




Speech By
Bruce Saunders

MEMBER FOR MARYBOROUGH

Record of Proceedings, 16 June 2023

**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL; REVENUE
LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (2.51 pm): I rise to address the appropriation bills for 2023-24. First, I thank the Premier, the Deputy Premier, the Treasurer and the cabinet for a great Labor budget for Queenslanders. It is a great budget. Do members know how you can tell it is a great budget? It is because those opposite are whining. A key performance indicator is when LNP members whine. They know that Queenslanders love this budget.

Let's jump on the train and go for a ride around the Maryborough electorate to look at what is in this budget for the Maryborough electorate and for Queensland. We know about the \$8.2 billion in concessions for people who are doing it tough in relation to the cost of living. How good is that? That is a Labor government putting money back into the pockets of people, not the pockets of private companies. It is not public money going into the private sector. That is what I love about the Labor Party and this great Labor government, led by a very good Premier.

I mention trains. At Torbanlea, one of the biggest train-manufacturing facilities in the Southern Hemisphere will be built. There will be lots of jobs building 65 new trains through the Queensland Train Manufacturing Program—a \$7.1 billion investment around Queensland and 1,200 jobs. This is absolutely magnificent—Queensland trains built by Queenslanders for everyone across Australia to use. I call them maroon trains, because we have parts coming from Townsville, Ipswich and Rockhampton to Torbanlea. That is a commitment from the Palaszczuk Labor government to keep regional Queensland going, to keep the skill base in my great electorate of Maryborough.

In terms of education, some really good money is being spent at Howard State School, Albert State School, Sunbury State School and Maryborough West State School—money being invested into the schools that educate our young ones. Not only that but there is more money for the maintenance of our schools.

In terms of roadworks, there is money for the Pialba-Burrum Heads Road intersection upgrade and Oregan Creek Road on the way to Toogoom. This should keep the member for Wide Bay happy. He is experiencing a bit of relevance deprivation at the moment, due to what is happening in federal parliament. He keeps banging on about money for the Tiaro bypass, but it is not happening. There is money for the Tiaro bypass in the budget, so hopefully that will make him happy. Hopefully he will look at the forward estimates to see will happen with the Tiaro bypass.

In terms of health, there is funding for the PTSS. Members on this side of the House have been working with the new Minister for Health on the Patient Transport Subsidy Scheme in terms of increasing the travel allowance and the accommodation allowance. The health minister has been absolutely brilliant. We have made deputations to the health minister and given her evidence from residents in our electorates who have to travel to receive health care. She has listened, taken it on board and acted.

In terms of emergency services, there will be upgrades to the Maryborough Police Station. We are getting the rural fire training centre. There will be more money for the Queensland corrective services system. The great correctional centre in Maryborough employs a lot of good people in my community.

You know that the KPIs of this budget have been achieved when those opposite get upset. They talk about chaos and crisis. The only chaos and crisis is on the opposition side of the House. There is none on this side because we are working for the people of Queensland. We are putting Queenslanders first. We are making sure Queenslanders are not being left behind. This is what a good Labor government does. When those opposite talk about chaos and crisis, they are talking about what is happening internally in their party, not what is happening in Queensland. That is the problem with the opposition. The opposition is lazy and out of touch with the community. They go around with slogans. Sometimes I think they are working for one of the big marketing farms, instead of doing what this great Labor government does. We look after Queenslanders. That is what we do.

We are putting money back into the pockets of Queenslanders. We are providing electricity rebates and 15 hours of free kindergarten. I heard one LNP member say that 15 hours is not enough. One thing I know is that we will see 'David the pruner'. Those opposite will have garden companies shortly, because they are going to prune everything. They will not only prune the shrub; they will take the shrub right back to the base. That is what will happen if the LNP comes to government. This is a fantastic Labor budget delivered by a great Treasurer. I commend the bills to the House.