



Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey


MEMBER FOR MILLER

Record of Proceedings, 23 June 2022

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

REVENUE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (3.33 pm): I rise in support of the state budget. It sees the biggest injection of capital into our hospital and health system in Queensland's history. It is a budget that brings great credit to the government. In terms of my portfolio, it is the seventh record road and transport budget, nearly double the QTRIP of the last horror budget of the LNP, with \$29.7 billion in funding and more than 25,000 jobs as a result. Right across this booming and growing state we are investing in infrastructure, transport and roads. We are some \$600 million up on last year in terms of roads alone. We are preparing for the population growth that comes with our being the most successful jurisdiction in dealing with the pandemic in the country—indeed, one of the best in the world. People are coming to Queensland because of this government's strong stewardship and real leadership, with real leaders who make real decisions that protect people's lives, jobs and the economy—something you cannot say for the other side of this chamber.

We are investing in the M1 upgrade from Varsity Lakes to Tugun. The Daisy Hill to Logan Motorway M1 upgrade will have a billion dollars for—

Mr Millar interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): The member for Gregory will cease his interjections.

Mr BAILEY: There is \$662 million for six lanes from Caboolture to Steve Irwin Way which is going very well. I know that it has big support from the member for Morayfield. The Coomera Connector, the second M1—blocked by those opposite, fast-tracked by us—is funded by us. It will be the biggest road project in Queensland.

Mr Millar interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. The member for Gregory is warned under the standing orders.

Mr Millar interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Gregory, I have just issued you a warning. You can now leave the chamber for an hour under standing order 253.

Whereupon the honourable member for Gregory withdrew from the chamber at 3.35 pm.

Mr BAILEY: Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. The largest road project in Queensland will be the second M1. We can rely on Labor to get it done. We can rely on the LNP to cut, block, sack and sell. I refer to the Rockhampton Ring Road, the Gympie Bypass, Cairns Southern Access, Bruce Highway—nearly half a billion dollars—Mackay Port Access Road, Tairo Bypass, Townsville Ring Road

stage 5—huge investments in regional Queensland. There is even money for Riverway Drive stage 2. I sense that in the year 2047 the member for Thuringowa will be advocating for stage 7 of Riverway Drive. He loves it.

There is \$280 million for the TIDS program, a fifty-fifty project with local councils cut by those opposite. We restored it. Councils love it. We work with them really well. There is \$266 million for Active Transport and, on top of that, another 150 kilometres-plus of Active Transport as part of our large road and rail upgrade projects that are going very strongly. I refer to the light rail on the Gold Coast, Broadbeach to Burleigh. We are building a cycleway with that. There is the O'Keefe Street Bridge at Buranda. There is the New England Highway Cycleway, Highfields to Toowoomba, stage 2. We are not forgetting about Toowoomba, of course. They are getting investment—not cuts.

What we see from this government is investment, whether it is in school transport assistance or the taxi subsidy scheme. These were all cut under the previous government. Cross River Rail, cut by those, is well and truly being built—awesome. If members go on site there, they will see the technology. We are preparing South-East Queensland for growth and the games. That project is a great credit to this government and to everybody who works on it.

We just repurchased the Rockhampton rail yards for supply chain jobs in the rail sector. We are not just building trains in Maryborough; we are getting the supply chain lined up there as well. We do not order them from overseas, as did the LNP whose trains were not disability compliant. We back manufacturing. The previous comments of those opposite were just ridiculous. They ordered trains from overseas that were not up to scratch. We are still fixing them. We will be fixing them for another two years because of the incompetence of those opposite when it comes to manufacturing and public transport.

I want to say a few words about my local electorate. It is a very good budget for the electorate of Miller. There is \$15.8 million for the Yeronga mixed-use precinct, the old TAFE college. We will see new housing go in there and community facilities, including the Yeronga community centre, having a permanent home. They have done a magnificent job during the recent floods supporting my local community. One hundred and thirty streets were flooded. I cannot say enough for Melinda, Billy and all the people there. They are doing a fantastic job and we want to support them.

We are seeing station upgrades on the south side. We already have done Yeronga, with a bit more to go. Fairfield is being done now and we will be doing Dutton Park, Moorooka, Yeerongpilly, Salisbury and Rocklea in the seat of Toohey. These are rolling over the next couple of years. I refer to full accessibility upgrades. These are great for people on the south side.

This budget is delivering 249 new beds at the PA Hospital on the south side and 112 new beds for the QEII a bit further down at Coopers Plains—great health initiatives. We are seeing \$4.2 million for Yeerongpilly Green, the old animal husbandry farm at Yeerongpilly near the train station. There is more housing and development there. It is much needed at the moment. Everyone knows the housing market is tight. We are actually building houses, not opposing housing developments as the Greens always do, and being consistent with our rhetoric.

There is funding of \$550,000 for Wests cricket and the Kenmore Bears for clubhouse redevelopments. They have some very spartan facilities, one might say. We are very happy to follow through on our election commitment and help them get their facilities up to modern standards. There is \$480,000 for the Yeronga child and community hub which will be developed on the old TAFE site. There are funds flowing for the Souths Graceville Hounds Rugby League Club's new clubhouse. There is also \$100,000 in the budget for the Souths Rugby Union Club's female change sheds. It is important that women in sport have their own facilities.

There is \$150,000 for the tennis court upgrades at Graceville State School. They do a great job. Thanks to all the staff at Graceville State School. Sherwood State School has been allocated \$1 million for new lifts to support equitable access. It is one of our older schools and it is not so good for those with a disability. That funding will help address that. There is also \$450,000 allocated for the OSHC. Wellers Hill State School has been allocated \$200,000 for planning for a new administration block and facilities. Thanks to all the staff at Wellers Hill State School for putting up with the basic layout for a while. Yeronga State School will get a new fence around its very long school perimeter and an upgrade of the tennis courts.

It is a very good local budget. It is a very good budget for our hospital and health system. The Leader of the Opposition has talked a big game on health for 12 months. He has come in here and banged on about health with a confected narrative. He has been trying to say it is a state based issue only. He has been ignoring the fact we have had a pandemic. He has been ignoring the fact that other jurisdictions across the country have had the same issue. He has been ignoring the fact that there is a GP crisis because of the failure of his friends who have now been voted out in Canberra. He has been

ignoring the fact that he voted every time for horror budgets under the Newman government. We saw his true colours during the pandemic when he equated our response to the pandemic as tantamount to putting a doona over our head. That is how sophisticated and deep his thinking got. I know what he is on about. The Leader of the Opposition is a fake.

Let me outline to members why. Here we have a fully funded and fairly funded budget for mental health and for revamping our hospital and health system in a way that has never been done before. He either has to be consistent with his rhetoric and support us or he is not sincere in what he is saying. We saw from his speech today that he squibbed it. He totally squibbed it. We are funding these measures from one per cent of companies. That means 99 per cent of companies get a tax cut. We are funding these measures from those who have done well out of the pandemic. There will be a progressive royalty regime around the mega profits of coal companies. Those resources are owned by the people of Queensland and the people of Queensland deserve to have decent hospitals and health care.

We know that the Leader of the Opposition lacks the ticker to be a real leader. I remind him that Scott Morrison and Steven Marshall both paid the ultimate price for playing politics in a pandemic. They undermined the health response and they paid the price. If we look at the Leader of the Opposition's record we see that he deserted his home town for a safe seat on the Gold Coast. He did not stand and fight in his home town. He had help from LNP headquarters to get him into that seat. He undermined the young female member of this House. He took her out. He then went about undermining the member for Nanango as leader. While she was leading he was doing the numbers on her in the party room.

The Leader of the Opposition has voted against integrity reforms every single time in this House. Whether it was banning property developer political donations, the introduction of real-time political disclosures or bringing down the reportable level for political donations from \$12,400 to \$1,000, he and the LNP voted against integrity every single time.

If it is matter of trust between the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition, I know where my money is. The Premier is someone who stands up for Queensland. She does not rat on Queensland like the Leader of the Opposition has done. We have a strong Premier who is always consistent and makes the big calls. She is courageous whereas the Leader of the Opposition is ruthless. She supports social reform and he always votes against social reform. The Premier and this government vote for integrity reform every single time. The Leader of the Opposition and the LNP vote against it every single time.

When we look at the Leader of the Opposition's record we see that he is an underminer, he is a deserter, he never stands up for Queensland and he backstabs to get where he wants to go. The people of Queensland will see through that lack of integrity, that lack of ticker and that undermining approach. He is not the kind of person who is going to win an election in Queensland. I certainly hope that he makes it to the end of this term as leader without being rolled by his colleagues because I look forward to the next election when the people of Queensland get their say. I know the decision they will make. They will vote for a Premier with integrity, courage and guts—sorry about that last word; it is unparliamentary. They will vote for someone with the intestinal fortitude that the Premier has shown in all the key moments. That is why she is the Premier. It is why she will keep being the Premier.

This budget is a huge commitment to hospitals and health. It is fairly and fully funded. It deserves support. The Leader of the Opposition has shown he squibbed it here today.