millions and millions in public funds were spent on a blue blitz of self-promotion online, on billboards, in newspapers, in cinemas and on YouTube—you name it, there it is—but there was no workforce strategy for the health sector released in this budget that is so desperately demanded and needed by stakeholders.

After months and months of pressure from patients, advocates, the media and the Miles Labor opposition, the government reluctantly moved on the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme. How underwhelming was their slothful response to regional Queensland? Cystic Fibrosis Queensland, which led the campaign for an increase to the PTSS, was incredibly disappointed and said that these PTSS changes are less than half of what they asked for. Almost 6,000 petitioners were ignored. Leaving the accommodation subsidy at \$70 is, in their words, a bitter disappointment for regional patients. Rural patient advocate Justine Christerson called it gut-wrenching. The Leukaemia Foundation said the 11-cent fuel increase barely touches the sides. Their CEO said, 'You cannot drive 600 kilometres for life-saving chemotherapy and then sleep in your car because you cannot afford a bed.'

Many other health stakeholders have been forced into one-year contracts in this budget—not three or five—undermining their capacity. Many cannot get a meeting with Minister Nicholls after 20 months in office. That is what health stakeholders have to say about Premier Crisafulli and the health minister's token changes to the PTSS. The accommodation rate is still \$70 a night. It has not kept pace with inflation. This out-of-touch health minister refuses to lift it by one cent. While regional Queenslanders get bombarded with millions of dollars worth of self-promotion ads—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will start warning members under the standing orders soon.

Mr BAILEY: It is obscene from a mean and tricky Crisafulli government. South Australia shows how weak this is. The Malinauskas Labor government lifted their accommodation subsidy to \$110 a night. Queensland under the LNP is stuck at \$70—\$40 behind South Australia. Mean! The health minister claims that PTSS is nation-leading. Lol! How out of touch is he? Try getting a room near the PA, the RBWH or Townsville or Cairns hospitals for \$70. Regional cancer patients, renal patients, maternity patients and families with sick kids—

Mr Crandon interjected.

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

Mr BAILEY:—will be left massively out of pocket by the Crisafulli government, whose weak-kneed regional MPs are as useful as a glass door on a dunny. Premier Crisafulli funds millions of dollars for the LNP's blue propaganda blitz but he refuses to fund motel rooms for sick regional Queensland hospital patients.

Mr KEMPTON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order: unparliamentary language.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I did not actually hear that. I will just take some advice. Member for Miller, I did not hear what you said, but the advice I have received is that it was borderline.

Mr BAILEY: I am happy to withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: It would assist the House, thank you.

Mr BAILEY: That is the choice in this budget: more propaganda but not enough help for sick Queenslanders. Where are the 2,200 beds promised by 2028 in this budget? Where are the timelines for hospital expansions in Bundaberg, Prince Charles, Townsville, Bundaberg stage 2, Coomera and the Queensland Cancer Centre? Where are the funding commitments? If the government is so committed to those 93 beds at Prince Charles as claimed, then where is the funding and timeline in the budget? They are not there. They are hidden away with only two pages of detail in Budget Capital Statement, Budget Paper No. 3—half of the detail in Labor's last budget. They hide the details because they are not open and transparent. They go for secrecy every single time.

The LNP said they would deliver generational infrastructure, but in fact the LNP have delayed many road, rail and hospital projects. Premier Crisafulli said he would deliver projects on time and on budget. Lol! The LNP is delaying around \$4.9 billion worth of infrastructure, mostly in transport, main roads and health. Where are the mute local LNP MPs speaking up for their local hospitals—the members for Coomera, Mackay, Townsville, Thuringowa, Mundingburra and Redcliffe? It seem the cats do have their tongues. They are as silent as the member for Clayfield was when he was asked whether he preferred Premier Crisafulli or the member for Kawana. That is the problem with these useless new LNP MPs. Before the election they promised a lot; after the election, when their own government blocked hospital builds, they sold out their constituents and sewed their lips shut. They were brave before the election but obedient and meek after it. Bundaberg was promised a hospital; now they are getting half a hospital years late. This Premier is good on the photo-op and weak on the follow-up.

The Albanese government is increasing national health reform funding by \$1.2 billion, a 16 per cent increase. Where is the state's funding? The combined hospital and health services budget goes from \$24.3 billion to \$25.4 billion. That is about \$1.1 billion extra, only about 4.6 per cent, so the Albanese Labor government's increase is larger than the total increase going into health service budgets. Let that sink in. Canberra is putting a lot more money for health on the table and this government still cannot properly fund the hospital and health services. They can try to shift blame until they are blue in the face—or blue on the billboard—but the budget papers tell a different story. Federal health funding is up 16 per cent, but the total health budget is up 7.3 per cent and direct HHSs budgets are up only 4.6 per cent. That is barely enough to cover wage increases and nowhere near enough to fix the surgery waitlists, the ballooning outpatient waitlist crisis, emergency departments, rural staffing or the beds they promised. Yes, some national health reform money goes outside the HHSs to Mater, Surgery Connect et cetera, but there is no serious alignment between the massive federal increase and what the Crisafulli government is putting into direct hospital delivery. We then find that more than \$1 billion in health capital was not spent this financial year—more than a billion dollars. We had hospitals and hospital expansions delayed, projects blocked and beds pushed out. The funding was pocketed and not spent on health and hospitals. That is the record of this out-of-touch health minister, and it is all there in the budget papers from a mean and tricky government.

Last year the Building Rural and Remote Health Program had \$180 million budgeted to spend, but the budget papers show only \$147 million was actually spent, which is an underspend of \$33 million. Meanwhile, the total program cost blew out by more than \$135 million. The Cairns Hospital has beds projected from its expansion in 2027, but there is no budgeted staff increase in 2026-27. The Central Queensland HHS has budgeted for no staff increase: none. There is an increased demand, but no staff. There is more pressure, but no staff. There are bigger promises, but no extra staff for Central Queensland.

Actual emergency department activity across Queensland in 2025-26 was 410,271 weighted activity units. Incredibly, the target for the next financial year is lower, at 406,860. They are budgeting for less emergency department activity. Let that sink in. You have to wonder what planet this Premier and this health minister live on. They are budgeting for less emergency department activity, when in the last year the percentage of emergency department patients seen within the recommended time statewide fell in three out of the four categories. There are several HHSs in clear crisis; they are going backwards due to an aloof and arrogant health minister.

In Mackay, 51 per cent of category 1 elective surgery patients—the highest category—are not being seen within the clinically recommended times. That is half of those patients. That number has got 23 percentage points worse in just the last financial year. Even worse, more than two-thirds of category 2s and 70 per cent of category 3s are not being seen in recommended times. The minister comes in here and crows, when the Mackay health service's performance is dropping like a stone.

In Central Queensland we see a horror show across-the-board: ED performance is down in four of the five categories; the number of elective surgery patients not treated within the clinically recommended times is up in all categories; and half of all category 1 specialist outpatients, which is the top category, and nearly three-quarters of category 2s are waiting longer than clinically recommended. Where are the members for Rockhampton and Keppel? What does the member for Rockhampton have to say about the specialist outpatient crisis in her own backyard? Absolutely nothing. She is absolutely mute.

In Wide Bay, the specialist outpatient crisis is even worse. Unbelievably, 60 per cent of category 1 specialist outpatients are waiting longer than clinically recommended—60 per cent in the most serious category. That is a 24 per cent increase in just one year in Wide Bay. You frankly have to wonder what is the point of the LNP members for Hervey Bay, Maryborough and Callide because they say nothing about this whatsoever. Even the home town of our powerless Treasurer is not immune from the rot spreading in the health system, with more specialist outpatients in the Darling Downs waiting longer than clinically recommended in every single category than a year ago. Why is the Treasurer ignoring the health of his own Toowoomba community? Premier Crisafulli promised no health cuts. Since then, this is what we have seen: the Workforce Attraction Incentive Scheme has been cut; the transfer initiative nurse funding has been cut; nurse-led clinic hours have been cut; pill testing has been cut; and gender services for new patients have been stopped.

Then there is the Timely Investment Infrastructure Maintenance program, or the TIIM program. How colossal does the health minister's ego have to be to name a Queensland Health program after himself? Can you imagine if I did that? It is a vanity acronym from this health minister as he names a program after himself. Only Minister Nicholls could look at the state of Queensland Health under his watch and think what it needed was more 'TIIM'.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): Order! That's enough. The House will come to order.

Mr BAILEY: Meanwhile, the AMA backed pill testing and GPs backed pill testing. Emergency physicians, addiction specialists and pharmacists backed pill testing, but the Crisafulli government ignored them all. Clinicians warned about gender services. The Vine review put forward an evidence-based pathway, and the Crisafulli government ignored that as well. Then there is the Chief Health Officer scandal. There was a global recruitment process, an expert medical panel, a successful candidate and a job offer, but then it was revoked. Premier Crisafulli seems to have stuck his beak in, the offer vanished and Minister Nicholls looked powerless in his own portfolio. The CCC report is not far away and I am looking forward to its release.

What about flu prevention? That was botched. They spent more on their blue propaganda blitz than on getting people vaccinated last year. Queensland trails the national vaccination average yet again. The government learnt nothing from last year and it is a pathetic performance in 2026. What happened to the big Queensland cancer plan in this budget? A few months ago, the Queensland health minister stood up at the Queensland Media Club address and made a grand announcement on the Queensland cancer plan, so where is it in the budget? Where is the funding? Where is the timeline?

Mr O'Connor interjected.

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

Mr BAILEY: He is big on the photo-op but terrible on the follow-up. What about the Women and Girls' Health Strategy? Public IVF for women with cancer and complex conditions was supposed to be delivered. Again, there is no sign of it. The current palliative care strategy lapses as of next week and there is no replacement under Minister Nicholls: absolutely none. The Fraser Coast Hospice begged for help after helping 950 people at the end of life over the last four years, but they were ignored by this minister and duded by the ineffective members for Maryborough and Hervey Bay. At least the hospice can get a meeting with me. I was glad to meet with them to thank them for their work. Epilepsy Queensland, like many health organisations, are now facing the prospect of scaling back vital free statewide services because their funding is failing to keep pace with need.

Government members interjected.

Mr BAILEY: This is an appalling budget for health from an out-of-touch and mean spirited government.

Government members interjected.

(Time expired)

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Before I call the member for Nanango, who were the members who indulged in that countdown? That was highly disorderly. I will be watching each of you closely. I do not want to hear that again.



Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (4.16 pm): I rise to speak on the 2026 Queensland state budget. This is another great budget from the Crisafulli government. It is a budget that strengthens the foundations for the fresh start that Queenslanders voted for. It is a budget laser focused on continuing to deliver the things that matter. This budget means continuing to deliver better and faster access to justice for victims by putting them first. It means continuing our work to make Queenslanders safer in their homes and their streets, with stronger laws, more police, early intervention and rehabilitation.

The former Labor government refused to tackle crime during their decade of decline. Their weak laws spawned a generation of serious repeat offenders and a youth crime crisis. The number of robberies and stolen vehicles went up under the former Labor government by almost 100 per cent, and victims of crime increased by about 200 per cent. Labor turned their back on those victims of crime. The Crisafulli government has their back. That is the difference. We are providing them with faster access to justice through a system that has been reprioritised to support and serve them.

The former Labor government's DNA debacle is one of the greatest failures of justice anywhere in the world. Under Labor we saw that system collapse, with 601 rape kits and more than 11,700 major crime samples left untested. The turnaround for critical DNA samples under those opposite was 400 days. That is more than a year for evidence in rape and major crime cases to be returned to the police. They are extraordinarily shameful delays. We have turned that around and cleared the entire backlog of untested rape kits. Every one of the 601 rape kits has now been processed. We have reduced the backlog of major crime DNA samples by 70 per cent. I do not have enough time to get to what the shadow attorney-general tried to say: 'These things happen under both governments.' Uh-uh, it happened under them and we are cleaning up their mess. We are putting money into fixing up the DNA backlog. Like I spoke about this morning, we are putting money into the ODPP and we are putting money into our courts and tribunal system. We are ensuring our modern justice system looks like it should: digital, secure and focused on faster access.

I often talk about the safety and protection of Queensland's No. 1 asset, our children. That is why the Minister for Child Safety and I worked extremely hard with the Commission of Inquiry into the Child Safety System and the government's response, which I will talk more about. I have spoken about the Queensland Protection Commission because that work is vitally important. The Crisafulli government are putting our No. 1 asset, our children, first. We are being proactive rather than reactive.

Unlike the member opposite who just spoke in this House, I love my electorate. I will use every minute I have available to talk about the Nanango electorate. It has a hardworking, incredible community. I am so enormously proud to have the honour to serve those amazing people, whether they live in the Somerset, South Burnett, Gympie, Toowoomba or Dalby region—

Mr McDonald: Hear, hear!

Mrs FRECKLINGTON:—and Lockyer. It is just an incredible region.

I want to give a quick mention of some budget highlights. There is \$10 million for a brand new fire and rescue station in Kingaroy and new fire stations in Biarra in the Somerset and Mount Binga in the South Burnett—that is for our rural fires. There is also money for progressing the upgrade of the Cooyar single-lane bridge. I say well done to both the Treasurer and the transport minister for supporting me in that. There is \$2.3 million to increase the output at the Kilcoy water treatment plant and \$9.56 million for continued planning on Barilil Weir—water projects, go figure—supporting long-term water security for the bush. There are also Somerset Dam and Wivenhoe Dam upgrades and improved safety on the D'Aguilar Highway from Kilcoy to Caboolture. I do thank the Minister for the Environment, the member for Glass House; we both worked on that.

I also thank the member for Lockyer. There are Brisbane Valley Highway safety upgrades, and this time they are going to be in my patch, not his. There are also Tarong Power Station overhauls. I am so pleased and so proud to have stood beside the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines when we announced in Kingaroy the expansion and extension of Stanwell's Meandu Mine and the life of that

vitality important baseload coal-fired power station. Unlike those opposite, I am proud to represent an area in Queensland that keeps the lights on for everyone else. That is the engine room of this great state of ours. I am so pleased that the Crisafulli government is ensuring people can keep their lights on, all whilst reducing their power bills because of the hard work that this Treasurer does.

Importantly, the member opposite who just spoke rubbished the increase in the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme. I cannot let this go. How dare that member, who lives in inner-city Brisbane, tell us how expensive it is for cancer treatment patients to travel to Brisbane. I can tell that member, very personally, that I know exactly what that is about due to a very close family member of mine who, thanks to the Leukaemia Foundation, was housed for 12 months right here in Brisbane. When that family member was first diagnosed, he was in a bed in Kingaroy and could not be airlifted to Brisbane because of a code yellow under the Palaszczuk government. That demonstrates the failures in the health system under the Palaszczuk government.

How dare they talk to me about regional health care. How dare the shadow health minister talk about regional health when they shut down regional maternity services and they left cancer patients in regional hospitals to die because they could not manage the system when the PA Hospital was in code yellow. How dare he criticise us for increasing the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme to a nation-leading amount in terms of the payments to those poor people who live in my patch and the member for Whitsundays' patch who have to travel for cancer treatment. I say thank you to the health minister, the Treasurer and the Premier for being so strong on this point. The people in regional Queensland know that they have a government that has their back with this budget.

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (4.23 pm): This is a budget of bad news and blowouts. The LNP promised that this budget would make Queenslanders' lives easier. Make no mistake: this budget makes life harder for Queenslanders. Queensland families looking to this budget for help will see practically nothing in it for them. On Sunday the Premier set the tone with his dropped-pie media event, because this budget is about as much use as a dropped pie to everyday Queenslanders. In 2022 the now Premier stood in this very chamber and said—

Trust is not leaving commuters stuck on the side of the road, because the government cannot deliver a project on time and on budget.

I could not agree more, so let us hold the Premier to his own standard.

While the LNP government is profiting from war in the Middle East, it is not doing enough to support Queenslanders through a cost-of-living crisis. Premier Crisafulli said he would deliver cost-of-living relief for as long as Queenslanders needed it. This budget does not deliver. New South Wales gets it. Their budget has rego and toll relief. Here there is nothing. The budget's confected cost-of-living solutions lasted for just one day before we saw that, no, electricity will not be getting cheaper and, no, water will not be getting cheaper. Occasionally this slick Premier's PR lines collide with reality, and this is one of those cases.

The LNP said they would deliver generational infrastructure. Instead, they have delayed major projects in roads, rail and hospitals. The Premier promised to respect taxpayers and to deliver projects on time and on budget. This has clearly not occurred. One of the most egregious sins that this government have been caught out on in this budget is that they tried to cover up some cuts. Almost \$5 billion in infrastructure cuts were revealed by 7News that were not outlined in the budget papers—secret funding cuts that this transport minister, this Treasurer and this Premier were hoping would not see the light of day. We saw the bizarre spectacle during the Leader of the Opposition's budget reply of the Minister for Transport trying to claim that a CBRC document was not actually a CBRC document because it was shown on the news. How scared of scrutiny can he be? The minister is in the wrong line of work if he does not want to be held accountable for his decisions. We will hold him accountable each and every day on behalf of Queenslanders stuck in traffic and on behalf of Queenslanders sardined into train carriages.

We know that before we even get to what is in this budget we must acknowledge something important: the damage has already been done. In fact, the cuts started well before this budget was handed down. For 51 days, more than 10,000 train services have been cut from the Queensland Rail network. That is 10,000 fewer trains taking kids to school and 10,000 fewer trains taking Queenslanders home after a long day at work. This pain is not just being felt in South-East Queensland. Determined to do as much damage as possible to Queenslanders' confidence in our public transport network, the LNP have cut services to the very regions they claim to represent. Services like the *Spirit of the Outback* have been cut. These are not just inconveniences; for many regional Queenslanders, these services are lifelines.

We know that our 50-cent fares drove genuine behavioural change. Removing the cost barrier gave Queenslanders the chance to reimagine how they use public transport. Now we see Queenslanders turning their back on a system that continues to leave them behind, and the traffic on our already congested roads has never been worse. Then this government had the audacity to run an outrageous advertising campaign—what others have rightly called propaganda—to try to rewrite history and take credit for Labor's 50-cent fares. Money that could have been channelled into crucial projects like the Gympie Road bypass now pays for ads on the back of toilet stall doors. This is just spin.

We know this is a government that is hiding the truth from Queenslanders. For the second time, the LNP government handed down a Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program—the QTRIP—that is stripped of funding details and delivery timeframes. The very information that our communities depend on and that transport professionals, local governments and contractors rely upon has been buried. Why? It is because the truth is too embarrassing. The transport minister has repeatedly staked his job on delivering projects 'on time and on budget', yet individual project costings have been hidden in slush funds. Blowouts on major projects have been buried, and cost overruns have been disguised behind vague line items such as 'state road network upgrades, North Coast'—a \$5 billion catch-all that hides what is really going on. To deliver generational transport infrastructure, you need to have a vision for the future. However, this regressive government is too busy looking to the past, either unwinding or taking credit for Labor legacy projects, depending on their mood of the day. This is not transparency. This is not respecting Queenslanders' money. This is a cover-up. Were it not for the good work of Channel 7 and others in the media, these cuts would have never come to light.

Let us go through the promises this Premier made and the promises he has broken. In the Stafford by-election the Premier campaigned on a clear commitment: the LNP would build the Gympie Road bypass tunnel. The LNP acknowledged that there needs to be a plan for Gympie Road; we have it in writing. Premier Crisafulli and his Stafford candidate wrote to tens of thousands of northside locals promising, 'New Northside Tunnel—Progressing a new Northside Tunnel as part of our broader strategy to tackle congestion and improve traffic flow across the northside.' Every single person coming through the polling booths received a flyer—mostly from paid LNP ministerial staff, I might add—outlining the Premier's promise to deliver the tunnel. At the same time, the Premier had probably already decided in CBRC to push off this project to beyond 2032, which is well beyond the forward estimates.

What does this budget deliver for the Gympie Road bypass tunnel? Scraps! There is not a timeline, not a plan. Despite all their posturing, Gympie Road gets the cold shoulder—\$8 million. That is probably 0.1 per cent of what is needed to progress this project. Labor invested \$35 million for the business case in 2023. We committed \$318 million over three years from 2024-25 for preconstruction works. We did the hard work and this sneaky Premier is letting it all go to waste. The Lord Mayor put it plainly: Brisbane's north side needs this tunnel. It would bypass 19 sets of traffic lights. It would transform Gympie Road. This government have abandoned it. If they cannot find funding for a project in their first two budgets that they promised voters they would deliver, it is not delayed; it is scrapped and northsiders deserve better from the LNP.

The Coomera Connector has now had stage 2 delayed. The Gold Coast's growing northern communities are being left behind. This is one of the fastest growing corridors in Australia and the LNP is pulling the pin, and yet again with the government and this minister someone else is to blame, incorrectly claiming the federal government was to blame for delays when Channel 7 revealed it is the minister himself who pushed back this project. A project the Premier promised to deliver by the 2032 Olympics—a project that is in his Olympics delivery plan—will now not be completed by the Olympics. This government's Olympics transport legacy was already looking shaky and now it is in tatters.

Far North Queensland does not get ignored in the government's cuts either, but this budget tells Cairns residents otherwise. The Cairns Western Arterial Road has been delayed—yet another blow to the Far North, where road infrastructure is critical for safety, freight and economic connectivity. The *Cairns Post* reports that the budget allocated no capital for the duplication of the road between Redlynch and Smithfield, but the government insists that there is funding in its books but no dollar figure or construction date was provided. Advance Cairns has said it would be seeking more detail around this project, and all I can say is good luck. Even in Townsville, Mayor Nick Dametto has said that there is no additional investment to address major congestion points such as Woolcock Street, something the LNP ran on at the by-election. I am seeing a pattern here.

Turning to the Mount Crosby interchange, Ipswich is one of Queensland's fastest growing regions. The Mount Crosby interchange has had \$170 million deferred, and now the minister is blaming environmental approvals and the federal government. We have heard that before as well. The same as

the Coomera Connector, he is refusing to own his own decisions. The people of Ipswich, Karalee and surrounding areas can rightly feel ripped off. Speaking of misleading statements by the Premier and the Treasurer, they claimed no new taxes in this budget, but that is not true of course. In transport alone we have seen the nine per cent increase over and above inflation of pilotage at our ports, effectively a tax on groceries and everything else coming through. And then there are the LNP's own election commitments. It promised \$460 million in transport commitments at the last election—that was its costings—but now that has blown out to over \$927 million, more than double what was allocated. None of this would have come to light if it were not for media leaks—more secrecy, more cover-ups. Premier Crisafulli promised to respect taxpayers and deliver projects on time and on budget. That has clearly not occurred.

Let us not forget it was the Labor Party under the strong leadership of the member for Murrumba that introduced 50-cent public transport fares for Queenslanders. It was Labor that called for them to be enshrined in legislation. Queenslanders know who brought them in despite the propaganda. If the LNP genuinely wants to help Queenslanders with the cost of living, there is another Labor idea it should adopt—a meaningful fuel affordability policy to drive down petrol prices. We are ready to work with the government in a bipartisan manner. The question is whether the government is ready to stop the spin and start delivering. It was disappointing to hear the transport minister today deride the good work of the RACQ and its fuel modelling this afternoon. Let's not forget that this is another broken promise. The now Premier said he would look into fuel price caps before the election and then promptly forgot straight after.

Mr Fumer: Convenient.

Mr MELLISH: Very convenient. The Sunshine Coast deserves better than this. This government went to the last election promising to deliver heavy rail to Maroochydore—no ifs, no buts, no shortcuts. The people of the Sunshine Coast voted for that commitment, and what does this budget reveal? 7 News revealed this week that the LNP's signature Wave project has blown out to a massive \$12 billion. Stage 3 alone will cost \$5 billion, but \$7 billion for stages 2 and 3 remains completely undeclared—not listed in the forward estimates, not in any plan, just gone. Instead of heavy rail, this government broke its promise and chose buses—buses where voters were promised trains. This is not a transport plan for the Sunshine Coast; it is a broken promise wrapped in a press release.

The transport minister staked his job on delivering projects on time and on budget. With heavy rail scrapped and \$7 billion undeclared, it is time to go, Minister. This is a minister, let's not forget, who had to apologise to the chamber in 2024 for misleading the House regarding funding for the Direct Sunshine Coast Rail Line. That was back when this project was actually a proper rail line, not the Frankenstein's monster, bendy bus blowout fiasco that is the Wave. Sure, let's call it the Wave—wave goodbye to \$12 billion, wave goodbye to the train as you get off at Birtinya and wait for a bus to take you the rest of the way, wave goodbye to the project being completed by the Olympics, wave hello as the Deputy Premier's property value goes up as the station outside his house eventually opens, and overall wave goodbye to any transparency on what will be the largest infrastructure project in the state's history being completed on time and on budget.

In 2032 Brisbane will host the Olympic and Paralympic Games. It is one of the greatest opportunities in Queensland's history to build generational transport infrastructure—infrastructure that will serve Queensland for generations—and this government is going to miss it: the Gympie Road tunnel, scrapped; the Wave to the Sunshine Coast, blown out and delayed; the Coomera Connector, delayed; Cross River Rail, they never actually want to open it; and QTRIP has been stripped of detail so that no-one can track delivery. The government has had two budgets and delivered no new generational transport projects with a funded plan and with an actual delivery date. The 2032 games will come but the infrastructure will not.

Ms Boyd interjected.

Mr MINNIKIN: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order under 244(5). The member for Pine Rivers is interjecting—'hear, hear'—but she is not in her prescribed seat.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): Member for Pine Rivers, is that correct? Were you interjecting from a seat other than your own?

Ms Boyd interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are warned under the standing orders.

Mr MELLISH: I thank the bloke who probably should be the transport minister for his contribution. At least he pretended to know what he was talking about, unlike the current guy. The government has had two budgets and delivered no new generational transport projects with a funded plan and with an actual delivery date. The 2032 games will come but the infrastructure will not and Queenslanders will be stuck in traffic wondering what the LNP government was doing.

Let me summarise why this LNP transport budget is bad and what it actually delivers. We have had over 10,000 rail services cut over 51 days before budget night even arrived. The Gympie Road bypass tunnel was promised in writing but pushed off in the budget. The Coomera Connector stage 2 has been delayed, leaving Gold Coast communities behind. The Cairns Western Arterial Road has been delayed, abandoning the Far North. The Mount Crosby interchange has been deferred, failing Ipswich families. The Wave has blown out to \$12 billion, with \$7 billion unfunded and a heavy rail broken promise. In terms of road safety, we have had \$300 million raided from camera revenue to fund the Bruce Highway existing commitments. QTRIP has been stripped of transparency so Queenslanders cannot hold this government accountable. With regard to 50-cent fares, we have seen Labor's policy turned into the LNP's propaganda. We have seen a taxpayer funded ad campaign rewriting history instead of funding infrastructure. In 2022 the now Premier told this parliament—

Trust is not leaving commuters stuck on the side of the road, because the government cannot deliver a project on time and on budget.

He was right. By his own standard, this government has lost the trust of Queenslanders. Queenslanders will not even be disappointed by this budget, because all the LNP has done is let them down again and again and again. It is a budget of bad news, a budget of secrecy and a budget of blowouts. The LNP's budget is costing Queenslanders more and giving them less.



Hon. SJ MINNIKIN (Chatsworth—LNP) (Minister for Customer Services and Open Data and Minister for Small and Family Business) (4.36 pm): Over the past 20 months the Crisafulli government has laid the groundwork for a better lifestyle through a stronger economy by continuing to deliver our 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 2026-27 budget which strengthens the foundations to deliver an end to Labor's decade of decline. It is a budget that delivers on our promises with responsible decisions for now and into the future. Abraham Lincoln said that you cannot evade the responsibilities of tomorrow by avoiding the decisions of today, and that is exactly the tone of this budget, so I welcome the Treasurer's commitment to no new taxes and no new charges.

From my portfolio perspective, small business needs certainty. It needs stability. It needs to be able to plan and invest, to grow and to thrive. It did not need 10 years of Labor's price hikes and it certainly did not need a federal Labor budget that was big on small business taxes, breaking promises that were made just literally one year earlier—a complete breach of trust—and we shall see what happens federally in two years time. In direct contrast, this Crisafulli government budget delivers certainty when it comes to power prices and certainty when it comes to no new taxes and no new charges. After a decade of surging power prices under the former Labor government, the Crisafulli government's Energy Roadmap is helping to ease power prices, with electricity prices set to fall between eight per cent to 14 per cent for typical small businesses. This is in stark contrast to the near 20 per cent—19.9 per cent to be precise—we saw in a single year under Labor. I recently visited a local family owned bakery in my own electorate of Carina. As a family owned bakery, it is a classic small business employing and training young local people. It is an important hub for the local community, like many that are shared throughout the state. Bakeries obviously use large ovens and mixing equipment, so power costs in that particular industry are significant—in fact, rising in recent years from about \$8,000 to \$9,000 per quarter.

Thanks to the work of the Treasurer and the Crisafulli government, Laura and Ian at Kenrose Bakery will see power prices fall significantly. Now they can plan with certainty, like the other half a million small and family businesses throughout this great state. For many small and family businesses that will mean employing and training more locals—uni students or high school students, for example—and growing and making a dollar. I welcome the ministerial statement from the water minister earlier today: no new taxes, no new charges, freezing bulk water prices and dropping electricity prices. That is certainty—unlike the chaos that was reigning supreme under those opposite for 10 years. Who can forget the budget three years ago from the member for Woodridge when he promised no new taxes in the lead-up to it? He basically did an early Chalmers play.

The budget continues to deliver on the promises we made in our Small and Family Business First Action Statement, which included more than \$100 million in additional funding over the four years. To be precise: it will invest \$11½ million in upskilling small business owners through micro-credential courses—those short, little courses that can add great value—including AI, cyber and procurement courses. There is also a \$10 million program to deliver AI uplift to allow Queensland small businesses to compete in the rapidly changing technology landscape.

Furthermore, there is \$16 million, through grants of up to \$600,000, to support chambers of commerce, councils, industry, trade and business networks to invest locally through our Regional Business Gateways Program. Our support for the construction industry continues, with wage subsidies for small and family owned construction businesses to help cover 2,000 apprenticeship wages while they attend offsite training under our Apprenticeship Pilot Program. We are also reducing red tape, improving access to government services and expanding opportunities for local supplies in line with the 2026 Queensland Procurement Policy and have set an ambitious yet achievable target for small and medium businesses to access government procurement as part of the general spend of \$35 billion each year for Queensland government goods and services.

We are delivering \$24.9 million to continue to grow Queensland's digital service platform, including Queensland Digital Identity and the Queensland Digital Licence app, as part of our plan to enhance the customer service offering for Queenslanders. Use of the digital licence stalled under Labor, being used by only 16 per cent of Queenslanders. Under a Crisafulli government, in the time I have been the minister—just under 20 months—we have more than doubled that, to 30 per cent. Under Labor, there were only two digital licences available. In 20 months, under the Crisafulli government, we have increased that number to 19. The Queensland Digital Identity is the cornerstone of the state's digital service ecosystem, supporting over 3.6 million digital identities and 300,000 unique monthly users. Queenslanders can now access almost 200 services ranging from digital licences and rental tenancy bond deposits and refunds to key services such as Daniel's Law and Seniors Card services. We are also delivering new initiatives while ensuring Queenslanders have access to secure, efficient and reliable government services now and into the future.

I am pleased to announce the establishment of the Digital Queensland investment and assurance committees as part of a new, modernised governance approach which will review and monitor all new digital and ICT investments over \$5 million, including all projects supported by the \$1 billion Queensland Government Digital Fund, from start to finish. This ongoing investment into the Queensland government's digital ecosystem will modernise critical systems, improve service experiences, reduce fraud risk and strengthen digital governance and cybersecurity. This modernisation of the governance of digital and ICT projects will end the disjointed and uncoordinated approach that led to significant cost blowouts and failed delivery during Labor's decade of decline.

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—

More and more Queenslanders than ever are choosing to access government services through a secure and convenient digital gateway.

Our \$24.9 million investment will ensure our platforms continue to deliver a growing level of services while also meeting the growing demand.

The array of digital services offered through the platform is transforming how Queenslanders interact with government now, and into the future.

Digital investment assists secure, efficient, and future-ready government services.

The funding complements improvements to Queensland's digital front door—qld.gov.au—making it simpler for Queenslanders to find and access the information and services they need.

The online digital channel continues to grow as the preferred way for customers to complete straight-forward transactions, however our commitment to service delivery extends beyond digital with many Queenslanders still preferring face-to-face or over-the-phone interactions.

From 1 July 2025, the Queensland Government's Customer Service Centres transferred from Transport and Main Roads to the Department of Customer Services, Open Data and Small and Family Businesses.

As I said at the time, having a dedicated Minister for Customer Service for the first time in Queensland's history will ensure we can become more customer focussed, drive a consistent customer experience and give Queenslanders more options.

The Department is now responsible for the majority of government transactions for Queenslanders.

This includes directly managing more than 90 customer service outlets including Queensland Government Service Centres, an Indigenous Driver Licensing unit and also leading the Queensland Government Agent Program, or QGAP offices.

We are also investing in our service delivery in regional, rural and remote communities, with further funding of \$900,000 for the QGAPs.

This is the second funding increase in two years under this government after the former Labor Government failed to invest in our regional, rural and remote communities, because they didn't see a political benefit to it.

We are continuing on the pathway to deliver our commitment to become Australia's most customer service-focused government.

Queenslanders expect services that are easy to use, reliable and secure—and the investment by this Budget ensures we continue to deliver on those expectations.

This is a whole-of-government commitment to improving how people interact with government, focusing on practical improvements that make a real difference to everyday customer experience.

By strengthening the systems behind our services, we're supporting better outcomes for Queenslanders and ensuring our frontline services are backed by modern, dependable technology now and into the future.

Mr Speaker, returning to the new Digital Queensland Investment and Assurance Committees and framework, including the Queensland Government Digital Fund, we will put an end to Labor's record of IT failures and cost blowouts.

The framework and fund enable more strategic and targeted investment in digital systems across the Queensland Government and provides government with greater oversight and efficiency in the implementation of key digital systems and services.

A focus of the fund is ensuring better value from investments in digital and ICT systems, including consideration of opportunities to leverage the use of common technology solutions across departments.

My department is facilitating the assessment, prioritisation and administration of the Fund in partnership with Queensland Treasury and the Department of the Premier and Cabinet.

The evaluation and assessment process informs investment decisions, considering to what extent the proposal:

- aligns to Queensland Government commitments, priorities and strategies
- impacts and benefits the community, business or government operations
- mitigates business, technology or other risks
- is achievable in terms of governance, delivery approach and readiness.

And Mr Speaker, sadly just like last year's Budget we are having to go and find funding to deliver programs that Labor either ignored or planned to axe.

Key programs like the Small Business Support Network were due to end in 2025 but we've delivered \$16.8 million to ensure small and family businesses are able to continue to access their financial advice and wellbeing support they need.

The Budget also provides funding to support the on-going operations of the Queensland Contact Centre Disaster Readiness response surge capability, to ensure Queenslanders can contact government for assistance during natural disasters.

Under the former Labor Government, this vital function was left unfunded and its future uncertain.

The Crisafulli Government has again stepped in and the 2026-27 Budget allocates \$4.3 million to continue to provide services.

Mr Speaker, this is an important Budget to ensure Queensland small and family businesses have certainty.

As I toured Queensland during our recent Queensland Small Business Month, small and family businesses owners raised with me their concerns regarding several proposed tax changes in the Federal Labor Government's most recent budget.

While the Crisafulli Government is delivering certainty and stability for small and family business owners, the measures announced by Federal Labor are deeply concerning.

Measures, including the impacts related to minimum tax arrangements for discretionary trusts and the practical implications for long-standing family business structures commonly used across Australia will mean some businesses are facing significant restructuring costs or uncertainty in seeking to adapt to the proposed arrangements.

Many business groups, and small and family businesses are worried.

Federal Labor's recent attempts to wind back some of these measures has only led to more uncertainty and declining confidence.

Given the importance of small and family businesses to Queensland's economy and communities, the Federal Government needs to come clean and consult properly rather than making announcements on the run.

Mr Speaker, we are also getting on and delivering the second year of our commitment to establish a permanent Complaints Clearinghouse Management Office, or CCMO.

The CCMO function came under my Department after Labor failed to deliver this key recommendation of a review by Professor Coaldrake into the culture and accountability of the Queensland public sector.

A dedicated team of five full-time staff have been established and operational since November 2025, coordinating whole-of-government complaints and referral processes to appropriate departments.

The CCMO manages a consistent referral process and has delivered customer-facing improvements including updated online forms, and the introduction of a chat function to complement phone and counter channels.

Tools and information for government employees have also been enhanced, with updated guidance available to support complaint management practices across agencies, aligned with the Queensland Public Service Customer Complaint Management Framework.

The CCMO supports delivery against the Customer Complaints Management Framework, including acknowledging complaints within three business days and providing an interim or final response within 30 business days.

Mr Speaker, I've been privileged to be the Member for Chatsworth for the past 14 years and my commitment to delivering for the great people in Brisbane south-eastern suburbs is as strong as ever.

The Crisafulli Government is supporting the people of Chatsworth by continuing to deliver the vision we put forward when we came to Government about 20 months ago.

We have already delivered upgraded facilities for Outside School Hours services at Gumdale State School, upgraded gates and fencing to strengthening security for the Carina State School and a new acoustic wall in the undercover activity centre at Mayfield State School.

Looking forward, this Budget will support Belmont State School with a new \$10 million A block. I've seen the renders for this project and let me say this will be an impressive facility.

Gumdale State School will receive a new senior playground while Mayfield State School will receive a building extension, as part of their performing arts classroom and ancillary spaces.

And we are ensuring that we continue to invest in the lifestyle and environment that makes this part of Brisbane and Queensland so special.

The Bulimba Creek Catchment Coordinating Committee, otherwise known as B4C, is delivering a weed control and rehabilitation program, while funding is available for the Minnippi Bikeway missing link in Carina.

And Mr Speaker, like every part of Queensland we are excited by both the opportunities and spectacle that the Olympic and Paralympic Games will bring in 2032.

The Sleeman Sports Complex at Chandler in the electorate of Chatsworth will be a key hub for spectators and athletes with cycling at the Anna Meares Velodrome and BMX at the Brisbane SX International BMX Centre being upgraded for international competitions.

And I'm always pleased to get down to the Belmont Shooting Complex to see the competitions that take place and look at their plans to upgrade the facility ahead of Olympic and Paralympic competition in 2032.

Mr Speaker, whether it's the people who live throughout Chatsworth or those who use the services from the Department of Customer Services, Open Data and Small and Family Business, the 2026-27 Budget will mean more certainty and more confidence for businesses and fewer cost pressures flowing through to Queensland families.



Ms BOYD (Pine Rivers—ALP) (4.44 pm): This budget is all slogan and no substance. The most common phrase from this Treasurer is 'green shoots'; if you ever needed a concession of the insignificant progress made it is this two-word slogan. This assault on our ears started in March 2025, and it continues. Now, well over a year later, I implore these bad actors to throw some fertiliser on their green shoots, because the growth has stagnated and the manure is obviously ineffective. This leads us all to wonder just how much earth this bad government is leaving scorched.

We have seen that their water initiative certainly cannot be relied upon. This is a Treasurer who tells us that if we have two dams at capacity we will effectively create a new dam. How do you plan on running two dams at capacity during a drought? We have a water minister so inept that she needs to get the ruler out and rap the retailers over the knuckles, because her plan for bulk water savings has no chance of survival. Caught by surprise with a twilight presser the day after budget, she stated she will now have to explore legislative approaches. Well, why did she not do her job in the first place? This single new cost-of-living measure for Queensland could not stand the test of time of a single day. Paradise Dam is getting the smallest budgeted sum of any budget in recent years. The dam that South-East Queensland was promised for drinking remains a figment of the cabinet's imagination. We are only halfway through the term! What is the rush? There is plenty more time to unpack this at estimates, and I cannot wait to hear the minister painfully read through those carefully crafted non-answers.

We have a Treasurer who falsely claims that the Energy Regulator's decision to deliver power bill reductions is, in fact, their own doing—like this government has ever been genuine about renewables or cheaper power! Why couldn't this government just legislate the savings? Labor did, ensuring those savings would be passed onto consumers. While the LNP government are profiting from

Trump's wars, they are not supporting Queenslanders enough with universal cost-of-living relief. This mob acted like a two-year-old Labor initiative was their own doing. Fifty cents may be synonymous with a Macca's cone, but under the LNP everyone knows that it is a big blue whopper. Labor continues to govern from opposition as our call to lock 50-cent fares into law will now occur.

Every ratepayer in the waste levy zone will now be paying more under this bad LNP budget. Only on the LNP's watch has there ever been a bin tax imposed. This failed, recycled environment minister may like to claim this is not occurring, but the LGAQ and mayors are lining up to call out this impost on councils—a cost they have no choice but to pass on to millions of Queenslanders. Less than half of Queensland families that have received the Back to School Boost are actually using this measure, leaving everyone to wonder if it is mistargeted, too hard to use, burdensome or just simply ineffective.

With full sincerity, the Premier and Treasurer say that this budget is maintaining trust and delivering on exactly the things they said they were going to do. Talk about a stadium-sized elephant in the room! Queenslanders are stuck carrying the can for stadiums we were promised would never happen, buses stuck in the slow lane instead of rail, utility bills all over the place, the new tax—the bin tax—despite the LNP promise of no new or increased taxes. All the while—

Mr Powell: New tax? It has been around since 2019.

Ms BOYD: I take the interjection from the environment minister; it has never been imposed on councils since 2019. All the while we have been gaslit with a budget sales pitch from the LNP telling Queenslanders they are saying true to what they say. Queenslanders are not drinking the Kool Aid. It is not like this budget does a good job of paying down debt—it does not. It delays the infrastructure and critical projects our growing communities not only deserve but also are in desperate need of. This is a budget that demonstrates just how badly this government is unravelling.

Colour me surprised when we found out that the volunteering sector was going to have another round of talkfests. After a 10-year plan from 2024 was scrapped and a lengthy committee inquiry with next-to-no outcomes, all this sector wants is what they were promised by this government. Show them the money. put up for the volunteering hubs. The insincerity is sickening. The Minister for Volunteers is delivering nothing but words, the department is diminishing and the sector has lost all of that goodwill, because this government's words are hollow. The scattering of the funding over the forwards is an insult. You cannot maintain trust with Queensland's free workers by promising them something and then ripping it away before it is even delivered. That has become the hallmark of this government.

My community is continuing to hold out for details around the Moreton Bay South Special School. This government will rip the land out from a community church with no information. There is not one line item that I can locate in the budget documents for this project, not one piece of information on where it is located and when it will be delivered. My Pine Rivers Special School continues to wait in anxious anticipation for details on when and how an additional school will be delivered. They are also keen to see this government deliver the upgrades they now need to cope with their increasing student capacity demands. When I am asking questions on these important issues for our special school community, the minister's responses are not even worth the paper they are written on. We should not be learning about these developments through the news. We deserve better consultation than that.

When it comes to local governments, what on earth happened to the \$100 million a year for Labor's Works for Queensland election promise? This budget does not deliver those dollars. It is way less. The sector asked for this government to dump the bin tax, to increase the TIDS funding for roads and to create a dedicated fund for water and sewage infrastructure programs, yet we see every one of those disregarded in this budget. Labor's community stimulus package remains on life support as a request for ongoing funding for these projects went unanswered, along with so much more. I called for disaster resilience funding for my community to address water corridors and homes in harm's way. I can report back to impacted members of my community that all of that has gone unanswered. Queensland is our nation's most disaster-prone state. We need to continually work to make a more resilient community. That is why Labor made the QRA a permanent part of government and that is why we remain committed to its role in recovery and betterment in this state.

Our community called out for more social and affordable housing in this budget and this budget has let them down. I want to give a shout-out to our local providers, some publicly funded and some not. The provision of support and services to our homeless community and those in supported housing cannot be understated. I want to acknowledge the work of those organisations. My heart was warmed recently to see the students at Pine Rivers State High School come together for a fundraiser for

Chameleon Housing. This essential youth housing provider is new to my community and I am deeply concerned that their funding arrangement will expire next week with no word from this government about their future.

When it comes to health, my community has learnt the hard way that it does not pay to hold your breath for the LNP's health and hospital upgrades. Labor's cancer care centre is now in the never-never. The 93 delayed beds at Prince Charles Hospital stand as an embedded hallmark of this minister's and this LNP government's non-record of health delivery for my community. Imagine having to pay to stand down contractors on hospitals to stop hospital expansion projects that were underway. That is what happened on the LNP's watch. They are not a government that is building our community to cater for increased growth and an aging population. They have broken ground on a new stadium. It is full steam ahead on that project and it will not save a life.

The Gympie Road bypass tunnel magically reappeared for the flyers in the Stafford by-election but has now once again disappeared. Our community does not deserve to sit in the parking lot of Gympie Road while this government prioritises a stadium they promised they would never build. Linkfield Road is finally getting work started after a year of delay under the LNP. My community has campaigned hard for this and just when we overcame the LNP in Canberra pushing out the construction years to the distant future, in walks this bad LNP government who picks it right back up and delays it immediately.

This budget's only new funding for our community is an upgrade to the PCYC in Pine Rivers. Great! Terrific! How much money? Tell us the details? What is it for? That all remains a mystery. When will it be completed? Your guess is as good as mine and every other local's because no-one has been forthcoming about those details. What is the mystery? What is the deal with the secrecy and why is this government not even across the detail? It is heartbreaking to hear this in the shadow of funding cuts for staff through PCYC and Project Booyah programs across the state.

In National Volunteer Week I learnt that my Pine Rivers Crime Stoppers, this year celebrating 30 years, is also wrapping up. It is an organisation that has a direct impact on crime prevention and is a deterrent for crime and criminal activity. This LNP government cannot even deliver on the issues they claim are the centrepiece of their agenda. Our communities are not safer. Our hardworking frontline deserves a government that will give them the time of day. The LNP minister's refusal to hold an EVAC meeting stands as a sad representation of the value they place on the free workers, the brave men and women who are giving up their own time to give back to Queenslanders in their time of need.

The State Emergency Service operational funding through this budget will be reduced. The SES capital purchases and grants have been reduced by over 70 per cent. Operational funding for Marine Rescue Queensland has seen a 30 per cent reduction in this budget. MRQ's capital purchases and grants have reduced by over 80 per cent. The Queensland Fire Department will also see a capital program reduction by way more than a footnote can explain away. There is a reduction in the funding for Queensland Fire and Rescue trucks and a reduction in funding for Rural Fire Service trucks.

Under the LNP there is no more affordable housing to support people experiencing homelessness in my community and no more for victims of domestic violence. The LNP could not even deliver an air-conditioning unit for a community hall that my community asked for, predominantly used by age pensioners, children and other vulnerable, at-risk members of my community who are finding it increasingly difficult to use with Queensland's harsher weather. This request fell on deaf ears. Are the LNP that bitter about having my voice in this place that they would take it out on vulnerable people in our community?

The LNP claim to be good economic managers, but this budget has Queensland staring down the barrel of a credit rating downgrade. This government has been the beneficiary of windfall profits as a result of Trump's war. Queenslanders have been sluggish and the LNP government is laughing all the way to the bank. This is not exactly the things that the LNP said they were going to do. They stumble and they fall at every metric. It is little wonder they are running under the cover of pie eating rather than facing up to the hospitals, schools and fire stations and hearing directly from Queenslanders.

I commend the opposition leader on his speech today. Queenslanders deserve a better approach than the one they are receiving under this bad LNP government. They deserve a government that does not just regurgitate the policy and ideas of others. A changing world needs responsive and considered policy and that is exactly what our Labor team is focused on. Queenslanders inspire us every day. Our tradies, our small business owners, our teachers, our health professionals and everyone in between

deserves more than what this LNP government is offering. In a matter of days their cost-of-living savings have completely crumbled. It is astonishing. I have never seen a budget that is so quick to collapse. It looks very likely that Queenslanders will be left wanting on the essentials. Every single Queenslanders is calling out for cost-of-living relief and budget support, and this budget lets them down. It does not help their household budgets at all.

We deserve better than this bad LNP government. We deserve to have the confidence in the crime figures that we have seen this government politicise and fumble so badly. We deserve to have the workers of tomorrow at our TAFE supported to build the affordable housing that we so desperately need. We deserve to have fuel transparency and predictability so that households can budget and not come up short at the bowser. Renters should be able to get ahead in a modern, vibrant Queensland. Everyone should get the dignity and the respect that they deserve in an inclusive community. This is not just a bad budget by an out of touch government. This is a government that is only halfway through their term but is completely tone deaf, tuned out and checked out.

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (4.58 pm): I have sat here for the last hour and a bit and listened to the cry of pain from those opposite. Everything costs too much but we are not doing enough. The Labor answer is, 'When are you going to spend more on me—more on my electorate?' It is all about moi, moi, moi! We just heard that from the member for Pine Rivers. They have no new policy. Have they said how they are going to pay for these things? No. Have we heard what their policy is? How are they going to deal with the youth crime crisis? Have they mentioned that at all? There has been not a word.

For 15 minutes we heard the member for Miller bleat on but we did not hear about one new policy, one new idea or one new suggestion. I was waiting. I was hoping. I had thought that maybe, 20 months in, he had done something other than send out selfies of himself standing outside buildings he failed to build, beside hospital beds he failed to staff or with patients they failed to look after. No, there was none of the above—nothing. It was about as illuminating as the speech of the Leader of the Opposition this morning—nil, nothing more to happen.

The Crisafulli government's record \$35½ billion health budget is continuing to deliver on the commitment we made to Queenslanders to diagnose, treat and cure Labor's health crisis. That is a 7.3 per cent increase on last year's budget, which was itself a 10.1 per cent increase on Labor's last budget. We are delivering better services through a stronger economy and, importantly, we are doing it without any new or increased taxes. This is the fresh start Queenslanders asked for. This is the fresh start Queenslanders voted for in October 2024. This is the fresh start that Labor still cannot accept was demanded after a decade of decline.

I heard the member for Miller extolling the virtues of South Australia. Do members know what the ramping rate in South Australia is? It is 52.3 per cent! That is what the comrades down south are doing. He did not mention the democratic socialist workers republic of Victoria and their appalling rates. Long may Jess Wilson survive and thrive down there come November this year.

There is no fresh start from those opposite. It is the same old playbook, time and time again. It is the same old whingeing, the same old whining and the same old lack of policy. The budget reply from the Leader of the Opposition was truly woeful. It was filled with mistruths and mischaracterisations that were designed to mislead Queenslanders. None of us should be surprised. In fact, I do not think anyone is. In some respects, the budget reply speech by the Leader of the Opposition was a record breaker, although not because it articulated a policy platform to move Queensland forward. It was a record breaker for the number of falsehoods it contained. It was a shameful budget reply that is the latest proof that the Leader of the Opposition is just not up to the job. His heart is not in it, and you can see it in every move he makes in this place.

The Leader of the Opposition claimed that hospital programs were delayed without acknowledging the independent review into the failed capacity expansion program that found not one project could be delivered within its original timeline or budget—not one. None of those things would have been built under Labor's program. Instead, what did they do? The Leader of the Opposition attacked the very review findings that exposed his government's failings. This is not an individual who is fit to lead Queensland.

The Leader of the Opposition complained about surgery long waits without acknowledging that the long-wait list grew 17½ times the one they inherited. The Leader of the Opposition complained about a workforce attraction incentive scheme that he did not fund and failed to deliver. In fact, the very

clinicians it was designed to assist did not want it. In doing so, he did not acknowledge that the health workforce has grown by more than 9,600 health workers since the Crisafulli LNP government came to office and that it will continue to grow to over 10,000 over the term of the next budget.

The Leader of the Opposition complained about the single largest investment in the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme since it was doubled by a former treasurer back in 2013. Mr Deputy Speaker, I believe you and I have a meeting later in the week and I will illuminate you on that particular issue. Labor ignored regional Queenslanders for eight years. They did nothing for eight years and then increased the subsidy by four cents in the dying days of a dying government. Now when we increase it by 32 per cent they say that it is too little, too late. What sheer hypocrisy. This Leader of the Opposition is out of ideas and does not do the work. There are simply too many falsehoods from the failed Leader of the Opposition to address now. As I indicated earlier today, I will be writing to the Speaker in relation to those matters.

In last year's record health budget we addressed Labor's failed capacity expansion program. We have fully funded our Hospital Rescue Plan, which includes over 2,600 new beds, three new hospitals and 10 expanded hospitals. In fact, the budget line item shows over \$4 billion. We made an historic increase to the Timely Investment Infrastructure Maintenance Program, the aptly named TIIM Program. When I visit the HHSs people say, 'Give me more TIIM.' All they want is more TIIM funding, more frequently. Labor's sustaining capital program failed to deliver anything close to the maintenance investment required for Queensland Health's asset base. We need only look at the Queensland Auditor-General's report for 2024 to see that. It was subject to scathing criticism by the Auditor-General.

We have also invested over \$1 billion in the Queensland Ambulance Service, including a \$250 million capital uplift and ongoing workforce growth to increase the number of paramedics across the state. This is the first time there has been a capital uplift since 2008. The 2026 State of the Sector report shows the government has already bolstered the paramedic front line with an additional 436 new ambulance officers, and this budget locks in an additional 225 ambulance officers, supported by 200 new and replacement ambulance vehicles.

We also provided services that the former government failed to fund at Mater Hospital Springfield. I noticed that the member for Jordan was crowing about that. What she did not say is that it would have been a ghost hospital with no patients, no doctors, no nurses, no midwives and no clinicians in one of Queensland's fastest growing regions. That was Labor's legacy: a hospital about to open but no funding to operate. Last month I was pleased to join with the Premier to open the Mater Hospital Springfield and to celebrate, with that community, our funding to ensure it continues to deliver. In our first 100 days we axed Labor's patients tax, which would have put additional financial pressure on our GPs and ultimately hit the pockets of Queenslanders. That move was roundly and soundly welcomed by both the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners and the AMAQ.

Our second budget builds on those strong foundations. Our second budget strengthens our capacity to deliver health services when Queenslanders need them, closer to home. This means more hospitals, more health workers, more elective surgery, a 32 per cent increase in the PTSS mileage subsidy and, importantly, every cent of the mental health levy revenue collected invested back into the community. This is a budget that delivers 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—

Mr Speaker, the scathing independent review into the former Labor Government's failed Capacity Expansion Program found not one project could be delivered within its original timeline or budget. In fact, Infrastructure Partnerships Australia stated 'the program was little more than a mirage of media releases.'

Our fully-funded Hospital Rescue Plan is getting these builds back on track through significant and necessary replanning and redesign, including consultation with clinicians, and proper budgeting.

Our Hospital Rescue Plan will deliver new hospitals in Toowoomba, Coomera and Bundaberg, the Queensland Cancer Plan and expand 10 more hospitals across the state, providing the only credible plan to deliver more than 2,600 additional beds for Queenslanders.

We are getting on with the job on these projects, and this budget includes expenditure of \$4.04 billion in this financial year alone to deliver crucial project milestones across Queensland.

The 2026-27 Budget demonstrates our significant progress, including operationalising over 200 beds delivered through the Hospital Rescue Plan.

As with Mater Hospital Springfield, the former Government had not provided funding to bring these critical beds online.

By contrast, in 2026-27 our budget provides for 35 beds delivered at the Hervey Bay Hospital Expansion; 32 beds delivered through the Cairns Hospital Expansion, with a further 32 beds to follow; 90 beds delivered at the Ripley sub-acute facility; 70 beds at the Gold Coast sub-acute facility; and 6 beds at the Central Queensland Cardiac Catheter Laboratory.

Critical to our delivery of more beds, is more health workers.

There have been an additional 9,395 health workers join the Queensland Health ranks since the Crisafulli LNP Government took office.

I thank our hardworking staff for their efforts in contributing to the lowest ramping in half a decade—down from the record quarterly high set and held by Labor of 45.5%. Under the Crisafulli LNP Government, ramping is now down to 34.5%.

Our 2026-27 Budget locks in more support for our frontline—locking in an additional 10,712 new health workers since November 2024.

The 2026-27 Budget also allocates \$247 million this year for more free, life-changing surgery for Queenslanders.

This will continue to deliver on our commitment to stabilise the elective surgery waitlist, now down 8,136 from Labor's 2024 peak as more Queenslanders than ever before are able to access life-changing and life-saving elective surgeries this year.

For one Queensland teenager on the Sunshine Coast, the program meant earlier surgery to address a hearing impairment that was affecting his learning and social development. He is now recovered and continuing to receive ongoing care from Sunshine Coast Health.

For Brisbane resident, Nicole Van Der Kaag, Surgery Connect meant an end to months of limited mobility while awaiting a total knee replacement. Nicole is now back on her feet and enjoying her normal daily activities.

These stories reflect the restoration through Surgery Connect of quality of life for thousands of Queenslanders while helping reduce surgery wait times across the state.

Surgery Connect is delivering real outcomes for Queensland patients, helping to reduce the elective surgery waitlist to its lowest level since 2023.

Our \$247 million investment in the 2026-27 Budget will fund approximately 25,000 more elective surgeries through our partnerships with private hospitals.

The Budget will also deliver easier access to health services for regional and remote Queenslanders with a boost to the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme.

We know that traveling for medical care can be stressful and costly, and the decentralised nature of our state means there will be times when patients need to travel to access specialist treatment.

As fuel prices rise, the last thing patients should be worrying about is how they will afford to fuel their vehicle to travel for treatment.

That is why the Crisafulli Government is boosting the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme to a record investment of \$140 million. This is over \$20 million more than in Labor's last budget.

Whether traveling for renal dialysis three times per week, traveling for a specialist appointment every few months, or only using the PTSS once, we know that this Budget investment will help make it that little bit easier for rural patients traveling for care.

And importantly, we're also investing in new technology and better processes, to help speed up reimbursement timeframes for as many patients as possible.

Mr Speaker, Queensland has continually put the issue Stranded Australians on the national agenda.

There are over 1,400 Australians stranded in Queensland hospitals waiting for Commonwealth funded NDIS or aged care supports.

For older Queenslanders in particular, long hospital stays are linked to functional decline, confusion, falls, and poorer health outcomes.

Through no fault of their own, these patients occupy 11.5% of all Queensland hospital beds, effectively taking a hospital the size of the RBWH offline every single day.

Make no mistake, this is not just putting pressure on our hospitals, it is costing the system \$3.3 million every single day.

And the problem is growing. Modelling shows up to 30,000 additional residential aged care places are needed by 2036/37 to keep pace with demand.

The Commonwealth's own report, quietly released alongside the Federal Budget, shows wait times for home support and residential aged care have blown out.

This report showed that in Queensland, the average wait from application to service commencement is 374 days. That is simply unacceptable.

Just like the feckless Labor Opposition here, the Federal Budget was silent on the Commonwealth's responsibility to provide the aged care beds necessary to support Queenslanders and further exacerbated by cutting over \$2 billion from private health insurance rebates for older Australians paying their own way.

The Commonwealth must do what they said they would and provide support to Stranded Australians—a cohort that has tripled since the Albanese Government took power.

We know we need to get these patients into appropriate care to provide them more suitable care and free up our hospital beds.

This will in turn get patients out of our emergency departments quicker and off our ambulance ramps sooner.

The Queensland Audit Office's recent Managing Funding from the Mental Health Levy report found the former Labor Government did not establish effective governance arrangements when the now multibillion Mental Health Levy was introduced in 2023, resulting in the ineffective management of Queensland taxpayer dollars.

The Crisafulli LNP Government has given a guarantee to direct every cent of the Mental Health Levy into mental health services and infrastructure.

The Crisafulli Government is allocating an additional \$394.4 million over four years from 2026-27 and \$104.7 million per annum ongoing funding uplift through Queensland's Mental Health Levy.

This year's Budget allocation will streamline the delivery of mental health care in Emergency Departments across the state, including providing specialist clinicians to improve mental health assessment and treatment.

From August, the first tranche of mental health nurses will begin working in emergency departments, with Redcliffe, Redland and Hervey Bay Hospitals to be the first to welcome the new recruits.

The increased mental health funding will also go towards delivering:

- 30 new perinatal mother and baby beds;
- New alcohol and other drugs residential treatment beds;
- 8 additional adolescent mental health beds in Cairns;
- 9 additional acute adult mental health inpatient unit beds in Rockhampton;
- 9 additional beds in the Princess Alexandra Hospital Psychiatric Assessment and Planning Unit; and
- Several historical unfunded commitments made by the former Labor government for mental health, alcohol and other drugs.

Mr Speaker, the Crisafulli Government is healing Labor's Health Crisis.

Our latest performance data shows that despite sustained demand across the health system and a record number of patients stranded in our hospitals awaiting aged care or NDIS supports, ambulance ramping has continued to trend downwards.

In April 2026, ramping across Queensland's 26 largest hospitals fell to 34.5 per cent—the lowest level recorded since January 2021.

This is because of our commitment and dedication to investing in building and expanding our hospitals, funding initiatives such as transit lounges to improve patient flow, and importantly, investing in our frontline workers.

The 2026-27 Budget continues our plan to deliver easier access to health services, a stronger health workforce and better health outcomes for Queenslanders.

Mr Speaker, this Budget also delivers for my electorate—the Clayfield community.

My community in Clayfield knows that funding more police alongside tougher laws is keeping them safer.

The Brothers Rugby Club in Albion, the club at the heart of our community, will be able to build new and upgraded facilities with funding provided in this Budget.

The new performing arts centre at Kedron High School will support the school's rapidly growing music and arts program thanks to funding through the Department of Education budget.

Speaking of performances, the cast and crew at Bluey's World at Northshore Hamilton will be bringing in locals and visitors from around Australia and the world for another year with funding to support the attraction in this Budget.

And while I'm talking about the attractions of Northshore Hamilton, I'm pleased to see the allocation of funds for new roads in Hamilton Northshore, with the Crisafulli Government committing \$56 million to complete the delivery of this important infrastructure as this significant urban renewal area is opened up for housing.

I want to end by thanking the Treasurer for funding the redevelopment of the Albion Railway station.

This is not the first time I've been here talking about this railway station. In my speech on the first Crisafulli Government Budget last year, I talked about the conga line of Labor Ministers for Transport, who had for nearly a decade promised an upgrade to the Albion Railway Station.

Who could ever forget the Member for Miller's heroic 2017 media release promise of a 'rail revolution', and the 'supersizing' of Albion Station.

The Member for Miller said the station upgrade works were 'expected' to start in late 2019.

The residents of Clayfield and the commuters using Albion station waited, and waited, and waited for the Labor Government to deliver.

I tabled the Member for Miller's supersized media statement here in Parliament on the 12th of August 2020 and I said then all we ever saw were pretty pictures, no action. Always renders, never tenders.

Of course, we remember the Member for Miller was ultimately ... obliged ... to relinquish his ministerial position. And the Member for Aspley was shoehorned into the Transport portfolio.

So just before the 2024 election, the promise of an Albion station upgrade was dusted off by Labor again, attempting to sell it as a brand new proposal: 'Community gets first look at proposed new Albion station hub' claimed the Member for Aspley in his media release.

To be fair, the Member for Aspley may indeed have been blissfully ignorant of the numerous commitments by his predecessor. They're not good at talking to each other over there.

But again, all the residents of Clayfield saw during Labor's decade in office were as I said, renders not tenders.

This Budget puts an end to that circus, with the allocation of funds to move on to procurement, for the upgrading of Albion Station after sitting on Labor's drawing board for a decade.

Mr Speaker, I commend to the House the 2026-27 Budget which builds upon the foundations for the fresh start we have laid.

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (5.06 pm): I wish this budget did not look and feel like last year's. However, it does, and what is worse so far is that we cannot find the instrumental, critical and life-saving increases needed. In my 2025 speech on the budget I said—

... at grassroots the reality is that we have overburdened not-for-profits and volunteers delivering everything from food and accommodation through to counselling and haircuts at ever-increasing rates to struggling families.

In the 12 months since I said that in this chamber, the reality for Queenslanders and those not-for-profit organisations and volunteers has worsened.

As I said last time, the housing crisis is now a full disaster and, regardless of announcements in this budget, there are no solutions for our workers who are sleeping in their cars—not even an emergency rollout of caravan parks. In Victoria, people can at least get on the waitlist for social housing as the single entry income threshold is \$30,000 higher than in Queensland, as I raised this morning. We are in a spiralling out-of-control scenario that government have yet to fully acknowledge, and the belief that more land sold to developers will deliver genuine affordable housing is a fallacy. I would like anyone to explain to me how it can deliver homes for \$600,000 in the SEQ corner, as that is basically what banks will lend working couples. Million-dollar homes do not deliver affordable rentals.

I would also like someone to explain to me why having a social housing target of 53,000 or 54,000 by 2044, when we probably need about 350,000, is a sensible lens through which to view the needs of Queenslanders. Within the budget there is an additional just over \$1 billion over five years to work towards that 53,000-home target compared to \$2 billion for trunk and essential infrastructure to activate residential developments, although they do not have any affordable housing requirements, and \$3.5 billion for athletes villages, although with no guarantee that they will be repurposed for affordable housing for our people.

I can only say it again: Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs might be old but it has never been so relevant. How can you address the many issues impacting our communities—mental health, crime and demands on health services—when the main contributor, the lack of secure housing, remains? The \$130 saving by freezing water charges for two years is only possible if you have a house. However, I want to move to the positives.

For Noosa, reassurances of funding for the Lake Macdonald Dam project of \$486 million, \$500,000 for the toilet block on the foreshore, the Pomona pedestrian crossing, Pirates Rugby League Football Club solar panels and Sunshine Beach fire hydrant upgrade of \$705,000 are all appreciated. There is \$4.2 million over three years for the Lake Macdonald housing project and for the Doonella Street Tewantin 32-unit project amongst the \$1.024 billion social housing investment program. Hopefully we will see shovels in the ground come November.

Happily, as we advocated for, there is an uplift to the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme, some increases for foster carers, pathways for product stewardship and recycling reforms, and I am really pleased to see remote rehabilitation detention for youth offenders. I thank the government for that. As well, there is funding for intensive 12-month rehabilitation programs after detention and the Grassroots Environmental Grants. In addition, there will be Maroochydore courthouse upgrades plus additional funding over four years from the mental health levy which was urgently needed, and I hope this will deliver properly for Noosa the extra services needed. A commitment to implement regionally focused management of feral pigs and wild dogs is also welcomed by my community.

With regard to policing, I will go to another excerpt from my speech last year where I stated—

I am still trying to figure out how the gaps left by the various forms of leave, including long service leave and leave for those suffering PTSD, will be addressed. We need to see both the new allocation modelling and the analysis of the impact 1,600 new recruits will have.

We are still in the dark because what we really want to know is: how many extra police do we actually have on the ground—that is, the new ones less the attrition? With new legislation, including on e-devices, an increase in visible police presence is essential and, as my community reports, still not evidenced. Ongoing and appreciated are the Play On! sports vouchers, the 50-cent public transport fares and increases for the Back to School Boost which will provide some relief to our families.

I turn now to what we could not find. There is no new station for Tinbeerwah fire brigade, nor needed increases for the majority of foster carers. There is no dedicated funding for children in DFV refuges, nor for the Sunshine Beach High School Manufacturing Hub which can deliver so much, including needed workers and facilities. This year the students built the ablution block for our women's safe car park, one of the first in Queensland, and are now onto building the accommodations—absolutely brilliant but we need greater capacity. There is nothing for increased MSQ resources or community legal centres. Mentioned is a strengthened shark control program which we trust will use evidence and technology to reduce the harms and ineffectiveness of shark nets.

Nowhere can I see sufficient increases to accommodate upgrades for our sports clubs in order to host pre-games training. These include for Noosa Tigers for female changing rooms, for the Dolphins for their redevelopment or for the Noosa Aquatic Centre and multipurpose facility incorporating the basketball courts that have been needed now for some 15 years. There also appears no increase for national park maintenance, though it is appreciated that there is \$111 million in there to increase the actual holdings. The arts get very little mention.

Allocations for much needed upgrades across multiple departments in ICT systems appear absent, though the Open Data SDS notes a lead role in 'designing, maintaining and securing' critical government ICT systems, but there does not appear to be any money to progress that, including for information sharing between QPS and QPWS.

With the Queensland Health SDS stating that core portfolio values are to decentralise resources and implement local health solutions, one wonders why efforts to remove our dental clinic services and centralise them in Nambour continue.

Again, as with last year, we cannot find where other identified needs to address crime are located, such as extension of the vehicle immobiliser subsidy scheme and financial support to victims of non-violent crime. I trust within the Department of Justice their key priority to minimise gambling harm will include ending parties receiving donations from gambling entities and gambling ads on public buildings and spaces.

There is no mention of Noosa Hospital, though both Sunshine Coast Regional Health and Ramsay advise they are progressing. The \$30 million for Beckmans is again not in QTRIP, but we realise there are new methodologies. Both TMR and Noosa Council have reassured us it is on track. However, as we are all aware, \$30 million is only a fraction of what is needed to do that whole bypass.

I turn to our small businesses that still need relief. Last budget, through the Small Business First agenda, there was \$130 million for red-tape reduction and services to support businesses. However, within this budget so far, I can only find a mention of 'to support red tape reduction'. To quote another cut and paste from last year, I stated—

Disappointingly, we have not seen any change in the land tax rates, which have not been updated in 16 years, regardless of land values exploding, leading to increases flowing down to tenants.

Again, there has been no change there, nor on the payroll tax, except for the 50 per cent rebate for apprentices and trainees, or on any of the issues impacting small and medium businesses that are the backbone of our communities. The ongoing omission of the tangible assistance they need is glaring. We still have teachers leaving for the many reasons outlined previously, including the behaviour of students and parents, shortage of alternate schooling for disengaged students and endless administrative tasks.

Touching on the Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority, I cannot find any mention in the budget, but I am sure it is hidden well away. Still nowhere in sight is the rail shuttle needed from Gympie to connect with the Nambour timetable, nor the Northern Transport Strategy originally due in 2025. Sadly, as with the last budget, there are no fairer funding models for palliative care hospices. There has been

the temporary closure of Hummingbird House in December, and since then the Katie Rose Cottage and Fraser Coast Hospice have both suspended services. Overall, within those Service Delivery Statements and snapshots, there are absences of the very needed words 'uplift' or 'increase' with plenty of 'continues', 'work with' and 'promote'. Many announcements are existing programs and initiatives.

Fixing the decisions that have led to the current challenges over the last 60 years of successive governments of both colours in state and federal realms cannot be fixed overnight; we know that. It takes a brave government and an integrity driven government to move beyond the next election to one that promotes bipartisan agreements and solutions that address immediate emergencies—and we have plenty of those—whilst making provision for the future. This budget sadly does not end the increasing divide between incredible wealth and everyday hardworking Queenslanders. The government has the ability to end these divisions that are harming Queensland and to remedy the disasters. Good announcements are appreciated; however, the ones missing in action are deeply concerning.

I want to thank the Treasurer and all who work to do the best they can with what they have. We are a wealthy state, yet this budget does not reflect that, as Queenslanders will still be sleeping in their cars whilst millions are spent on government advertising. May items so far not unearthed be revealed during the estimates hearings and may government be bold and fix what is severely broken, including the parliamentary culture, systems and processes that prevent the 'fixing'. It is government that has the power, and again I make a plea on behalf of Queenslanders to do what is right and decent for them.

 **Mrs YOUNG** (Redlands—LNP) (5.18 pm): I rise to speak in support of the 2026-27 Queensland budget on behalf of the people of the Redlands—the community I was born in, raised in and proudly represent every single day. As the self-titled 'Little Miss Redlands'—yes, I do have a sash to prove it—I am not shy about advocating for our community. However, advocating means nothing without delivery, so today I want to talk about what we have delivered, what this budget means for Redlands and where we are headed.

As we approach the halfway mark of this government's first term, I can hand on heart say as a first-time member of parliament that I am delivering on what I promised the people of Redlands. Redlanders were tired—tired of being ignored, of having no funding, of having no infrastructure and of having no voice. As a candidate for almost two years, I listened to our community and made commitments. Now I am delivering on them.

We delivered Adult Crime, Adult Time. Jack's Law is now permanent. We have more police and more frontline resources, and our community is a little bit safer. Redland Hospital has a fully operational ICU, and the first MRI machine in our local hospital's history is on its way. Stage 1 of the Cleveland-Redland Bay Road is done and stage 2 is funded, with planning underway with local expert input. I secured the 50 per cent SMBI vehicle ferry subsidy. Land for the Weinam Creek multistorey car park has been acquired. We have declared the Southern Thornlands Priority Development Area so as to unlock more housing for Redlanders. These are not promises; these are results.

This budget is about delivering for Queensland while easing pressures on families. Across Redlands, families are still feeling the impact of higher household costs, which is why this budget continues our commitment to practical cost-of-living relief. Making 50-cent fares permanent is putting money back into the pockets of commuters every single day. The \$200 Play On! sports vouchers are helping families keep children involved in local sport. The \$150 Back to School Boost is helping parents manage the costs that come at the start of every school year. Freezing bulk water prices will provide further relief for South-East Queensland households.

This budget is about more than cost-of-living support; it is about investing in the future of Redlands. In our community sector, this budget delivers support for neighbourhood and community centres, community connect services, child protection services and a new youth and community centre for the SMBIs, helping to strengthen community connections and providing support for those who most need it.

In the environment, we are investing in the protection of our waterways, koala habitat restoration, marine and land-based clean-up projects and threatened species conservation. These investments recognise that preserving the natural beauty of the Redlands is not just an environmental responsibility; it is part of who we are.

In infrastructure, we are delivering the much needed and long-awaited Weinam Creek multistorey car park—a project our community were promised for years and which is now finally moving forward under this government. We are also investing in sewer infrastructure upgrades in Victoria Point to support future growth, housing supply and the infrastructure our growing community needs.

In health and wellbeing, we are continuing to support vulnerable Queenslanders through investments in child protection, community support services and social and community housing, ensuring more people have access to safe housing and the support they need to thrive. In education, employment and training, we are continuing to deliver: new facilities at the Redlands District Special School; upgrades at Victoria Point State School and Victoria Point State High School; maintenance and minor works across local schools; and support for a Southern Moreton Bay Islands marine centre of excellence to create training opportunities, skills development and local jobs.

While we are delivering for today, we are also planning for tomorrow. The Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games represent a once-in-a-generation opportunity for our region. The Redlands whitewater centre and improved transport connectivity will create jobs, attract visitors, support local businesses and leave a lasting legacy for our community long after the games have finished.

This budget reflects a government that understands communities like Redlands cannot be taken for granted. Our community deserves investment, infrastructure that keeps pace with growth, quality healthcare services close to home and a government that listens when people speak and acts when action is needed.

I am inspired every single day by the people of Redlands—their resilience, their generosity and their willingness to step up for one another. Whether it is our volunteers, our small business owners, our teachers, our frontline workers or the families who simply want better for their children, they remind me why this work matters. The progress that we have made is important, but there is more to do—more roads to improve, more homes to deliver, more services to strengthen and more opportunities to create. That is why I will continue to listen to and advocate and fight for the community I am so proud to call my home.

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

The speech read as follows—

From day one, the safety of Redlands families has been my priority. Redlanders were done with crime. They were done with a system that seemed to protect offenders at the expense of victims.

This Government acted. We delivered Adult Crime, Adult Time, the principle that serious criminal behaviour carries serious consequences, regardless of age.

We made Jack's Law permanent, giving police the powers they need to tackle knife crime.

We have given the courts the tools to impose harsher penalties, enforce consequences for breach of bail, and deliver better protections for victims.

We have boosted frontline police resources across the Redlands.

Change takes time. But you don't get different results by doing the same thing. We are doing things differently, and it is working.

The Cleveland-Redland Bay Road upgrade was a running sore for this community for years. Endless delays, zero communication, no transparency.

We inherited that mess and we fixed it. Stage 1 is complete. Stage 2 is fully funded, and I have established a dedicated Redland Road Advisory Committee to ensure the failures of Stage 1 are never repeated.

The Springacre and Boundary Roads intersection upgrade will deliver real congestion relief for local drivers, a project I fought for and am proud to have secured.

For our island communities, the 50 per cent SMBI vehicle ferry subsidy and the Bay Islands Car Share subsidy are delivering genuine parking relief at Redland Bay Ferry Terminal. These families depend on those ferries and this measure will help ease Redland Bay's parking pain while we deliver the new Weinam Creek multi-level car park.

This car park has moved from a stalled promise into real action. The State has acquired the land. The project is now in Economic Development Queensland for proper planning and delivery—no more excuses, no more delays.

We are also investing in our waterways: a \$2.4 million new boat ramp at Wallaby Road, Redland Bay, is nearing completion, and the \$800,000 Wahine Drive boat ramp upgrade on Russell Island is now underway.

Redlands is growing. That growth must be managed properly—with infrastructure, community input, and genuine planning. Not approved on the run and hoped for the best.

The Southern Thornlands Priority Development Area is progressing through the right processes. The Residential Activation Fund is ensuring trunk infrastructure—roads, sewerage, utilities—is funded and built to service new homes. The Victoria Point sewerage works funded through the RAF are supporting the growing Redland community.

\$49.5 million has been unlocked for social and community housing across our region. And when Labor's Broadwater Terrace approval came through—ignoring local planning and community feedback—I stopped it. That is not how we do things.

Redland Hospital has been transformed in this term. We now have a fully funded, fully staffed, operational Intensive Care Unit. We are expanding the Transit Lounge to ease pressure on emergency services. And I am proud my fellow Redland colleagues, and I secured the first MRI machine in Redland Hospital's history, with early works already underway to deliver this vital service to our community.

Hospital ramping is going down. Elective surgery wait times are being addressed through a private partnership. Our health system is healing—and Redlanders are seeing the difference.

The Redlands is one of Queensland's most beautiful and biodiverse regions. Protecting it is not optional, it is who we are.

\$12 million has been committed to the new RSPCA Wildlife Hospital at Redlands—critical care for native animals and real training opportunities for the next generation of wildlife carers.

We are progressing a joint business case for the Koala Coast Ecotourism Trail, linking Bayview Conservation Park to Daisy Hill Forest through a connected network of walking, mountain biking, and horse-riding trails.

On Coochiemudlo Island, a \$32,000 grant to the SeaWorld Foundation supported a marine debris clean-up, and \$100,000 has been committed to enhance the heritage of the Island's iconic Emerald Fringe.

Every child in the Redlands deserves a great start. Last year's Budget delivered \$7.6 million in education investment across the electorate—and the impact is already being felt.

Redland District Special School has a brand new 12-classroom learning centre on the way, an outdoor learning space, dedicated administration building, a basement car park, a relocated sport precinct, and modern amenities. This school serves some of our most vulnerable students, and they deserve the best facilities we can give them.

Redland Bay State School received tuckshop refurbishments, library repairs following ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred, and external classroom painting.

Victoria Point State High School had critical roof repairs.

Macleay Island State School received funding of \$160,000 for a playground upgrade. Scenic Shores State School has Stage 2 planning underway to deliver new classrooms and facilities.

The \$200 Play On Sport Vouchers and \$150 Back to School Boost have delivered real cost-of-living relief to Redlands families.

Early intervention programs—Traction for Young People and Top Blokes at Victoria Point—are making a difference before problems escalate; and Skilling Queenslanders for Work is creating pathways for young people who need them most.

Last week I visited Russell Island State School for their Thank a First Responder Day. One of our local police officers thanked me, not just for attending, but for listening and for the work we are doing. They understand change takes time, but they are seeing the outcomes. That feedback is exactly why I am here.

We also recently hosted the Best of the Redland Queensland Day Awards alongside my colleagues from Oodgeroo and Capalaba. Recognising the best in customer service, dining, tourism, education, emergency volunteers, and community organisations—it was a humbling reflection of everything we fight for in this place.

I want to make their lives better. I want to help their small businesses prosper. I want to reduce red tape so teachers can teach. I want our volunteers to feel supported and our frontline personnel to know they will get home safe.

As we move into this Budget year, the work continues.

Construction on the Weinam Creek multi-storey car park will commence once plans are finalised.

Fixing the dangerous intersection in Stage 2 of Cleveland-Redland Bay Road upgrades will begin and we will do it right.

We are unlocking more housing through genuine planning and consultation. And we are advancing the 2032 Brisbane Olympics legacy for Redlands—including the White-Water Centre and the Metro expansion that will connect our region.

The Crisafulli Government is delivering safer communities, better health services, a stronger economy, and planning reforms that work for families and local councils.

We made 50-cent fares permanent. Free disability parking permits. A government that listens—and delivers.

I entered this place as a first-time candidate, elected on a very slim margin.

That result was a reminder that trust is earned, not assumed. Every day I carry that responsibility with me. I said I would listen. I said I would advocate. I said I would deliver. We have made a strong start, but there is still much more to do.

To the people of Redlands—from Thornlands to Macleay Island, Victoria Point to Redland Bay—thank you for placing your trust in me. I will continue to work hard, fight for our community and deliver the outcomes that Redlanders deserve.



Mr KNUTH (Hill—KAP) (5.25 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the budget debate. Firstly, I acknowledge that this budget does show greater fiscal restraint than we have seen in recent years. There are a couple of highlights, including the \$200 Play On! sports vouchers. I believe that these are good dollars well spent. I did push the previous government to try to get these sports vouchers so we

could get the kids into sports and off the streets. I know that this is welcomed by families, and it is good to see the present government continuing with these values. Also, increasing the Back to School Boost to \$150 for every student will certainly help ease the cost-of-living pressures for families. I have to say these are also good dollars well spent.

I find it interesting that \$146 million has gone to extracting, processing and exporting critical minerals to the world. I believe it is a good investment; however, the USA considers uranium a critical mineral. In North-West Queensland we have between \$15 billion and \$19 billion worth of uranium in the ground that currently cannot be mined. If the government are serious about extracting critical minerals, they must immediately lift the ban on uranium. That \$15 billion to \$19 billion of potential gross revenue is billions of dollars for the state's coffers, which means more money for the Queensland economy.

I note that \$25 million has been included for biofuels and establishing domestic production of second-generation biodiesel. I believe this is a good investment as well; however, you cannot spend money on increasing biodiesel production without increasing mandates and providing certainty for businesses to increase production, otherwise the \$25 million will be wasted.

While there are a few positives, ultimately this budget is a disappointment for rural and regional Queensland. The Olympics continue to cast a very long shadow over this budget. Queenslanders were promised that the games would not come at the expense of the regions; however, that promise is becoming harder to believe. As we move closer to 2032, more and more money will be diverted into completing Olympics infrastructure as years were wasted while governments argued, changed plans and delayed decisions. Now the pressure is on to finish these projects, and history tells us that when deadlines approach governments simply throw more money at them.

There are very few transformational projects in this budget for regional Queensland that create wealth, improve freight efficiency, open up new industries or strengthen our state's productive capacity. One project that perfectly demonstrates this failure is the Ootann Road. For years, the KAP, transport, industry, the Mareeba Shire Council and the member for Cook have fought for the complete sealing of this vital route. Ootann Road is not just another country road; it is a strategic, north-south freight corridor linking the Kennedy Highway and the Burke Developmental Road, servicing the beef, agriculture and mining industries throughout Far North Queensland. When completed, it will provide a safer and more efficient alternative freight route, reduce pressure on the Bruce Highway, allow uninterrupted road train access and significantly reduce transport costs for regional industries. It will unlock enormous economic opportunities across the north. Despite all of those benefits, there is still no commitment in this budget to seal the entire route. Instead, we continue to receive funding for small, isolated sections every few years while more than 65 kilometres remain unsealed.

I am aware that there is money allocated for a new Barron River bridge. This has always been a controversial issue, particularly when there has been a massive push over the past 40 years by previous members of parliament about a fast-track inland highway between the Tablelands and Cairns straight through the range. We can spend \$600 million on a new Barron River bridge; that is fine. We will have a new bridge, but we still have massive problems with going down the Kuranda Range. Nothing is going to change. A lot of money needs to be spent on the Kuranda Range. There is \$600 million but you are looking at \$500 million to be spent on the Kuranda Range. You may as well build a fast-track inland highway. I have seen the Gateway Bridge and all these tunnels built here in Brisbane. There is nothing to say that we cannot do it. This push has been going on for 40 years from great members of parliament, particularly members from the seat of Cook.

One of the great disappointments in this budget is the government's treatment of the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme. This is an issue that I have been raising in the parliament for more than 20 years. Back in 2005 I described the scheme as a pittance, and 20 years later nothing much has changed. Yes, the government has increased the private vehicle subsidy in this budget, but an 11-cent increase from 34 to 45 cents a kilometre barely scratches the surface. That is an 11-cents-per-kilometre increase over 13 years.

Fuel and accommodation costs have skyrocketed while the cost of simply accessing specialist medical treatment has exploded. Yet after 13 years the accommodation subsidy still sits at just \$70 per night. That is simply not good enough for regional Queenslanders who have no choice but to travel hundreds of kilometres for life-saving treatment. People living in Brisbane can access specialists close to home. Families across my electorate, Far North Queensland and Western Queensland often travel

to Cairns, Townsville and Brisbane. They cannot drive home after treatment and need accommodation, meals and support. Instead, many are left hundreds, and in some cases thousands, of dollars out of pocket because of the lack of access to healthcare services.

The Leukaemia Foundation made it abundantly clear this week that the government's changes are incomplete. Chief Executive Officer, Chris Tanti, said that increasing the fuel subsidy is welcome but 'you can't drive 600 kilometres for life-saving chemotherapy and then sleep in your car because you can't afford a bed'. No Queenslanders should ever delay cancer treatment because they cannot afford a motel room. I table that letter from the Leukaemia Foundation.

Tabled paper: Media release, dated 23 June 2026, from the Leukaemia Foundation, titled 'Leukaemia Foundation labels Queensland Government's review of the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme incomplete' [\[1109\]](#).

I again call on the government to undertake a genuine overhaul of the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme, increase the accommodation subsidy and travel allowance to reflect today's real costs, and simplify the bureaucracy and index future payments to CPI so regional Queenslanders never again fall more than a decade behind.

Before I finish, I would like to highlight a few other projects that I believe missed out in this budget and need to be brought to the attention of the Minister for Transport. We have pushed hard to fix Whittings Crossing. There was a petition tabled. Whittings Crossing is on Tully Mission Beach Road. It floods at the drop of a hat. It is a narrow bridge. It is a death trap waiting to happen. It needs urgent attention.

Then there is the Tully Mission Beach Road-Bruce Highway intersection—I believe I have raised this with the present minister or the previous minister. There are big concerns that, as you turn into Tully Mission Beach Road, particularly in the afternoon, there is a huge traffic build-up on the Bruce Highway, backing up for about 500 or 600 metres. Cars are trying to get around other vehicles backed up off to the side of the road, but there is an embankment there. Cars are missing each other by about five or six inches. That intersection needs to be urgently upgraded.

There is a massive issue with traffic backing up on Main Street, Atherton. If we can solve the Golf Links Road intersection and the Grove Street intersection, this would help alleviate that problem. I would like to bring that to the attention of the House.

 **Mr DALTON** (Mackay—LNP) (5.34 pm): This budget is about strengthening the foundations of the fresh start, and nowhere is that clearer than in Mackay. When I first stood for election I made a promise to fight every single day to ensure Mackay got its fair share. For far too long our community was overlooked. After a decade of Labor in government and more than a century of taking Mackay for granted, locals simply wanted to know that someone was fighting for them. Last year's budget was the beginning of that fresh start. It delivered funding for projects that our community had been calling for. This year we are seeing those commitments become reality.

One of the proudest moments I have had as the member for Mackay was standing with the community on Anzac Day this year at North Mackay Saints. Following a moving dusk service, the Saints ran on to their ground for the very first time under brand new competition standard lights. That was an election commitment made by the Crisafulli government and, more importantly, it was a promise kept. I am also pleased to tell the House that another election commitment—the upgrades for the Mackay Musical Comedy Players—is nearing completion. These projects may seem small to some, but to the people who use those facilities every week they mean everything. That is what delivering for your community looks like.

One of the biggest challenges facing Mackay is housing. This budget delivers more than \$30 million for social and affordable housing across the Mackay-Whitsunday region. That is more homes and more opportunities for vulnerable Queenslanders and another important step to ensuring more families have a place to call home.

Health care continues to be one of the highest priorities. That is why I am pleased this budget invests \$8.8 million to upgrade the Mackay Community Mental Health Centre. Mental health services are just as important as physical health care, and this investment will help ensure people can access the support they need closer to home. The budget also provides \$3.7 million to expand the Mackay Base Hospital transit lounge, while work continues on the new temporary car park and planning progresses under the Crisafulli government's Hospital Rescue Plan to deliver the hospital expansion our region deserves.

The community love sport and it brings people together. The budget delivers \$500,000 towards new female change rooms at Mackay and District Junior Rugby League grounds, matched by the Mackay Regional Council to create a \$1 million project. It is an investment that supports the incredible growth of women's and girls' sport and ensures our local facilities keep pace with our growing community.

Families across Mackay also benefit from practical cost-of-living relief. The \$150 Back to School Boost will help parents prepare for the school year, while permanent 50-cent fares continue putting money back into household budgets. The budget also continues work on important education projects like the Mackay State High School hall upgrade and the new tuckshop at Mackay North State High School. These are practical investments that support local students today and into the future.

Mackay is a region with enormous potential. That is why I am pleased this budget provides \$11.25 million this financial year towards stage 2 of the Great Barrier Reef Arena, continuing the Crisafulli government's commitment to deliver a \$23.5 million project. We are also investing in shark management—that is the sea creature, not those circling around the opposition leader! This investment will attract major events, create jobs and continue building Mackay as a destination for sport, tourism and community events—and keeping safe those who use the sea.

The budget also delivers \$5 million for upgrades to the Mackay Police Station, ensuring our police have the facilities they need as we continue restoring safety where we live. The budget proves that Mackay is no longer an afterthought. It delivers on commitments we have already made, invests in the future of our region and continues building the foundations for a stronger Mackay. Whether it is housing, health care, education, community, sport, policing or major infrastructure, this government is delivering where it matters. I am proud to stand in this House as the member for Mackay and say to my community: we are being heard, we are being invested in and we are just getting started. There is still more work to do, and I will continue fighting every day to ensure Mackay gets the investment it deserves.

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

The speech read as follows—

Mr Speaker, while the local investments announced for Mackay are significant, they form part of a much broader Budget that is strengthening the foundations for Queensland's future.

At a time when many families continue to feel cost-of-living pressures, this Budget delivers relief that Queenslanders can rely on.

The Crisafulli Government has locked in permanent 50 cent public transport fares, increased the Back to School Boost to \$150 per child, continued the successful Play On! Sports Voucher program and ensured Ergon customers across regional Queensland receive lower electricity prices in full.

These initiatives are practical measures that make a real difference to household budgets, particularly for families in regional communities like Mackay.

Importantly, this Budget has been delivered without introducing any new or increased taxes while maintaining a responsible fiscal position that puts Queensland on the path to lower debt and a return to surplus.

Mr Speaker, education continues to be one of the Government's highest priorities.

Across Queensland, this Budget delivers investment for 22 new schools, including nine special schools, more workplace health and safety coordinators, additional teachers and teacher aides, and funding to reduce unnecessary red tape so teachers can spend more time teaching and less time on administration.

Locally, the Budget continues important investments at Mackay State High School and Mackay North State High School, ensuring our students have access to modern facilities that support learning for many years to come.

Healthcare is another area where this Government is delivering meaningful reform.

The Hospital Rescue Plan is already delivering improvements across Queensland, including here in Mackay.

Alongside the investment in the Mackay Community Mental Health Centre and expansion of the Mackay Base Hospital Transit Lounge, the temporary hospital car park is progressing and planning continues for the broader Mackay Base Hospital expansion.

Patients who need to travel for specialist healthcare will also benefit from the 30 per cent increase to the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme, providing further support to regional Queenslanders who often travel significant distances to access specialist treatment.

Housing remains one of the greatest challenges facing Queensland.

That is why I welcome the record investment of \$5.725 billion over four years to deliver more social and community housing across the State.

For Mackay, the more than \$30 million committed towards community and social housing represents another important step in increasing supply and ensuring more local families have access to secure housing.

Mr Speaker, restoring safety where Queenslanders live remains a key priority of the Crisafulli Government.

This Budget continues investment in recruiting more frontline police, upgrading police stations, improving operational equipment and strengthening policing capability across Queensland.

The \$5 million investment in the Mackay Police Station demonstrates that commitment locally and will ensure our officers have facilities that support the important work they undertake every day.

As a former police officer, I know that giving our frontline officers the right resources is just as important as providing them with stronger laws.

Mr Speaker, one of the strengths of this Budget is that it balances immediate cost-of-living relief with long-term investment.

Whether it is delivering new schools, investing in hospital infrastructure, supporting housing, building sporting facilities or continuing to invest in regional Queensland, this Budget recognises that communities like Mackay deserve the same opportunities as anywhere else in the State.

I am particularly pleased that projects promised to the people of Mackay continue to be funded and delivered.

The completion of the North Mackay Saints lighting project and the near completion of the Mackay Musical Comedy Players redevelopment demonstrate that this Government honours the commitments it makes.

The new female changeroom facilities at Mackay District Junior Rugby League will ensure the next generation of female athletes have facilities that reflect the incredible growth of women's sport.

Funding towards Stage 2 of Great Barrier Reef Arena continues to build Mackay's reputation as a destination for major sporting events, creating opportunities for local businesses and supporting jobs across our region.

Mr Speaker, this Budget sends a clear message.

Regional Queensland matters.

Mackay matters.

After too many years of being overlooked, our community is seeing real investment, practical delivery and a Government committed to building a stronger future for our region.

I will continue working every day to ensure Mackay's voice is heard, because our community deserves nothing less.



Ms PUGH (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (5.40 pm): I have said it before and I will say it again: budgets, more than any other act of government, are about choices. They are a financial expression of the values that a government holds. They show what a government values, what it is prepared to fund and which communities it is prepared to openly support.

As the Leader of the Opposition outlined in his excellent speech this morning, good budgets should make life easier and less stressful for everyday Queenslanders. Instead, Queenslanders are still facing rising rents, mortgage stress, expensive groceries, high fuel prices and financial pressures which seem to be coming from every angle, which is why it is so upsetting to see the huge advertising spend this LNP government has chosen to undertake.

Honestly, I have never seen anything like it. You cannot drive down the street, catch a bus, check your letterbox or even watch the football without seeing it. In Mount Ommaney people are telling me this is a clear case of wrong priorities. We have even seen cases highlighted in the media where it appears the value of the billboard exceeded the cost of the announcements it was trumpeting. In this cost-of-living crisis, I cannot tell members how upsetting it is to members of my community, who would love to see the return of energy rebates and things like that, to see that money instead spent on incredibly expensive billboards, letterbox drops, flyers, and advertising on television and sporting games instead of on infrastructure, fair wages for public servants or cost-of-living relief. It is heartbreaking for families in my electorate.

I will turn now to some positive news. The Crisafulli government has finally agreed to legislate Labor's 50-cent fares. I thank every single Queenslanders who got onboard with this campaign and say 'well done'. When Labor introduced those 50-cent fares, you got onboard. When we asked you to lend your voice to make it permanent, you got onboard. When the LNP did it, you stayed onboard. Thousands of you signed our petition; hundreds of thousands more watched, shared, liked and commented on our videos. In this budget the LNP have seen the light—and we welcome that—and they backed our 50-cent fares, once and for all. Fifty-cent fares will be made permanent. This is a huge win for commuters. It is great to have bipartisan support for this fantastic Labor initiative.

Some people will use these 50-cent fares to catch a bus on the Centenary Motorway. I have been so proud to deliver the upgrade of the Centenary Motorway as a state and federal partnership along with my good friend the member for Oxley, Milton Dick. It is what happens next that people are now talking about and has people concerned. I have written to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads repeatedly about what comes next on the Centenary Motorway when this bridge is finished, but I have heard precious little in response. As I have repeatedly said along with other members including the member for Jordan, the member for Bundamba and the members for Ipswich, Inala and Ipswich West, we need a real plan for the Centenary motorway.

More people than ever are using the Centenary motorway, even though fuel costs have never been higher, because the train timetables have been cut. It is so sad that, just as people are desperate to get out of their cars and onto public transport to avoid the skyrocketing cost of fuel, many people in my community cannot find a train to catch. I have said it before and I will say it again: the minister needs to work with all stakeholders to ensure commuters can catch a train and get to work on time. Last week I spoke to a commuter whose morning train commute has blown out from about 30 minutes to 70 minutes because they need to catch a train to the inner south, so they are going just a little further than the city. I cannot emphasise enough, as I am sure all members of the House can understand, what a serious impact these issues are having on people in my community. It is really concerning. As the member for Aspley said, 50-cent fares gave people the opportunity to reimagine how people move around the city, and these timetable changes risk undoing all of that progress at a time when fuel costs have never been higher. We need urgent action on this. We need to get it right.

Last week I was not able to conclude my speech on e-mobility devices. As I was driving through my beautiful electorate I saw another one of those very expensive billboards talking about tougher penalties for e-scooters and e-bikes. I double-checked the wording. I wondered which one of my constituents' pedal-assist e-bikes these tougher penalties would capture by this legislation. As I talked about in my contribution, is it 13-year-old Ash, who rides to school on his pedal-assist e-bike? Is it a constituent who has an hypoxic brain injury? These people ride e-bikes which, as I said, are bikes. I suspect that the billboards were meant to reassure people that under these new laws the police would be cracking down on e-motorbikes, which everyone in my community is still deeply concerned about.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): Member, you are straying. I would ask you to come back to the Appropriation Bill.

Ms PUGH: I am talking about the policing—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am just asking you to come back to the bill, thank you.

Ms PUGH: Absolutely. Thank you.

Mr POWER: For clarity—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do you have a point of order?

Mr POWER: The administration of e-bikes—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Just take a seat, thank you. I will get some advice on this. Member, I will let you proceed, but, if you would, talk about the expenditure and budgetary matters associated with that particular line of your contribution.

Ms PUGH: Absolutely, Mr Deputy Speaker. Thank you for your guidance. I was talking about billboard advertising, which is a cost of government, and in particular the extra policing costs that will be incurred in order to enforce these laws. I was questioning which of my constituents those laws were meant to target. As I previously mentioned, 13-year-old Ash and my constituent with an hypoxic brain injury ride e-bikes which, as I have previously stated, are bikes. We know that those illegal motorbikes were already illegal. These new laws should never have captured safe and perfectly normal pedal-assist bikes because, in the words of Chris Cox from the western suburbs BUG group, 'e-bikes are bikes'.

In the regional highlights document, the glossy brochures, I am pleased to see there is a reference to new classrooms for Jamboree Heights State School. This fantastic school continues to be one of the largest schools in my electorate, both primary and high schools, and I congratulate their wonderful principal, Kathy Canavan, and her hardworking P&C for their continued advocacy to secure this project. I know how desperately it is needed for those students. I look forward to hearing more from the minister about this important project for my community.

It is also wonderful that we have classrooms currently being built at Middle Park State School. Those projects have been underway for quite some time. Obviously, that construction continues in the budget. Recently, parents at Middle Park State School have raised with me issues around the toilet amenities at the school. I do hope that some money can be found in the general provisions to fix the toilets for the delightful students at Middle Park.

While I am at it, can I also put in a good word for the students at Graceville and Sherwood state schools, who are running a parliamentary petition, which I understand currently has over 1,000 signatures, asking for their basic amenities to be upgraded. Going to the toilet is a basic human right, and all students have the right to access dignified facilities. I call on the minister to please prioritise the upgrade of these essential facilities in these schools.

While we are debating this budget, I am thinking of our hardworking teachers who are working day in, day out to educate our students, from our littlest preppies all the way through to our year 12s who will finish in just a few months. Report cards have gone out, it is Under Eights Week in many schools and our teachers continue to go above and beyond for our little ones. All they are asking for in return from this government is fair wages and conditions. I understand that there was money available to be able to offer a pay rise to our hardworking teachers while arbitration is underway. I hope the government can reconsider their position to allow this pay rise while those issues continue so that we can alleviate some of their financial stress. I cannot emphasise enough how much financial stress many people in my community are under.

I have always been a big advocate for FairPlay and Play On! sports vouchers. This year I have been engaging with the former sports minister about including dance more widely in these vouchers. It is something I am passionate about and so are a lot of people in my community. These vouchers are a great cost-of-living measure, but if you are the parent of a dancer there are still many dance schools that cannot accept these vouchers. It is really great to see more and more young men getting into dance. However, it is still far and away one of the most popular physical and creative arts pursuits for girls and young women. For this reason it means that the exclusion of a lot of dance schools disproportionately impacts young women and girls.

We know that dance is a physically intense activity, often with a demanding training schedule. This means that it is not possible for many dancers and their families to participate in another sport that would allow them to take up the use of those vouchers because they do not have the time. It is important that we find a way to allow all dancers to use these vouchers. I will keep fighting to ensure our dancers are treated just like other athletes.

As a proud local member of an incredibly multicultural community, I am always pleased to see the continuation of community events that were funded by Labor governments, like the Sri Lanka Day Festival and Tet festival for the Vietnamese community, to name just two. With the ever-increasing multicultural population of Queensland comes an increased demand, and I often speak to organisers of big events who would love more money for their events to keep up with the rising production costs of putting these fantastic showcases on. That is part of the reason a future Labor government will double the funding for multicultural community celebrations and festivals, bringing the funding pool to \$2 million in grants available. We will more than double the funding available for multicultural projects that build an inclusive and united Queensland, boosting the funding from \$1.8 million to \$4 million in grants a year.

Let me be clear: it has unfortunately never been more important to have cultural and religious events that celebrate our cultural diversity and harmony. In the last year, I have attended multicultural events which I have subsequently shared online, and these posts have been subjected to the most disgusting abuse of our beautiful multicultural Queenslanders. I want to call that abuse out clearly and loudly today. To our multicultural community, whether you have a parent born overseas, like me, or you were born overseas yourself, we are on your side. We are so glad that you are here in our community and we will stand by you when others question your right to be here and your contribution to our community and our state.

As I said at the beginning of my speech, budgets are about choices. That is why I am proud to be part of a team supporting multicultural Queenslanders, supporting commuters and communities with 50-cent fares and supporting workers fighting for fair wages.



Mr BAILLIE (Townsville—LNP) (5.53 pm): I rise to speak in favour of the Appropriation Bill 2026. The Crisafulli government's second state budget shows that we are continuing to deliver for Townsville, Magnetic Island and Palm Island as well as greater North Queensland. In contrast to recent budgets

released by other levels of government, our budget does not include any new or increased taxes. We are continuing to invest in North Queensland to deliver a safer community, better health care, more housing and real cost-of-living relief.

To make our communities safer, in addition to the 45 Adult Crime, Adult Time offences and new laws that remove weapons, drugs and anti-social behaviour from our streets, we are investing in our police by providing them with the tools and resources they need, including stage 2 of the Kirwan police complex and delivering a new state-of-the-art police academy and dog squad. We now have more police serving than ever before, with over 13,000 officers across the state.

We are investing in new early intervention and rehabilitation programs, including a crime prevention school to be opened in Townsville and Circuit Breaker Sentencing which will deliver new court ordered, remote, rehabilitation focused detention for youth offenders in our efforts to break the cycle of crime. We are also making investments to deliver faster justice for victims by expanding court resources in Townsville with an additional District Court judge and the construction of two additional courtrooms.

To deliver better health care, we are investing in our hospital, delivering stage 1 of the Townsville University Hospital expansion to provide at least 165 new overnight beds, in addition to the transit lounge expansion and the car park expansion which is already underway. We are also investing in new perinatal and youth focused mental health facilities in Townsville. We are increasing the support available through the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme, as well as providing free health checks offering vision, hearing and speech development checks for our kindy kids.

To deliver more housing, we are unlocking land through the Residential Activation Fund with two infrastructure projects in the northern suburbs of Townsville which will unlock 4,200 new homes. We are already seeing positive results at the Cosgrove Estate on the back of our government's commitment to the RAF supported intersection upgrade. In just seven months the developer had already released another 150 lots available for purchase, and with strong sales numbers as of today only 15 of those lots remain available on the market. In addition, we are investing in more social and community housing right across the electorate, including 10 homes on Palm Island.

We are delivering real cost-of-living relief for families and small businesses with the reduction in energy costs delivered through our Energy Roadmap. We are locking in our Back to School Boost, Play On! sports vouchers and 50-cent fares. We will continue to invest in North Queensland. In addition to the Bruce Highway and CopperString investment, we are delivering a more resilient North Queensland through disaster recovery support. Sooning Street Bridge is now very close to reopening and multiple local sporting and community organisations are receiving support to assist in their recovery following recent weather events. We are continuing investment to support new and emerging industry, with \$10 million towards the Queensland Resources Common User Facility, almost \$18 million towards the Lansdown Eco-Industrial Precinct and over \$20 million towards the continued development of the Port of Townsville.

We are investing in our schools, community organisations, local sporting clubs and new tourism experiences as Townsville continues to evolve in the lead-up to the 2032 games. We are cementing our reputation as the sporting and events capital of the north, with investments to attract world-class talent to Townsville complemented by a new bus service commencing next Monday connecting the airport to the CBD and providing better connectivity for locals and visitors alike. Passengers will be able to enjoy this service for just 50 cents. We are also continuing our investment into Palm Island as we kickstart the tourism master plan, investing in walking trails and directly supporting the development of the tourism industry and building valuable industry-based skills on the island.

I am honoured to be the member for Townsville. I will continue to listen to the Townsville electorate and work hard to deliver more support for new projects and further investment into our region. For years we were forgotten about under the former Labor government. We are continuing to invest in North Queensland to deliver a safer community, better health care, more housing and real cost-of-living relief, because Townsville, Magnetic Island and Palm Island are worth investing in.

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (5.59 pm): We have always known—and Queenslanders know—that this government is built on broken promises. Now we know from this budget that it is also built on blowouts. The Premier told us before the election that his word would mean something. He said, 'When I say something, it means something.' Nowhere are these broken promises more damaging to investment and jobs in Queensland than in the mining and resources sector.

Before the election when asked about coal royalties at resource sector functions, the Premier said to the resources sector, 'You can take my promises to the bank.' When referring to cutting royalties, Minister Dale Last told a behind-closed-doors meeting that the government was considering a model 'that meets everyone's expectations'. The government then went into a desperate cover-up, insisting they would not change coal royalties. However, again secretly, the Premier then told the mayor of Mackay that there would be lower royalties but only for new investments, not for existing operations. Again, the Premier then desperately went on to call the mayor of Mackay a liar. This budget shows—

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on unparliamentary language. Also, I would like to ask the member on his feet to verify the information he has just given about the honourable the Premier.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): Take a seat for one moment while I get some advice. Member, firstly, that was unparliamentary language and I ask you to withdraw.

Mr POWER: I withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would ask you to verify the statements you made as well.

Mr POWER: Certainly. Media reports—

Government members: Ha, ha!

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members, give him an opportunity.

Mr POWER: Media reports in Mackay, that the mayor then backed up, made the claim—

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members!

Mr POWER: I hope the clock is not running? Good. The mayor made the claim that the Premier had told him that. The Premier then went on to deny it in the article. The mayor then went on to say that both he and his CEO were there and he stood by his comments.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. With the greatest respect, the member on his feet is not producing the article. He went further in what he said. I would again ask for him to validate it and not just with the article. I would like him to validate what he said about the Premier of Queensland.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Take a seat—

Mr POWER: I am happy to do that. It is a *Brisbane Times* article from—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, take a seat, please. Member, could you validate the statement in relation to the Premier—

Mr POWER: I—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let me finish—by giving dates and times and the source of that information, please?

Mr POWER: Certainly. The article is from James Hall on 22 June 2026 in the *Brisbane Times*.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member has been unable to verify the information that he gave about the honourable the Premier and I ask him to validate it, please. What he is referring to is the media article regarding his prior statement about the honourable the Premier. I ask the member on his feet to validate the statement. This is a member who continually misuses the rules of this parliament for his own good.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, member. Take your seat. Member for Nanango, if you have a complaint, you can write to the Speaker in relation to that complaint.

Mr POWER: That *Brisbane Times* article states—

Mackay Mayor Greg Williamson recently claimed Premier David Crisafulli had privately floated a loophole that would lower taxes for new mines, according to a News Corp report.

Ms Bates: That means it's fact, right?

Mr POWER: As I said, that is quoted directly from the paper. We know that it is unlikely that the mayor of Mackay is the one telling the mistruths.

A government member: Based on what?

Mr POWER: We know that, instead, it is likely to be someone else.

Mr Stevens: The next Labor candidate for Mackay?

Mr POWER: This, of course, is a shambles. No wonder the resources companies—and I know those opposite are defensive about this because it is a shambles—

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members.

Mr POWER: It is a shambles. No wonder resources companies look at this and think again. Because this government is so unreliable, they think again about investing in Queensland—and that is in any part of the resources sector, not just the coal sector. Those that are doing it are doing it despite this Premier and despite this minister.

Coal Australia in their release were scathing of the government. They see that the surplus that is promised long in the future, well beyond the next election, is dependent and budgeted upon the progressive coal royalties. Companies know that they simply cannot trust anything the Crisafulli LNP government says.

Organisations like AMEC see that the Crisafulli government had said they would support exploration. Then they see after the election that this budget confirms that they are not extending Labor's Collaborative Exploration Initiative beyond round 10, when recipients were announced in April. It is unfortunate that when the LNP government looked at a good program and asked for it to be extended, they probably said, 'No, that's a Labor thing,' and they put it on the chopping block. AMEC were relieved that Labor's rent waiver was not another thing for the chopping block. It is an initiative that remains as a positive legacy of Labor's commitment to minerals exploration.

Another program is the frontier gas exploration grants, which ended. When the LNP looked at extending these grants to fast-track the development of future gas supply they said, 'No. Cut, cut, cut—on the chopping block.' These programs are more important than ever for new gas and even oil discovery, but they are not backed by the LNP. They were not programs that were continued.

Speaking of fuel, if you would listen to the LNP—and I have seen it on the back of those blue brochures. Honourable members should remember that when they see blue it probably isn't true. Speaking of fuel, seeing it on those blue brochures would make you think we are on the edge of an oil, petrol and gas bonanza, but this budget reveals that the petroleum royalties planned by the LNP show no sign of that and they go down, not up. This indicates that at least for the next four years the LNP government plans to have less energy, gas and oil sovereignty in Queensland, not greater. They are the budgetary facts that caught out their rhetoric. Everything they took recently to the people of Queensland, including at by-elections, has been proved false by the cold, hard facts in their budget. This is a budget that undermines confidence in the resources sector. In particular, the mixed messages on broken promises that the Premier made on royalties mean that those who are trying to make investments will think again with this irrational and irregular government.

Another cut that we know about in the resources sector and one that cuts deep in this budget is the cut to the resources safety commissioner. We saw that this parliament—or at least those on the opposite side—voted to cut the resources safety commissioner, a cut that will actually expose Queensland workers to more unsafe conditions, and not have someone as a single point to ensure the safety of workers. That is one of the worst cuts to the resources sector. As always, though, behind closed doors in the north of the state, when the LNP think they can get away with it, they will say one thing, but down here the budget reveals to everyone that nothing they say is actually true.

Before the election the LNP made many promises to the people of southern Logan. Remember the Premier told Logan, 'When I say something, it means something.' Well, so many of his promises have no meaning to the people of the Logan electorate. Southern Logan, which I represent, is the fastest growing area of Queensland. Before the election I warned that LNP cuts to services in the future would hurt growing areas like Park Ridge, Yarrabilba, Jimboomba and Flagstone. Established areas like those that the Premier represents already have those services built and in place. Sure, they may not be renewed and become older—they should be renewed—but at least they are there and they exist. In growing areas like Yarrabilba, carved out of a blank slate on an historic military exercise area and

pine forests, and Flagstone, carved out from former farms, the roads, the schools and the services are just not there. When they are not delivered—when they are cut from future programs—that hurts even more. They hurt the families moving to these areas because of the affordable houses.

In the last budget we saw some things that were part of the last government's investment in Logan, but this budget is truly a Crisafulli LNP budget because we see nothing. Nowhere is this more true than with our roads, where promises have been broken and funding cut. Before the election the LNP's candidate made a promise on behalf of the LNP—checked off by the LNP—that they would release the plan for community consultation on an overpass on Green Road and Fedrick Street on the Mount Lindesay Highway in the first quarter of 2025, but now we discover that not only is that promise long broken but there has also been a cut. Obviously that means that there is no new funding for the Green Road-Fedrick Street intersection, but worse than that there is no funding for planning on this section because it no longer appears in QTRIP. That either means that the planning on that section is completely finished and those opposite could release the plan for community consultation or, if it is still ongoing, there has been a cut to the budget, which means that they will not be able to complete that, and that will be the excuse they use.

Worse than that, not only is there no funding for that project; there is no new funding for projects at all on the Mount Lindesay Highway. I have repeatedly urged the main roads minister to be the first Liberal National Party main roads minister in 30 years to deliver a new project to four lane the Mount Lindesay Highway—in fact, deliver anything that exists between Jimboomba and Browns Plains or Jimboomba and the Logan Motorway. After three governments and 31 years, there is not a single investment that remains on the Mount Lindesay Highway between the Logan Motorway and Jimboomba—nothing. In fact, we have seen a planning funding cut. This means that the LNP minister is tearing up the Mount Lindesay Highway 10-year plan. If they think I have been misleading, I note that no members opposite have jumped up to object. Nobody in this House will object because we all know that those are the facts.

We also fail to see funding for other state roads, again with planning and design funding disappearing from the budget with regard to Waterford Tamborine Road. I had fought hard for a safer Waterford Tamborine Road from Stegemann Road to North Street in Logan Village, especially at the Stegemann Road intersection. However, I am told through sources that planning upgrades north of Logan Village that will include road safety improvements such as audio tactile line markings, signage, removing roadside hazards and flattening the embankment have been postponed and the funds transferred into future years—yet another cut. I will continue to fight for all of the roads in Logan, especially the Mount Lindesay Highway, and I will fight for the Mount Lindesay Highway 10-year plan despite the LNP cuts. I will soon start a petition and go door to door to prioritise the Green Road-Fedrick Street bypass and also be an advocate of four laning between Chambers Flat and Greenbank Road—another part of the 10-year plan that the LNP has abandoned.

Mr Lee: What did you do in the last 10 years?

Mr POWER: It would take me too long. I only have 15 minutes—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): Member—

Mr POWER:—but I can go through the projects.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Sorry—

Mr POWER: If they move an extension of time—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member—

Mr POWER: Mr Deputy Speaker, if they move an extension of time—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, take a seat. You know that when the Speaker speaks you do not continue to interrupt. I will have you address me rather than other members of the House please.

Mr POWER: Mr Deputy Speaker, if they have the guts to move an extension of time, I will go through—

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

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: You do not need to take a point of order. Member, I will ask you to withdraw that unparliamentary language and I will ask you to show some respect to the chair.

Mr POWER: My apologies, Mr Deputy Speaker; I withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

Mr POWER: If those opposite have the strength to listen to it and want to hear about all of the projects that have been completed on the Mount Lindesay Highway, they could move an extension of time to hear it, but I know they will not. I know that the main roads minister especially will not do it because he knows how much we delivered and how he has delivered nothing on the Mount Lindesay.

I also want to see funding for the Bannockburn Road intersection. We noticed that it is in QTRIP but, just like last year, there is no timing, funding or any project status on this one. It has stalled already for a year with no change. It gets whacked in there again, but nobody in the electorate and certainly neither of the MPs who share that intersection—myself and the member for Macalister—get to see what is going on there. This is just not good enough. We also see funding for other state roads cut, so I will have to continue to fight for those. I have spoken about the Beaudesert-Beenleigh-Bannockburn Road and Belivah Road intersection, but we have no idea when that will happen.

Moving on to Yarrabilba further down Waterford Tamborine Road, the LNP candidate put up conflutes saying that the LNP government would build a second exit. However, the developer was in the process of building that connection to Waterford Tamborine Road. Promises that when your candidate says something you mean it are not really correct, because there is nothing in QTRIP either that shows Yarrabilba residents anything about having that intersection built. Despite LNP promises, there are cuts to Logan roads funding. Can members imagine the wrong priorities the LNP government must have if it looks at the funding for the Mount Lindesay Highway and other Logan roads and it says, 'Yes, we want to cut the 10-year plan; we want to cut funding for roads in the fastest growing area in the electorate'?

It is also true that when those opposite saw the Yarrabilba Satellite Hospital plans they said, 'That's not something we want.' Even though they had made promises to the people of Yarrabilba that they would deliver health care where you need it, apparently they said it is not needed in Yarrabilba. That was a service that they did not want to provide and in this budget we see no new funding for any health facilities in southern Logan. Indeed, we see the Coomera Hospital stalled, with construction going backwards as they bulldoze things.

There is growing pressure on our schools and students have to travel a long time to get to high schools. That is why I am urging the minister to get on with building the Everleigh State High School as soon as possible. We had to run a community campaign to get those opposite to buy the site before it was planned and developed, yet now it seems it is stalled. I urge the minister to get on with building the Everleigh State High School, and the member for Jordan also spoke about this issue because it serves the Greenbank community that we both share.

We know that costs have gone up and rego has gone up, which hurts those who have to rely on a car for travelling, none more so than those on low incomes who need their tools to get to work. Tradie apprentices have a genuine need in this regard, and that is why I was pleased to see the opposition leader make a commitment to give free registration to those hardworking tradies in that position. Speaking of people travelling around, it is great to see the LNP locking in Labor's 50-cent fares. It took a great campaign—we all had to get out there and sign petitions—but finally those opposite have agreed with us that 50-cent fares were a great contribution put in place by former premier Steven Miles which has made a difference in terms of getting people around, and those opposite are backing it up.

(Time expired)

 **Mrs KIRKLAND** (Rockhampton—LNP) (6.18 pm): I rise today to respond to the Crisafulli government's 2026-27 budget. Within the Central Queensland region, Rockhampton is geographically positioned at the centre and often referred to as the hub of CQ. It is the focal point and the ground on which towns across Central Queensland come together for events like Beef Week, Rocky Nats and the great Barra Bash—that is a massive fishing event, for those who do not know. Rockhampton is central for commerce and trade, education and health services. From throughout the region, the roads we travel are long and often lonely. They connect families to industries of employment such as the resources and mining sector, the energy sector and, of course, the agricultural sector.

Indeed, Central Queensland itself is the very heartbeat of Queensland. Resources from across the region flow into Queensland and feed us, power our homes and keep fuel moving, supporting everything that underpins the state's economic strength and sustainability, yet for far too long we have

been short-changed every year by the previous Labor government, which continued to ignore the appeals for support and the calls for an injection of infrastructure, proper planning and even simple basic maintenance needs. Regional electorates like Rockhampton were left in the dark because they were considered 'a safe Labor seat' and were relegated to the back stalls and only ever given stocking filler funding to appease the people.

Our community knew nothing would change under Labor. They voted for a new day and a government that would back them in, and that is what the Crisafulli government is delivering. This budget unashamedly shines a light on the regions, with the clear understanding that when the regions prosper then the rest of Queensland prospers. I would like to thank the Treasurer, the Premier and the entire cabinet team, along with all of the hands that have turned to producing what is a budget that literally backs in regional Queensland—a budget that recognises potential for places like Rockhampton across Central Queensland. Thank you for listening to the voices and the cries for help from our communities.

In last year's budget reply I used strong language to describe the feelings expressed by my community, describing the previous government as having been geographically narcissistic. We have seen that again this year, with the federal budget punishing Queenslanders with their cost shifting and the redistribution of our hard-earned taxes to their favoured Labor-held states. Queensland has long needed a government that is sensible, brave and committed to the economic sustainability and security of the people of Queensland. With this budget we can breathe, knowing that at least Queensland's Crisafulli government is on task and has an actual real and credible plan for the people of Queensland and the state that supports the rest of Australia. Unlike the former Labor government, who were all about politics, with sugar-hit bribes and higher taxes, Queenslanders know that the Premier of this state, the Hon. David Crisafulli, and his entire team will always put the people of Queensland first.

To the people of Rockhampton, Central Queensland and the regions I say: this budget is for you. This budget delivers significant capital investment in our region across health, housing, roads, cost of living and sport, including legacy infrastructure for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games as host to the rowing and canoeing. Rockhampton will see a 40-bed youth foyer to support at-risk youth aged 16 to 21 across Central Queensland. This will contribute to the housing needs of our region, alongside the \$32 million Residential Activation Fund, which will unlock 4,600 homes across the electorate, plus the construction of over 300 social and community properties. There is a further \$25 million to support the delivery of another 200 spaces of mixed accommodation at the north-east of the CQ University site, along with \$61.1 million to deliver the next stage of our TAFE Centre of Excellence, delivering an additional 500 to 800 tradespeople. All of this will work towards securing our housing foundations, as promised. Future first home buyers within my electorate will be motivated to hear that this year's budget has boosted the \$30,000 first home owner grant, extending it and locking it in for four years.

This budget will see the expansion of our local health services, including doubling the size of our emergency department, the delivery of a new mental health facility and a cardiac hybrid theatre, the expansion of our transit lounge, the construction of a new mental health step-up step-down facility, implementation of a neuro wellness hub and the delivery of a \$95 million health sciences academy to expedite the delivery of the critical health workforce into our region. This is all about delivering health services where and when you need them, honouring our promises for regional Queenslanders.

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

The speech read as follows—

This is our goal, to bring health services to the people, where they live and when they need them. With this in mind, we are also listening to regional Queenslanders calling for more support through the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme. That is why this Budget includes the biggest uplift to the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme in over 8 years with a nation leading, record injection of \$140M to extend the fuel subsidy by 30%. This will see significant savings for regular travellers. For example, a patient travelling for dialysis from Emerald to Rockhampton will see savings of around \$180 per week.

My community of Gracemere is very excited and full of anticipation as we build the brand-new Gracemere High School. Last year's Budget saw \$100 million investment for stage one, and this year's budget adding \$66.3M to ensure the delivery of stages 2A and 2B. This acknowledges regional growth and the right of every child to a world-class education close to home.

Also locked in is a \$42 million investment for stage one of our Multi Sports Precinct, a hub for regional sporting excellence alongside the delivery of two new sporting clubhouses for our region, and legacy infrastructure support for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Rowing and Canoe events, showcasing Central Queensland on the world stage.

Our road infrastructure continues to see significant investment with the budget accounting for the ongoing delivery of the Rockhampton Ring Road, and upgrades to both the Bruce highway and regional connecting beef roads.

Next year Rockhampton will host Beef Week 2027 and \$4.5 million has been accounted for to ensure the successful delivery of this significant, international event that welcomes patronage of over 100,000 visitors from across Australia and around the world. This is a signature event, a symbol of our region's agricultural strength, cultural identity, and economic drive.

A revised \$7.63 million has been included within the budget for the construction of a new Neighbourhood centre in Rockhampton—something that I called out for from when I was first elected as a councillor and which is now highly anticipated by stakeholders across the electorate.

Mr Speaker, this year's Budget has continued to demonstrate a government that is Delivering for Queensland. Unlike the previous Labor Government's budgets, laced with Debt, Deficit and Deception this year's Crisafulli Government Budget is deliberately focussed on improving our Economic and Social future.

It is disciplined, and in the words of our Treasurer, it is timely, recurrent and responsible. The Budget strengthens our foundations for a fresh start—the fresh start Queenslanders voted for.

The budget leads the way to Restoring and Expanding Queensland's Sovereign Capabilities at the same time delivering the largest ever investment into ongoing Cost of Living Measures.

This Budget Mr Speaker delivers continued investment into Making Queensland Safer, building a place to call home, strengthening services through a stronger economy, and building Queensland's future.

All of this with no new or increased taxes.

Further Cost of living measures being delivered through this Budget Mr Speaker include increasing the Back to School Boost by 50% for every primary school student in Queensland, Locking in Play On! sports vouchers, increasing the Vulnerable Household Electricity Rebate Scheme by 3.4 % to almost \$400, expanding free Kindy Checks and one of the most significant measures, locking in lower energy prices right across Queensland, including Regional Queensland. In the regions, we will see families save on average 6.9% in their electricity bills and businesses will save a minimum of 8.1% thanks to our Energy Maintenance Guarantee in keeping coal-fired power stations open for reliable baseload energy and the requirement for energy providers to pass on the full price power reductions.

Mr Speaker finally regional Queensland has a government that supports them and a government that, more importantly, believes in them.

Thank you again to our Premier, Cabinet and Treasurer.

I close in extending my full support for the 2026-27 Budget Bill. Mr Speaker, I commit the Bill to the House.



Ms ASIF (Sandgate—ALP) (6.24 pm): I rise to speak on the appropriation bills for 2026-27. Good governments are not made by slogans. They are made by the decisions they make, the path they choose and the priorities they set out. With the power to make these decisions comes responsibility—something I think the government has failed to do in this budget. A budget should lay out the framework through which a government intends to manage the state's finances in order to make life better for people, to make their lives easier and to help them get ahead. It is not an opportunity for excuses or distractions; it is an opportunity to take responsibility when your choices have set people back and to lay a plan to make things better. This budget does none of those things. It has been called a boring budget, but it is not a boring budget; it is a bad one.

The test of progress is not whether we add more to those who already have plenty but whether we provide enough to those who have too little. You judge a government by how it treats people, by what you do to help them at the time they need it most, when they are struggling. Right now, Queenslanders are calling out for support where it matters most—investment in housing, transport and health and help with managing increasing household budgets.

Queensland's economy has gone from being one of the top-performing among the states to being forecast to be at the bottom of the pack. Our gross state product growth is forecast to fall to just 1.75 per cent, barely keeping up with population growth, and we are at risk of going backwards. When the economy grows no faster than the population, there is nothing left over for the average Queenslanders. While global pressures have an impact on our economy, the war in Iran does not explain why Queensland is performing so much worse than other states. This is happening under this LNP government and their refusal to manage our economy.

The budget reveals a \$6.2 billion deficit—the highest of any state in this nation. Under this government, debt is forecast to grow to \$216 billion by 2030. This comes despite billions flowing into Treasury pockets from coal royalties, from Labor's decision to introduce progressive coal royalties. For all the coal royalties the government is collecting, you would think Queenslanders would be feeling somewhat more relaxed and comfortable in their real lives, but their daily lives are not supported by well-funded services and infrastructure. I am disappointed to say that that is the truth.

The cost of living is still at an all-time high and Queenslanders are struggling to pay the bills, while house prices in Brisbane remain amongst the highest in the country. The basic necessities are falling further and further out of reach, forcing many families to choose between paying the bills and

paying for groceries. The LNP said they would deliver a practical cost-of-living relief package that puts money back into household budgets, but since they have come to office car rego has increased by more than 23 per cent. The Queensland Council of Social Service said it directly—

There isn't a cost-of-living or housing package in this budget that will make a difference to families now.

This government has no vision for the building infrastructure in our state. There is no long-term vision beyond its own political cycle. The LNP is spruiking this as a budget that builds Queensland's future, but it is full of broken commitments. Multiple transport infrastructure projects across Queensland have been delayed or cancelled, including on the north side, where the government is backing away from its commitment to deliver the Gympie Road tunnel and delaying the delivery of the Linkfield Road overpass. There are road projects on the north side that our community desperately needs and is relying on. These projects would help people to get home faster to their families and spend less time sitting in traffic.

This year Queensland has truly struggled under an incompetent transport minister—one who has cut train services, failed to invest in new bus services and shown no interest in helping people in our community get where they need to be. I have been inundated with people coming to me about the failures of this government when it comes to transport, which is why—along with my community in the 2026 Sandgate budget submission—we asked for funding for bus services on the north side, specifically in Bracken Ridge, Brighton and Fitzgibbon. Parents across my electorate have told me how infrequent services is having an impact on their ability to work in the city and return home in time to collect their young children from day care. They are missing out on quality time with their children due to the delays, and the trains are absolutely packed, with residents advising that many peak-hour services are full by Deagon train station, the second stop on our line.

Felicity from Shorncliffe, who catches the train regularly, has raised concerns around safety, as carriages are completely packed, with multiple people standing in the aisles and with services reduced to 30-minute intervals, even in peak hour. Having to commute to collect her children from school and after-school-hours care is especially difficult if trains are delayed or not running according to the timetable.

Katie from Fitzgibbon has said that she is truly exhausted by the rail timetable changes. She said the reduction in services and the increased travel time means she is having to leave home earlier, getting on the train later and waiting longer when she has to change trains. This is impacting not only her work but also her ability to take care of herself and her home.

Sitting suspended from 6.30 pm to 7.30 pm.



Ms ASIF: Katie said—

When you are spending over three hours commuting daily, you have very little time to do everything a busy home needs to be maintained. Driving is not a sustainable option. Not only is petrol more expensive, but parking costs are phenomenal. Yesterday I paid \$40 for parking while at work.

There are currently no train stations in Bracken Ridge, Fitzgibbon or Brighton, and many of the bus services that are available only service certain areas. It is especially difficult for people to travel from west to east. When I contacted the transport minister and TMR I was told that there was no money in the budget for them to consider this.

Every day we hear more stories of people waiting too long for care in our hospital emergency departments, including at the Prince Charles and Redcliffe hospitals. The Australian Medical Association—our doctors—said the health spend in this budget has left them short-changed and does not keep pace with increased population, demand and CPI. Access to quality health services close to home is a right that is deserved by every Queenslanders. This is especially important in a community like mine in Sandgate where there are a high number of young families and elderly residents. Public health services ensure affordable access to necessary treatment. They also provide important local jobs and reduce strain on emergency departments. Increasing available local health services in Sandgate has been a top priority of mine since I was elected.

In my budget submissions both last year and this year I asked the Treasurer to provide access to new public health services to care for locals experiencing non-life-threatening injuries or illnesses. I was pleased to see in this year's budget that my calls did not fall on deaf ears and the government has committed to deliver new imaging services to the Brighton Health Campus. This is a fantastic win for our local community. The investment will make a real difference for locals who currently have to travel to either the Redcliffe Hospital or Chermside to access publicly funded MRIs, CT scans, X-rays and ultrasound services. The Brighton Health Campus, which was saved by the Labor government, is an

important resource for many locals. Increasing its capacity will reduce pressure on both hospitals that we access on the north side. I look forward to receiving more details about the project, including delivery timelines, the number of jobs that will be created and the total planned investment.

Unfortunately, there was not much more good news in the budget for us on the north side. The Premier continued to insist that there were planned expansions at the Prince Charles and Redcliffe hospitals to provide extra beds, but we are yet to see where the money is coming from. There is no 93-bed commitment in the budget other than a line item.

A young constituent in Brighton contacted my office in April last year seeking support for housing. It was not until 12 months later that he was finally placed in temporary housing with no timeline for when a more permanent option will be available to him. Housing affordability remains one of the biggest challenges facing Queenslanders. You cannot solve a housing crisis without building more homes. I am not talking about luxury homes that are costing millions; we need to build homes that people can actually afford.

In my community there are young people, school leavers and others who are looking for a change and who want nothing more than to take up a trade. Many of them are hoping to do that at the Bracken Ridge TAFE through Labor's free TAFE program—a program that opened doors to training for thousands of Queenslanders to secure jobs. Unfortunately, this budget freezes the TAFE teaching workforce. There is not one extra teacher across the state despite a housing crisis that is crying out for more tradies. The government's response is to cut the very staff whose job it is to connect Queenslanders with training, limiting this opportunity for so many.

I have the privilege of representing 15 schools and hundreds of teachers, teacher aides and support staff who turn up for our kids every day, so I went looking in the budget for what was in it for them. I looked for the upgrades our local schools desperately need. Unfortunately there was nothing for the aging buildings, the classrooms and the facilities that desperately need an upgrade. This government looked 50,000 Queensland teachers in the eye and said that they were not worth a wage increase. The teachers have been desperately calling for fair conditions. That is something that they deserve. It is truly disappointing to see that the government has not come to the table so far. This is for the very people who are helping to shape our future. Teachers in my community and across Queensland deserve a government that backs them.

Supporting Queensland families also means supporting them to be free from domestic and family violence. I commend the work of our frontline domestic violence workers who work incredibly hard to protect victims of domestic violence. I know what domestic violence can do to families. I know the damage that it can cause to young children who grow up in violent homes watching a parent being hurt at the hands of another. A record number of women and children have been killed at the hands of those they love and trust. We need more funding to address this epidemic so organisations like Sandbag, which does such great work, can continue to be resourced. Nothing exposes a government's real priorities like the lines they hope nobody reads. Buried in the budget is the funding to prevent domestic violence, which has been cut from \$379 million last year to just \$341 million this year. That is a nearly \$40 million cut. Currently, Queensland police respond to a callout every three minutes. The government is also cutting frontline workers who support those very people.

Under this government, families and businesses are struggling with electricity bills which continue to increase. It is evident that the government continues to put their ideology over what is best for Queensland's future when it comes to renewables and clean energy. We need to help families and businesses lower their out-of-pocket costs and that is only possible when you increase energy supply, improve energy security and generate more power, especially clean energy. That is difficult to do when a government fundamentally opposes that.

Working toward the betterment of everyday people is why the Labor Party was formed and it is why I decided to enter politics—so I could help make a difference in the lives of working people. Our community wants to see a positive plan for our state—one that advances us, one that proposes genuine generational change; a bold vision that shifts things for the better. They want a Queensland where families can get ahead, where businesses have the confidence to grow and create jobs, where we attract investors who have confidence in our state and all that it has to offer; where we build things, where we deliver the homes, roads, hospitals and schools that our communities need; where people can have confidence in our economy and where there is respect for the money that they earn.

I truly believe that Queensland is the best place to live, but there is more that can be done. I believe Queensland is the best place to live because of its kind-hearted people, because of our beautiful ecosystem and beaches and, of course, because it is home to Sandgate's foreshore and the Shorncliffe Pier. It can be the best place to live for another reason too: because of the opportunity it offers—where hardworking people have the chance to get ahead and stay ahead. Queensland can and should be nation leading. We have brilliant, hardworking people in this state who want to build a better future for their families, but we lack the leadership and the vision from this government to make that happen. Queenslanders deserve a government that looks out for them, that backs them and that supports them in times of need—when they are facing pressures, when they cannot put food on the table and when they cannot pay rent. They deserve a government that listens to them, not one that shows up for media conferences and says that there is a glossy paper on which they are providing cost-of-living relief. They deserve a government that provides sustainable relief where people can work hard and get ahead.

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (7.39 pm): Twenty months ago, the hardworking people of Queensland had their say and they voted overwhelmingly for a new government because they were sick of the previous 10 years of decline and economic mismanagement. Now they have a mature government that is doing things in a methodical and calm manner and that is listening to the people of Queensland. This budget really promotes the values of our government. We are making Queensland safer, restoring health services where Queenslanders need them most and easing cost-of-living pressures as well as delivering generational infrastructure for all of Queensland.

The budget contains many good things that deliver cost-of-living support, with nearly \$9.3 billion to support Queenslanders next financial year. There are some wonderful initiatives including boosting the back to school payment by 50 per cent so that it is now \$150 per kid to help with the cost of uniforms, school books and other school levies. That is a great boost for families, particularly those families that have more than one child. I had four children at school and I would have welcomed something like this back in those days, but of course that was when Labor was in power.

We are legislating to make permanent 50-cent public transport fares. That is generational change. Of late, I have had a lot of opportunities to use public transport. Travelling on buses and trains has been very effective. This is a great initiative. Only this government would fund this into the future and make sure it can never be changed by future governments. Expanding free kindy healthcare checks is another great initiative. We are extending the \$30,000 first home owner grant for another four years. By locking in funding, not extending it year by year, we are making sure people have certainty.

The Play On! voucher is a fantastic initiative started by the LNP government in 2012 with the Get in the Game program. We were the ones who initiated that initially—I do not know if members noticed that alliteration. It is great to see that it is locked in. It is not just an election sweetener; it is locked in for the future, which I am very excited about given my background. The electricity rebate scheme, which was frozen by the former government, will rise by 3.4 per cent, and we have heard plenty of talk about bulk water prices as well.

I want to talk about some of the things that are happening in my electorate. I welcome the Stafford Road and South Pine Road intersection upgrade. That intersection has been a bottleneck for years. I thank the transport minister, as \$30 million will allow for some major improvements to the way the traffic flows through that major intersection which, by pure coincidence, just so happens to be right outside my electorate office.

The Albany Creek State School will benefit from the refurbishment of the amenities in the U Block staffroom, with \$1.2 million over two years. The Albany Hills State School will benefit from electrical supply upgrades to ensure the replacement of air-conditioning units, with \$31,000 over two years. For years, the Dickson Community Men's Shed have been looking for a home. We are going to combine their needs with those of Stationery Aid, which some members might have heard of. That great charity helps families that struggle to get what they need in terms of school stationery. We are going to build a new shed, for want of a better word, at James Drysdale Reserve at Bunya.

Everton Park Junior Rugby Union Club will get \$750,000 to help with their club facilities. The Mitchelton soccer club will get \$1½ million. The library courtyard at Albany Creek will be upgraded, with \$600,000 over three years. For school maintenance, \$852,000 will be provided across nine schools, which is much needed. For minor school works, there is another \$257,000 across nine schools.

My electorate has been calling out for those things for the past 10 years. We were neglected because we had a Labor administration that was not concerned about electorates that were not held by Labor members. This is a different government. This is a government that governs for all

Queenslanders. I am very proud to be associated with this particular budget. Congratulations to the Treasurer and the finance minister. This is a budget that will make a difference and that is appreciated by all Queenslanders.

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (7.44 pm): This budget exposes a government that is all announcement and no delivery. Nowhere is that failure more obvious than in child safety. The government will boast about a \$200 million response to the child safety commission of inquiry, but beyond the headlines the reality is very different. In 2025-26, actual child safety spending appears to be \$3.187 billion, yet the government appears to be budgeting just \$2.838 billion for 2026-27, which is a reduction of almost \$350 million compared to what was actually spent last year. How can this government claim it is responding to a commission of inquiry that found the system to be in crisis while budgeting to spend significantly less than it spent last year?

The commission delivered 52 recommendations following a 1,384-page report that found fundamental failures across the system, yet the government's response appears to be little more than a down payment. There is no funding for the independent implementation assurance body recommended by the commission, there is no funded reinvestment framework, there is no funded departmental redesign and there is little evidence that the recommendations will be fully implemented. Instead, vulnerable children are being asked to accept slogans in place of solutions.

The government says it will recruit up to 100 professional foster carers, yet even the minister has acknowledged that Queensland needs around 1,000. The commission identified more than 1,500 children in residential care who could be living in family-based settings, yet only \$18.4 million has been allocated to family support initiatives. That is nowhere near the transformational investment this system requires. However, the failures do not stop there. The government failed to spend a single dollar of the \$10 million allocated for the SecureCare residential facility—not one dollar. The Unify IT system, described by independent reviewers as a catastrophic failure, receives virtually the same level of funding as last year.

The over-representation of First Nations children is projected to worsen and not improve, with more First Nations children expected to be in out-of-home care. There is no meaningful investment to break the pipeline between child protection and youth justice. There is no significant expansion of early intervention services to keep families safely together. This budget invests in managing crises rather than preventing harm. Queensland children cannot be protected by media releases, glossy announcements or undelivered promises. This budget reveals a government distracted by ministerial controversies, unable to deliver commitments and unwilling to make the investment required to transform a child safety system in crisis. Queensland's vulnerable children deserve so much better.

Queensland is also in the grip of a domestic and family violence crisis. Women are presenting to crisis services in record numbers. The system is under enormous pressure, yet this government has reduced the budget for the prevention of domestic and family violence. Last year, the DFV budget was \$379.2 million and the government did not spend all of it. There was a \$22.7 million underspend while women and children were in crisis. In this budget, funding appears to fall to \$340.7 million, which is \$38.5 million less than in last year's budget and a further \$15.8 million less than what was actually spent. In any language, that is regressive.

Since taking office, the Crisafulli LNP government has also reduced the number of prevention of domestic and family violence staff by more than 20 per cent, with staffing appearing to fall from 93 positions to 81. The system is already showing the strain. Last year, DFV counselling services cost \$193 per hour to deliver, which is \$26 more than the government budgeted. This year, the target has been reduced to \$167 per hour, not because costs have fallen and not because services have become cheaper but because the government has reduced the budget while expecting the same services to cost less, in an economy where everything costs more. There appears to be no funded perpetrator intervention program at scale and no funded action plan behind the new DFV strategy, and the hope hubs being established in shopping centres have not been accompanied by any publicly identified safety framework. Queensland women deserve answers about how their safety will be ensured.

GPS trackers monitor violence after it happens. They do not stop it. Labor built a decade of independent, expert-led DFV reform. This government is dismantling it—budget reduction by budget reduction, position by position. At a time when domestic and family violence continues to devastate families across Queensland, the community expects leadership. Instead, they received restructuring, rebranding and rhetoric. This is not keeping women safe.

The government's own budget papers describe its vision for families as empowering people and strengthening families. Queenslanders struggling right now wonder where that vision appears in this budget. There appears to be not one new dollar of families funding—not one dollar. This comes during a cost-of-living crisis with 2.6 million Queenslanders walking through neighbourhood centre doors in 2025—one million more than just four years ago. The numbers tell the story. Last year the families' operational budget was \$236.4 million. The government spent only \$227.2 million, a \$9.3 million underspend. This year, funding appears to total \$226.29 million across all areas, around \$9 million less than what was actually spent last year. After inflation and population growth, that represents a real reduction in services Queenslanders depend on.

Community service providers are also preparing to implement the Fair Work Commission's 4.75 per cent wage increase from 1 July. These are not-for-profit organisations operating on fixed government contracts, and these community organisations across Queensland are raising serious concern that the government's indexation rate simply does not reflect the real cost of delivering essential services. They are telling us that while wages, insurance, rent and other operating costs continue to rise, government funding is failing to keep pace. These organisations cannot be expected to absorb those additional costs without the funding to match. It means they will be forced to make impossible decisions—whether to reduce services, leave positions vacant, cut programs or stretch already overworked staff even further. These are the organisations that support Queenslanders through some of the most difficult moments of their lives. Their message is simple: without adequate indexation, the sustainability of the community services sector is at risk. Before the last election, the LNP promised indexation that would address exactly this challenge. The warning from the sector is clear. The question is whether the government is prepared to listen.

The government has also failed to deliver promised community infrastructure. Last year it budgeted \$79 million for capital works but spent just \$35 million. More than half of promised community infrastructure remains undelivered. There is no new funding, communities are overlooked, the sector is ignored and the workforce is forgotten.

While communities across Queensland are inundated with blue paraphernalia despite the Premier promising respect for taxpayers' money, I respond to this budget on behalf of the hardworking families, seniors, small business owners, teachers, nurses, police officers and young people who call the Mansfield electorate home. Every budget is about choices. When I speak with local residents, they consistently raise three concerns: cost of living, traffic congestion and infrastructure and ensuring local schools have the resources they need. This budget falls short on all three. Families continue to struggle with mortgage repayments, grocery bills, insurance premiums, energy costs and school expenses. The government highlights 50-cent fares, a policy initiated and implemented by the former Labor government, yet Premier Crisafulli promised cost-of-living relief for as long as Queenslanders needed it. This budget does not deliver on that promise.

Initiatives such as freezing bulk water prices and lowering electricity prices have embarrassingly failed to deliver the relief promised, as reported on the ABC last night. Many Mansfield households continue to feel financial pressure every single week. Local families will welcome Labor's issues paper *The housing affordability crisis in Queensland*, including support for a seamless portable bond scheme and the return of rental bond interest to Queensland renters.

Labor's commitment to establish an independent Queensland community safety statistics bureau acknowledges what many local residents tell me: they feel less safe and want confidence in crime reporting and transparency. Labor's announcement of free registration for construction apprentices and eligible trade supervisors will also be welcomed by local tradies building Queensland's future.

This budget announces several Labor initiated and Labor funded projects that will benefit our local community. I welcome the re-announcement of the expansion of QEII Hospital. I welcome the new MRI and CT imaging services at the Eight Mile Plains Satellite Hospital. I welcome continued investment in the Upper Mount Gravatt police facility and the support for the Mount Gravatt Men's Shed. These are important projects, and I thank the many community members who advocated for them.

However, budgets are judged not only by what they include but also by what they leave out. This budget leaves too many Mansfield priorities behind. One of the most disappointing omissions is the Prebble Street connection linking Rochedale and Wishart. This project was promised during the 2024 state election campaign, yet another budget has passed without any commitment to deliver it. Similarly, the Ham Road and Broadwater Road intersection upgrade remains one of the most important road safety projects in my electorate. Thousands of students, parents and commuters travel through this

intersection every day. The former Labor government committed funds progressing this project, matched by the LNP. Yet this budget provides no certainty, no timeline and no clear explanation about when it will proceed. These delays condemn local families to spending more time sitting in traffic.

Mansfield is a growing and vibrant community with many young families and new Australians choosing to call our area home because of our outstanding schools and strong community spirit. Labor's announcement to double funding for First Nations and multicultural community events and projects will be welcomed across my electorate. We are a strong, respectful and harmonious multicultural community. Our diversity is our strength. Any opportunity to celebrate that diversity will be embraced by local families and young people.

In recent days I read a *Courier-Mail* article reporting that the Public Service may face cuts to office space and stationery as part of a \$500 million savings push. The Treasurer reportedly identified stationery and office supplies, including highlighters, as examples. As I stand here tonight, I cannot help but wonder how many of these highlighters are needed to contribute towards a \$500 million savings target. As a former school principal, it reminds me of the Newman government years. I remember restrictions on colour photocopying imposed on teachers. I remember teachers bringing tea and coffee from home because school budgets could not afford basic hospitality for visitors. Principals worked incredibly hard to shield students and staff from those decisions, but they felt the pressure every day. That is why so many educators in my electorate are concerned. They have been here before and they do not want Queensland returning to those policies. As a former school leader, nothing concerns me more than the ongoing lack of investment in local schools. Education is not an expense; it is an investment in Queensland's future.

Unfortunately, this year's budget tells a familiar story. Only one of Mansfield's 18 schools has received re-announced major infrastructure funding—Wishart State School. Meanwhile, many schools with significant and well-documented needs continue to miss out. Mansfield State High School continues to face enrolment pressures and infrastructure challenges. All other local schools have again been overlooked. Together with my colleague, the member for Springwood, we have advocated for Rochedale State High School canteen facilities for their growing school. While previous Labor investments delivered a new indoor sports centre—thank you to the member for Bulimba—and refurbished science facilities, this is a critical priority.

Queensland's future is being shaped in classrooms today. Students should not have to wait years for governments to recognise obvious needs. Community organisations are also asking whether they have been forgotten. Across Mansfield, volunteers dedicate thousands of hours supporting young people, seniors, sporting clubs and local families. These organisations strengthen the fabric of our community. A strong community requires more than announcements; it requires ongoing investment.

I will continue to fight for every school, every sporting club, every community organisation and every family in my electorate because the people of Mansfield deserve more than promises. They deserve more than slogans. They deserve investment. They deserve delivery. The LNP's budget is costing Queenslanders more while giving them less. I will continue standing up for the Mansfield electorate to ensure our community's voice is heard.



Mr McDONALD (Lockyer—LNP) (7.59 pm): It is a pleasure for me to rise tonight and speak on our Treasurer's second budget. This budget strengthens the foundations for a fresh start in the face of significant international and national pressures. It reflects the commitment we made to Queenslanders to reset policies, restore confidence and put our state on a stronger and more sustainable path.

At the outset, I commend the Treasurer, the member for Toowoomba South, and his outstanding team on a job well done on delivering the budget. I recognise my colleague the member for Toowoomba North is here. Together in the Darling Downs we make a strong team with the Lockyer Valley Regional Council and the Toowoomba Regional Council. I know that Angus Moffatt from the Toowoomba Regional Council is in the public gallery tonight, joining my wife, Deb, and his wife, Leona. It is great to see you here supporting the second Crisafulli budget. It was also great the Premier was here to say g'day.

We are continuing to fight and work together to ensure we deliver, and there are some amazing things happening in the region. We cannot go past the billion dollars that have been allocated for the Toowoomba Hospital or the equestrian centre that has been committed to. That is in the Toowoomba region but it helps our whole region, as does the investment in the Ipswich Hospital. That benefits our Lockyer community as well.

We did not miss out. There is a CT scanner for the Gatton health service and a business case for the Laidley Hospital. The Minister for Health, Tim Nicholls, has been able to deliver and fund the Hospital Rescue Plan, whereas the former government just talked about it for 10 years. Thank you, Minister Nicholls, for seeing that business case continue, and the \$45 million for the Laidley Hospital will be unlocked very soon.

I am proud to be the Lockyer representative here in the House. The Lockyer Valley Regional Council and the Somerset Regional Council make up our area, and we have been able to jag a \$5 million commitment for the Lockyer Valley and Somerset Water Collaborative. Thank you very much, Minister Leahy. That will allow us to continue to do the work to unlock 22,000 megalitres of water. There is a globally recognised project at Willunga in McLaren Vale that has 7,200 megalitres—

Ms Leahy interjected.

Mr McDONALD: I take the interjection from the minister; this is Australia's largest recycled water project, with 22,000 megalitres of water. It is like you are reading my notes, Minister. It is fantastic.

I must also thank the Minister for Transport. There is more investment in the Warrego Highway and the Brisbane Valley Highway, specifically the Pine Mountain end of the Brisbane Valley Highway and the Somerset Road intersection. I was a police officer in that district, and I can tell the House that there are a lot of black spots there and that is a terrible one. It is great to see that investment in the turning lane into the Somerset community. They certainly will be very pleased.

I am also very appreciative that the Deputy Premier has allocated \$1.85 million for a wonderful tourism project for our Forest Hill community. That project will be of national significance because it will be the site of one of the painted silos on the national silo trail. I know that the member for Mirani is very excited. He loves to get around and have a look at those silos wherever they are, particularly the ones with paint on them. That is going to be of even greater significance for our community because that national project will bring more people to the Lockyer.

One does not need any more reasons to come to the Lockyer. We have a wonderful rural lifestyle. Those in the Scenic Rim only wish they could come over to the Lockyer Valley to farm and to live. It is such a lovely area, although I must say that the Scenic Rim is certainly a very close second to the Lockyer.

This is a responsible budget. It is responsible for all Queenslanders. I give a shout-out for the Back to School Boost and increasing that from \$100 to \$150, for the Play On! sports vouchers—thank you, Minister for Sport—and for locking in the 50-cent fares.

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

The speech read as follows—

Funding projects like this that support public art, tourism and the revitalisation of small towns is a vital boost to livelihoods, local businesses and community spirit. It ensures towns like Forest Hill continue to grow and thrive while maintaining their unique character.

Community services are strengthened through this Budget.

We are continuing our funding for the Laidley and Lockyer community centres of \$660,000 over three years. These centres, led by dedicated people like Linda Roberts in the Lockyer Community Centre in Gatton and Jackie Porter at the Laidley Community Centre, do an amazing job supporting vulnerable members of our community.

This funding is a real game changer. It will provide greater certainty, allow services to expand, and deliver critical support to those who need it most, particularly during difficult times.

Education is also supported.

Maintenance and minor works funding of \$1.4M will support schools across the Lockyer electorate, ensuring safe and well-maintained facilities. The Behaviour Boost program is delivering practical support for teachers in managing classrooms, while new anti-bullying initiatives, including a seven-day-a-week hotline, provide stronger support for students and families. These are practical steps to ensure safe, supportive learning environments for every student.

Housing supply is being addressed through the Residential Activation Fund, with investment supporting projects such as the Fernvale Productivity Link and Gatton's Lakeview Estate. Our Residential Activation Fund is providing the infrastructure needed to unlock more housing in places like the Lockyer Valley, where people want to move, raise families and build their futures. As I often say, visiting the Lockyer is one thing, but choosing to live there is the best decision you can make. This investment will help ensure more Queenslanders have that opportunity.

The Budget also invests in the future of agriculture and innovation.

Through the SEQ City Deal Innovation Economy Fund, the University of Queensland Gatton Campus will receive funding for the delivery of a Queensland Animal Science Innovation Hub.

This new hub, located within the Queensland Animal Science Precinct, will provide a space for producers, farmers and industry to trial, scale and commercialise cutting-edge farming and biosecurity technologies. It will support collaboration, enhance food security, and strengthen the supply of affordable and reliable animal products both locally and globally. This is a significant step in positioning the Lockyer Valley and South East Queensland as leaders in agri-tech, biosecurity and innovation.

This is a Budget that delivers for regional Queensland. It delivers for communities like the Lockyer and for families right across the state.

It reflects a government focused on responsibility, delivery and long-term outcomes. It shows that we can improve services while strengthening the budget and supporting Queenslanders through challenging times.

This Budget strengthens the foundation for a fresh start. It invests in essential infrastructure and services, provides meaningful cost of living relief, and sets a responsible path forward.

We are delivering on what we said we would and honouring our election commitments. That principle sits at the heart of this Budget and underpins every decision we have made.

Queensland families are doing it tough right now as they face the national affordability crisis, rising inflation and price spikes driven by war in the Middle East. In that context, this Budget delivers the largest ongoing cost of living relief package in Queensland's history, providing meaningful support today while strengthening long-term economic stability.

Where Labor only delivered short-term sugar hits in a desperate bid to cling to power, we are delivering targeted and responsible long-term cost of living relief to improve Queenslanders' living standards now and in the future.

We have shown a new way to do things – steady improvements to fiscal outcomes while delivering improvements to services. This Budget demonstrates that strong financial management and service delivery can go hand in hand.

We are continuing budget repair with funding for programs, services and staff the former government left unfunded, while maintaining lower debt, reducing deficits and a return to surplus in 2029–30, with no new or increased taxes.

When we came to government we uncovered the true state of the state's finances. Under Labor the 2026–27 operating deficit would have been \$9.2 billion. We have made a nearly \$3 billion improvement, putting Queensland back on a more responsible financial footing.

I am very proud of the achievements over the past 9 years and look forward to achieving many more projects for the Lockyer State Electorate.

We are strengthening the foundation for a fresh start across youth crime, health, housing, cost of living, with a plan for the Games and Queensland's future.

We are delivering on our commitments. We are restoring confidence in the state's finances. And we are building a stronger future for Queensland.

Again I want to commend the Treasurer but also our Premier and Deputy Premier and all the Ministers and their teams who have assisted in working with us to achieve the items obtained in this year's budget but also the things that we continue to fight for our community.

This is a considered, disciplined and forward-looking Budget, and it reflects his strong leadership and clear commitment to Queensland's future.

I commend the Budget to the House.



Mr KATTER (Traeger—KAP) (8.04 pm): I start my speech on the budget by making the observation that the Treasurer seems to have done a competent job at being fiscally prudent with a great deal of the budget. There would have been some items that were reined in, but I am satisfied that the Treasurer has been prudent in many areas of the budget. I make a disclaimer, though—and perhaps these things were outside the Treasurer's control: there are fully supported government initiatives, some of which have been adopted from previous governments, that drive the entire nature of the budget. This revolves around that addiction to populist type expenditure, which appears to be happening more frequently in Australian politics. It is about buying the votes with popular infrastructure where the larger voter base resides. I will centre a lot of my reply on that.

It is a central focus, whether we are talking about CT scanners, critical roads and bridges or reducing power bills. It is the big clunky items, like the Cross River Rail and the Olympics, that are bogging down the budget and reducing the government's ability to properly address a lot of cost-of-living measures and critical infrastructure items in the regions which are so desperately needed and have been neglected for so long.

When these big, clunky commitments are made, everyone in the media down here cheers and says, 'Fantastic, we're having an Olympics.' That is great. Everyone can get excited about it, but someone will have to pay the bill. Not only do we want to talk about that part of the budget that is highly irresponsible; we also want to talk about how to address that by making money.

There are big-ticket items in the budget that are offensive to my sense of logic and reasoning. I am looking at the deficits in infrastructure and in roads and rail and at the high cost of power and water going back through the state coffers. Let's look at the 50-cent fares—\$340 million a year or \$1.5 billion for four years. It is nice that public transport exists for people to use. I think it is great that people use public transport. I always try to use it when I am in the south-east.

For those people who live in areas like where I live—like Boulia, Normanton or Burketown—who have to get to Brisbane to see their kids or their elderly grandmother who does not have much time left, it will cost them \$1,000 one way. There is nothing to help those people. For a single mum who has not seen her family and is working out at Mount Isa to make ends meet, it will cost her \$1,000 one way—\$2,000 to go and see her family. There is nothing there for them. That goes for the federal government, too. When \$1.5 billion of our taxes—a lot of that comes from the regions where we work hard and put up with a lot—is spent on that, it is a pretty bitter pill to swallow.

The Olympics are the best example of that exuberant spending, that overindulgence in populist type expenditure, on stadiums and accommodation. Quite frankly, it is an insult to give it a figure of \$10 billion. Nothing has come close to that. In the last 20 years the average has been closer to \$20 billion. To think that we are going to spend less than what was spent on the last Olympics is just madness.

No-one has really argued about it, and North Queensland's Colin Dwyer has estimated around \$60 billion of taxpayers' money will be spent on that. That is a really big number. Everyone breezes over the detail and no-one seems too interested, but this is what they will be up against when they are putting out their hand for CT scanners or roads and bridges over the next 10 years. It will be a sinkhole for our money.

There has never been a business case for this Olympics. I was lucky enough to be on a committee at the time where the Queensland Audit Office was going through the business case of the Cross River Rail. It was going to be great and pay for itself. That 12 kilometres of tunnel is up to \$20 billion now. One of the items in the business case was the number of footsteps per projected passenger to get on the rail. They were saying that will make profit—it was a dollar rate per footstep of potential passengers on Cross River Rail.

If you are going to build a dam, all they will give you is how much you can sell the water for. It is not worth it. That is the only financial benefit they will grant you, not any tax revenue, not any economic growth for building around it. It is not about having that resource and capturing that resource. All they will say is, 'Over the 20 or 30 years it needs to repay itself just by selling water off it.' That is ridiculous. It is highly unfair. It is a massive bias towards the industry-enabling infrastructure that has built this great state versus the popular things that have dominated every budget in the 14 years that I have been here. As long as we have that situation, you can forget about addressing cost of living like rates, power and other utility prices that trickle down from these things.

I want to go through some of the wins. I always like to be grateful for anything that trickles through in the budget. I want to say up-front that the KAP relocation sentencing policy has been adopted as Circuit Breaker Sentencing and there is \$80 million for it. I sincerely want to compliment the government on adopting that, pushing it and giving it money. I will go further to say that ensuring 'court ordered' and 'remote' is in there is very pleasing to see indeed. We have been talking about this for 10 years now, trying to get this effective measure in place. I will not talk too much more about it as legislation was tabled today, but it was very positive to see.

There are some local wins in the Traeger electorate. There was new money for the Mount Isa psychiatric emergency ward which the hospital desperately needed, bearing in mind that is a regional base hospital. There is money for Mount Spec Road, which has suffered terrible damage. Most of it is not in my electorate but it goes up to Hidden Valley, which is in my electorate. It is desperately needed, so it is good to see money there for that.

There is money for the Mount Isa lookout. Those works are well underway. There is money for the continuation of the widening of the road up to Normanton which is good. Mayor Jack Bawden at Normanton and Mayor Greg Campbell at the bottom end at Cloncurry would be very happy about that. There is money for water treatment upgrades at Doomadgee and Mornington Island. They have been desperately needed for years, so that is very good. There is money for housing activation works for Burketown and Normanton which will help housing, so that is good.

There are some misses in Traeger that we were hoping for but were not there. There is no money for the Gilbert River Bridge, which is desperately needed to cross Savannah Way. The bridge that is there is archaic. It is a single-lane bridge. I would challenge anyone to try to drive a big truck over that, yet it is a National Highway. There is no money for crossings to Doomadgee and Burketown. It is an embarrassment that we still have towns in this state that get cut off for three or four months a year during the wet. That is what happens to them. That situation could be fixed with culvert crossings—nothing too expensive. Money is not there for that, and that is a real shame. Again, I go back to 50-cent fares: when we have communities cut off for three or four months at a time because we cannot put in some culverts and decent crossings, that is a shame.

There was no progress for the hospitals at Charters Towers, Hughenden and Cloncurry. There will be some very disappointed people there. There is no certainty on the Eventide units. That would save Queenslanders money. There are 50 units just sitting there. A private developer could do them all up. All you have to do is hand over the lease to a developer and you would have 50 units activated through private industry—what a clever initiative! Unfortunately, we are not reporting anything positive there.

When it comes to the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme, my colleague the member for Hill went into detail about that. The payment of \$70 a night for accommodation is disgusting. We are still forcing people to try to live off that. The government increased the subsidy for road travel from 34 cents to 45 cents per kilometre. That is cute. That is nice, but it does not go anywhere near taking the brunt of that cost. I acknowledge that this has been an issue for more than just the last couple of years the LNP has been in government. Again, while the government is still running the Olympics and 50-cent fares, we are going to keep rubbing that in their face. I think that the travel subsidy is a more important need in this state than anything else. I think a lot of the popular infrastructure that the government is spending money on is subordinate to that.

There is \$420 million for CopperString. It depends what sort of spin you want to put on that. It is great that the money is there. The language from the Premier and Treasurer is good. The action on the ground is poor—and that is probably being generous. There is no point trying to convince me and the public. That is irrelevant. It is the mines the government needs to convince. The mines out there need a date. They do not want aspirational statements: 'We're going to do it!' That is irrelevant. They need to know the date when you are going to connect them.

One of the most embarrassing things for this state government and for the federal government is that Little Eva, the newest copper mine which will be built in Australia north of Cloncurry, is going to have a diesel-fired generator. That is their best source of energy. There is a powerline going to Dugald River next door. There is an easement there they can use. Gas-fired power is too expensive, and they are not messing around with solar or wind. They are saying that the cheapest and best option for them in this modern day and age is diesel-fired power. Guess what a nice side benefit of that is—and I am being sarcastic. It is 100 million litres of diesel that they are going to have to take down an already overcrowded Flinders Highway that has been beaten down because we are not controlling utilities properly. That is very annoying.

CopperString is desperately needed. It is going to happen. At some point the mines are going to say, 'We're shutting down if you don't give us CopperString and don't give us a date.' It is going to be one of those situations where the government is going to rush in clumsily at the end and just throw money in. You know you need to do it, so do not put it off. Do not end up like we did with the copper smelter or anything like that where we tried to save it at the last minute. Do it responsibly.

I have talked about biofuels a lot. I cannot go into too much detail with that, but that is a huge opportunity for this state. I have talked about the Olympics. An announcement was made about Cloncurry's water supply. It was a good gesture to give Cloncurry some respite. Again, Mayor Greg Campbell would be happy with that. That brings me to utilities and Sunwater. Again, I think one of the most embarrassing things for government is the way we use utilities. It all goes back to the National Competition Policy privatisation model: 'Let's corporatise all these assets—one size fits all for Queensland. That's how we do policy in Queensland.' It is stupid. It is ridiculous.

Go and listen to Dr John Coyne in Canberra. He said that that policy does not work in Northern Australia. We do not have critical market mass to make those theoretical policies work. The government privatises them. Ergon, for example, change the accounting standard and say, 'We have to get a return on our asset.' What asset? They did not repurchase the electricity network to get a return on it. We

have already paid for that. Just give us the cost of running the operation. There is that hidden cost in our power bills, water bills and rail bills. It is all due to an accounting standard. It is a hidden tax from government. Until the government gets rid of that, those things are always going to flounder.

One of the worst examples was Little Eva put in a bore field when they are next to the Sunwater Lake Julius Dam—a dam that is 80 per cent full most of the time. Hardly anyone is drawing water from it. They have the water there but they cannot afford it. Their response was, 'Even if we could afford the water out of Lake Julius, they would not supply it to us.' That is what you get when you corporatise those assets. That is what you get when you privatise CopperString which is what has been done in this budget. They pulled the full funding out of CopperString saying, 'We'll just get private investment to do it.' Well done! It is just going to end up like Lake Julius where you get some corporate who does not know what exists. They certainly do not plug into the philosophy or the aspirations of the government of the day. They work in a silo and say, 'Well, we have to make a return for the taxpayer on our water.' No, they don't. Those dams were built by the taxpayer to enable industry in the north-west. That goes for all of Queensland. Utilities are there, especially in regional areas, to enable industry, to help us grow the state, to grow revenue and to grow industry. They are not doing that. They are doing the opposite at the moment and there is evidence of it everywhere. Until the government addresses that, we will always struggle.

I wanted to mention uranium. I think that is a fantastic opportunity. There would be no cost to the taxpayer—no cost to anyone really. Politically, everyone around the world is embracing it now. It is an easy one. If we want to pay for silly ideas like the Olympics, we are going to need industries like this. We are going to need new industries.

The last thing I wanted to say is that we would love to see more water development. There has been some good work done by the minister recently on water. I compliment her on that, but we have a long way to go with all the things that are built out of the ground which are desperately needed to create more wealth in this state.

 **Ms JAMES** (Barron River—LNP) (8.19 pm): This budget matters, not because it is about politics but because it is about people's lives. Most hardworking Queenslanders do not have the time to follow every debate in this place or every headline in the media, but there is one day that even the busiest people stop and pay attention, and that is budget day, because it answers a simple question: is life about to get easier or harder?

This budget is about respecting the effort of everyday Queenslanders—those who get up early, take risks and keep our communities going—and it starts with something simple: letting people keep more of what they earn. Unlike the federal Labor government, the former state Labor government and our local council, we are not introducing new taxes and we are not increasing taxes. In fact, we have gone the other way. We have abolished the patient tax and we have removed stamp duty for first home buyers, breaking down one of the biggest barriers to home ownership, because aspiration should be rewarded.

Right now the federal Labor government is sending the opposite message. They are killing aspiration. They have introduced a sneaky death and divorce tax. People now feel that, no matter how hard you work or how much you sacrifice, getting ahead will only get harder. Taxing people who are going through one of the hardest times of their life is a low act. What are they going to introduce next: a tax for kids who get money from the tooth fairy for losing a tooth? The budget they handed down is an absolute kick in the pants for small business owners, mum-and-dad investors and every Australian who still believes in having a go.

That is not the future we are building in Queensland. I believe this budget is a budget for the regions. While Brisbane, the capital, will always attract significant investment, it is encouraging to see record involvement flowing into regional Queensland. That reflects the Crisafulli LNP government's strong focus on regional Queensland. That commitment is reflected in the make-up of our government's cabinet, with three Brisbane-based ministers and 16 ministers drawn from across regional and outer suburban Queensland. We are a team that reflects the breadth of this state. In contrast, when you look over to Labor, both in government and now in opposition, there are 19 shadow ministers based in Brisbane and just four from regional and outer suburban Queensland. That contrast tells its own story. Labor is heavily centred on Brisbane while the LNP is built on representing the whole of Queensland. This is why we are sinking our teeth into projects that are happening in our regions.

I am pleased to share what this budget means for Far North Queensland. Power prices will fall between seven and 10 per cent for typical households and businesses. Parents will get a \$150 Back to School Boost for primary students and \$200 Play On! sports vouchers. Regional patients travelling for health care will get an increased fuel subsidy of 45 cents a kilometre.

We know that crime is a major issue that requires more detention capacity. The new Woodford youth detention centre will deliver 112 beds across two campuses and our government is investing over \$2 billion to expand adult prisons. We are funding Polair helicopters, upgrading the Cairns courthouse and boosting programs, school initiatives and frontline police numbers statewide. We are also delivering a 50-cent Cairns airport bus service, and I thank everyone who shared their feedback on this project. It was nailbiting to wait in anticipation, and I am so proud to see it included in the budget.

For nearly a decade my community has fought tooth and nail for a safe pathway between Brinsmead, Redlynch and Freshwater, and I am pleased that funding is in the budget for this very important project. I am also very pleased to see funding for the Cairns Western Arterial Road. Members need to ignore the misinformation from the member for Cairns. The funding is in the budget. The reason there is no project cost in QTRIP is simple: the contract has not been awarded yet and, unlike the former Labor government's approach, we do not lock in a figure before going to market because we invite competitive bids to assure value for money. This project will be fast-tracked and delivered by the 2032 Olympics.

As a tourist town, where one in seven people is employed in tourism, it is vital that we attract investment into our region. No government in Queensland's history has invested more in tourism than the Crisafulli government. Just yesterday we saw the member for Cairns jump on his social media again, trying to rewrite history when it comes to tourism funding in this state.

A government member: You would have thought he would learn by now.

Ms JAMES: You would. The former Labor government and the member for Cairns, who was the tourism minister at the time, had a secret plan to slash tourism funding by 95 per cent—

A government member: Ninety-five per cent?

Ms JAMES: That is 95 per cent; you heard it right. They spent a decade talking about tourism while planning to rip the guts out of one of Queensland's biggest industries in the lead-up to the Olympics. Queenslanders rejected that approach in 2024—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Member for Barron River, would you withdraw the unparliamentary language you used.

Ms JAMES: I withdraw. They voted for a government that backs the industries that back Queensland. A government that understands tourism is not just about holidays; it is about jobs, small business and regional communities. That is why we are continuing to deliver Destination 2045. That is why we are investing in world-class tourism infrastructure. While those opposite planned to cut tourism, we are backing tourism. When you back tourism, you back Queensland.

This budget speaks for itself. Across Far North Queensland we are receiving record-breaking investment. It demonstrates what can be achieved when regional communities are heard. Labor had 10 years to build it, fix it or fund it. They did none of the above, and Queenslanders can see through that hypocrisy.

Mr Deputy Speaker, 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—

Other budget news includes nine schools across Barron River including Redlynch State College, Freshwater State School and Kuranda District State College and a further eight schools across Cairns are receiving important investment to upgrade and modernise their facilities.

This includes a new Performing Arts Centre at Whitfield State School and a new multipurpose hall and computer laboratory for Freshwater State School. These investments are about making sure our students have access to modern, high-quality learning environments that support their education, creativity and future success.

Access to high-quality healthcare remains one of the most important issues in regional Queensland.

The budget includes a record investment in Health, our record \$1 billion investment into the Cairns Hospital, plus the Queensland Ambulance Service (000) call centre and Cairns Hospital Transit Lounge expansion.

The Cairns Hospital expansion will deliver additional beds, expanded outpatient services and increased capacity to meet the needs of our growing population.

We are delivering a new Adolescent Mental Health Inpatient Unit, expanded hospital transit lounge, investment in the Far North Operations Centre, including \$20 million this year, strengthening ambulance coordination and emergency response across the region.

Importantly, this Budget also expands perinatal mental health services, with a \$111.15 million statewide investment delivering new mother and baby beds, supporting families across Queensland, including in Far North Queensland.

I am pleased to see our Government investing heavily in our tourism industry, something that is in stark contrast from our former Government.

They created the epic Wangetti Fail, which we are fixing and will continue to fix with funding allocated again this year for this vital project.

We are securing more aviation access, attracting more major events and creating new reasons for visitors to experience every corner of our great State.

There is also funding for the new Turtle Rehabilitation Centre on Green Island supporting Jenny and the team who do an incredible job rescuing and rehabilitating turtles.

We have budget for the Connecting Queensland Fund, supporting Cairns Airport to attract more flights into our region as well as investment continuing into the Smithfield Mountain Bike Park upgrades and the Tourism Infrastructure Fund to support major tourism and eco-tourism projects in our region as part of Destination 2045.

In addition, there is also funding for the Great Barrier Reef, Yellow Ants Eradication Program and more Land and Sea Rangers.

And of course, the much-debated Cairns Marine Precinct, another Labor fail that has been left underfunded and overblown for years. Our budget delivers funding for this vital project which will drive jobs and long-term economic growth with funding included in this budget.

Cairns is also set to shine at the Olympics and beyond as our Barlow Park Stadium will receive an upgrade, transforming this popular park into more than just a grass pitch with a track.

The stadium will be able to accommodate thousands more to support regional events, broader sporting participation, and the delivery of the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Another crown gem of Cairns, the award-winning Cairns Convention Centre will also receive funding to replace plant equipment and make upgrades to the facility.

I am confident this budget will also continue to ensure my local community sports clubs and organisations receive funds through the Gambling Community Benefit Fund which has delivered over \$1.5 million to Barron River clubs in just 18 months.

Disaster preparedness is also vital for our region.

This Budget also strengthens emergency preparedness and disaster response including \$3 million investment in Airbridge Resilient Network Infrastructure, ensuring reliable communications during disasters and emergencies with the incredible Arni Trailers that the SES will now be able to disperse in advance to locations expecting a major weather event.

We are also investing \$8.5 million to replace the Cairns Fire Communications Centre, strengthening coordination and ensuring frontline responders have the tools they need to respond effectively.

Major upgrades to the Machans Beach Community Hall, Stratford Bowls Club, and investment into upgrades to the Holloways Beach, Yorkeys Knob, Kuranda and Koah Community Halls will continue in this budget.

We know after Jasper how important these halls were, and they all deserve investment.

This Budget also delivers continued investment in community safety.

It supports a stronger, more coordinated response through policing, prevention and early intervention. We are investing over \$100 million in child protection and family services across the Cairns region, supporting foster care, residential care and family support programs.

There is also continued investment in domestic and family violence services, providing counselling, court support and prevention programs.

Importantly, the Regional Reset program, backed by \$4.2 million, will deliver targeted intervention for young people at risk, helping to break the cycle of offending.

This Budget takes meaningful steps to address housing pressures and support vulnerable Queenslanders in our region. The housing crisis has left Queenslanders struggling to keep a roof over their head and pushed home ownership out of reach for many.

This Budget strengthens the foundation of our plan to build Queensland's future, fast-tracking the rollout of the Residential Activation Fund, including projects like Mount Peter, and unlocking underused government land for new homes.

At the same time, we are investing in social and community housing across Cairns, expanding supply so more people have access to a safe and secure place to call home.

Additional support is also being delivered for frontline housing and homelessness services, providing critical assistance with accommodation, outreach and pathways into longer-term housing.

At a local level, this is backed by targeted investment within the Barron River electorate, ensuring our community benefits from this broader program.

This Budget also invests in energy infrastructure.

There is \$8.5 million for maintenance at the Barron Gorge Power Station, ensuring reliability.

And \$145.2 million is being invested in energy network upgrades across Cairns, supporting growth and reliability.

Fuel security is another important addition to this year's budget with \$19 million invested in the fuel security plan to unlock the Taroom Trough as well as \$146 million to unlock critical minerals across Queensland.

Fuel security has been a longstanding challenge for Far North Queensland, where distance and supply vulnerabilities have seen my community, small businesses and tourism operators hit hard.

I welcome these additions to the Budget, which will help strengthen supply, improve reliability and reduce pressure on local industries and households.

This is an important step toward building a more secure and resilient future for FNQ.

What really stands out in this Budget is how different it is from what Queenslanders have seen in recent years.

We are open for business. We back the risk-takers, the job creators, and the hardworking people who want to get ahead. Because we believe the role of government isn't to take more—it's to create the conditions where people can do more.

Compared to the previous State Government, the contrast is clear.

This is a budget focused on stability, responsibility and long-term outcomes, not short-term fixes.

This Budget strengthens the foundation for a fresh start in the face of significant national and international pressures.

It delivers on our election commitments and reflects a clear plan to build Queensland's future while supporting families doing it tough.

We are continuing the important work of budget repair, addressing programs and services left unfunded while maintaining lower debt, reducing deficits and setting a clear path back to surplus.

When we came to government, we uncovered the true state of the finances, including a significantly larger projected deficit. Since then, we have worked to improve that position and restore confidence in the state's economic management.

This is a responsible and forward-looking Budget. Rather than short-term measures, it delivers targeted, sustainable support.

This Budget delivers meaningful outcomes for Barron River and Far North Queensland.

It progresses long-awaited infrastructure.

It supports better healthcare.

It addresses the housing supply.

It strengthens the response to youth crime,

It delivers meaningful cost of living relief, the largest ongoing cost of living support package in the state's history.

It invests in tourism and economic growth.

It prioritises community safety.

And it continues supporting education and opportunity.

Most importantly, it demonstrates that our region is no longer waiting on the sidelines.

Projects that were once discussed are now being delivered.

Investments that were once promised are now progressing.

I look forward to continuing to work with Ministers, local councils, community organisations and residents to secure ongoing funding for the projects that matter most to our region.

The 2026 budget will deliver more sod turns, more projects and more announcements as we continue to deliver for this region.

Because when Far North Queensland succeeds, Queensland succeeds.



Mr BERKMAN (Maiwar—Grn) (8.24 pm): I have arrived for my contribution to the 2026-27 budget. There have been many words and a lot of hot air this week. For anyone paying attention, my hot tip is: when a politician speaks, pay attention to the bits they are not saying. When we hear 'no new or increased taxes', compare that with an extra \$60 million on compliance and debt recovery in this budget. That means collecting fines, usually from people who would struggle the most to pay them.

The budget papers reveal that \$60 million, and no doubt that is because we have seen this government expand drug offences and introduce restrictions on legal pedal-assist e-bikes among more nonsense tough on crime, but here is the real kicker. The budget says, in as many words, 'broader population growth has expanded the client base'. That is budget speak for 'more Queenslanders means more fines to collect'. 'No new taxes' maybe sounds great to some people until you realise that regular Queenslanders are still footing the bill because they will have more fines from this brazen revenue-raising ripped straight from their pockets.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Members, there is a fair bit of noise in the chamber. Keep your conversations to a minimum, please.

Mr BERKMAN: This remains necessary because others are not paying. I will give just one example, but I will get to others later, like the developers and big banks. I have said this countless times but I will keep banging on about it. Major parties refuse to tax big gas corporations properly. As I have said before and I will say again, it is clear in this year's budget papers that Queenslanders are paying heaps more in vehicle registration than the big gas corporations are paying in royalties. The numbers indicate there was \$2.5 billion received from ordinary Queenslanders in registration last year compared to \$1.1 billion in gas royalties—more than twice as much. In my mind, it should be straightforward. Raise gas royalties to 35 per cent and make a fair share for Queenslanders so they can pay for the things we keep hearing we cannot afford in budgets like this.

We are told there is no money for genuine cost-of-living relief. An extra 50 bucks per child on schools? Great! We cannot afford genuine cost-of-living relief, but it is not like there is not money in the budget in Queensland. It is all just going to the banks, the big developers and—do not miss this—the big fossil fuel companies and not ordinary Queenslanders. This year, on my numbers, there is around \$615 million or more of taxpayer money spent on fossil fuels through our state owned power companies. That includes over \$525 million this government choses to spent propping up aging coal-fired power stations. Our supposed clean energy company, state owned CleanCo, is spending almost \$40 million on gas, that most clean renewable of energy sources. My tongue is firmly planted in my cheek.

This government's actions effectively constitute a breach of our legislated emissions reduction targets. But do not worry: we keep hearing that your power bills will be cheaper. That is what they claim. Well, not quite. The Australian Energy Regulator has been absolutely clear that renewables are driving lower wholesale energy prices. That is clear on any sensible analysis. This government is quick to claim lower power prices as a win, yet I know many people will still be confused about why their power bills are still going up. There is a really simple, one-word answer: privatisation.

Labor privatised electricity retail in Queensland 20 years ago in 2006 so the only remaining publicly owned electricity retailer in Queensland is Ergon which serves regional customers. Those customers are getting cheaper power because the government can direct retailers to pass on wholesale savings. However, the vast majority of Queenslanders, about two-thirds, especially those in South-East Queensland, are missing out on cheaper energy because the government privatised retail. These private retailers will always charge more to cover advertising costs and their massive CEO bonuses, and of course they will want to turn a profit on Queensland essential services.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Members, there are too many people talking and standing around. If you are leaving the chamber, please go. Otherwise, keep your conversations to a minimum.

Mr BERKMAN: It is time for the government and the Premier to stop with this faux concern and the naming-and-shaming approach with these energy retailers that are ripping us off. It is time to cancel their licences, bring the full electricity system back under public ownership and invest in renewables. That is the way to deliver cheaper bills for Queenslanders.

Ultimately, the Greens believe that essential services should be publicly owned. Private companies should not be profiting off our essential services, but clearly that is not a view that this government shares. That should apply equally to public transport. This budget could have included funding to buy back the Airtrain. I have heard much revelry at the introduction of 50-cent fares in Townsville and Cairns, but here in Brisbane we are letting a private, foreign owned corporation hold Brisbane's airport train to ransom until 2036.

This month I revealed financial statements that valued Airtrain at just \$45 million. For comparison, a single road upgrade in my electorate, the Indooroopilly roundabout, cost \$257 million, which is more than five times that amount. If Airtrain will not sell for a fair price, then the government clearly has the

power to legislate to force them to do it. They can buy it back, make it public, make the fares 50 cents, build new stations and make the trains run more frequently. All of these things are possible, but not until they take on the profiteering corporate owner of Airtrain.

I turn to local issues, and this will not take much time because this government has completely duded Maiwar. We have seen nothing. Obviously, my constituents are disappointed about the Airtrain, but they are also disappointed that there is nothing around dedicated bus lanes or transit lanes on the west side. I invite the transport minister to try taking the bus on the Centenary Motorway during peak hour and I would like to see him tell me that we do not need that.

There is nothing at all for new buildings at Indooroopilly State High School. We have an infrastructure designation that accepts we need four major infrastructure projects, yet there is not a cent to be spent on those in this budget. We are still seeing this government proceed with the absurd idea that somehow student numbers at Indooroopilly State High School are going to drop. They have this bogus modelling and the infrastructure plan is for a 2,500 student population when we are already pushing 3,000 students. We have demountables on the oval and kids without specialist classrooms. It is farcical. It is a blight on residents in my area that their kids are not getting the facilities and the teachers are not getting the facilities they need to do their job.

Despite the new laws around e-bike safety, there are no new bikeways in my electorate so people are left having to ride on the road. There is never enough money for public transport, or to properly fund state schools or to build public housing, but it is clear that there is money to spend. For example, there is a \$200 million taxpayer-funded handout to the racing industry, including a new greyhound racing track at Bundaberg. The last one that was funded at Ipswich has killed dozens of dogs, despite claims it has the highest safety standards of anywhere. Hospitals clearly need more funding. One of the biggest investments of public money is in a private hospital at Springfield that does not even provide reproductive healthcare services. We are pouring all of this money into Mater Springfield while they turn women away who need abortion, reproductive or miscarriage care.

There is more than \$2½ billion in the budget for adult and youth prisons this year, including \$250 million for building and expanding youth prisons. Before they start banging on about how it is keeping everyone safe, these budget papers also revealed that 53 per cent of adult prisoners are returning to prison within two years and 71 per cent of youth offenders are charged again within one year of an offence being finalised. Is it any surprise we heard from the Attorney-General this morning that they need an extra \$10 million on criminal prosecution services across the state focusing specifically on regional areas?

Even after I asked the question in question time on Tuesday, we still have no idea how much this government is spending on briefing a leading silk to maintain suppression orders to suppress the identity of this high-profile public figure in Queensland. Maybe it is a question for the police minister. Maybe he could enlighten us: how much is being spent to maintain suppression orders protecting the identity of a high-profile Queensland man? I am certainly not going to say anything in here that might contravene those orders. To be perfectly frank, I do not care and I do not think most people in Queensland really care about the promiscuity, infidelity or philandering of whoever this high-profile man is, but we do care about the use of public funds to keep up a gag order in very unusual circumstances. I will move on.

We had some excellent question time pantomime this morning from the Premier who said that delivering is exhausting. They are absolutely exhausting themselves delivering new jails and filling new jails by criminalising kids and locking up anyone who dares to breathe those forbidden six words in support of a free Palestine. They are finding all manner of new creative ways to spend QPS resources, to waste QPS resources, like the e-mobility laws and fining kids and breathalysing people on bikes. Meanwhile, public perceptions of police integrity have become a discontinued measure under this budget. People's confidence to report domestic violence to police is at a record low, which is no wonder when we had stories this week about a suspended officer being released on bail for a string of offences, including stalking. Perceptions of police honesty and fairness are consistently below targets, and the government's answer to that is to just stop asking and stop measuring how low people's confidence is. It is no surprise when we still have no independent police integrity unit. Labor and the LNP have both failed to implement the commission of inquiry's recommendations. We have cops investigating cops which is a recipe for corruption, abuse of power and low faith in the integrity of our policing system in Queensland.

This is the first budget since the LNP lifted its ban on developer donations and, man, it is delivering serious returns for those developers. When they talk about housing, do not be fooled by the spin. The billions in so-called activation funds is not money for housing; that is money for developers—

the infrastructure that developers should be funding to just pad their margins out even further. We have another year of Boost to Buy and demand-side grants that are boosting the cost of buying a home. Brisbane prices are up more than 20 per cent in one year. That is great for investors but absolutely horrific for renters and first home buyers. We have solutions but neither major party is willing to take on the big banks or the property investors. We could cap rent increases. The Greens have introduced a bill to do that but the majors rejected it. We could tax vacant homes and land. Again, we introduced a bill but they rejected it. We could have a publicly owned developer to build more homes. Instead, this government is selling off public land and removing affordability requirements.

In looking at this budget, I nearly fell into the trap of going down the line of 'what a boring budget', but we cannot let ourselves be taken down that road because this is important and because that is what they want from us—to somehow frame inaction or so-called stability as a virtue. We cannot let them get away with that because we cannot allow Queenslanders to settle for scraps. Better things are possible but this government want us to expect nothing. They want us to expect that they cannot help us, while gas corporations get rich on our resources, while power companies continue to charge like wounded bulls on our monthly power bills and while developers get tax handouts to make money from the housing crisis.

We as a party have put forward countless options to address this. What would a Greens budget look like in Queensland? Here are three simple examples. Firstly, we could tax the gas corporations, as I said. We could afford more than scraps if we just took a fair share for our resources: programs like free school breakfasts, free psychology sessions and no more out-of-pocket costs for schools. Secondly, we could end privatisation and start reversing it by bringing electricity retail back into public hands and investing in cheap renewables. Thirdly, we could also take on the property and banking industries and genuinely tackle the housing crisis. We could tax vacant land and houses and levy the big banks.

These things take courage. It takes courage to challenge corporate power and profit and to do things differently. The major parties lack the courage we need and it will be their undoing because people can only take so much.

 **Hon. LJ GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services) (8.40 pm): What an absolute load of rot from the member for Maiwar. The only thing a budget delivered by the Greens would do is defund our police and put us back into a spiralling youth crime crisis. However, one of his policies has been picked up by the Labor opposition. There is a Greens policy floating around over there that the Labor opposition is happy to pick up and apply, and that is raising the age of criminal responsibility. The Leader of the Opposition had a chance in his budget reply speech to say that that is not his party's policy. He had a chance to rule it out—

Mr Krause: What did he say?

Mrs GERBER:—and what did he say? Exactly, member for Scenic Rim; he said nothing. There were no youth crime policies—his speech was absolutely devoid of them—and, worse, he did not rule out raising the age of criminal responsibility. The Labor opposition would send us straight back to the dark days of the youth crime crisis that they created. They would see crime spiral—victim numbers rose 193 per cent under those opposite. Those opposite weakened our laws, they failed to fund early intervention and effective early intervention and they saw victim numbers rise out of control. Today the Leader of the Opposition presented his budget reply with zero youth crime policies and, worse, he failed to rule out raising the age of criminal responsibility. What that means for Queensland is that they would take us back. They would take us back so that youths would no longer be held accountable for their conduct. A youth who is 13 who goes and kills someone would not be held accountable under the Labor opposition, because they want to raise the age of criminal responsibility to 14. That is not an abstract concept; that has happened in Queensland. There are youths who are 12 and 13 who have committed despicable crimes against communities and Labor would not hold them accountable. That is what we would go back to.

The Crisafulli government is preventing crime before it takes hold. We are holding offenders to account for their actions, using detention to change behaviour and providing intensive rehabilitation to turn young lives away from crime. We have already seen a 7.2 per cent reduction in victim numbers in 2025, a 17 per cent drop in serious repeat offenders and a 27 per cent drop in proven Adult Crime, Adult Time offences since our laws were introduced. We know there is a lot more work to be done, but we are heading in the right direction, and that is why this budget continues to strengthen on those foundations. We know that early intervention is critical to turning young people away from crime, which is why we will continue to roll out early intervention programs to stop crime before it starts.

Not only did Labor create a youth crime crisis; they also sat on their hands and failed to build the infrastructure needed to manage offenders in our prisons. Look at the Lockyer Valley correctional facility. It took the Crisafulli government to actually deliver that prison. Under Labor, a decade on and three cost blowouts later it still was not delivered when they said it would be. The Crisafulli government got that project back on track and delivered the Lockyer Valley prison last year, and this budget expands capacity in our prisons by an additional 600 beds. That is in addition to the 800 beds we are currently delivering in Townsville and Brisbane.

Unsurprisingly, we saw the same playbook from Labor when it comes to our detention centres. It took the Crisafulli government to deliver the Wacol Youth Remand Centre after Labor deceived Queenslanders and failed to deliver it when they promised. This budget continues the funding, delivering \$95.8 million for the new detention centre at Woodridge. Labor promised this detention centre would be built this year. They promised Queenslanders it would be built this year. They absolutely deceived Queenslanders, because when we came to government we discovered that it was not due till 2027 and it had a major cost blowout of \$350 million. That is Labor's MO: they come in here and they tell absolute mistruths—they will speak deception—and then they go into communities and say the opposite. We have the delivery of the Woodford detention centre back on track. In this year's budget we are expanding capacity by an additional 32 beds, taking Woodford from an 80-bed facility to a 112-bed facility.

As the member for Currumbin, I am proud that this budget delivers for the southern Gold Coast. It delivers the infrastructure our growing community needs, backs local families, supports local clubs and community organisations, and protects our unique lifestyle. It provides real cost-of-living relief measures on power and water and it does it with no new or increased taxes. It delivers a transport plan that ensures the southern Gold Coast is connected and future-ready, all the while protecting our unique environment. Unlike those opposite, our transport plan is backed by locals and done in consultation with my community—a genuine review process.

This budget also delivers more funding for local school upgrades in the Currumbin electorate as well as for ecotourism and our environment, with funding for the Currumbin Eco-Parkland and the Currumbin Wildlife Institute at Currumbin Wildlife Hospital. We are also easing cost-of-living pressures for local families with a \$150 Back to School Boost for every child from prep to grade 6, and I want to thank the education minister for increasing that by 50 per cent. This budget continues the delivery of our election commitments for a new car park at Tallebudgera State School and upgraded facilities for Currumbin Eagles, Tugun Seahawks and Tugun Surf Life Saving Club. After a decade of Labor neglecting the Gold Coast, our Crisafulli government is delivering for one of the best cities in Queensland. This budget delivers not just for Currumbin but for the whole of the Gold Coast.

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

The speech read as follows—

After a decade of Labor neglect, the Crisafulli Government is restoring safety, backing the frontline, supporting victims and building the capacity our state needs. This Budget invests \$7.2 billion to make Queensland safer by restoring consequences for actions, backing our frontline, building the infrastructure this state needs, and putting victims first.

We are delivering what we promised. And we are not taking our foot off the pedal, all while cleaning up the chaos Labor left behind.

This is a Budget that supports Queenslanders now and into the future. Labor left a legacy of chronic failures inside our Youth Justice system with overcrowding in our detention centres, youths languishing in watch houses for extended periods, critical staff shortages, and education neglected.

We delivered immediate action last year to fix Labor's broken system by opening the Wacol Youth Remand Centre and increasing staffing to the highest levels in history, but it will take time to fix the decade of neglect that Labor left us with.

Under Labor, detention centres were understaffed and chronically mismanaged. That's why we are delivering more staff than ever before in this Budget. Frontline detention centre staffing has increased 37.5% under the Crisafulli Government from 976 under Labor in 2024-2025 to 1,342 in 2026-2027, to ensure we have the detention centre workers needed to rehabilitate offenders and keep Queenslanders safe.

And that's why this Budget delivers \$166.5 million over four years and \$33.5 million ongoing to strengthen frontline Youth Justice services and deliver the infrastructure needed to keep dangerous youth criminals off our streets this includes expanding capacity at the Woodford Youth Detention Centre by 32 beds, and continuing operation of the Wacol Youth Remand Centre.

We know one of the best ways to reduce crime is to intervene early, which is why we are continuing the delivery of new Gold Standard Early Intervention programs under our \$115 million investment.

That includes our \$50 million Kickstarter Grants program, which is backing new, community-led approaches for young people showing early signs of criminal or anti-social behaviour. Across two rounds, more than 50 grants have been awarded to programs that reduce crime, reconnect young people with education, training and employment, increase positive community participation and help repair family relationships.

We are delivering Crime Prevention Schools in Townsville, the Gold Coast, Ipswich and Rockhampton backed by \$50 million over five years.

These specialist schools work with young people in Years 7 to 12 who have disengaged from mainstream education and are at risk of contact with police. These schools combine education with wellbeing support, family engagement, employment pathways and wraparound services. Re-engaging a young person in education is one of the most powerful things we can do to keep them out of the justice system.

Our first Crime Prevention School, the Men of Business Academy at Southport, commenced operations in Term 2 this year with 42 young men enrolled, and we have just announced that Y Schools Queensland will deliver the new Crime Prevention School for Ipswich to help young people in the community stay out of trouble and get back into the classroom.

We are also delivering two Youth Justice Schools in Logan and Cairns supported by a \$40 million investment. These schools will work with high-risk youth offenders on youth justice orders and provide a tailored curriculum, with specialist teachers, behaviour management, extracurricular activities and more than 12 hours of supervision. These Youth Justice Schools are nation-leading and will help to reduce reoffending by getting high-risk youth off the streets away from crime and back into the classroom; giving them the education, support and mentorship they need to turn their lives around.

We are also continuing to deliver our Regional Reset program backed by \$50 million over four years—our one-to-three-week live-in program for youth who need more intensive support than a conventional community program can provide. It connects youth with education and training, builds employment and life skills, addresses anti-social behaviour and provides real mentoring and support for young people and their families.

Our Youth Co-Responder Teams continue in partnership with the Queensland Police Service across 15 locations, providing targeted, collaborative engagement with at-risk young people on the ground. Labor was set to cut these teams entirely. Our Government stepped in, saved those jobs and made the program permanent.

Through Detention with Purpose, the Crisafulli Government is restoring discipline, accountability and structure in youth detention. Education is compulsory and there are now consequences for behaviour. This is about making every day in detention count, building the skills, mindset and accountability needed to change direction, transition back into the community through Staying on Track and ultimately reducing the number of victims of crime in this state.

And for Corrective Services, after Labor's decade of neglect, this Budget delivers \$2.28 billion to make Queensland safer. Labor failed to properly resource the frontline workforce required to operate safe and secure correctional centres and failed to build the infrastructure needed to hold offenders to account and protect the community.

That is why this Budget invests \$382.8 million over five years to strengthen frontline Corrective Services and ensure correctional centres across Queensland have the staff and resources they need to keep Queenslanders safe.

And we are backing the officers Labor left underfunded, under pressure and without the support they deserved.

More than 1,500 correctional service officers have joined the frontline over the past 18 months, and under this Budget frontline corrective services officers will increase by 16.9 per cent from 7,049 under Labor in 2024-25 to 8,239 in 2026-27.

That is the difference under this Government: Stronger laws, more capacity, more frontline staff, and a corrections system focused on community safety, accountability and reducing the number of victims of crime.

We are also continuing to restore confidence in the parole system, with \$30.5 million over two years to support Parole Board Queensland's operations and the safe and efficient consideration of parole matters.

Under Labor, the Parole Board was left in chaos, with delays, dysfunction, a critical backlog and a system that too often left victims feeling forgotten. And, when it came to the very people supporting that vital work, Labor left 90 Parole Board jobs at risk.

That is why the Crisafulli Government launched an independent review, appointed a new Parole Board President, and is delivering major reforms to put victims first, strengthen community safety, and ensure victims' submissions are properly considered in the parole process.

Mr Speaker, Labor weakened the laws, ignored the crime crisis, underfunded the frontline, failed to build the capacity Queensland needed, and left victims and communities to pay the price.

This second Budget continues the job Queenslanders elected the Crisafulli Government to do restoring safety where Queenslanders live, backing the frontline, supporting victims, delivering real consequences, and investing in early intervention and rehabilitation that works.

Across Queensland, and in my electorate of Currumbin, this Budget delivers the infrastructure, services and cost-of-living relief our communities need. It funds our commitments and strengthens the foundations for a fresh start.



Mr KING (Kurwongbah—ALP) (8.46 pm): I rise to also speak on the 2026 appropriation bills. I will point out that this is the LNP's second state budget, being delivered after they have had over 600 days on the job. That is almost two full years. I mention that because the LNP government like to spam

us with ads all over the place: on billboards, on buses, on bathroom doors, on YouTube, on free-to-air TV and on our online news platforms. We see big blue ads telling us what the new Queensland government is doing. I would like to know where the new government is. I wish we had a new government, because I must say this one is looking a bit stale. It must be because they forgot to build those foundations for a fresh start before they promised it. You cannot strengthen something that does not exist; I am just saying.

I have not found the Liberal blue advertising bucket in the budget yet, but I reckon there will be more money in that bucket than the combined tax refunds of all of my constituents. In fact, if there are roughly 2.2 million private homes in Queensland, which is what Google tells me, and a postage stamp costs \$1.70, then it would cost the LNP close to four million taxpayer dollars to post us all a letter. It says a lot to me, too, that the LNP chose to spend a big chunk of change before they brought down the budget. Why not wait to educate voters on what they are delivering? Perhaps it is because the LNP is now admitting through this budget that they cannot deliver on all the promises they said were fully costed and fully funded before the 2024 election.

Perhaps the Premier has forgotten he told Queenslanders that when he says something it means something, because the evidence to the contrary is piling up. I speak of evidence like swapping out the commitment to build a railway line to the Sunshine Coast, half of which is now going to be serviced by buses; cost blowouts and delays on pumped hydro; cost blowouts and delays on Cross River Rail; delaying the Gympie Road bypass tunnel, if it is even going to go ahead; and not investing another dollar to plan or build the Bruce Highway western alternative. I picked that one a while ago when the member for Glass House told us on his social media it was at least a decade and maybe two away from delivery. I do know the Moreton Bay mayor will not be happy to hear that news. Contrast that with two—yes, two—highway interchanges delivered in my electorate under our government—and, Mr Deputy Speaker, in your electorate as well. They at least were fully costed, fully built and fully delivered. They were congestion-busting projects that were delivered, not just promised. In fact, the Deception Bay and New Settlement Road interchange was removed from QTRIP under the LNP last time, under Newman, and it took Labor to put it back in and build it.

The LNP broke its 'no new stadium' promise. I can tell members that I have received a lot of emails from constituents angry that so much money is being spent on that project in a cost-of-living and housing crisis, and wait for the blowouts on that one to come. The LNP promised no public servants would lose their jobs, but now we are seeing cut contracts and reduced hours. The LNP promised integrity and transparency, but I have seen little of that. The LNP promised to stop crime, yet in my community I am hearing the opposite. One only has to look at our neighbourhood Facebook pages to see that wayward kids are not deterred by Adult Crime, Adult Time. They are out there casing homes and stealing cars, and what are we up to now—tranche 3 of the LNP's amendments to its signature laws? At this rate we will be at tranche 6 or 7 by the next election.

The LNP promised to help with the cost of living, but it scrapped our energy rebates and stopped the discount on car rego, and now we are getting a contribution to water bills that may just cover the upcoming price rise. If those opposite were not so busy waging war on workers—from teachers to train drivers and now public servants, and of course any worker who has ever been a member of a trade union—if they were not so fixated on that, they might come up with some new ideas to benefit Queensland taxpayers. Luckily, they have ours—50-cent fares and \$200 kids sports vouchers. Those strong Labor legacies are very welcome in this budget. Luckily, federal Labor has some good ideas too, backed up with Commonwealth funding, and the LNP is claiming those Labor achievements too—achievements like lower energy prices, lower taxes for Queenslanders, no-interest loans in the Infrastructure Activation Fund and the Bruce Highway upgrades committed to before the 2025 election.

I am pleased that some works are underway and others are coming soon along the edges of my electorate from Pine Rivers to Uhlmann Road. Federal Labor is also helping to fund new TAFEs, including a TAFE centre of excellence in my electorate next door to the University of the Sunshine Coast at Petrie. The LNP is taking a strange approach to this joint project. First, the Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training came into this House and complained that the federal training minister as well as the local federal member, Ali France, took all of the credit for funding these TAFEs in a social media post. She took offence to this because—

This \$73.8 million is a joint commitment from Queensland and the Commonwealth, putting in \$36.9 million each ...

Then on Wednesday this week Minister Bates got up in here and complained about a post on my Facebook page that pointed out the joint funding, saying—

I need to let you know that there is no funding from the federal government for the four TAFE centres of excellence.

I do not know: maybe the member for Mudgeeraba is actually the 'minister for Facebook' and not finance because that does not really add up and it changed pretty quickly. Maybe that is why the LNP budget puts Queensland into deficit again—spending more money than we are bringing in. From my memory, in three of the last four state Labor budgets we achieved a surplus. The Crisafulli LNP is not contemplating a surplus until the last year of the forward estimates. For anyone who is not familiar with the forwards, it is the 2029-30 financial year that the LNP is talking about. We have a state election before that. Interestingly, the year of the forwards—2029-30—seems to be the next time the LNP puts money into social housing capital works beyond this year. There does not seem to be any money in there for the next financial year or the year of the state election. I guess it is lucky for the LNP that it has a heap of Labor-funded social housing builds to claim instead. In fact, I think there is a big one in Deception Bay due to open soon. Mr Deputy Speaker Whiting, you will know about that. I hope you will get an invite considering that these units are another Labor legacy. I visited a new social housing building in my electorate last week. I was not invited to the opening even though it was funded by Labor and building began under Labor, but I am sure it will go on the LNP's tally of delivery.

Let me run through some other wins for the Kurwongbah community that the LNP can keep its hands off. The first is the Narangba train station car park expansion, which is well and truly underway now after I got funding locked in. I know that locals are looking forward to trying it out. We began the North Pine Dam upgrade. Let's hope the LNP does not botch that one the way it botched Paradise Dam. We have delivered the resurfacing of Dayboro Road between Whiteside and Kurwongbah—around \$5 million worth.

Government members interjected.

Mr KING: Mr Deputy Speaker, I am not taking their interjections, but I will point out the irony that in *The Muppet Show*—and some in here will remember that—the interjecting muppets got to sit up high; these ones have to sit down low. It is a bit of a pity for them. The Caboolture Hospital redevelopment was just about finished under Labor, and I know that the member for Morayfield—another one of my neighbours—was shocked to find out the other day that a new ward has been sitting empty under the LNP—absolutely appalling! The Moreton Bay Indoor Sports Centre, to be built in Petrie in my electorate, was a Labor commitment at both the state and federal levels to be delivered in partnership with the City of Moreton Bay. I am pleased to see the LNP honouring our commitment and I look forward to seeing the final design. I am keen—and I am sure federal Labor is keen—to ensure it is still exactly what was promised.

I wrote to the Premier earlier this year passing on some other wish list items for my electorate of Kurwongbah. Here are a few examples. I asked for funding to tweak school bus services for Narangba Valley State High School on Wednesday afternoons when almost 2,000 students get out early. I have lost count of how many times I have asked for this change—a change that is worth pocket money to the government but, with benefits that extend beyond student safety, could prevent opportunities for youth crime and protect our community from intimidation. I asked for the fence to be finished at Narangba State School to keep students safe and protect the school from ongoing vandalism and theft. I asked for funding to help the City of Moreton Bay find solutions for traffic congestion at level crossings in Narangba and Burpengary and for a multistorey car park at Burpengary station to cater for the ever-growing population.

I asked for bigger homes for the Narangba Crows and the Narangba Rangers and a shade sail for the Narangba Bowls Club to protect our seniors from skin cancer and heat stroke. I asked for more bus services to be funded, including between new estates and local train stations. I asked for the remainder of Morayfield Road to be widened to ease congestion between Burpengary and Morayfield and the Bruce Highway connections nearby, which was in QTRIP under us but seems to have disappeared. I have not heard back from the Premier yet and I have not found any of this in the budget papers, but rest assured I will keep looking.

I turn now to the budget measures Labor would bring in if we are returned to government in Queensland. There is our help for construction trade apprentices in the form of free registration, giving young people more reasons to choose a trade. As a tradie myself—a sparkie for anyone in this place who is unaware—I know how much this saving will mean to someone on an apprentice wage.

Mr Stevens: ETU!

Mr KING: Mighty ETU. I take that interjection, but it was said wrong: it is the mighty ETU. We will waive car registration for the workplace supervisors of apprentices, giving businesses more reasons to train up our future tradies. Labor would legislate caps on fuel price increases to give commuters certainty and encourage competition in the market. We will reinvigorate the renewable energy landscape, because we know that this is the ticket to cheaper energy bills for households and businesses. We have already seen a foreshadowed drop in the default market prices of electricity retailers as renewable energy now makes up almost half of the National Electricity Market thanks to federal Labor's investment into renewables—not the LNP's Energy Roadmap as it has tried to claim, a claim that might backfire on it yet as some retailers try out sneaky ways to keep cost savings to themselves. I will bet the House that the LNP will hand its false claim back to federal Labor if that happens.

Labor will support a portable bond scheme for Queensland renters and give the interest earned on holding bonds back to the tenants who pay them. We will put out a housing issues paper to help inform government solutions to the housing crisis. We will double the funding for First Nations and multicultural community projects and events because, unlike One Nation and the LNP—at least on the federal stage—we embrace our multicultural make-up here in Queensland. Finally, Labor will set up a Queensland Community Safety Statistics Bureau like they have in New South Wales to provide Queenslanders with independently verified community safety information and statistics.

The LNP likes to fix the figures while we believe that you cannot fix the issues if you do not honestly know what they are. This is a budget of bad news and blowouts. It does not make life easier for Queensland families hoping for help with housing, hoping for help as the cost of living bites. The LNP said it would deliver generational infrastructure, but it is taking things out of QTRIP instead. The LNP has delayed and downgraded road, rail and hospital builds across the state. The LNP said it would deliver projects on time and on budget on the commitment to matching Labor projects before the election. It said that it had done its own costings and the projects were fully funded, but as costs blow out and the LNP cannot get the work done it says it is Labor's fault. I say to the Premier and the LNP: you will not be able to go to the next election saying that you are a new government. At some point you will have to take accountability for your actions—or lack of action. It says it all that the LNP's catchphrase for this budget is 'strengthening our foundations for a fresh start', because the cracks are already there two years in. Blue billboards and glossy flyers are not respecting taxpayers' money and will not disguise the fact that the LNP's budget is costing Queenslanders more but giving them less.

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (8.59 pm): How good is it to be a part of a government that is delivering for Queensland after a decade of decline! We are a government that is setting forth a strong foundation for the future after the fiscal recklessness of the members opposite which is now being played out, writ large on a national level with the Albanese government. We are engaging in strong financial management. This is needed at a time when the global economy is facing so much uncertainty.

When I travel around the Scenic Rim electorate and ask people how they think we are going as a government they say, 'We think you are going pretty good.' Even people who vote Labor in the Scenic Rim electorate think the Premier, the Treasurer and our cabinet are doing a good job of managing our economy and the government. Even Labor voters in the Scenic Rim have seen how incompetent the members opposite were during their decade of decline in Queensland. They are welcoming the fresh approach from our government. It is a huge honour to be a part of the Crisafulli government that is delivering for Queensland and fixing our great state after a decade of decline—in fact, three decades of decline ever since the election of the Goss government back in the late 1980s.

The Treasurer has delivered a budget that sets Queensland on track for a surplus at the end of the forward estimates. Unlike Labor's budgets, where costs constantly blew out on projects and wages, our government's plan towards surplus is measurable and achievable. We are putting our state's finances on the right footing. That is essential because, when you put the state's finances on the right footing, it builds business confidence. We know that business confidence is key to people getting jobs and keeping jobs. If there is no business confidence, people lose jobs, people lose livelihoods and they lose their families and their homes as well.

We have seen disastrous measures implemented by the Albanese government in Canberra which undermine the confidence of the nation. When they tax people's aspirations—people who want to invest in business and jobs—they destroy the economy of Australia with their measures. Our government will not do that. Our government is engaging in stronger financial management. We are keeping our commitment to no new or increased taxes in Queensland. This is unlike the former government, who promised 26 times in an election campaign there would be no new or increased taxes,

but what did they do? They increased at least seven taxes after those promises were made. That destroyed confidence in Queensland. I still hear from people in the business community about the impact those taxes had on their confidence to invest in Queensland. That is the situation we inherited and we have had to stabilise. We are not going down the route of the Albanese government of destroying the economy and destroying business confidence. Everyone loses out because opportunities for jobs and growth are lost. They are also losing hope and opportunity, which they need to grow jobs in our nation.

When the government borrows and spends recklessly—as we have seen in Canberra and we have seen here in the past before—who suffers most? It is low-income earners who suffer most when inflation gets out of control. We have seen this over the last few years as a nation. It is the next generation who suffers and, no matter how many wage rises there are that go against the trend of productivity, you can never catch the inflation genie once it gets out of the bottle. Our government will not go down that disastrous route, but we are going down a positive route of fixing the finances and fixing the economic conditions in Queensland after we inherited terrible conditions from members opposite.

Our Energy Roadmap, implemented by the Treasurer himself, has seen the regulator direct that electricity bills for households and small businesses should go down. We are calling on all retailers to pass on those decreases in price because the Energy Roadmap is doing its job. We are investing \$1.6 billion over four years through the maintenance guarantee to back up our coal-fired generators to deliver affordable, reliable energy into the system. Retailers in South-East Queensland should be passing on those savings as directed by the Australian Energy Regulator. We are freezing bulk water prices for two years. In areas like the ones I represent, where Urban Utilities is the retailer, that is the biggest part of the bill. The biggest part of the bill has been frozen by our government, saving \$130 per household. That is obviously a charge that we will freeze and we will see that relief reflected in people's bills of \$130 per household.

Our government is increasing the Back to School Boost from \$100 to \$150. I know that is welcome relief for many families across the areas I represent, because there are key expenses for everyone who sends their children to school. It means they will be able to give their kids the best start to the year—or at whatever part of the year they access the Back to School Boost. The \$150 will assist with those expenses.

Our government is making a terrific investment in bus and transport services throughout Queensland. In the areas I represent in the Scenic Rim we have bus services from Tamborine Mountain to Nerang and Helensvale, and from Beaudesert to Browns Plains, and they will benefit from 50-cent fares being locked in permanently by the LNP government. It is a great initiative that I know has been welcomed by so many commuters in those parts of the world. You can get a demand-responsive transport vehicle off Tamborine Mountain to Helensvale and Nerang. It is a little mini-van. It was made permanent by this government last year. It costs 50 cents to access that service. It was made permanent during the forwards—not just a sugar hit like the Labor Party did in a shameless effort to try to win the 2024 election. Gratefully for me, and for Queenslanders as well, it failed. We are making 50-cent fares permanent. I acknowledge the advocates for the expansion of all of these services on Tamborine Mountain who have done a stellar job over the years in not only getting that service put in place but also advocating for its expansion into the future. There is always more work to be done when it comes to public transport. I thank them for the work they are doing.

Our government is backing a PCYC facility for Beaudesert. I thank the Premier for meeting with advocates of that facility last year and for taking a huge interest in that project. I also thank the advocacy group in Beaudesert, led by their president, John Powell, for all of the work they do getting that project into the consciousness of the government. We have some funding committed. There is a little bit more to do on that project, but we will make that happen in the future. We all want to see that PCYC come to Beaudesert because it is much needed in that growing community.

When the Minister for Main Roads visited the Scenic Rim electorate recently, I showed him the real need for investment in upgrades. We see planning funding for safety upgrades on the Ipswich Boonah Road and the Boonah Beaudesert Road. There is funding around the Canungra corridor and on the Mount Lindesay Highway. Of course, in relation to the Mount Lindesay Highway, Labor left the cupboard absolutely bare when it comes to planned upgrades between Jimboomba and Beaudesert. We have had to start from scratch on that. We made a \$7 million commitment to plan upgrades on that

stretch because it is part of the National Land Transport Network, which means it is federally funded as well as state funded, but the Labor Party left no designs that we could go to the federal government with to get money, and we are putting that right. We have had to start from the beginning.

Thank goodness for our federal MP in the Scenic Rim electorate, Scott Buchholz, because when he was part of the coalition federal government he delivered over \$100 million for upgrades on the Mount Lindesay Highway such as the four lanes through Jimboomba, works around Munruben and the upgrades around Greenbank. The LNP Queensland government is now doing what needs to be done further south. We will be going to the federal government and asking them for their contribution to those upgrades, just like Scott Buchholz and the coalition delivered previously on parts further north on the Mount Lindesay Highway. Without the contribution of Scott Buchholz and the federal coalition government at the time, all of the upgrades that have taken place—through Munruben, through the electorate of Logan—would not have occurred. The member for Logan should thank his lucky stars every day that he has had such a great federal member in Scott Buchholz, who delivered \$100 million in funding for the upgrades that went through the electorate of Logan and part of the Scenic Rim.

For a long time residents have been calling for a new bridge over Harper's Crossing on Mount Alford Road at Boonah. As the minister and I drove from Yamanto to Rathdowney to Beaudesert to Canungra and Tamborine Mountain on our visit, I was able to show him that bridge and talk about the upgrades for the future. There are so many road issues to fix—I could talk about them all day—but I got to show the minister a lot of them that day.

I know that some members will be wondering, 'Why is the member for Scenic Rim not incorporating the rest of his speech?' The reality is: I have been reviewing a lot of speeches today, and I have not had the chance to write one to incorporate myself, so I will have to keep talking through the issues. I am taking a little bit longer so I apologise to members for that.

Mr Nicholls: You are doing a great job!

Mr KRAUSE: Thank you, Minister for Health. You are doing a great job as well in terms of your commitment to deliver a CT scanner to Beaudesert Hospital, which was made some time last year. We look forward to that being delivered in the future. There is also an emergency department that needs upgrading at Beaudesert Hospital, Minister for Health.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): Direct your comments through the chair.

Mr KRAUSE: I say to the Minister for Health that we have a business case in for an upgrade to the emergency department at Beaudesert Hospital. It is part of a growing region. Let us keep working towards upgrading that.

Coming back to roads, because roads are always the biggest issue in the Scenic Rim electorate, we cannot forget the Cunningham Highway, especially the debacle that developed over Labor's decade of decline at the Cunningham Highway intersection at Amberley where they left the cupboard bare again.

Ms Bourne: You've done nothing! What have you done! No money! Not a cent!

Mr KRAUSE: I hear the member for Ipswich West chortling away over there. She was not part of the parliament then so maybe she does not know, but the cupboard was bare. There were no designs for an upgrade of the Amberley intersection on the Cunningham Highway. When we came to government there was zero to work with. We are now going through a process of designing an upgrade. Then we will go through the process of costing the upgrade and then we will seek federal government funding. I am aware that there is a promise from the federal member for Blair of \$200 million, which may go towards an upgrade. That is all well and good, but we do not have a costed design yet and that is because of the failure of the member for Ipswich West and her colleagues in the former government who left us nothing to deal with.

When we get those designs done we will go to the federal government and work out the funding arrangements for all of that corridor, bearing in mind it is next to RAAF Amberley, which is probably the biggest defence installation in Australia so the federal government should be bearing the lion's share of responsibility for funding that intersection upgrade. For anyone in the federal government to claim that it is all done and dusted and funded is absolute rubbish because we were left with nothing by the state Labor government. We have had to go back to square one and design it. We need to figure out what it costs. When we figure out what it costs then we can discuss with the feds the funding arrangements. That process will take some time because it is a complex upgrade. I need to put that on the record because the former government here in Queensland left us with nothing in terms of those designs.

There are plenty of other road upgrades and investment that our government is putting in place. Moving on from roads we also have some water projects that are being supported. There is the Water for the Warrill irrigation project where \$3.5 million is being committed to develop a larger business case for that project which will develop water security for all of the growers in the Warrill Valley. That is an important project. If it came to fruition, it would supply year-round water for all of the growers around the Fassifern-Kalbar region which contributes so much to the local economy as well as our state economy.

In terms of water planning, there are water plans under review at the moment, especially in the Gold Coast and Albert River basin. I am aware of the concerns of landholders in relation to the changes proposed. I assure those landholders that those concerns are being taken directly to the department and the minister so that we get the right outcome for that community—a community that has been managing their water take from the Albert River, Canungra Creek and the areas around there for well over 100 years and managing it very responsibly. I am listening to those concerns and will ensure they are heeded when it comes to the water plan that comes to fruition.

This is a budget that is responsible. It puts Queensland in a great place to grow business confidence. Contrast our government's budget with the reckless Albanese government budget that is destroying business confidence, will destroy jobs and is destroying the real incomes of Australians by promoting inflation on a massive scale through the government's reckless spending and borrowing, measures that the Reserve Bank has said will lead to a real drop in incomes and inflation getting away from people. This is a great budget because we are taking the direct opposite path to the Albanese government. I congratulate the Treasurer for the work he has put into it and the Premier for the terrific work he is doing in leading our government since October 2024.

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferry Grove—ALP) (9.14 pm): I rise to make a contribution on the Appropriation Bill 2026. This is a budget built on broken promises and blowouts. The Premier said his word would mean something. He said, 'When I say something, it means something.' The LNP's budget will cost you more but give you less. In this budget \$4.9 billion in critical funding for health infrastructure and transport projects has been delayed. Many people have articulated how that has happened. I will not be referring to the federal budget, as the previous speaker did. We are here discussing the Queensland budget. For a moment I thought I was back in Canberra. We are here in Queensland and speakers should focus on what happens in this state.

The LNP government is making more off Queenslanders with increased revenue from stamp duty plus \$3.2 billion in royalties, but they are not getting the help they need as they deal with an affordability crisis. It is a budget of bad news and blowouts dressed up to look boring in the hope that nobody will notice. Despite that, the LNP Treasurer says they have respect for Queenslanders' money by carefully managing expense growth, delivering infrastructure on time and on budget and backing industries that strengthen our economy.

I generally have a philosophy of optimism. However, I have become pessimistic when it comes to LNP budgets and I will explain why. In my seat of Ferry Grove we see false budget claims, missed opportunities and recycled announcements. Firstly I want to concentrate on a false budget announcement in relation to the upgrade of Minnie Street in Upper Kedron. Minnie Street was a project championed by the Ferry Grove Upper Kedron Residents Association through the \$3.9 million South East Queensland Community Stimulus Program, which was provided to council under Labor. It was one of the last official acts of the Miles government in 2024. Like everything that the LNP delivers, it is as a result of our funding and our ideas. I want to table some documents that demonstrate that: firstly, the Minnie Street budget and announcement 2024; the South East Queensland Community Stimulus Program; and the media release of the Hon. Meaghan Scanlon titled 'Miles doing what matters: record \$500 million for Queensland councils'. The line item is the important one: \$3.9 million for Minnie Street upgrade Upper Kedron. One of my staff went onsite yesterday and took some photographs of this project that is already underway. I table an aerial photograph of the Minnie Street upgrade well underway that this LNP claims is from their funding and is in their budget.

Tabled paper: Document, dated 2024, titled 'Minnie Street Budget & Announcement' [\[1110\]](#).

Tabled paper: Media release, dated 30 September 2024, by the former minister for housing, local government and planning and minister for public works, Hon. Meaghan Scanlon MP, titled 'Miles Doing What Matters: Record \$500 million for Queensland councils' [\[1111\]](#).

Tabled paper: Photographs depicting construction works, captioned 'Photos of Minnie St—Taken this week of construction well underway' [\[1112\]](#).

Maybe the Treasurer got his learnings for accountancy through SET Solutions where the Premier got his same accounting measures. Nevertheless, that is what we are dealing with. On the matter of police, there is a re-announcement of a funding measure announced in last year's budget for the upgrade of Ferny Grove Police Station. I know that the good police women and men, under the leadership of officer-in-charge Vince Lowe, will enjoy hearing that announcement once again. It is like groundhog day.

Education of our children is the foundation of our next generation. It is the foundation of their future in the community as they grow into model citizens. I believe the Minister for Education realises this because he has joined me twice in opening Labor funded school halls at Oakleigh and Patricks Road state schools. He believes in the Labor projects that have been funded and delivered by this government. A couple of months ago, prior to this budget announcement, I was fortunate enough to have a delegation of teachers come to see me. Many speakers have spoken about the lack of support with regard to wage increases. One of the fundamental issues they raised was health and safety in their classrooms. My oldest daughter is a schoolteacher. I am horrified at the stories she comes home and tells me about the children who attempt to assault her. This government needs to address this problem. They need to reward teachers. They are salt-of-the-earth people who go to work every day educating our next generation.

On the subject of education, the Ferny Grove State School is getting new GLAs, general learning areas, to replace demountable buildings. This was known. It had already been announced. Ferny Grove State High School needs a drama classroom. Ferny Hills State School needs to rebuild the school hall. Given a budget announcement last year, at a recent P&C meeting that I attended people were asking about the lighting that was promised for the oval. Once again, that announcement has not been delivered. At Grovely State School, the entrance and egress onto Dawson Parade needs to be addressed. For Newmarket State School, the budget allocated \$4.3 million for general learning areas and, once again, that had already been announced. The school hall is No. 1 on their priority list, but no money has been provided for that urgent matter.

There are much needed infrastructure requirements, but the government has delayed spending on major infrastructure till the 2030s to improve this year's balance sheet. The Gympie Road tunnel will not be built before the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Leaked documents indicate that stage 2 of the Coomera Connector will also be delayed. I have written to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads regarding the need to start a business case for a level crossing at Dawson Parade, a project that Labor was prepared to commence when in government. Addressing that crucial infrastructure need will benefit not only my constituents but also those residing in the seat of Everton who have consistently sought my advocacy on that initiative. Dawson Parade has 27,000 vehicle movements every day. This is a much needed resource that needs to be delivered. The costs of their existing projects have blown out and they cannot afford the projects they have promised.

The government has attempted to provide cost-of-living relief by claiming Labor's 50-cent fares. I commend the people who completed surveys and supported us in making sure that those fares are permanent. There are fanciful claims that somehow they are addressing fuel security. They are freezing water charges, but any benefits will be flushed down the toilet by Urban Utilities with a massive increase in water and sewerage charges of 5.5 per cent or about \$62 each year.

To assist the constituents in my electorate, I have launched a local cost-of-living relief measure by offering \$250 fuel vouchers each month to assist local Ferny Grove constituents. Our cheaper fuel plan will cap daily fuel price increases at five cents per litre. Queenslanders will know what the price will be the next day, allowing them to plan when they fill their tanks. That is a practical reform that is designed to give motorists more certainty, more transparency and more money in their pockets. I know that scheme will work through my previous Senate involvement in evolving a fuel watch initiative under a federal Labor government. In Western Australia, that scheme originated firstly under a Liberal government and then prevailed under Labor governments. This budget contains no energy subsidies or registration relief like Labor provided for Queensland. There is nothing in this budget.

I turn to housing affordability. One of the major concerns I hear about is how Queenslanders will be able to afford their first home. I hear that from the constituents of Ferny Grove and from my three children, who wonder what their future holds. Young people are staying at home because they have no real alternative. In some cases, young families that had flown the family nest are starting to return due to cost-of-living pressures and rental increases. According to the Deputy Premier and the LNP, the answer is to remove affordable housing targets for significant new developments. At the worst possible

time, when more than 10,000 social and affordable homes were in the pipeline, the Deputy Premier has used his extraordinary powers to direct developers building affordable houses to stop, creating a deeper housing crisis.

Today, Queenslanders heard the Leader of the Opposition talk about the delivery of a proud and encouraging policy—that is, Queensland Labor’s paper, *The housing affordability crisis in Queensland*. This policy is built on the foundations of Labor values—values that only Labor holds. A future Queensland Labor government will create a seamless bond transfer scheme and pay interest on rental bonds. When a Queenslanders goes from renting to putting a deposit on their own home, their bond can form a bigger part of that deposit. If someone upgrades to a bigger rental, their bond might already be enough for the new place.

Labor will assist the tradies who build our homes, supporting them in every way. Labor will provide free rego for chippies, sparkies, roofers, painters and plumbers and their apprentices, putting money back into their pockets to give a boost to the skilled workers who build our homes. This will deliver savings of up to \$590 a year, which would be a massive saving for an apprentice. As a young roof tiling apprentice some time ago—not too long ago—I would have really appreciated such a measure to assist me in my apprenticeship.

I turn to cultural support. Our nation was built on multiculturalism, so it is only fitting that a future Labor government will double the funding for multicultural community celebrations and festivals, bringing the funding pool to \$2 million in available grants, doubling the funding available for multicultural projects and building an inclusive and united Queensland. We will boost the funding from \$1.8 million to \$4 million in grants per year. By providing more opportunities for us all to experience the many cultures that make up our state, we will build unity and harmony over the hatred and division being peddled by so many right now. I know that the likes of Aunty Flo Watson OAM, chair of the Teralba Park Stolen Generations Support Group, will tell me how deadly it is to hear about Labor’s doubling of First Nations funding provided for NAIDOC and Reconciliation Week community celebrations and events after it was reduced by those opposite.

While Queenslanders are calling out for housing, cost-of-living relief, a fix for the health crisis, transparency in crime figures and a solution to growing crime, we see Queensland flooded with the LNP government’s advertising blitz. They have forked out more than \$500,000 on social media messages alone. Meta transparency data has revealed the LNP government has spent \$512,000 on nearly 200 Instagram and Facebook ads in the past 90 days. Other than the billboard at Dalby that we spoke about last night that calls for the LNP to keep its promise, the onslaught of billboards, social media, TV advertising and letterbox drops is costing taxpayers tens of millions of dollars. While the Department of the Premier and Cabinet will not reveal how much has been spent on political advertising this financial year, experts have suggested it would likely be costing taxpayers millions of dollars. During the election, Premier David Crisafulli promised Queenslanders they would see a serious reduction in marketing and promotional costs. The blue bulge in advertising could have been better spent in this lacklustre LNP budget on what Queenslanders need.

I know that many speakers on this side of the chamber have talked about the needs of their constituents. No doubt this is something that needs to be focused on, should this government wish to be returned to power in 2028. On that subject, I really want to concentrate on the disgraceful behaviour in this chamber following the delivery of the speech by the Leader of the Opposition. In six years in the Senate and 11 years in this place, never have I seen such behaviour from a government. They should be professional, responsible and mature in the way they conduct themselves in this place. We should all be proud of our right to be here as elected officials. Nevertheless, the behaviour we saw in this chamber today—

Government members interjected.

Mr FURNER:—and we see it here again—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): Thank you. Please keep the noise down.

Mr FURNER: We now see a repeat of that behaviour when I am on my feet. Government members opposite are breaching the standing orders, as they did when the Leader of the Opposition delivered his budget reply speech.

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Mr Head interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members for Chatsworth and Callide.

Mr FURNER: I ask the LNP government to please keep that up because they will be held to account in 2028. You are irresponsible—

Mr Head interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Callide, I have already called you to order.

Mr FURNER: What would you expect from that type of person, who claims to represent farmers and people in the regions? He is an absolute boofhead.

Mr Head interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Callide, that is three times now. You are warned under the standing orders.

Mr FURNER: Once again, I hope those opposite keep up their immature behaviour as it will ensure our return to power.

Mr BOOTHMAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I believe the member used inappropriate language.

Mr FURNER: I withdraw, Deputy Speaker.

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (9.29 pm): It is always a pleasure to speak following the former senator from Canberra. If he were still in the Senate, that rubbish Albanese budget that has put more pressure on Queensland would not have happened and it is a shame he got kicked out of the Senate.

How good is government! Another year's budget delivered by our excellent, dedicated Treasurer, the member for Toowoomba South, showing fiscal responsibility and targeted, much needed expenditure in areas that are important to Queenslanders. No more pea and thimble tricks from the Labor Party hiding true financial ramifications of their budgeting incompetence and no more racking up more debt on the Queensland taxpayers' credit card to inflict more financial generational pain on young Queenslanders. Their federal Labor colleagues have just brought down a budget that cripples younger generations' opportunity to get ahead. Thankfully the Queensland state government has turned the tide in a sea of Labor mainland states into responsible, affordable budgeting that puts Queensland financially back on track.

Speaking of tracks, Gold Coast Light Rail stage 3—83 per cent through my electorate—is just months away from completion with testing of the tram from Broadbeach to Burleigh underway most nights. What a saga it has been over the last four years. Not only was its delivery time scheduled for 2025, which did not happen because of union driven productivity levels, it has a cost blowout under Labor of \$500 million in two lots of BPIC payments to the contractor from Queensland taxpayers' pockets directly to CFMEU members working on the project. Whilst Light Rail stage 3 is yet to face public usage, I am very glad the Crisafulli government has declined in this budget to expend further dollars to the tune of an estimated \$7 billion on doing the next stage of Light Rail stage 4 through to the airport, instead spending that \$7 billion on health, law and order and housing.

I look at our expenditure upgrading Broadbeach and Miami state schools in my electorate. I am proud of our commitment to the early years of education. When I started my representative journey in this House, Broadbeach State School had approximately 300 kids enrolled in it. Now it has over 1,200 and is the centre of a high-rise residential boom all around its perimeter which will put even more kids on the roll. I thank the education minister sitting there in the front row for \$20 million to upgrade the Broadbeach Primary School. I am proud to say that any attempts to sell off any part of this highly valuable prestige piece of real estate have been strongly resisted by their local member, recognising that this school provides open-space breathing in an otherwise heavily congested residential precinct. With new principal Steve Josey carrying on the excellent leadership of this highly valued state school, its growth and professionalism is assured.

I do note \$850,000 earmarked in the last budget to my electorate for shared funding with Gold Coast City council for the relocation and building of new premises for the Lapidary Club and Men's Shed at Pizzey Park is no longer required as Gold Coast City council have issued them both with new leases for the next five years. I thank Treasurer Janetzki for acquiescing to this usual funding request in the first instance, and I am sure he will put the now not required \$850,000 to good use in other areas.

The Olympic Games in 2032 continues to be a focus for the Crisafulli government to ensure it is remembered as a wonderful first-class event, putting Brisbane and Queensland first and foremost on the world stage. The legacy infrastructure, the extraordinary vision of Queensland icons such as the Gold Coast and the Great Barrier Reef and the successful organisation of, as Juan Samaranch used

to put it, 'the best games ever' will focus on the magnificent Victoria Park stadium. This multibillion-dollar commitment to this fantastic new colosseum for Brisbane will be built on budget and on time. It reminds me of the time I hacked a golf ball around this site and I did not even know I was hacking on sacred Aboriginal land, or so some protesters would say. No wonder I could not hit the ball straight!

Whilst I am on the subject of building a better Queensland, I congratulate the Deputy Premier Jarrod Bleijie for his definitive approach to building more housing in Queensland. The Gold Coast and my electorate is under continuing pressure from the hordes of migrants moving from the socialist capitals of Melbourne and Sydney, so much so that the price of housing on the Gold Coast is now up with the price of housing in Sydney. Only by providing more housing, as the Deputy Premier is doing, in areas such as Mudgeeraba and the anachronistic cane fields will supply keep up with demand. For years, the Labor Party put a 'green hand' on the cane fields which was ridiculous because they knew aspirational land available for housing close to the water would go the same way as Sanctuary Cove, Hope Island, Runaway Bay and Chevron Island being LNP strongholds.

The Minister for State Development has provided billions of dollars to assist councils with their infrastructure build, and this will ensure more young people can get into the housing market and there will be more houses for people to rent to overcome the skyrocketing price of rentals.

We have brought the power prices down already as a cost-of-living relief measure and we will continue to look for cost-of-living relief measures across all facets of household and business expenditure to make Queensland a great state again—QAGSA. QAGSA caps are on sale now on the Gold Coast. They are the fastest selling cap in Queensland. This is a QAGSA cap! I table that cap.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): You had better.

Mr STEVENS: It is the fastest selling cap on the Gold Coast—Queensland, a great state again. The Deputy Speaker has reviewed and approved my speech on the budget for incorporation. As such, I ask that the remainder of my speech be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*.

The speech read as follows—

Still of major concern is the continuing exposure of youth crime. Even though we have seen a State-wide drop of overall crime of 7.2% and we have increased our police forces by a new 1600 new police officers, more needs to be done to stop these repeat youth offenders disregarding the law courts and receiving lenient sentences and revolving door bail exits. Every time we bring tougher legislation on law and order to this House, the Labor Party opposes it because they strongly believe in being soft on crime and not locking up young criminals. That is not what my community wants. And the odd hypocrisy in their attitude is further exposed when we see their sub-serviency to their criminal puppeteer masters in the CFMEU whose unlawful, misogynistic, threatening and fraudulent behaviour could not have happened without the oversight of their political playthings in government.

One of the most important pieces of legislation we have introduced in Queensland that will have impact on the 2026/27 budget is the E-mobility legislation that takes effect from the 1st July. Young hoons on E-bikes and scooters have been terrorising sporting clubs in my electorate and have been endangering walkers on footpaths and drivers on roads. Again, the Labor Party voted against our legislation because of their soft on crime left wing ideology. The community cried out for us to do something about E-mobility vehicles and we have answered with tough new laws that will require strong police enforcement to back up our nation leading legislation. With 6000 presentations across Queensland hospitals for E-mobility accidents, bring on July 1st and bring on the first crushing of an illegally used E-bike that should be compulsory viewing on Tik Tok for all young E-bike users to warn them of the need for proper and legal use of their mobility vehicle.

The Health Minister has continued his record-breaking financial commitment to Health building more beds into the system, reducing ambulance ramping and fixing a health system that the Labor Party itself admitted was broken. Despite the Federal Government leaving a thousand elderly patients taking up hospital beds when they should be in Federal Labor funded aged-care, he has reduced the surgery waiting times for many patients with a pragmatic programme of private sector assistance that will benefit all Queenslanders.

Just as the Might Maroons rugby league team overcame the Blues in Melbourne in Origin 2 after being cheated out of Game 1, the Crisafulli Government will continue to fight back against a recalcitrant Federal Albanese Labor Government looking to force more financial strain on Queensland because we are a non-Labor State Federally.

I thank Premier David Crisafulli for his continued wise, balanced and caring leadership of our State, with every step he takes only taken in the very best interests of Queenslanders.

I commend the 2026/2027 Crisafulli LNP Budget to the House and to all Queenslanders.



Mr HEALY (Cairns—ALP) (9.37 pm): The real test of any budget is not the number of announcements it contains, it is whether it addresses the challenges and capitalises on the positive opportunities. On that measure, this budget fails, particularly for the people of Cairns and Far North Queensland. Admittedly, there are a couple of trinkets in there, but nothing of any significance.

Off the back of the previous government's diligence, Queensland has maintained revenue growth: GST receipts are increasing, royalty revenue remains substantial, payroll tax collections continue to grow and stamp duty revenue is benefiting from higher property values. Yet, despite these

advantages, Queenslanders are seeing very little evidence that this revenue is being converted into infrastructure, productivity improvements and, most importantly, cost-of-living relief, which is what they desperately need.

Instead, the government has chosen retraction over investment and delay over delivery. Many of the projects highlighted in the budget announcement are either lacking clear funding commitments, pushed beyond the forward estimates or presented without meaningful delivery timelines. The result is a smoke-and-mirrors budget that creates the appearance of progress while giving no certainty to communities, to business or, more importantly, to investors.

The Far North is one of Queensland's fastest growing regional economies. We are a major tourism destination, a critical defence and marine services hub, a gateway to the Pacific and a region with enormous potential for future growth, yet when one examines the budget papers it becomes increasingly difficult to identify where that potential is being matched with investment.

The Cairns Western Arterial Road remains one of the most important priorities in our region. It is critical for both freight efficiency, commuter access, disaster resilience and future urban growth. Despite the LNP's claimed commitments, there remains no clear funding pathway, no credible construction timeline—absolutely no timeline at all, actually—and no certainty for local residents. In fact, the project appears conspicuously absent from key budget infrastructure schedules and transport planning documents. Far North Queenslanders are entitled to ask a simple question: when will construction actually commence?

The community updates and engagement strategy on the ongoing repairs to the Kuranda Range are an example of this government's impressive inability to engage with community on the simplest of issues. The same lack of certainty surrounds the Barron River bridge. We continue to hear references to delivery before the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, yet there remains little public detail regarding timing, construction schedules or funding profiles. Once again, we see a project heavily reliant on the Commonwealth partnership while the state government provides very little clarity about its own commitments.

This points to a broader contradiction in this particular budget. Government ministers repeatedly seek to criticise Canberra, yet the major projects being promoted throughout regional Queensland rely on substantial federal government funding contributions. The federal government is contributing to Olympic, sport and transport infrastructure as well as to a wide range of projects across Far North Queensland, yet the state government continues to portray itself as the sole driver of delivery while simultaneously criticising the very funding partner which is helping to keep these projects alive.

Nowhere is that contradiction more apparent than in the Cairns Marine Precinct common user facility. This is not simply another regional infrastructure project; this is one of the most significant economic development opportunities in Northern Australia and, arguably, the most transformative infrastructure investment proposed for Cairns since the development of the international airport. The common user facility has the capacity to establish Cairns as Australia's leading northern marine maintenance and sustainment hub. It would support defence capability, advanced manufacturing, maritime services and workforce development while creating thousands of jobs throughout the region.

The economic case is well established. The industry support is strong. The federal government support is already there. What remains absent is decisive state leadership. Rather than committing to delivery, the government appears increasingly focused on alternative ownership and delivery models that create uncertainty for industry and the community. Outsourcing this vitally important project would potentially see any profits flow out of our region and into the corporation's boardroom. How typical!

Every delay increases uncertainty, undermines confidences and risks future opportunities being lost to competing jurisdictions. The same concerns extend to health infrastructure. Queenslanders have been told repeatedly through the government's extensive and consistent advertising that the Cairns Hospital is receiving a billion dollar expansion. However, when one examines the Service Delivery Statements what emerges is far less clear. The budget allocates \$37.6 million for stage 1 to be completed in 2027. Beyond that, the questions remain unanswered.

Where is the implementation plan for the additional operating theatres, surgical facilities, overnight beds, staff parking and supporting infrastructure repeatedly promoted by this government? There is no mention of how to deal with the skyrocketing ramping, which is at unprecedented levels and is obviously a major issue for our community. We hear nothing. The community deserves more than marketing campaigns. It deserves transparency regarding what is being delivered, when it will be delivered and, more importantly, how it will be funded.

Tourism provides another example of the budget lacking ambition. Far North Queensland's tourism industry continues to face significant challenges, as does the entire state, including workforce shortages, rising operating costs, aviation constraints and growing international competition, yet when one examines the tourism Service Delivery Statements there is very little that is genuinely new. In fact, we could not find anything that was new.

There is no significant new tourism infrastructure program. There is no meaningful international aviation growth strategy. I was told just recently that additional international flights have been pulled not just from Cairns but also from the Sunshine Coast. What is this government doing with its aviation attraction fund? We are losing business, and it is having an impact.

There is no substantial response to workforce pressures facing operators throughout regional Queensland. The aviation attraction fund has failed to generate the outcomes industry expected, and there is little evidence this budget intends to address that underperformance. At a time when international visitation remains critical to the Far North economy, the absence of a coherent aviation and tourism growth strategy is difficult to understand. The government speaks frequently about growing tourism, but the growth requires investment, partnership and leadership. This budget provides very little in any of those areas. There is little to no support for the industry, which has been hurting under the excessive increase in fuel costs, which this government regularly refers to. The lobbying from the regional tourism organisations such as the Association of Marine Park Tourism Operators and the Queensland Tourism Industry Council has fallen on deaf ears. This minister has ignored this industry.

This government has also ignored a request from the North Queensland Cowboys to invest in the Cairns high-performance centre. The development of this facility will provide huge potential for our region to grow our sports tourism. One would have thought the LNP members in the region could have got together to just get \$15 million for this vitally important piece of infrastructure. It looks like we will have to rely on that nasty federal government again, which has provided the money along with the Cairns Regional Council and the North Queensland Cowboys.

There are also serious questions about workforce development and skills training. At a time when Queensland faces significant labour shortages across construction, tourism, manufacturing and renewable energy industries, this budget appears to reduce rather than expand the training capacity. Last year's budget included \$15 million for the Central Queensland Renewable Energy Training Facility. This year's Capital Statement suggests that commitment has effectively been replaced by two much smaller initiatives—\$2.6 million for the mobile renewable energy training facilities and \$1.9 million for the renewable energy training hubs.

If that interpretation is correct, Queensland has effectively lost more than \$10 million in planned renewable energy training investment, which is absolutely concerning. This is difficult to reconcile with the government's claims about workforce readiness and future industry development. I am told that under the current proposal the federal government is offering the Crisafulli LNP government an increase to \$37.6 million per year for Free TAFE funding, which will bring Queensland's total share to \$188 million over five years.

This budget also represents a significant step backwards for vulnerable First Nations communities across Queensland. Rather than strengthening partnerships and investing in local capability, the government has pursued a program of cuts, centralisation and disengagement that is undermining decades of progress. Repealing the Indigenous Economic Opportunity Plan and the Queensland Building Construction and Training Policy has removed important pathways for Indigenous employment, training and business participation. At the same time, the dismantling of the Remote Indigenous Land and Infrastructure Program Office has stripped communities of local expertise and decision-making capabilities and it has been replaced by a distant, centralised bureaucracy.

When the feds are talking about Free TAFE, all we hear from the minister is whingeing and whining to try to distract from the fact that the Crisafulli LNP government are failing to provide matched funding for Free TAFE places. In estimates hearings last year, the minister could not even answer how many Free TAFE spots were available under the LNP. I understand that they have failed to deliver the training places that Queenslanders need, and they continue to fail to do so.

Queensland should be using strong revenues to invest in productivity-enhancing infrastructure, workforce development, housing supply, tourism growth and regional economic diversification. Instead, we see projects deferred, commitments diluted and opportunities postponed. Queenslanders were promised meaningful cost-of-living relief. Instead, they have received relatively modest support while

government revenues continue to surge through royalties, the GST, stamp duty and taxation. Queenslanders were promised accelerated infrastructure delivery. Instead, they receive announcements without timelines and commitments without certainty. 'On time and on budget' was promised by the Premier. I can see now that when you do not have a timeline or you do not have a budget you are not restricted. That is very cunning.

Regional Queensland was promised it would not be forgotten, yet for Cairns and the Far North this budget raises more questions than it answers. We are not getting our fair share. It is seeking the investment necessary to support a region that continues to contribute enormously to Queensland's prosperity and future development—the need for certainty on transport infrastructure and health infrastructure, the need for support for tourism and, just as important, the need for investment in skills and workforce development.

I note that there is little for our region when it comes to addressing our region's appalling increase in car theft and home break-ins. In the last 12 months there has been a 24 per cent increase. There is the cessation of youth engagement programs, and on again and off again discussion about essential youth justice infrastructure which our region is screaming out for. I was so pleased to see today the opposition leader has increased funding for our important multicultural community. Regrettably this budget does not provide this sector with any confidence. Rest assured, we do.

This budget leaves vital projects unresolved and kicked down the road until they are out of sight. These unrealised opportunities are a damning indictment of a government. The people of Cairns and the Far North were warned about this neglect due to the Olympics by the member for Cook when he said, 'Most of the budget expenditure for the next number of years will be directed towards the Olympic Games which is a \$7 to \$10 billion spend.' At least someone from the LNP is telling the people of Cairns and Far North Queensland how things really are.

 **Hon. DG PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (9.50 pm): This budget is about much more than dollars and cents. It is about delivering on the promises we made to Queenslanders. It reflects the government's determination to keep building a stronger, safer Queensland. When Queenslanders elected the Crisafulli LNP government, they voted for change. They voted for stronger leadership. They voted for safer communities. They voted for a government that respects taxpayers' money. They voted for a government that keeps its word. This budget delivers exactly that.

Nowhere is that commitment more evident than on the Sunshine Coast. My electorate of Ninderry sits at the heart of one of the fastest growing regions in Australia. Every year more families choose to call our community home. As more people choose to live on the Sunshine Coast, they rightly expect roads, schools, hospitals, police services and community infrastructure to grow alongside them. This growth brings opportunity but it also brings responsibility.

Unfortunately, for too long Labor failed in that duty, ignoring the growing needs of the Sunshine Coast while our community continued to grow. In stark contrast, the Crisafulli government is delivering for Ninderry, ensuring the Sunshine Coast remains one of Australia's safest, most desirable places to live, work and raise a family. Safe communities do not happen by accident. They happen because governments make the right decisions. They happen when governments back their police. That is why restoring safety where you live has been one of the defining priorities of the Crisafulli LNP government from day one.

As Minister for Police and Emergency Services, I am incredibly proud to be part of a government that is backing the men and women of the Queensland Police Service with the laws, the equipment and the resources they need to keep Queenslanders safe. Those opposite simply cannot bring themselves to acknowledge the facts. When crime was exploding under their watch—up 193 per cent during Labor's decade of decline—they dismissed it as a media beat-up. They told Queenslanders it was just 'kids stealing KitKats'. Now that the data is starting to move in the right direction, they refuse to accept that too.

No-one is pretending the job is done. Crime is still too high and there is much more work ahead, but Queenslanders deserve honesty. The opposition leader quoted some incorrect figures during his contribution this morning, similar to what I just heard the member for Cairns trot out before. I would like to correct the record. Police statistics available to anyone on the QPS Open Data Portal show unlawful entry in the Cairns division is down 9.3 per cent in the last 12 months from June to the end of May compared to the corresponding period the previous year, while car theft has dropped 2.3 per cent. Is it still too high? Absolutely, but I will not stand by and let the Leader of the Opposition discredit police and the work they are doing to fight Labor's youth crime crisis.

This government backs police and those who support them. To the unsworn staff who the opposition is trying to scare, I say this: both I and the Acting Police Commissioner have confirmed there will be no redundancies and all contracts will be honoured. The opposition has spoken about hollowing out frontline services. We are doing the exact opposite. We are bolstering the front line after we saw record numbers of police leaving the service under Labor.

The 2026-27 budget builds on the Crisafulli government's commitment for a fresh start. It delivers \$7.2 billion towards Making Queensland Safer, supporting more police, stronger laws, better equipment and stronger action against domestic and family violence.

Queensland is fortunate to have some of the finest emergency service volunteers anywhere in Australia. This year the Crisafulli government celebrated 50 years of the State Emergency Service. For five decades SES volunteers have stood beside Queenslanders through floods, cyclones, storms and search operations, turning up whenever their communities need them most. The Crisafulli government is backing those volunteers with new purpose-built vehicles, upgraded facilities such as the Deception Bay SES depot and stronger support for local governments.

We are also continuing to strengthen Marine Rescue Queensland. I am proud to announce that MRQ and the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association have now signed a formal agreement, bringing coastguard operations across Queensland into MRQ—a milestone Labor promised but failed to deliver. The Crisafulli government has delivered Queensland's first dedicated Marine Rescue Training Academy, giving more than 1,000 volunteers the world-class training they deserve.

Whether on land or at sea, the Crisafulli government is backing the volunteers who help keep Queenslanders safe. This budget is making Queensland safer. It backs our police. It backs our emergency services. It backs our volunteers. Above all, it backs the people of Queensland. That is what the Crisafulli government was elected to do, and that is exactly what we are delivering.

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

The speech read as follows—

- Mr Speaker,
- The Crisafulli Government is committed to bolstering the frontline.
- Which is why the 2026-27 Budget is delivering \$23 million for recruitment and retention initiatives ... ensuring police numbers continue to grow.
- Backing our police isn't just about recruiting more officers.
- It's about making sure every officer has the equipment they need to come home safely after every shift.
- That is why the Crisafulli Government has invested \$147.9 million in one of the most significant frontline equipment upgrades in Queensland Police history.
- We are also continuing to invest in the places our police work.
- We're delivering new and upgraded police stations, facilities, and police beats across Queensland including Burleigh, Nambour, Logan Central, Mount Gravatt, Boondall, Ferny Grove, Redcliffe, Edmonton and Goodna.
- The 2026-27 Budget continues that investment, delivering \$96 million over three years for Stage Two of the Kirwan Police Facility ... which will deliver a new state-of-the art Police Academy, Dog Squad, and other specialised facilities.
- One of the most important recommendations arising from the Wieambilla Inquest was the establishment of a National Firearms Register.
- The Crisafulli LNP Government listened.
- The Budget delivered \$28 million to enable Queensland's participation in the Register ... giving frontline police access to near real-time firearms information before attending incidents.
- It is a practical reform that will help improve officer safety and better protect our communities.
- The Wieambilla Inquest also recommended improvements to the QPS's drone capability.
- Again, the Crisafulli Government acted.
- We have committed more than \$5.3 million to significantly expand police drone operations.
- Combined with our long-term investment in expanded POLAIR services across Moreton Bay, the Sunshine Coast, Townsville and Cairns ... Queensland has never had an airborne policing capability of this scale.
- Mr Speaker,

- Before we could rebuild the Queensland Police Service, we first had to understand the full extent of what the former Labor Government left behind.
- Earlier this year, the Crisafulli LNP Government commissioned an Independent Financial Review of the QPS.
- The findings were extraordinary.
- The Review exposed more than a decade of financial mismanagement, poor governance and weak financial controls under Labor.
- It identified an estimated \$400 million structural deficit that had been allowed to develop within the QPS through years of overspending, unfunded growth in unsworn staffing and a complete failure to properly manage the Service's finances.
- Perhaps most concerning of all ... this happened while Labor repeatedly claimed everything was under control.
- It wasn't.
- The former Police Minister was either asleep at the wheel or chose to ignore the warning signs.
- Queenslanders deserved better.
- Our frontline police deserved better.
- The matters identified in the Review were so serious that they have now been referred to the Crime and Corruption Commission for its consideration.
- Financial mismanagement was only part of Labor's legacy.
- During their decade of decline, Labor failed to properly invest in the frontline.
- They failed to adequately fund critical police equipment.
- They failed to keep pace with population growth.
- They failed to invest in police infrastructure.
- And they weakened the laws, creating the Youth Crime Crisis that saw victims increase by 193 per cent—and police quitting ... in record numbers.
- Queenslanders paid the price.
- Too many families lived in fear that their home would be next.
- Too many business owners invested thousands of dollars protecting themselves because they had lost confidence that the justice system was protecting them.
- Too many victims watched repeat youth offenders cycle through a revolving-door justice system with little consequence for their actions.
- Queenslanders sent a clear message at the last election.
- Enough was enough.
- They wanted stronger laws.
- They wanted more police.
- They wanted a Government that stood with victims ... instead of making excuses for offenders.
- That is exactly what the Crisafulli LNP Government is delivering.
- Since coming to Government, we have sworn in more than 1,800 new police officers.
- For the first time in Queensland's history, the Queensland Police Service now has more than 13,000 frontline officers protecting our communities.
- Just as importantly, unplanned attrition has dropped below 3 per cent ... demonstrating that Queensland is once again becoming an employer of choice for police officers from across Australia.
- We introduced Australia's toughest youth justice laws through Adult Crime, Adult Time.
- We restored consequences for serious repeat offenders.
- And we made it clear that the rights of victims would once again come before the interests of violent criminals.
- Too often, Labor announced projects ... but failed to deliver them.
- Too often, Queensland families watched costs rise while essential services struggled to keep pace.
- Too often, Labor talked about priorities while communities were left waiting.
- Queenslanders voted for a fresh start, not a laundry list of excuses.

- The measure of any government isn't how much it promises ... it's how much it delivers.
- That remains the standard the Crisafulli LNP Government sets for itself every single day.
- The 2026-27 Budget continues that commitment.
- In my own electorate of Ninderry—
- The Crisafulli LNP Government is progressing upgrades to the Mount Coolum interchange, with detailed design now underway for two new south-facing ramps on the Sunshine Motorway.
- These improvements will reduce congestion, improve connectivity and better support the continued growth of our region.
- We are also backing local community sport ... because strong communities are built around grassroots clubs.
- We have invested \$5 million towards a new multi-purpose sporting facility at Coolum State High School for the Coolum Beach Breakers Junior AFL Club.
- This project will deliver a new playing field and clubhouse that will be shared by students, sporting clubs and the wider community for many years to come.
- That investment complements our all-seasons, all-abilities *Play On!* sports vouchers ... helping Queensland families cover the cost of organised sport while encouraging more young people to enjoy active, healthy lifestyles.
- Community sport is about much more than winning games.
- Healthy communities are stronger communities.
- That same commitment is reflected in our continued investment in health and education across the Sunshine Coast.
- Queensland families rightly expect quality healthcare, great schools and essential services close to home ... and the Crisafulli LNP Government is continuing to deliver the infrastructure and services that growing communities deserve.
- Mr Speaker,
- Whether it's investing in roads, sporting facilities, schools, hospitals or housing, our focus remains the same.
- We are planning for the future.
- We are delivering on our commitments.
- And we are ensuring communities like Ninderry continue to thrive as Queensland grows.
- Because at the end of the day, delivering for Queensland isn't measured by the number of announcements a government makes.
- It is measured by the difference those investments make in the lives of Queenslanders.
- That is exactly what the Crisafulli LNP Government is delivering in the 2026-27 Budget.
- It delivers record investment in social and community housing ... helping thousands more Queenslanders access the security and dignity of a place to call home.
- We are investing \$5.7 billion to deliver the 6,500 new social and community homes currently underway ... as part of our commitment to deliver 53,500 social and community homes by 2044.
- Importantly, this includes youth foyers, domestic violence shelters and social homes in First Nations communities—ensuring support reaches those Queenslanders who need it most.
- The Budget also continues our commitment to easing cost-of-living pressures ... without asking Queenslanders to pay more.
- While the Federal Labor Government looks to increase taxes, the Crisafulli LNP Government made a conscious decision not to introduce any new or increased taxes on Queenslanders.
- Instead, we continue delivering practical relief that families can rely on.
- We made 50 cent public transport fares permanent ... and we legislated it.
- We are delivering lower electricity prices through our *Energy Roadmap Price Drop*.
- And we are freezing bulk water prices across South-East Queensland for two years.
- These are practical measures that help Queenslanders keep more of their own money in their pockets while providing certainty during challenging economic times.
- Our Government also understands that Queensland's future depends on continued investment in the infrastructure our growing State needs.
- Whether it's schools, roads, hospitals, housing or community facilities ... we are making the investments today that will support Queenslanders for decades to come.
- That includes preparing Queensland for the opportunities that will come with the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

- Unlike Labor, which too often allowed projects to drift and costs to blow out, the Crisafulli Government is focused on delivering the infrastructure that will leave a lasting legacy ... long after the Closing Ceremony.
- Mr Speaker, the 2026-27 Budget was never simply about balancing the books.
- It was about continuing to deliver the foundations for a stronger, safer and more prosperous Queensland.
- Every investment reflects a Government that understands its responsibility to plan for the future—while delivering for Queenslanders ... today.
- Whether its investing in police, roads, schools, hospitals, housing or community infrastructure—our focus remains exactly where it should be ... on improving the safety and everyday lives of Queenslanders.
- Queenslanders expect their Government to spend their money responsibly.
- They expect their Government to invest where it matters most.
- And they expect their Government to keep its promises.
- That's exactly what the Crisafulli LNP Government is doing.
- The contrast with the former Labor Government could not be clearer.
- After a decade in office, Labor left behind a legacy of debt, cost blowouts, neglected frontline services, housing shortages and a Youth Crime Crisis that shook communities across this State.
- They watered down laws—we strengthened them.
- They neglected our frontline—we are backing the people who protect Queenslanders every single day.
- Mr Speaker, there is still more work to do to fix Labor's decade of decline.
- But Queensland is moving in the right direction.
- Confidence is returning.
- Investment is growing.
- Communities are becoming safer.
- And Queenslanders can once again have confidence that their Government is focused on the issues that matter most to them.
- The Crisafulli LNP Government is restoring respect for taxpayers' money.
- We are restoring the services Queenslanders can rely on.
- And above all, we are restoring safety where you live.
- Mr Speaker, I am proud to be part of a Government that is delivering for every corner of our great State in the 2026-27 Budget.
- And I am especially proud of what we are delivering for the people of the Sunshine Coast and my electorate of Ninderry.
- Together, we are building a safer Queensland.
- A stronger Queensland.
- And a Queensland full of opportunity for the future.
- This Budget represents the fresh start Queenslanders voted for—it deserves the wholehearted support of the entire House.
- Mr Speaker, I commend the Bill to the House.



Ms HOWARD (Ipswich—ALP) (9.56 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Appropriation Bill 2026. A budget is more than a balance sheet; it is a statement of a government's priorities—who matters, what matters and whether the promises made before an election have been honoured. Before the election, Queenslanders were promised honesty, competent economic management and projects delivered on time and on budget. The Premier himself said, 'When I say something, it means something.' Queenslanders are entitled to hold this Premier to that standard—to his own words. If you are looking at it on that measure, this budget falls well short. It is a budget of blowouts, broken promises and borrowed shine—dressed up to look boring in the hope that nobody will notice.

I represent Ipswich—one of Australia's fastest growing cities. Every week I meet young families buying their first home, older residents worried about rising costs, commuters spending longer in traffic and community organisations doing everything they can to catch people who have fallen through the cracks. Growth without infrastructure to support it simply places more pressure on roads, hospitals,

schools and services. The people bearing the greatest burden of Queensland's population growth are the very same people who are being left behind. Nothing defines the daily experience of Ipswich residents more than the infrastructure they rely on to move around. What does this budget deliver for Ipswich's transport network? Nothing new. Every major transport project in Ipswich is being delivered from existing funding pools initiated under the former Labor government. There is not a single new dollar for the transport infrastructure Ipswich urgently needs.

The Cunningham Highway interchanges at Ripley Road and Swanbank Road remain stalled—\$5.5 million for the planning has come from an existing pool, with no construction funding, no timeline, no certainty. The second river crossing has \$4 million set aside for planning. That is not a commitment; that is a place holder. The Ipswich to Springfield rail line—identified by Infrastructure Australia as a priority to connect our fastest growing suburbs to the South-East Queensland network—has received not a cent in this budget. It was not even mentioned—no update on its future, no timeline. When it comes to the Centenary Motorway, there is no new funding at all. It was not mentioned. My neighbouring colleagues and I will continue to campaign to right this wrong. Before the election the Premier promised generational infrastructure. Ipswich is still waiting.

I also note the legislation to lock in Labor's 50-cent fares, which is fantastic. It excluded the Brisbane Airport rail service, and that is a missed opportunity for many Ipswich people. Permanent 50-cent fares, welcome as they are, will not help the many Ipswich residents who have no choice but to rely on their car. This transport minister has completely derailed our train timetables. My constituents are taking so much longer to get where they need to go. They want to embrace 50-cent fares, but half the time it is much quicker for them to drive. When you look at petrol prices, this budget delivers no funding relief at all for the cost of living.

Community safety is another issue that people regularly raise with me. Queenslanders deserve to feel safe, but they also deserve to have confidence in the information governments provide about crime. In the Leader of the Opposition's fabulous budget reply speech today he announced that a future Labor government will establish an independent Queensland community safety statistics bureau to independently verify and audit crime and community safety statistics. Public confidence depends on transparency. Queenslanders deserve facts they can trust, free from political interference or the selective use of data. That is precisely what this proposal is designed to deliver.

Housing affordability dominates conversations throughout Ipswich. Families are finding it harder to buy their first home, renters face increasing pressure, older women remain one of the fastest growing cohorts experiencing housing insecurity and homelessness is rising. The Treasurer claims that 6,500 social homes are underway statewide, yet Ipswich, one of Queensland's fastest growing regions, is receiving just 314 homes across the entire region. That is nowhere near enough. Since coming to government the LNP has announced no new social housing projects for my electorate. The only time the housing minister has come out to our area has been to cut ribbons on projects that Labor funded and started.

Mrs Frecklington: He is from Ipswich.

Ms HOWARD: He needs to visit his parents more often. In relation to the youth foyer announcement, I welcome the intention. Young people experiencing homelessness deserve stable, supported accommodation, but the announcement does raise more questions than answers. Where will it be located? When will it open? How many accommodation units will it provide? Is the funding committed for this financial year? These are not unreasonable questions to ask. They are basic questions that any announcement should be able to answer.

Labor has made it clear today that there is another way, and I thank the Leader of the Opposition for showing us that way this morning. Housing affordability cannot be solved by one announcement or one budget. It requires governments to pull every lever available. That is why today's budget reply announced that a future Labor government will introduce a portable bond scheme, allowing Queenslanders to transfer their rental bond from one property to another instead of having to find thousands of dollars for a second bond before the first has even been returned. We have also committed to returning the interest earned on rental bonds to the renters whose money generated it in the first place. For families in Ipswich who move regularly because of rising rents or changing circumstances, these are really practical reforms that will ease financial pressure.

We also know that we cannot address affordability without building more homes, and that requires skilled workers. That is why Labor announced free vehicle registration for eligible construction apprentices and their supervisors. For a city like Ipswich with a proud manufacturing history and rapidly expanding construction sector, that investment in apprenticeships is an investment in our future.

People are not interested in political pointscore when it comes to health. They simply want to know that when their child is sick, when their elderly parent needs treatment or when they call an ambulance the system will be there. Before the election the Premier promised to heal the health crisis. He promised more hospital beds. He promised reduced waiting lists. He promised reduced ambulance ramping. What does this budget deliver in that space for Ipswich? Stage 2 of the Ipswich Hospital expansion is being funded from an existing \$2.2 billion funding pool shared across 16 hospitals statewide. The Ipswich Hospital car park is similarly drawn from an existing statewide parking program. The Ripley subacute care facility—\$37.1 million in 2026-27 to enable its full commissioning—continues with funding initially committed under Labor.

There are some genuine positives. Ipswich will receive some of the more than 30 new perinatal mental health beds which are genuinely welcomed for new mothers and families, and improvements to the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme will make a real difference for residents travelling for specialist care, but the bottom line is that this budget delivers no new health infrastructure for Ipswich. The dedicated doctors, nurses, ambos and allied health professionals at Ipswich Hospital serve not only my electorate but also much of South-East Queensland's western corridor. They do an extraordinary job. They deserve a government that matches their commitment with timely investment.

The new Ripley Valley primary school at White Rock remains on track for 2028. It is genuinely welcome and desperately needed. A secondary school for Ripley Valley is included in the five-year pipeline, but we do not yet have an opening date or location. For a community that needed that high school yesterday, that is not good enough. The new youth justice school in Ipswich operated by Y Schools is taking enrolments for 2027, but there is no information about where it is going to be located. It opens in seven months. Will students have a building to go to? The Back to School Boost of \$150 is welcome but barely scratches the surface of what families pay for books, uniforms and technology. As of April this year, less than half of that money had been taken up by parents. More support is needed for low-income families facing rising costs.

I acknowledge the extraordinary contribution of volunteers, sporting clubs and community organisations throughout Ipswich. These organisations hold communities together. They feed vulnerable families, support young people, assist new migrants, care for older residents and create opportunities through sport and culture. One project that continues to enjoy enormous community support in my area is the delivery of a synthetic athletics track for Ipswich. Despite being one of Queensland's largest and fastest growing cities, Ipswich still lacks this basic sporting infrastructure. Our young athletes deserve the same opportunities available elsewhere. Our local athletics clubs deserve facilities that allow them to train and compete safely all year around. That is not an extravagant request; it is a reasonable expectation for a city of our size and importance, but again this budget is silent on that matter.

Ipswich is also one of Queensland's great multicultural cities. People from every corner of the world have chosen to make our city home, enriching our community through language, culture, food, business and faith. I echo the member for Mount Ommaney's comments about the increasing number of hateful comments whenever we post anything to do with multicultural communities. It is deeply disturbing. It is fed by the current narrative we are hearing out there and we really need to do something to address it. That is one of the reasons I welcome Labor's commitment, announced today, to double funding for multicultural community celebrations and festivals, strengthen grants that build social cohesion and restore increased funding for NAIDOC and National Reconciliation Week activities. Strong communities are built not only through roads and buildings but also through bringing people together and celebrating the diversity that makes Queensland stronger.

Budgets are ultimately about choices. The government has made its choices and today Labor has outlined another set of choices: choices that would make it easier for renters to move home and keep more of their own money; choices that support apprentices and small businesses to build the workforce Queensland desperately needs; choices that restore confidence in community safety through independent and transparent reporting; and choices that invest in multicultural communities and strengthen the social fabric that binds Queensland together.

For Ipswich, my area, the challenge remains the same. We need infrastructure that keeps pace with growth. We need health services that meet demand. We need housing that people can afford. We need transport that gets people home sooner. We need governments prepared to invest before our growing communities fall behind. The people of Ipswich are optimistic. They work hard. They believe in the city's future. They deserve a government that shares that confidence and ambition.

While I acknowledge those elements of the budget that continue worthwhile initiatives, I remain deeply concerned that this budget falls short of what rapidly growing communities like Ipswich require. For those reasons I cannot support this bill.

 **Hon. JH LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Minister for Education and the Arts) (10.08 pm): It is important that I reflect on the Leader of the Opposition's woeful budget reply speech. I also want to mention the fact that he allows opposition members to behave as they do. It is the worst I have seen in 22 years and eight terms in this place. They deliberately flout the rules and conventions of this place, including attendance for the first two hours which we all know we are meant to do. It is a convention. The behaviour we saw during the Treasurer's budget delivery and the general disruption we see is clearly a deliberate tactic of this opposition. We did not see it in the parliament when we were last in government because there were not enough of them to create such a disruption, but it is very obvious that it is the way they are behaving now.

The member for Murrumba started by saying how great the state of Queensland was when he was growing up. I have similar fond memories because it was a conservative government in power for the member's first 12 formative years of his life—so no wonder he has such fond memories. Speaking of things the Leader of the Opposition has forgotten, he also failed the budget test when it comes to education policies set by his own shadow education minister. I table a copy of the member for Bulimba's demands for education on her socials—none of which he offered any succour to Queensland students and teachers in his lengthy speech.

Tabled paper: Extract, undated, from the social media account of the member for Bulimba, Hon. Di Farmer MP, regarding Budget Day [\[1113\]](#).

The Crisafulli government's budget is delivering for Surfers Paradise and Queensland, with better services through a stronger economy and by building Queensland's future and making our state safer—all with no new or increased taxes and with relief that households can rely on. After a decade of decline under Labor, the Crisafulli government is delivering a fresh start through investments that improve community safety, support families, protect our environment, strengthen infrastructure and create jobs.

In my electorate of Surfers Paradise, we are investing almost \$8.9 million this year to continue the Spit Works Program, progressing the Spit Master Plan and transforming one of Queensland's most iconic tourism and recreation precincts. There is \$5.3 million for capital replacements and upgrades at the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre, ensuring this world-class venue continues attracting major conferences, events and visitors to our city. We are also delivering on our election commitment for a marine wildlife hospital at Sea World, with \$2 million this year as part of a \$10 million investment that will support wildlife conservation and rehabilitation on the Gold Coast. There is more than \$1.25 million for the Safer Schoolies Gold Coast Response initiative, helping ensure young people can celebrate safely. Community safety on the Gold Coast is being strengthened through additional support for legal assistance services, enhanced Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions' resources on the Gold Coast—which I thank the Attorney for—and continued delivery of the Regional Reset program for at-risk young people.

There is more than \$95 million for electricity network replacement, augmentation and connection works across the Gold Coast. There is disaster reconstruction funding, including more than \$22 million this year through disaster recovery funding arrangements and almost \$16.7 million for coastline rehabilitation following Tropical Cyclone Alfred. There is \$18.1 million for the Shark Management Plan, support for land and marine clean-up projects, grassroots environmental initiatives, koala habitat protection and environmental planning initiatives across South-East Queensland. There is also continued support for the First 5 Forever literacy initiative, public library grants, maternity and early childhood programs, and initiatives supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families.

I want to reflect on aspects of the budget for education. It is a record \$23.5 billion for education, early childhood and the arts, including \$1.487 billion in capital expenditure. There was a lot of discussion about the Back to School Boost today. We have announced a 50 per cent increase that will help families meet the cost of school essentials. I heard lots of complaints this morning during question

time about cost-of-living relief. The member for Waterford should explain to the 64.1 per cent of families in her electorate and the 95.4 per cent of families at Waterford State School who have already spent their \$100 that she does not think it is actually being spent quickly enough or by enough people. The member for Ipswich said that there was not much being spent in Ipswich. However, 64.2 per cent of people in Ipswich have spent their money, totalling \$207,000, and 93.3 per cent of people at Deebing Heights State School in her electorate have already spent their \$100, totalling \$71,000.

There are 22 new schools coming, with a new secondary school in Ripley Valley, a primary school in Greater Flagstone and two new special schools in Townsville and Wynnum Manly. We are fixing Labor's legacy of neglect through the \$28.7 million Fixing the Foundations program and \$304.7 million over four years to continue our zero tolerance approach to violence and aggression in schools, making classrooms safer for teachers, school staff and students.

Mr Deputy Speaker, my speech has been reviewed and approved 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 being delivered at a time of significant economic pressure, with families and businesses facing rising costs, international uncertainty and challenges beyond the control of any state government.

Mr Speaker, despite those challenges, Queenslanders can see a government delivering on its commitments, restoring confidence and ensuring every dollar is directed towards the services and infrastructure our state needs.

Mr Speaker, when we came to government, we uncovered the true state of Queensland's finances after a decade of Labor with Queenslanders left with record debt, worsening deficits, unfunded commitments and major projects that were poorly scoped, badly managed and significantly underfunded.

Mr Speaker, the former government treated the Budget as an opportunity for announcements rather than a plan for delivery. The Crisafulli Government has taken a different approach by restoring discipline, improving financial outcomes and ensuring Queensland has a sustainable future.

Mr Speaker, the 2026-27 Budget delivers lower debt, a reduction in the projected deficit and a pathway back to surplus in 2029-30 and importantly as outlined earlier, we are achieving this without new taxes and without increasing existing taxes.

Mr Speaker, this is what responsible government looks like, making difficult decisions, repairing the Budget and still investing in the services Queenslanders depend on.

Mr Speaker, one of the most important priorities of this Budget is supporting Queensland families with cost-of-living relief as we know Queensland households are feeling pressure from higher everyday expenses, increased insurance costs, energy prices and the broader national affordability challenge.

Mr Speaker, that is why this Budget delivers the largest ongoing cost-of-living relief package in Queensland's history, with almost \$9.3 billion supporting Queenslanders in 2026-27.

Mr Speaker, this package delivers practical assistance that helps families now while creating long-term benefits and by permanently legislating 50 cent public transport fares this will ensure affordable travel remains available to Queenslanders.

Mr Speaker, we are protecting Play On Sports Vouchers so children can continue participating in sport and community activities, supporting both families and local sporting clubs, along with increasing the vulnerable household Electricity Rebate Scheme to almost \$400, ensuring those most in need receive additional support.

Mr Speaker, we are freezing bulk water prices in South East Queensland for two years, providing certainty for households and saving families around \$130.

Mr Speaker, we are expanding free kindy health checks, helping families access important services while reducing financial pressure.

Mr Speaker, we are extending the boosted First Home Owner Grant of \$30,000 for another four years, supporting more Queenslanders to achieve the dream of owning their own home.

Mr Speaker, through the Energy Roadmap, we are investing \$1.8 billion over five years to improve electricity reliability and ensure Queensland households and businesses benefit from a stronger energy system.

Mr Speaker, making Queensland safer is one of the defining commitments of this Government as Queenslanders deserve to feel safe in their homes, their communities and their workplaces.

Mr Speaker, this Budget invests \$7.2 billion into community safety, supporting stronger laws, more police, better resourced courts, early intervention and support for victims and investing additional funding to recruit frontline police officers and strengthen the capacity of our policing services.

Mr Speaker, we are delivering new and upgraded police facilities, stations and police beats, ensuring our officers have the resources they need along with expanding youth detention capacity and investing in targeted programs designed to prevent crime before it occurs.

Mr Speaker, new Crime Prevention Schools and Youth Justice Schools will provide early intervention and support to young people at risk of entering the justice system along with investing \$80 million in rehabilitation-focused programs for youth offenders, because we know early intervention and accountability must work together.

Mr Speaker, we are strengthening protections for victims of domestic and family violence through ongoing electronic monitoring programs for high-risk offenders and increased support services.

Mr Speaker, housing remains one of the greatest challenges facing Queenslanders with population growth, rising construction costs and increased demand mean government must take action to increase supply.

Mr Speaker, this Budget invests \$12.3 billion to unlock land, support housing construction and provide more opportunities for Queenslanders and through the Residential Activation Fund, we have unlocked land capable of delivering more than 98,000 new homes.

Mr Speaker, the Infrastructure Activation Fund will unlock development-ready land and support the delivery of more than 20,500 homes with the Boost to Buy program.

Mr Speaker, we are also investing a record \$5.7 billion over four years as we work towards delivering 53,500 social and affordable homes by 2044 and the Crisafulli Governments long-term commitment to ensuring Queenslanders have a safe place to call home.

Mr Speaker, a strong economy allows government to deliver stronger health services, and this Budget delivers a record \$35.5 billion investment in health.

Mr Speaker, we are continuing to repair the damage caused by years of pressure on Queensland's health system through the Hospital Rescue Plan including new hospitals at Toowoomba, Coomera and Bundaberg and major expansions across the state with these investments delivering more than 2,600 additional hospital beds and improve access to care along with \$297 million in 2026-27 to deliver 30,000 surgeries through Surgery Connect, ensuring Queenslanders receive treatment sooner.

Mr Speaker, Queensland's future prosperity depends on infrastructure that supports growth with this Budget delivers a record \$119.2 billion capital program over four years with investment supporting transport, health, education, energy and water infrastructure throughout Queensland.

Mr Speaker, we are continuing delivery of major infrastructure projects, including The Wave, Bruce Highway safety upgrades and Country Roads Connect and developing a new Gold Coast Transport Plan to support one of Australia's fastest growing regions.

Mr Speaker, the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games provide Queensland with a once-in-a-generation opportunity that is why the Crisafulli Government is ensuring the Games deliver a lasting legacy for communities across the state with the \$300 million Games Legacy Fund to support upgrades to sporting facilities and creating benefits that will continue well beyond the Games.

Mr Speaker, energy security and water security are essential to Queensland's future with a record \$3.2 billion investment in CopperString, unlocking new economic opportunities and supporting future industries.

Mr Speaker, the \$200 million North West Energy Fund will support critical minerals, resources and regional development.

Mr Speaker, we are rebuilding Paradise Dam and investing in water infrastructure and upgrades to North Pine Dam and Lake Macdonald to improve water security and support future growth.

Mr Speaker, this Budget demonstrates that the Crisafulli Government is delivering what Queenslanders voted for.

Mr Speaker, after a decade of Labor decline, Queensland now has a government focused on delivery, responsibility and opportunity.

Mr Speaker, I commend the Budget to the House.

 **Dr O'SHEA** (South Brisbane—ALP) (10.14 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Appropriation Bill 2026, the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2026 and the Revenue (Cost of Living Relief Locked-in Law) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026. In reviewing the budget papers, I have been reflecting on the needs of my community in South Brisbane and Queenslanders generally. In the grip of a persistent cost-of-living crisis, many Queenslanders are looking to this budget hoping for relief with essential expenses.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): Member for Lytton, you have just walked between the chair and the person speaking. Could you return to your own chair, please? I thought you would have understood that that is a standing order.

Dr O'SHEA: Many Queenslanders are looking to this budget hoping for relief with essential expenses, yet it is difficult to see anything in this budget that will provide meaningful cost-of-living relief. I expect many Queenslanders will feel let down by this government.

In my speech on the budget last year, I spoke about the findings in the Salvation Army's annual Red Shield report. This year's Red Shield report has again laid bare the level of financial pressure faced by thousands of households across our country and our state. The report is based on a survey of

community members who have accessed the Salvation Army's crisis support services over the past 12 months. This year it found the following: 87 per cent of respondents were living below the poverty line, a four per cent increase on the previous year; 86 per cent of those in private rentals experienced rental stress; nearly two-thirds of people could not pay their rent or mortgage on time; 86 per cent were unable to pay their electricity, gas or phone bills on time; 63 per cent said their household had at least one utility service disconnected or restricted because of financial difficulties; and, sadly, approximately 60 per cent reported they had either skipped meals or resorted to eating spoiled or expired food due to lack of money.

These alarming statistics reflect the reality of far too many Queenslanders, including many of my constituents in South Brisbane who access the community pantries at my office or at West End Community House for basic groceries to help them get through another week. These are Queenslanders who are crying out for tangible cost-of-living relief from this government. When I turned to the Revenue (Cost of Living Relief Locked-in Law) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026, I was expecting some new cost-of-living measures that would help Queensland families, but what I found was that there were not any new measures to ease Queenslanders' financial stress. This government was merely continuing Labor's initiatives of the \$30,000 first home owner grant and 50-cent fares.

In 2023 Labor doubled the first home owner grant to \$30,000. In my speech on the budget last year I asked the government to not just extend this \$30,000 grant for another year but extend it indefinitely. I am pleased to see that the government has now done this so that first home buyers have certainty about this assistance as they save towards a deposit for a home. Similarly, with Labor's 50-cent fares—which have delivered real and ongoing cost-of-living relief to Queenslanders—I am delighted that the Treasurer has listened to Labor's requests to enshrine these low-cost fares in legislation. I would, however, ask the government to not persist in the, frankly, shameful attempt to claim the 50-cent fares as their own initiative. Queenslanders know that this is untrue and it makes the government look, at best, ridiculous and, at worst, untrustworthy, so by any measure I do not think it is a good move.

As I looked further into the budget papers, I realised that this extension of existing relief measures reflected a broader pattern within the government's budget. Labor's \$200 FairPlay vouchers, rebranded by this government as Play On! vouchers, will continue to help reduce the cost of children's sports for families, and Labor's free flu vaccination program will continue to protect Queenslanders against severe illness.

It is disappointing, though, that this government has not borrowed other Labor cost-of-living measures like discounted vehicle registrations or the \$1,000 energy rebate that made a real difference to Queensland households. Where this government has chosen to deliver its own initiatives, closer scrutiny reveals loopholes and half-measures. For instance, the two-year freeze on the state government's bulk water prices was heralded to bring about savings for households. However, water retailers are still able to increase their fees and, as we found out from Urban Utilities yesterday, this will actually lead to a rise in water charges for their customers rather than any savings.

The government has increased the Back to School Boost by \$50 to \$150 for primary school students. However, in talking to parents in my communities—

Mr Molhoek interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Southport, if you are going to contribute in this debate you might do it from your own seat.

Dr O'SHEA: However, in talking to parents in my communities they tell me that, far from this helping with back-to-school expenses, they have only been able to access the money late in term 1, after they have already paid for their child's uniform and stationery for the year. I urge the state government to bring forward the timing of this credit to ensure parents can use the funds at the start of the school year to assist with the expense of their children going back to school.

Alongside cost-of-living pressures, housing and homelessness remain core concerns for my constituents in South Brisbane. While I am pleased to see the government has invested additional funds into the delivery of new social and community homes, if this government were serious about addressing housing affordability they would not have spent the past 18 months in government removing housing affordability provisions from our state planning frameworks, including in Woolloongabba and South

Brisbane in my electorate. Only last month the Deputy Premier introduced a provisional priority development area covering land, including the state owned Visy site and adjacent privately owned properties right in the heart of my community in South Brisbane, without requirements for developers to deliver affordable housing where it is sorely needed. The Deputy Premier's announcement this morning of more than 4,000 new homes at the Visy site made no mention of any affordable homes for our nurses and teachers, who should be able to live in the community they serve rather than be forced to move further and further away from where they work.

I welcome the additional support in this budget for frontline housing and homelessness services as well as for Rosies outreach service. In South Brisbane organisations like Micah Projects, Rosies, Emmanuel City Mission, Community Friends, St Vincent de Paul and Orange Sky Laundry do invaluable work supporting some of our most vulnerable residents, and I thank their dedicated and tireless workers and volunteers for all that they do. Unfortunately, their work has been made more difficult by this government's changes to the Immediate Housing Response, IHR, guidelines excluding vulnerable community members from accessing the emergency accommodation offered by our frontline organisations and forcing them back onto our streets and into our parks. The transition from sleeping rough to community living can be challenging for people with complex mental health needs, who are at higher risk of exclusion under the new IHR rules and need supportive accommodation rather than eviction and exclusion from housing.

With the housing affordability crisis there are tens of thousands of Queenslanders waiting for a home on the social housing waiting list and families living for years in motel rooms around the state. Last year the state government was spending \$2.8 million a week on emergency accommodation for the homeless and this year has budgeted \$27 million to help people in the private rental market, but only \$8 million is being spent on property purchases when there is a real need to address the dire shortage of affordable long-term accommodation in our state. Building new homes takes time. Purchasing existing properties and refurbishing them to provide long-term accommodation is an obvious way to get people out of tents and motel rooms. I again encourage the housing minister and the government to take action now, particularly given the additional pressure the 2032 Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games are going to have on the availability of temporary accommodation.

Turning to education, I was very pleased to see the government had committed almost \$460 million to plan and construct new schools in Queensland's fastest growing communities. With a rapidly growing population in my community and West End State School approaching capacity, I excitedly checked the budget papers for funding for a new primary school in South Brisbane but was disappointed to discover no mention of this. The Department of Education has confirmed that a new primary school is required in South Brisbane and advised that, once land is secured, it will still take another six years to build a school. I ask the government to start work now to identify appropriate land for the new school and to avoid overcrowding at West End State School, leading to larger class sizes, demountable classrooms and loss of space for the children to run around. The young people in our community deserve to continue to receive a high-quality education in facilities which can accommodate the ongoing population growth.

My community is very fortunate to have fantastic hospitals with the Princess Alexandra, the Mater and the Queensland Children's Hospital all in my electorate. I would like to thank the clinical and support staff for all their hard work in caring for our community as well as for patients from across Queensland. The Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme provides assistance with travel and accommodation costs for regional Queensland patients and their families who need to travel to access specialist health care. In the budget the government has increased the private motor vehicle fuel subsidy rate by 11 cents per kilometre but has left the accommodation allowance at \$70 a night, which is completely unrealistic when trying to find accommodation to attend a hospital in Brisbane, particularly for a family. Many of these patients will spend weeks, months and even years living far from home in order to access specialist medical care not available in regional Queensland, yet this budget fails to provide them with adequate assistance and adds more financial stress to families in one of the most difficult times of their lives. I would like to acknowledge Ronald McDonald House and Childhood Cancer Support for the great work they do in supporting regional families who have to travel to Brisbane for their children to receive medical treatment.

With there being a high demand for mental health services, I am pleased to see funding for nine additional psychiatric assessment beds at the PA Hospital. I note the government is continuing work on Labor's expansion of the hospital as well as additional parking. I understand this long-awaited

expansion is expected to be delivered in 2028, although there is no detail about the number of car-parking spaces. I note that the budget papers mention that work is continuing on the Queensland cancer centre of excellence, but again there is no detail about when this will be delivered.

With regard to transport, I am pleased to see the government has invested in the extension of the Melbourne Street bikeway in South Brisbane and the creation of a new bikeway on Shaftston Avenue in East Brisbane and Kangaroo Point. My inner-city community is home to many cyclists and other active transport users who use our bikeways for commuting, fitness and recreation. They will welcome this addition to cycling infrastructure to make their ride safer and more enjoyable. However, additional investment is urgently required in the public transport system to cater for the rapid population growth in my electorate. That required infrastructure includes a second CityCat terminal in West End, increased bus services and a CityCat service for Kangaroo Point. These are some of the essential transport services my community needs but, just like last year, I have seen no mention of these in the budget papers.

I welcome the Leader of the Opposition's support for renters with a portable bond scheme and the return to tenants of interest earned on rental bonds. These are sensible reforms supported by the Queensland Council of Social Service and would bring welcome relief to my community, where two-thirds of my residents are renters and rent sits at around \$630 a week. I look forward to a time in the future when the Labor government will be able to implement these measures.

Interruption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER'S RULING

Tabled Materials, Out of Order

 **Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kempton): Honourable members, earlier this evening the member for Mermaid Beach attempted to table a cap. There are numerous Speaker's rulings about matters not appropriate to table, including hair dye, a five-cent coin, army worms, placards and a red-back spider in a jar. The purpose of tabled papers is to provide information to the House in relation to the matter under consideration. The tabling of a cap is an inappropriate matter to table. The cap is not tabled and the clerks will return the cap to the member.

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

REVENUE (COST OF LIVING RELIEF LOCKED-IN LAW) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading (Cognate Debate)

Resumed.

 **Mr FIELD** (Capalaba—LNP) (10.30 pm): I rise to make my contribution on the budget debate for 2026-27. This budget builds on the fantastic work that the Crisafulli government has delivered across the state since being elected in October 2024. A large part of that work has been to remedy the damage caused by a decade in which Labor allowed the fundamentals of government to deteriorate—community safety, access to health care, housing supply, cost-of-living pressures and the delivery of essential infrastructure. Queenslanders elected this government because they wanted these problems confronted honestly. They wanted fewer excuses, fewer announcements that led nowhere and more practical delivery.

This budget is not a victory lap; it is the next stage of a long repair job. I spent more than 50 years working in the building and construction industry, and I have learned that when you take over a project that has been badly managed you do not cover the cracks with a coat of paint and hope nobody notices; you inspect the damage, stabilise the foundations and establish a proper plan and get on with the work. This is exactly what the Crisafulli government has been doing since October 2024. We have been fixing

the foundations of this state while continuing to deliver the services Queenslanders rely on every day. It shows that this government understands the difference between spending money and achieving results. Labor has always been very good at the former and desperately hopeless at the latter. When this government came to office, it uncovered the true state of Queensland's finances. Under Labor, the 2026-27 operating deficit would have been \$9.2 billion. This budget delivers an improvement of nearly \$3 billion. Total state debt is now forecast to reach \$216.5 billion at the end of the forward estimates in 2029-30. Labor's debt trajectory at the same point would have been \$290 billion. That is the difference between responsibility and an opposition that still refuses to account for the mess it left behind.

In our first budget, every one of my election commitments for Capalaba was funded. Work was advanced on the investigation of a future Metro connection to Capalaba, planning for the duplication of the EGW Wood Bridge is now underway, investigating the future of Leslie Harrison Dam, major upgrades to local schools and TAFE, the new RSPCA Wildlife Hospital at IndigiScapes and funding for improved tools to combat motor vehicle theft. This budget continues that momentum. It delivers an overdue intersection upgrade on Moreton Bay Road at the Capalaba Central Shopping Centre. This will help to keep drivers safe on what is already a busy arterial road. It also provides critical investment into local schools and TAFE, including \$1.3 million for Alexandra Hills State High School for new and upgraded fire safety systems to keep our kids safe in an emergency. Further funding to schools around the electorate will ensure their facilities can keep pace with the growing demands of local students and families.

I am also pleased to see that \$11,000 is being delivered to support the brilliant work that Capalaba Meals on Wheels is doing for those vulnerable people in our communities when they need it most. We are also delivering the very first MRI machine at Redland Hospital, ensuring that residents of the Redlands can access world-class health services sooner and closer to home. Together, these investments show that Capalaba and the broader Redlands are no longer being treated as an afterthought. The people of Capalaba elected me to be their advocate and to deliver practical outcomes. I will continue to push for safer communities, better transport, stronger local health services and the infrastructure our growing region deserves. This budget is another important step in that work. It is responsible, it is focused and it keeps Queensland moving in the right direction. 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—

Speaker, we are strengthening the foundation for a fresh start and investing in our state's future. Queensland is a prosperous and growing state, and that growth brings real opportunity, but also real demand on hospitals, schools, housing, roads, police and essential services.

The cost-of-living challenge is front and centre in this Budget. In Labor's last full year of office, Queensland experienced some of the sharpest cost-of-living increases in the country. In one year alone, power prices were up 19.9 per cent, three times the national average, and insurance was up 18.5 per cent.

This Budget delivers nearly \$9.3 billion in cost-of-living relief supporting Queenslanders in 2026-27. That is a \$700 million increase on last year's package. More importantly, it is targeted, responsible and ongoing support designed to improve living standards now and into the future.

For families with children, the Back-to-School Boost will increase by 50 per cent to \$150 for every primary school student in Queensland. Play On! Sports Vouchers have been locked in to support families who would otherwise have seen that assistance end under Labor. Free kindy health checks are being expanded, with \$37.5 million over five years to help families manage cost-of-living pressures.

For commuters, the LNP's permanent 50 cent fares will be legislated so Steven Miles can never leave them unfunded again. Bulk water prices in the South-East will be frozen for two years, saving households around \$130. For vulnerable households, the Electricity Rebate Scheme, frozen by the former government, will again increase by 3.4 per cent to almost \$400. The boosted First Home Owner Grant of \$30,000 has also been extended for another four years.

This Budget also recognises that energy reliability and energy prices matter. Through the Energy Roadmap, the Electricity Maintenance Guarantee increases to \$1.8 billion over five years. Lower power prices for Ergon customers are being locked in as part of the Energy Roadmap Price Drop, saving families around seven per cent and businesses around eight per cent by passing on the full power price reduction.

Restoring community safety is another key area that we are focusing on. This Budget invests \$7.2 billion into making Queensland safer. That funding supports stronger laws, more police, new early intervention and rehabilitation programs, better resourced courts, more prevention and victim support for domestic and family violence, reform for child protection and child safety, and more support for victims of crime. I know how important these measures will be to ensure victims of crime receive the help they need and that fewer Queenslanders will become victims of crime in the future.

There is also \$23 million to recruit more frontline officers, because laws need police on the ground to enforce them. There is a \$495.9 million investment over four years for new and upgraded police stations, facilities and police beats, including stage two of the Kirwan Police Facility. The expansion of the Woodford Youth Detention Centre will deliver an additional 32 beds. The Budget also funds new Crime Prevention Schools and Youth Justice Schools, along with targeted programs to break the cycle of reoffending, including \$80 million for a remote rehabilitation-focused program for youth offenders.

We are continuing the electronic monitoring trial program for high-risk domestic violence offenders. The Budget also implements recommendations of the inquiry, with a \$200 million investment in 2026-27 and the establishment of a new Queensland Protection Commission, with more than \$250 million over four years to implement the In Plain Sight response. The Budget also provides \$37.1 million over four years to clear the DNA backlog and recommence forensic testing at the state's forensic laboratory.

Housing is another area where the foundations must be strengthened. This Budget invests \$12.3 billion to unlock more land for homes, deliver social and community homes, support first homeowners and support Queenslanders at risk of homelessness. Land for more than 98,000 new homes has been unlocked through the Residential Activation Fund, and round two has been doubled to \$1 billion.

The Infrastructure Activation Fund, with cumulative funding of \$2.4 billion available to Queensland including federal funding, will unlock development-ready land to deliver 20,500 homes for first homeowners. The government is also investing a record \$5.7 billion over four years as it works towards 53,500 new social and affordable homes by 2044.

This Budget also delivers a record \$35.5 billion health budget and continues the work of healing Labor's health crisis. The Hospital Rescue Plan is fully funded, delivering three new hospitals in Toowoomba, Coomera and Bundaberg, and ten expanded hospitals throughout the state to deliver more than 2,600 new hospital beds. The Budget provides \$297 million in 2026-27 to deliver 30,000 surgeries under Surgery Connect. It invests \$57.7 million over four years into maternity services across Queensland, including reopening maternity services in Biloela and Cooktown. It also invests \$74 million to continue delivery of the Closing the Gap Priorities Fund for better health and essential infrastructure for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

The Budget also builds Queensland's future. The 2026-27 capital program will deliver \$119.2 billion over four years to 2029-30, supporting investment in critical infrastructure across transport, health, education, energy and water assets. It includes The Wave stage one progressing through design, the continued rollout of Country Roads Connect and ongoing targeted Bruce Highway safety upgrades. It develops a new Gold Coast Transport Plan and includes works to the new Brisbane Stadium as part of the \$7.1 billion joint venture funding.

It also invests through the \$300 million Games Legacy Fund and delivers the second round of the \$250 million Games On Program for generational grassroots sporting infrastructure. It includes a record \$3.2 billion investment to build the CopperString energy project, 22 new schools, a \$200 million North West Energy Fund to unlock new resources and critical minerals projects, and \$59.8 million in 2026-27 to continue planning for the rebuilding of Paradise Dam.

Water security is being further strengthened, with \$545 million over six years for capacity-restoring upgrades to existing dams, starting with works to restore North Pine and Lake MacDonald towards full service levels. This is the equivalent of a new dam for the state, more than double the size of the Bjelke-Petersen Dam.

Speaker, this Budget is one which further stabilises and builds on the foundations that the Crisafulli Government has set since being elected in 2024. It repairs the Budget while continuing to deliver. It honours election commitments. It funds the services Labor left exposed. Most of all, it shows a government focused on the practical work of rebuilding Queensland. Responsible management of our state's finances allows us to continue delivering for Queenslanders well into the future, and I look forward to carrying out that work for my local community.



Mr RUSSO (Toohey—ALP) (10.34 pm): This LNP budget gets the priorities all wrong. While Queensland families face growing cost-of-living pressures, the government is cutting jobs and services and directing more taxpayer money into advertising. It is a budget of missed opportunities, misplaced priorities and broken promises. Queenslanders deserve more than this. Queenslanders deserve action, not slogans. There is no immediate relief for housing, no affordable housing in my electorate, hundreds of public service workers' jobs are on the chopping block and no money for apprentices, which is concerning considering the huge infrastructure projects that are needed leading up to the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

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. Even the *Courier-Mail* has said that the budget will make little difference in the lives of Queenslanders. The only reason the LNP was able to give even the most meagre cost-of-living breaks to Queenslanders is because it kept the coal royalties that were introduced by the Labor government, which in fact is a broken promise by the LNP to the resource sector. The debt is higher than promised, infrastructure projects have been delayed and millions of Queensland families will miss out on much needed real cost-of-living relief. I am also concerned by the level of government advertising we are seeing across the state, whether it is billboards, bus stops, advertisements in public spaces or on free-to-air TV and paid streaming services. Queenslanders are being inundated with government promotion. At a time when households are tightening their belts, taxpayers expect their money to be spent on delivering services and support, not on promoting the government of the day.

I now want to turn to two infrastructure projects in my electorate. These projects were projects that I lobbied for and were delivered under the Labor government. The first project I want to address is the Boundary Road level crossing at Coopers Plains. This project has been on the books for more than 40 years and promised to the community for just as long. It is one of South-East Queensland's worst traffic bottlenecks and a project that local residents and commuters have every right to expect would already be under construction. In 2019 all three levels of government reached an agreement to eliminate this notorious traffic black spot. In March 2022 the state and federal governments committed \$186 million towards the project. In November 2023 a further commitment brought total funding to \$399 million, with contributions from the state government, the federal government and the Brisbane City Council.

In September 2024, the design for the new rail overpass was proudly unveiled by the federal minister Catherine King; the former state minister, Bart Mellish; the now federal member for Moreton, Julie-Ann Campbell; and Councillor Steve Griffiths. The project appeared to be moving ahead. Then, without warning, the 2025-26 Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program contained no funding allocation for the Boundary Road level crossing. Following discussions with the department, I understand that funding previously allocated during 2024-25 was used for essential property resumptions and the demolition of buildings required for the project. The next stage should have been the completion of underground utility works by the department of transport, allowing the project to proceed to tender and awarding the construction contract. Instead, everything has stalled.

Boundary Road is one of Brisbane's most important east-west transport corridors. It provides direct access to the Gateway Motorway and key freight and commuter routes towards Ipswich and beyond. It simply cannot be left in limbo. With the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games fast approaching, failing to deliver this critical piece of infrastructure would be an embarrassment for Queensland. The project was ready to move ahead—the property resumptions had been completed and early works were expected to begin—yet when the 2025-26 budget was handed down there was no funding allocated for construction. When I wrote to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads seeking answers, I received a response in October 2025 stating—

The construction commencement date is being adjusted to support a pipeline that is prioritised, sequential, and ultimately sustainable.

That was the only explanation. There has been no communication with my office since. There was no advice to the federal government. Most importantly, there was no communication with the local community. Even today, the department's Boundary Road level crossing website has not been updated since September 2024. It still states that early works were expected to commence in mid-2025. In June 2026, the federal member for Moreton secured an additional \$99.7 million in the 2026-27 federal budget to help deliver this long-overdue overpass. The first indication the community received that anything had changed came not from government but from the Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program, which now states—

Project scope, cost and timing subject to further planning and negotiation with the Australian Government.

The Australian government has already committed an additional \$99.7 million. The negotiations, in my view, have already occurred. It begs the question: why will the state government not be honest with the community? If the government have no intention of proceeding with the project, they should have the courage to say so. If they intend to proceed then they must explain why the project has been delayed and provide a clear timeline for delivery. When is the Premier going to come clean with the people of Coopers Plains and the thousands of motorists who rely on Boundary Road every single day? It is time for this government to honour the commitments that have already been made, maintain the momentum that has already been built and deliver the infrastructure this community has waited decades for and rightly deserves. The Premier has said, 'I don't want to see projects put into the never-never. I want to see them delivered now. It's our state's hour of need.' The Premier is absolutely right: it is the hour of need for more than 30,000 motorists who use Boundary Road every day and sit waiting at those boom gates while train after train passes. The people of this community deserve answers. More importantly, they deserve action.

The second project I would like to update the House on is the QEII Hospital expansion program. I am pleased to report that the \$690 million expansion is progressing on schedule. Several milestones have already been achieved, and in late 2024 construction commenced on two major components of the project: a new multistorey car park and a new clinical services building. Throughout the construction period, a number of constituents have contacted me regarding the increased traffic congestion and

parking pressures around the hospital precinct. In response to these concerns, I have been actively engaged with the QEII expansion project team, local residents and the Brisbane City Council to ensure those issues are being addressed. I commend the QEII expansion project team for introducing a free park-and-ride service for hospital staff. This initiative will reduce parking demand in the surrounding streets and will go some way towards easing congestion for the local residents and hospital visitors.

I note that the budget includes an allocation of \$25 million for the construction of the multistorey car park at QEII Hospital, providing up to 761 additional parking spaces as part of the Hospital Rescue Plan; however, I am somewhat puzzled by this announcement. The multistorey car park is not a new project; nor is it new funding. Construction has been underway for a number of years. I am pleased to advise the House that the project is ahead of schedule and is expected to be completed by the end of 2026. Members of the community may already have noticed that one of the major construction cranes has been removed from the site and, as construction continues, the remaining cranes will also come down, marking another significant milestone in the delivery of this important project. Once the car park is operational, traffic congestion around the hospital is hopefully expected to improve significantly as construction related impacts reduce and additional parking becomes available. It will also mark the introduction of paid parking at QEII Hospital—a change that patients, staff and visitors will need to prepare for as the hospital expansion moves into its next phase. The QEII Hospital expansion is a vital investment in health care for Brisbane's south side. I look forward to seeing this important project completed and delivering improved health services for our growing community.

I would now like to talk to the housing issue. One of the main issues that is raised in my electorate is housing, or rather the lack of housing. Time and time again, constituents have shared their stories with me. Their lease comes to an end, the rent is increased beyond what they can afford and they are forced to look elsewhere. Finding another home is no easy task when there are often between 20 and 50 applicants competing for a single rental property. I have many constituents who have been waiting for social housing for more than 10 years.

I want to share a story from one of my constituents who receives a disability support pension of around \$1,200 a fortnight; however, her rent is \$1,250. She turned to the Buranda Housing Service Centre for help, hoping she might be eligible for rental assistance. Instead she was told that her rent was too high and her income too low for any assistance because her tenancy was considered not sustainable. I want to repeat that because it is extraordinary. Her rent is \$50 a fortnight more than the income she receives from her disability pension, yet she was told there was nothing Buranda Housing could do to help her. She has been on the waiting list for 10 years and the only solution she was offered was to find somewhere else to live. But where, in a housing market where affordable rentals are almost impossible to find? The constituent is now selling her possessions so she can afford her medication while relying on community organisations such as the St David's Neighbourhood Centre for support. Unfortunately, this is not an isolated case—it is a reality facing far too many people in Toohey—yet the budget does nothing to address the growing crisis in social and affordable housing in my electorate.

Small business has also missed out. Business Chamber Queensland called on the LNP government to increase the payroll tax threshold from \$1.3 million to \$1.5 million to support small business, and the LNP government response was silence. The budget does not back small business.

I will now turn to education. Education continues to support our schools by delivering more teachers. I am concerned about how the government intends to retain teachers, let alone attract more into the profession, when it is refusing to negotiate a fair wage outcome for them. Rather than bargaining in good faith, the LNP government sent teachers to arbitration. These teachers have not received a wage increase since 1 July 2024. If this government is serious about attracting and retaining teachers, it needs to start by paying them what they are worth.

The same pattern is evident in Queensland Health. One of Queensland Health's key deliverables is to work towards delivering an additional 46,000 health workers by 2032, including 34,200 extra clinicians, yet the LNP government has also refused to negotiate in good faith with health practitioners and dental officers, instead sending them to arbitration. These dedicated professionals have not received a pay increase since October 2024. This appears to be becoming a pattern. Rather than sitting down with workers and negotiating reasonable wage outcomes, the government approach is to send every dispute to the umpire.

 **Hon. FS SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (Minister for Women and Women's Economic Security, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Multiculturalism) (10.49 pm): We are strengthening the foundations for a fresh start. I want to talk about

what this budget delivers for my beautiful electorate of Maroochydore and the Sunshine Coast. This budget delivers the largest investment in the region's history. We are fixing the Mooloolaba Harbour entrance. In March this year we announced the works we would undertake and in this budget we are funding them to address the dangerous shoaling at the entrance of Mooloolah River following the tragic loss of local boatie Smithy. The work consists of dredging the Buddina Sand Trap and also deepening the entrance to Mooloolaba Harbour. Some works have already been contracted, with another package going to market in early 2027, with construction underway in 2027. Together with my colleagues the member for Kawana and the member for Buderim and all of the government, we are committed to getting this right. More dredging is about to take place after the latest hydrological survey, while the permanent solution has been put to market. We promised a permanent solution. We funded it and we are delivering it.

The investment in the Wave is transformational. It is heavy rail connecting to a state-of-the-art metro that will link all the way to Sunshine Coast Airport via Maroochydore CBD. Labor's plan was to dump people in Caloundra with no new connection to Maroochydore or the airport.

This budget also continues to deliver for the massive Mooloolah River interchange, the Mount Coolum interchange, the Sunshine Motorway improvements and the Sugar Road-Mooloolaba Road intersection upgrade. We are unlocking more than 1,800 new homes through enabling infrastructure, plus the Sunshine Coast Arena which will support conventions, live entertainment, exhibitions and sport. The Mudjimba Island protection package creates a beautiful opportunity for partnership with the local schools. Thank you, Minister for Environment, for your assistance. In addition it will provide for the installation of 23 moorings to protect the island's reef from anchor damage. The Maroochydore Swans rugby union club is getting new lights, saving the club money and benefiting every sporting group that uses the ground. Local schools such as Maroochydore High are receiving infrastructure upgrades.

With regard to my ministerial portfolios, this will be an exciting year for the very remote discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities as this budget invests more than \$73 million from the Closing the Gap Priorities Fund to back 21 new public health and critical infrastructure projects. These are practical outcomes prioritised by communities. This is critical for remote areas which face the greatest disadvantage who were forgotten for a decade under the former Labor government. I want to correct Labor's mistruth that reconciliation and NAIDOC grants have been cut. We have not reduced any allocated funding in these programs. Funding that was allocated in the forwards by the previous government is still there as we recognise these are important celebrations. However, the substantial investment in my portfolio is unashamedly being spent on practical capital projects that go to the heart of closing the gap in remote disadvantaged communities such as for clean drinking water. When it comes to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, the former Labor government was focused on stoking the vision and funding lawyers' picnics in Brisbane rather than delivering real outcomes.

The Crisafulli government is building a state of hope and aspiration where all Queenslanders can thrive. Unfortunately, Labor is stoking fear over facts and division over delivery. Our government's \$5 million Multicultural Connect Grants Program will commit \$3.7 million in the next financial year. This is the first grant capital program designed to assist culturally diverse communities, something the former Labor government never did. It is matched funding. Communities engaging with these grants have skin in the game. It is about bringing all people together.

It is rewarding to hear some of the stories of our Women's Career Grant recipients. One mum told us it is a game changer for her when so often she puts everyone else's needs in the family ahead of her own. The budget confirmed further funding rounds with \$10 million remaining. The 2026 Women's Economic Security Statement does something that the member for Waterford could not clearly outline when she was the minister. We are investing for Queensland women. In her last women's budget statement there were 23 pages of commentary before Queensland women saw the first real investment for the year. We are investing in the aspiration of Queensland women—in fact, in all Queenslanders wherever they may live.

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

The speech read as follows—

This budget builds on the commitments made at the 2024 election. Because the Crisafulli Government is a government that delivers on its promises ... and even exceeds them.

One of the reasons the Crisafulli Government has a Minister for Women and Women's Economic Security is a simple conviction—when women are economically secure, they are better able to thrive, and along with their families, communities, and our State as a whole.

In addition to the future rounds of the Women's Career Grants and Jobs Academy, we are reaffirming our commitment to the Empowering Queensland Women grant program with \$540,000 per year ongoing.

Support for the women of Queensland is not limited to my portfolio. We are delivering for women across the whole of Government.

Economic security and personal safety are inseparable. A woman trying to build a career, grow a business or raise a family in the shadow of violence faces tremendous barriers. That is why this budget invests so significantly in keeping women safe.

Domestic and family violence courthouse improvements will be completed across Cairns, Brisbane, Rockhampton, Maroochydore, and Mackay, with \$24.9 million 2026-27. The capacity of Womensline and Mensline has doubled—with almost 55,000 calls made between July 2025 and March 2026 alone, that extra capacity is not a luxury, it is a necessity. Three HOPE Hub recovery centres are being delivered—the first opened at Orion Springfield Central in Ipswich—providing wrap-around supports for women and children escaping violence. Electronic monitoring for high-risk offenders receives \$4.8 million in 2026-27, and the DV Safe Phone initiative helps collect, repair and distribute free mobile phones to victims—a lifeline can be the difference between safety and danger.

And under this government, we have finally fully cleared the shameful backlog of more than 600 untested rape kits that was allowed to build up under the Opposition's tenure.

On women's health, this budget delivers 30 new perinatal mental health mother and baby beds across six locations across the state, backed by \$25.7 million in 2026-27. Maternity services are being restored at Biloela and Gladstone—bringing birthing back closer to home for regional women. The Endometriosis and Persistent Pelvic Pain Interdisciplinary Clinical Service allows another 200 patients to be seen annually with \$1.2 million in 2026-27. Free breast screening continues for women over 40 through BreastScreen Queensland, which screened almost 260,000 women across the state in 2025—including through a new health hub now open in my own home patch of Maroochydore. In addition, the Peach Tree centre is providing vital support to young families.

A safe and secure home is the foundation of everything. 20 new purpose-built homes for young mothers and their children at risk of homelessness are being delivered through the Housing for Families Program. 47 units for women over 55 are now under construction at Mango Hill, part of a pipeline of 53,500 social and community homes with increased funding of over \$1 billion over five years, as part of the Queensland Government's commitment to deliver one million new homes by 2044. Furthermore, the Boost to Buy scheme is opening doors—more than 50 single mothers have already received pre-approval, accessing \$9.4 million in equity toward home ownership.

Chelsea, a 32-year-old registered nurse from Mackay, bought her first home in February 2026 after five years of saving. She said:

'As a single woman, I worked hard to save but felt priced out of the market. The scheme helped me buy sooner, giving me housing security and a more stable, confident future.'

This is what the Crisafulli LNP budget is doing—giving women like Chelsea a real pathway forward to a stronger future.

This budget's approach to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partnerships is grounded in the principle that real progress comes from listening, backing locally-prioritised initiatives, and delivering practical outcomes rather than just political promises.

The headline commitment, as I've said, is the release of more than \$73 million in new funding from the Closing the Gap Priorities Fund, which will deliver 21 new public health and critical infrastructure projects in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across Queensland. This builds on \$37 million already committed to Round 1 projects, including \$18 million to restore clean drinking water supply in Woorabinda, \$8 million for Kowanyama crucial water supply improvements, \$8 million for Aurukun crucial water supply improvement, and \$3 million for Buwu education program in Cherbourg.

Clean water. Education. Infrastructure. These are not just nice to haves. These are the foundations of healthy lives and thriving communities.

Housing in Indigenous communities receives \$242.2 million in capital works and capital grants in this budget. This includes \$129.6 million to deliver and upgrade Indigenous social housing, and \$112.6 million for new and upgraded community housing and land infrastructure. This government understands that investment in these areas means better living conditions and a stronger foundation for sustainable outcomes in remote and discrete communities over the long term.

I am also proud that this budget funds the Palm Island Rent-to-Buy Home Ownership Scheme, with \$731,000 over four years as part of a \$2 million, 10-year commitment made in partnership with Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council. The \$200,000 seed fund for the Home Reno Fund provides interest-free loans to help support successful home ownership outcomes. These are practical, community-partnered pathways to the kind of ownership and security that too many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders have struggled to access for too long.

I also want to acknowledge the budget's investments specifically for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and families. Birthing services are being reinstated in remote Weipa and Cooktown at \$12 million per year ongoing allowing women and children to stay connected to family, Country, and cultural supports during one of the most significant moments of their lives. The NRL Cowboys House—Girls Campus in Townsville receives \$1.6 million in 2026-27 to provide wrap-around support and accommodation for young First Nations women to attend high school or participate in training and employment opportunities during the school term. The Kowanyama Women's Meeting Place receives \$740,000 over two years, and Safe Havens at Mornington Island, Cherbourg and Palm Island receive \$16 million over four years to respond to the safety needs of children and families experiencing or witnessing domestic and family violence in those communities.

Through this budget, the Crisafulli government also continues to invest in bringing communities together, including creating ways for those who've chosen to make Queensland their home the spaces in which to meet and build community across networks.

The Multicultural Connect Grants program makes \$3.75 million available this financial year for community organisations to upgrade the halls, meeting spaces, and sporting facilities where communities, gather, celebrate, and connect. These are the physical spaces of belonging, and this budget is helping to build and improve them right across Queensland.

A \$1.53 million Social Cohesion Package complements the Connect grants, supporting community-led initiatives including the African Villages program. This gives African communities across Queensland a platform to build connection, to enable people to fully participate in the economic and social life of our state. Fourteen existing Community Hubs across Queensland are also secured with ongoing funding through the Department of Education, continuing the vital work of connecting multicultural communities to services and support in Brisbane, Rockhampton, Toowoomba, and Townsville.

This is a budget that delivers for Maroochy, for the Sunshine Coast, and for Queensland. I am proud to support it.

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algeria—ALP) (10.54 pm): This is a budget of bad news and blowouts. It is a budget that promised to make Queenslanders' lives easier but instead makes life harder. Queensland families looking to this budget for help will find practically nothing in it for them. They were promised cost-of-living relief. They were promised generational infrastructure. Instead what they have received is delay and disappointment. The Premier himself promised Queenslanders that cost-of-living relief would be delivered as long as Queenslanders needed it. The Premier said, 'When I say something, it means something,' but this budget does not deliver that relief in any meaningful way and demonstrates that when the Premier says something, it means less than a dropped pie.

That matters because as QCOSS has consistently warned, Queenslanders are already under sustained and severe pressure. As QCOSS CEO Aimee McVeigh has made clear in the context of cost-of-living pressures in this state, too many households are now struggling to afford the basics, with families increasingly pushed into impossible choices about rent, food and essential services. In fact, QCOSS has repeatedly highlighted that the system is now forcing people into what they describe as stress in terms of meeting their basic needs as rising costs outpace incomes and supports fail to keep up.

That is the reality this budget had to confront, but did not. Instead we see a government more focused on announcements than outcomes and more focused on spin than substance. Budgets reveal priorities and this budget's priorities are not with working families, not with tradies, not with vulnerable Queenslanders. Nowhere is that clearer than in my electorate of Algeria. Every day thousands of people travel along Beaudesert Road through Acacia Ridge, Archerfield, Parkinson, Calamvale, Browns Plains and Regents Park. More than 40,000 vehicles use that corridor every day. Local families know exactly what that means: traffic congestion, longer commutes, growing frustration. Yet this budget contains no meaningful commitment to our section of Beaudesert Road at all. At the same time we are seeing around \$4.9 billion worth of infrastructure delayed, particularly in transport, roads and health. That is not a minor adjustment, it is a government putting projects on hold after promising Queenslanders they would be delivered on time and on budget.

Queenslanders were promised generational infrastructure, what they received was more slick slogans and a sickening amount of blue advertising. The Salisbury to Beaudesert rail corridor remains an important future transport project for the Algeria electorate. The former Labor government, along with my colleagues the member for Logan and the member for Jordan, committed \$20 million for essential planning work, but this budget fails to advance that project in any meaningful way. There are many in the Algeria electorate, including, I have to say, LNP identities, who have publicly voiced their disappointment in the lack of funding made available in this LNP budget for the rail project.

While major projects are being delayed or abandoned, grassroots community organisations are being overlooked. The budget spruiks two projects for sporting clubs in the Algeria electorate, one for the Serbian Australian Centre at Willawong and one for Souths Acacia Ridge Junior Football Club. It sounds great, doesn't it? The problem is these are not new projects. They were funded in the previous budget and announced years ago. Existing projects are being recycled as new announcements because there is virtually nothing new to announce. The Belong neighbourhood centre in Acacia Ridge is a vital local service supporting some of the most vulnerable people in my electorate. At a time of rising housing stress, cost-of-living pressure and increased demand for frontline support, this budget does nothing to grow this vital service or support the vulnerable people who depend on the services they deliver. While this budget walks away from meaningful cost-of-living relief, Labor is putting forward practical solutions. Today the Leader of the Opposition announced that a future Labor government will establish a portable rental bond scheme so renters are not forced to pay two bonds at once when moving home and will put savings back in renters' pockets by returning interest earned on rental bonds.

We will also support apprentices and the small businesses that train them by waiving car registration costs for priority construction trade apprentices and their supervisors, helping to tackle living costs while building the workforce Queensland needs. Both those announcements will make a huge difference to many across the Algeester electorate and across the state.

The permanent retention of 50-cent public transport fares is a victory for Queenslanders. It is a policy that Labor introduced and the LNP at the time called a con, but Queenslanders embraced it, Labor kept fighting and the government has had to concede. I thank everyone in my community who supported that campaign, because affordable public transport makes a genuine difference to household budgets.

Unfortunately, despite thousands of local residents raising concerns about dangerous hooning in our area, this budget provides nothing to address those concerns. Labor committed funding for anti-hooning cameras. Thousands of residents signed our petition calling for action, yet this government has ignored those voices. This is not the boring budget that the LNP would like Queensland to believe it is. It is a bad budget that will cost Queenslanders more and give them less.

Queenslanders living with disability, their families and carers deserve to see a budget that reflects the urgency of reform demanded by the disability royal commission. It appears that the minister responsible has failed to deliver a budget that provides a clear funding strategy for this important work. Sadly, it sits alongside another serious failure of this minister. Earlier this year, the Premier signed a bilateral agreement committing Queensland to working constructively with the Commonwealth, yet when it came time to negotiate the Thriving Kids arrangement the disability minister failed to get the job done. In fact, she is the only state or territory minister who has not been able to fulfil her responsibilities regarding this bilateral agreement. The minister has had every opportunity to negotiate in good faith and deliver certainty for Queensland families. Instead, Queensland has been left without an agreement while families and providers continue to face confusion about what comes next, and there is nothing in this budget to ease that confusion.

The questions continue when it comes to disability services. Last year, \$5 million was committed to disability advocacy to support Queenslanders with disability to understand their rights, navigate service systems and, among other things, build capacity to self-advocate. A further \$1 million was allocated to Autism Queensland to provide vital supports for children with autism. The continuation of both those areas of funding was not made clear in this bad budget, leaving sector leaders, workers and Queenslanders with disability asking serious questions.

I understand that the minister's office had a panicked 24 hours trying to locate the funding that supports almost half of disability advocacy in our state so as to avoid the inevitable and rightfully justifiable backlash coming the government's way from the sector. How embarrassing. Worse, how stressful for disability advocates who, for that panicked 24 hours, did not know whether or not they still had a job and how confusing for the many Queenslanders living with disability who were not sure if they would still be able to access the advocacy services they value.

What about Queensland's seniors? The 2024 parliamentary inquiry into elder abuse made 16 recommendations. The minister's own SDS states that the government will implement the recommendations of the parliamentary inquiry and invest in services that target elder abuse prevention and intervention services. That sounds promising, but there appears to be little additional investment to support that work.

Access to good and timely health care is critical for older Queenslanders to live well and independently. The Premier rolled out another slick slogan about healing the health system. He promised to build the beds, reduce waitlists and reduce ramping. Instead, new and expanded hospitals have been delayed, the LNP has overseen the worst ramping rate on record and the specialist waitlist has ballooned while ambos are spending more lost time at the ramp. This failure to prioritise is not limited to infrastructure or disability. It extends into culture, identity and the state's responsibility under the Closing the Gap agreement.

The arts sector in Queensland has been left with a budget that lacks ambition and direction. At a time when artists, performers and cultural organisations are facing rising costs and increasing instability, the government has chosen inertia. And what of the fast-approaching Olympiad? The sector is very concerned that the opportunity to showcase Queensland artists and our unique stories will be lost if the right kind of investment is not made now, but this budget does nothing to address those concerns.

The sector has also raised with me concerns about the government's approach to the arts and the apparent growing centralisation of decision-making within the minister's office as well as the diminished Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices across Queensland's cultural institutions. While further funding for Screen Queensland is of course welcome, the absence of transparency surrounding the screen industry attraction and development fund raises further concerns about the centralisation of decision-making. It is impossible to determine if there has been further funding made available or if cuts have been made in this area because, unlike past budgets, the actual planned expenditure has not been disclosed.

Even more concerning is what is missing entirely. Across this budget, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander priorities are largely invisible in substance and structure. I suspect this is part of what many are calling 'project invisibility'. Last year in estimates, it was confirmed that of the 412 FTEs attached to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships only 198 actually work in that policy area while the other positions were in the strategic policy and legislation team that services the whole department. It would appear that this budget continues to mask the actual number of FTEs attached to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and lacks transparency when it comes to the explanation of where the budget's reduced FTE numbers—now only 381—are coming from. Is this more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people disappearing from the very department tasked with the advancement of First Nations people?

Equally, the Closing the Gap Priorities Fund, as we heard from the minister just now, has supported just four projects without any formal guidelines or criteria and, as the minister pointed out, has been whittled down to just \$73 million. No extra funding has been made available in the budget, raising concerns by not only local mayors who are now competing for what one described as the 'crumbs' but also Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and organisations across the state who do not even get a look in.

Labor values First Nations Queenslanders. That is why I am very proud of the announcement made today by the Leader of the Opposition that a future Labor government will double the funding provided for NAIDOC Week and Reconciliation Week celebrations after we saw a reduction under the LNP.

Ms Simpson: There hasn't been a reduction.

Ms ENOCH: First Nations Queenslanders should not be invisible in this state, Minister. NAIDOC Week and Reconciliation Week are important national moments that carry truth, education and connection. These weeks create space for all Queenslanders to engage with the world's oldest continuous living cultures, to listen to First Nations voices and to reflect honestly on our shared history—both the pride and the pain. That kind of engagement does not happen by accident. It happens because communities are supported to come together. When these weeks are properly resourced, they help to shift attitudes and provide an important counterbalance at a time when division and misunderstanding can too easily take hold, which is crucial at this point in time when we must all fight against the divisive views of One Nation.

That is why we have also announced that a future Labor government will double the funding for multicultural community celebrations and festivals in Queensland. Queensland has proud multicultural communities that are strongly represented in the Algester electorate. As forces seek to divide our community, multicultural groups and First Nations peoples say they are feeling increasingly unsafe. Labor will never accept politics that divide our communities. We choose to unite Queenslanders, to protect social harmony and to ensure every person, no matter their race, culture or faith, feels safe and respected and feels that they belong.

Given the minister's interjections, for the record I want to point out that when I was the minister I increased both the NAIDOC and National Reconciliation Week grants to \$200,000.

A government member: For one year.

Ms ENOCH: Since then, we have seen that reduction.

Ms Simpson interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): Member for Maroochydore, there will be no arguing across the chamber.

Ms ENOCH: When you step back and look at this budget, a pattern emerges. It is a budget of bad news and blowouts. It is a budget where major projects are reportedly blowing out by billions. It is a budget where cost-of-living relief has not been delivered in line with need. It is a budget where

disability reform is stalled, seniors are overlooked and the arts sector lacks support. It is a budget where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander priorities and Closing the Gap commitments are not given the prominence they require. Queenslanders have been handed a budget that costs more, delivers less and leaves too many behind.

 **Hon. AJ CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (11.09 pm): The Crisafulli government's budget is about strengthening the foundations for the fresh start that we are delivering and building upon that after a decade of decline under the Labor government. We are strengthening community safety, restoring confidence and building frontline services, unlike those opposite who have failed to pick up the phone to their Canberra mates to discuss issues like NDIS reform and the cost shifting. We have just heard from the shadow minister who wants to lay the blame for the failure in disability policy on our government instead of on her colleagues in the federal parliament.

Despite international uncertainty and Canberra chaos, we have delivered no increased taxes, unlike those in Canberra. We are not walking away from disaster funding, unlike those in Canberra, their Labor comrades, who will not deliver the fair share for our state when it comes to disaster recovery.

Mr Lister: What about TAFE?

Ms CAMM: I will take that interjection—and stripping funding from TAFE as well. Our Back to School Boost, Play On! sports vouchers and permanent 50-cent fares are all locked in, just like we promised, unlike those opposite. The Healthy Kindy Kids program is extended statewide.

When it comes to upgrading services in my local electorate of Mackay and the Whitsundays, I am pleased to see a continuation of upgrading the Mackay courthouse to better support particularly victims of domestic violence. We are delivering a new police station in Proserpine in my local community, as well as in health an additional 128 new overnight beds and an additional multistorey parking facility. Unlike those opposite who like to just drive around the car park and where they delivered zero for the Mackay people, we are getting on with the job. We are also reopening the helipad that Labor shut down, putting lives at risk in Mackay and the Whitsundays.

I want to thank particularly the health minister for his work in increasing the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme which will see faster payments and a nation-leading 45 cents per kilometre fuel subsidy for patients travelling to specialist medical services. I know that will help people right across my community, including for those travelling the Bruce Highway where we have seen an increase in funding with detailed design underway for Goorganga Plains and flood-proofing mitigation work on Lethebrook with access to the Proserpine community as well as to the Whitsunday Coast Airport. Why is that important? The Whitsundays are hosting the 2032 sailing events for the Olympics and Paralympics. Those opposite are the only ones who do not think the Whitsundays and Townsville are the best places in Queensland to host the Olympic and Paralympic sailing events.

I am looking forward to the Hamilton Island Race Week. Planning for the Whitsunday Race Week is underway. That event is attracting for the first time multiple international entities to the Whitsundays because they know the incredible attractions we will showcase when we host the Olympic and Paralympic events, including the Whitsunday Skyway project which we have now prescribed as a coordinated project under the Coordinator-General. I want to thank the Deputy Premier and the tourism minister for their continued collaboration.

Across the region we have increased commitments around road upgrades, including the Mackay-Bucasia Road, and an additional \$20 million that will deliver the Golf Links Road roundabout upgrades to combat the significant congestion we have seen which was ignored by those opposite for over a decade.

Additionally, I want to thank the fishing community right across the Whitsundays for their patience as the design stage of the Shute Harbour boat ramp gets underway. We have been trying to get this project right. Detailed design plans are underway, and I want to thank the Minister for Transport for his support. We look forward to consulting further with the community on that incredible infrastructure.

I cannot leave unaddressed some of the comments made by those opposite. To the shadow ministers who hold portfolios where they have direct links to the Labor federal government, contact them instead of coming into this House and criticising ministers on this side who are standing up for the constituents of Queensland, including those with disabilities, those impacted by disasters and those doing all the work when it comes to closing the gap. Minister Simpson, myself and the Attorney-General

are carefully considering the commission of inquiry findings. When we talk about closing the gap, those opposite should be ashamed of their record when it comes to the number of children left in child safety services and the over-representation of Indigenous children.

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—

Mr Speaker,

As Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, I am proud that this Budget invests in Queensland's most vulnerable people.

We're doing what we said would for those forgotten by Labor, including vulnerable children, victims of crime and frontline staff.

For too long, vulnerable children were neglected by a Child Safety system that drifted far away from its original purpose.

The independent Commission of Inquiry has confirmed the scale of the crisis inherited by the Crisafulli Government, including the billion-dollar residential care sector that allowed unscrupulous operators to line their pockets off the backs of vulnerable children.

The Commission of Inquiry speaks to the culture of secrecy and complacency within the Department of Child Safety, which was left broken by five failed former Labor Ministers.

The Inquiry found approximately 67 per cent of reported incidents of sexual abuse of children in care involved children placed in residential care.

It found the number of children in residential care increased by 229 per cent over the past decade.

It found Queensland now has almost as many children living in residential care as the rest of Australia combined.

And it found costs continued to rise while outcomes for vulnerable children continued to deteriorate as reform was put in the too hard basket.

Those findings should concern every member of this House.

But under the Crisafulli government, although change will take time, cycles of crime and abuse will not be the end of the story for these vulnerable children.

We will continue to take the steps those opposite were afraid to take, and deliver action to fix Labor's broken child-safety system and rebuild it with protections that put our vulnerable Queensland kids first.

That is why this Budget commits \$200 million to commence the response to the Commission of Inquiry and begin the task of rebuilding Queensland's child safety system.

As per the Commissioner's recommendations, we have established a Cabinet Sub-Committee to oversee the strategic consideration and implementation of the report.

This Budget invests in SecureCare, a Queensland-first model that, unlike residential care, will provide intensive support for young people who pose a serious risk to themselves and others.

We are expanding the Professional Foster Care pilot to additional regions because children deserve stable family-based care wherever possible.

We are boosting extracurricular support for children in care with an additional \$1,500 so they can participate in sport, cultural activities, music and other opportunities that help them develop confidence and connection.

We are continuing work on a dual-carer model in residential care settings and progressing the conversion of residential care providers from IPS to OSD arrangements.

We are on track when it comes to increasing child safety officers frontline by 20 per cent, and we have already saved the 91 frontline jobs those opposite intended to cut.

We are restoring respect to foster and kinship carers after years of neglect.

And we are changing a culture of secrecy that took hold under Labor and instilling accountability and transparency so families can have faith in the system.

Mr Speaker,

This Budget also continues the Crisafulli Government's commitment to putting victims first and holding perpetrators to account in the fight against domestic and family violence.

We are investing in HOPE Hubs in 2026-27 to ensure victim-survivors can access coordinated support in one location.

We are delivering a Townsville-based domestic and family violence crisis service to double the capacity of the State's 24/7 domestic and family violence crisis response.

We are continuing to pilot the option for courts to impose Electronic Monitoring devices for High Risk DFV Perpetrators.

And we are investing in embedded domestic and family violence workers across Queensland through to 2030.

When it comes to domestic and family violence, Queenslanders deserve a government that puts victims first and holds perpetrators to account.

This Budget also supports the vital community organisations making a difference every day.

Organisations such as DV Safe Phone, Miracle Mums and Baby Give Back continue to provide practical support for Queenslanders experiencing hardship and crisis.

Mr Speaker, those who know me know I am a passionate advocate for social infrastructure, alongside the new homes I know the Deputy Premier and Minister for housing are delivering.

Social infrastructure are the organisations that make a collection of houses a community.

We have fully funded the capital works required for neighbourhood centres across the state after Labor failed to allocate enough funding to deliver them.

These centres are often the first place people turn when they need help.

They provide practical assistance and support during difficult times.

This Budget also delivers a cost-of-living package that provides certainty into the forward estimates for food security initiatives, financial counselling and resilience services and emergency relief funding.

I am proud to be delivering these investments that provide practical support for Queenslanders doing it tough.

Mr Speaker,

Queensland seniors built the communities we enjoy today, and they deserve support, respect and opportunities to remain connected.

This Budget continues that commitment.

We are doing what we said we would for growing U3As in Queensland, including U3A Bribie Island secure a new home, U3A Redlands to complete building works at The Cottage and a new premises for U3A Gold Coast.

We are continuing Seniors Expos and Seniors Savings Pop-Ups across Queensland and helping older Queenslanders navigate life's difficult moments from mental health to reading the fine print.

And we continue to carefully consider the recommendations of the Parliamentary Inquiry into Elder Abuse as we work to strengthen protections for older Queenslanders.

Mr Speaker,

This Government is also standing up for Queenslanders with disability and their families.

We support a strong and sustainable National Disability Insurance Scheme.

But sustainability cannot come at the expense of Queenslanders who rely on these services every day.

The Commonwealth should be focused on removing fraud, waste and shonky operators from the NDIS, not shifting costs onto states and territories through decisions made without proper consultation.

Queensland will continue holding the Federal Government accountable for its responsibilities under the NDIS.

We will always advocate for Queenslanders with disability and ensure their voices are heard in national reform discussions.



Hon. LM LINARD (Nudgee—ALP) (11.14 pm): The LNP Crisafulli government has described the budget this week as 'doing what they promised' and we all know this government made a lot of promises to Queenslanders at the last election—promises they have not kept. The *Courier-Mail* described this budget as 'no frills, no thrills'. The Labor opposition believe this is a budget of bad news and blowouts. However you describe it, budgets are always an indicator of what a government values. Far more than mere numbers on a balance sheet, budgets are ultimately a statement of values, hopefully of vision and always about people, so let's look at what the people of Queensland received in this budget.

While the government will profit from a tax and royalty revenue windfall, the people of Queensland will receive little to no immediate or real cost-of-living relief. When the LNP promised generational infrastructure, this budget instead delivers around \$4.9 billion of delayed infrastructure—mostly in transport, main roads and health—that will see Queenslanders sitting in traffic for longer.

The Premier promised to respect taxpayers and deliver projects on time and on budget. Instead, the LNP's budget is costing Queenslanders more but giving them less. The LNP promised this budget would make Queenslanders' lives easier, but this budget only makes life harder for Queenslanders, particularly Queensland families who were desperately looking to this budget for help but who will instead see practically nothing in there for them.

Instead of the big promises the LNP made before the election, almost two years in all that Queenslanders have seen from this government is a focus on their daily announcements, on slick photo-ops and an outrageous government advertising campaign that is nothing more than using taxpayer funds to push LNP propaganda. I see ads on TV while I am sitting with my kids, letterbox drops and billboards in my electorate—total LNP propaganda of a nature that would do the LNP Brisbane City Council administration proud, an administration which is equally guilty of wasting taxpayers' money on such vanity projects.

As the Opposition Leader said so aptly in his budget reply speech, good governments should aspire to make life better for the people they represent—better now and in the future. Budgets should be crafted to make life more affordable, services like health care more accessible and to leave our state in a better position for the future. This budget does none of those things.

Queenslanders deserve transparency, they deserve genuine consultation and they deserve a government that is up-front about what it is funding, where it is funding it and when it will be delivered. This is particularly critical in respect of our environment when Queensland's biodiversity is in decline, largely driven by alarming rates of habitat loss through deforestation, hence there needs to be a consistent focus on new and improved strategies to halt biodiversity decline.

When it comes to protected areas, the only thing being carefully protected is the government's ability to hide the numbers. I am not sure which figure to welcome when it comes to investment in protected area expansion, when everywhere you look in these budget papers and in the minister's budget media statement yesterday the investment numbers are different. The Service Delivery Statements said \$139 million over four years and \$34 million ongoing for growing protected areas, visitor infrastructure and ecotourism in national parks, progressing the Wangetti Trail and expanding private protected areas. In the same document, there is also a figure of \$57.8 million to acquire high priority land to expand the protected area portfolio. Then we turn to the minister's budget day media release and suddenly the figure is \$111.3 million to continue expanding national parks and protected areas, \$44.9 million for nature-based ecotourism opportunities, and \$34 million ongoing for visitor and management facilities.

Mr Powell: Don't you know how to read budget papers?

Ms LINARD: I do. Budget Paper 4 says \$20.7 million over three years—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): Member for Glass House, the member is not taking your interjections.

Ms LINARD:—and \$7.9 million ongoing for growing protected areas, visitor infrastructure and ecotourism—same wording—and Wangetti Trail and private protected areas. Then in the capital measures we see \$118.4 million over four years and \$26.1 million ongoing to grow protected areas, invest in visitor infrastructure and support ecotourism opportunities. In Budget Paper No. 3, the total estimated cost is listed as \$111.3 million. That is before we even get to whether recent Commonwealth funding—\$100 million shared among the states—is also being counted.

What is the real figure? Is it \$139 million? Is it \$111.3 million? Is it \$118.4 million? Is it \$57.8 million? Is it \$20.7 million? What is new money? What is existing funding rebadged? What is Commonwealth funding? Of course, what is the continuation of unspent funds from the former Labor government, which actually funded significant protected area expansions? Why is it suddenly necessary to roll growing protected areas, investment in on-park visitor infrastructure and now tourism money into one budget line item?

Queenslanders should not need a forensic accounting team to understand whether their government is investing in protecting the places they love. Perhaps the government has made this so difficult to prove and understand because, I suspect, there is very little new or additional funding in this budget for this purpose. This government has made some very lofty promises, including setting a target of adding 1.88 million hectares to Queensland's protected area estate this term, yet the government is plainly not on track to deliver it. Some stakeholders suggest that it has actually gone backwards.

According to the Premier himself, ministers in the government will be held accountable for their performance. For the environment minister's sake, I hope that the government has some very large parcels of land quietly waiting in the wings because at this rate the member for Glass House may soon be sent walking to the backbench. Of course, it is very difficult to hold a minister to account on this government's slogan of delivering 'on time and on budget' when the budget itself is riddled—I argue intentionally—with so much—

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members, interjections are not being taken. We are just about finished for the night. Let's listen to the rest of the speech in silence, please. Those to my left who are not in their seats will be quiet too.

Ms LINARD: I argue it is intentional that this budget is riddled with so much deliberate ambiguity. The same lack of substance appears in waste. The government wants to talk about close to a billion dollars in waste-related activity, but when we look at the strategy itself there is very little that is new, concrete or enforceable. There are no new single-use plastic bans. Labor had moved Queensland forward on single-use plastics, and the groundwork was there for more. Instead, under this minister that momentum appears to have been abandoned.

What we have instead of a new waste strategy is another strategy that reads like a plan for a plan—a promise to develop an infrastructure plan, a promise to review levy settings, a promise to consult, a promise to coordinate. Queensland does not need another glossy document telling us that too much waste goes to landfill and not enough is recycled. Queenslanders know that. Councils know that. Industry knows that. Our former Labor government worked with Queenslanders to significantly increase recycling rates. Now the question is: what is the minister's plan? Where is the investment plan? Where is an actual waste strategy, not a plan for a plan with little more than value statements, particularly given the government is set to make significantly more money from the waste levy, which will deliver a projected \$569.7 million revenue windfall to the state over the next four years? Transparency over how it will be spent is vital.

With respect to the Great Barrier Reef, I welcome the investment in water quality. Every member of this House should welcome investment that improves catchment health, supports landholders and primary producers and protects the reef. Not only is it Queensland's environmental crown jewel; it generates \$9 billion for Australia's economy and over 77,000 jobs rely on its survival.

A government member interjected.

Ms LINARD: Even when I say thank you I get heckled! Let us be honest about why that investment had to happen. Queensland has made commitments to UNESCO, and their decision whether or not to list the reef as 'in danger' hinges on the actions of this state government. The world is watching. Yes, we welcome the—

A government member: What about the federal government?

Ms LINARD: The federal government is acting. It is the state government we are concerned about. Yes, we welcome the continued investment in the Queensland Reef and Catchment Water Quality Program, but again the detail matters. It appears that roughly \$126 million of that package comes from reprioritised funds rather than from new investment. In the Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation alone, \$102.7 million is to be met internally. I doubt that the agency has underspends to the tune of over \$100 million, so where has the money come from? What has been delayed? What has, dare I say, been cut? What programs, staff, conservation work, science functions or environmental protections have been pushed aside to ensure the political problem of having the Great Barrier Reef and the industry and jobs that depend on it on the front page of every east coast media market is avoided at all costs for this Crisafulli government? I suspect that it is one of the only real things the Premier's office cares about in the environment portfolio: keeping it off the front page.

With my remaining time, I turn to what this budget means for my beloved community across the electorate of Nudgee. Sadly, it appears to deliver very little. No investment is listed for any of my local schools. No upgrades are listed for any of the 12 train stations across my community. I could find no investment listed for any of the neighbourhood centres, the PCYC or the community or sporting clubs across my community. Given those opposite spend the majority of their time talking about our former Labor government's decade of delivery, I can tell the House that every one of the train stations in my electorate received some uplift. Every school received some uplift in funding. Over a billion dollars was invested in the Gateway upgrade under our government. There were safety upgrades on Sandgate Road. There was more funding for police, more domestic and sexual violence prevention response funding and more neighbourhood and legal service funding. That is what 10 years of Labor in government delivered to the Nudgee electorate. During the almost two years of this LNP Crisafulli government we have seen very little.

I could only find three mentions in the entire suite of budget papers that refer to my electorate. The first is the ongoing investment in the upgrade of the Boondall Police Station. Our police do incredibly important work, and my local officers know they have my enduring respect and support. Boondall Police Station serves a growing and diverse part of the north side. The ongoing completion of those facility upgrades is necessary and welcomed.

The second mention is supporting industry capability through the integration of Industry 4.0 technologies into the manufacturing operations at the Northgate ARM Hub. No new or additional funding is tied to this very long restatement of what the ARM Hub has been doing for well over five years, so I doubt there is anything new here.

Thirdly, there is mention of the Land Activation Program, including 450 new homes on the former Energex site in Banyo. That is woeful. That is what the people of Nudgee have received this week in the Crisafulli government's second budget—a woeful blue budget of blowouts and broken promises that will likely become next week's propaganda ads during my family TV time. I will have more things to mope for the wellbeing and safety of my two children.

I do, however, acknowledge that there are plenty of examples of rolled up, statewide allocations across these budget papers. Instead of clear commitments for all individual schools, local road upgrades and community infrastructure, Queenslanders are repeatedly given aggregated statewide totals and left to guess whether their own community is included. Parents should not have to interrogate every page of the budget to work out whether their local school is receiving the investment it needs. Local residents should not have to search through vague statewide programs to work out whether a dangerous road or intersection is being addressed. As is becoming characteristic of this government, it completely lacks transparency.

This is a government that promised at the election to keep projects on time and on budget. It is very easy to claim projects are on time and on budget when you do not clearly publish the specific budget, the scope, the timeline or any key deliverables for that project.

The final thing I want to raise and return to is the Land Activation Program and the announcement that over 450 new homes will be built on the former Energex site in Banyo. My community has always expected that this site would be developed for housing and community parkland once the extensive contamination issues were resolved by Energex, but this government has called me and my community 'Nudgee NIMBYs', which is both puerile and pathetic. My community is very supportive of additional housing, particularly at a time when supply is needed and particularly in such a centrally located site with close connections to public transport and infrastructure.

What my community is not supportive of are the media stunts and announcements without local consultation. What my community is not supportive of is a proposed development two to four times the expected density for that site. What my community is not supportive of, and has experienced, are announcements without consultation and without addressing the very legitimate concerns that residents have raised. These residents will live with the consequences of this development into the future while the LNP government will not. These residents have spent years dealing with sewerage capacity issues, poor drainage, flooding, growing traffic congestion and an LNP councillor who is nowhere to be seen on these issues. Now my community has an LNP state government that is not listening and has all but shut my community out of genuine consultation.

While this government may not listen to my community and the local LNP councillor is variously hiding or telling everyone it is EDQ's problem to solve, I am listening. I am visiting these people. I am talking to them, emailing them, doorknocking, asking questions and making submissions. I am posting updates continuously on behalf of my community because the people of Banyo and the Nudgee electorate deserve that. They deserve a representative who will turn up and who will listen to them. I will continue to fight for them every single day continuously and relentlessly, as I have since I was elected, because they deserve absolutely nothing less.

Debate, on motion of Ms Linard, adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT



Dr ROWAN (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (11.29 pm): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 11.29 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Asif, Bailey, Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, Butcher, Camm, Chiesa, Crandon, Crisafulli, Dalton, de Brenni, Dick, Dillon, Doolan, Dooley, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Field, Frecklington, Furner, Gerber, Grace, Hatcher, Head, Healy, Howard, Hunt, Hutton, James B, James T, Janetzki, Katter, Kelly G, Kelly J, Kempton, King, Kirkland, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lee, Linard, Lister, Mander, Marr, Martin, McCallum, McDonald, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Mickelberg, Miles, Minnikin, Molhoek, Mullen, Nicholls, Nightingale, O'Connor, O'Shea, Pease, Perrett, Poole, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Richmond, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Simpson, Smith, Stevens, Stoker, Vorster, Watts, Weir, Whiting, Young