




Speech By  
**Daniel Purdie**

**MEMBER FOR NINDERRY**

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

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (11.20 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the 2023 appropriation bills. If you had told Queenslanders 12 months ago that a massive boon in coal royalties was on the cards, there would be a level of confidence—even an expectation—that the government would use that funding to invest in the things that matter most, the things impacting on their day-to-day lives; that there would be solutions on the table for the issues affecting them like crime, health, cost of living and housing, because that is what good governments do: they listen and they act. They deliver on their promises and they plan for the future. Fast forward 12 months and the rivers of gold are currently flowing, but with inflation topping the nation at 7.4 per cent Queenslanders have become rightly anxious about this budget. They had high hopes that the budget would deliver not only short-term relief but also long-term solutions to the multiple crises impacting them.

According to the Premier, it is the best budget ever. As we know, like all good stage shows and performances, once the red carpet is put away and the curtain goes down reality sets in. At best it is a bleak and desolate reality because, once the lights are turned back on and the glare of the cameras has faded, Queenslanders are simply no better off. This budget does not deliver on long-term solutions to ease cost-of-living pressures. It does nothing to fix the health crisis and it does nothing to fix the housing crisis. Queenslanders have long memories.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr PURDIE:** There are too many; I have lost track of all the crises. The recent coal royalty windfalls can be likened to a life buoy, propping up this government and temporarily saving it from drowning. Revenue in this state has never been higher but, as every single Queenslander knows, services under this government have never been worse. Cost blowouts under the Palaszczuk government have now surpassed \$10 billion. Fifteen new or increased taxes and \$100 billion of debt has delivered the worst ambulance ramping in the country, the lowest per capita social housing spending and fewer frontline police than two years ago. There is a Housing Investment Fund that has not housed a single Queenslander and a Health and Hospitals Plan that has not delivered one extra bed. It is unfathomable to think that, while the state is in the grips of a crime crisis, instead of delivering more police resources frontline police numbers have reduced by 72.

**Mrs Gerber:** How about the media?

**Mr PURDIE:** In contrast we see the Premier's spin team grow larger, with an extra 98 media and marketing staff whose sole purpose is to control the way things look. In fact, it appears that there is a direct correlation that as the crisis and chaos and dysfunction the Palaszczuk government spreads the number of spin doctors increases. Meanwhile, Queenslanders are held captive in their own homes while repeat offenders terrorise the streets in stolen vehicles, and hardworking police who are understaffed and overstretched are pleading for this government to give them back the strong laws they need to do their job and keep Queenslanders safe.

It is clear the government's priorities are completely wrong. Earlier this week we heard the new health minister—the fourth health minister to hold the portfolio since the Palaszczuk Labor government took office—talk about the record health budget they are delivering this year. Given the Palaszczuk government also delivered a record health budget last year, you could be forgiven for thinking ambulance ramping and waiting times were under control, that maternity services have been restored to all of our hospitals and that the seven satellite hospitals had been constructed and were treating patients.

While the government likes to grandstand and make announcements, the truth is that 95 per cent or \$9.25 billion of the 2023-24 Queensland Health budget is pushed out beyond this financial year. Last year's promise to deliver \$9 billion saw the government spend just one per cent of that promise, and the stats speak for themselves. Ramping rates remain the highest in the nation at 43 per cent and there are 280,000 patients waiting to see a specialist. The health system is on life support and, despite another record health budget, the chaos and crisis in the Palaszczuk government is making it worse. It is all promises and no delivery.

It is a similar story when it comes to the housing crisis. The state is in the grip of a housing crisis, with nearly 50,000 Queenslanders on the social housing waitlist. Despite boasting more than 4,000 homes since it came to office, the Productivity Commission revealed that 1,400 homes have been added to the social housing portfolio. The government has also claimed the largest concentrated investment in social housing. Yet again when you scratch below the surface the truth comes out, with a Productivity Commission report finding that for the past two years the Palaszczuk Labor government has spent the least on social housing per capita of any state or territory. The horrifying reality does not end there. The much touted \$2 billion Housing Investment Fund announced two years ago has not built a single house and a commitment to convert student accommodation at Griffith University to social housing has been shelved and \$2 million has gone down the drain. It is no wonder the Queensland Council of Social Services has called out the government's housing investment in this budget, saying it was woefully inadequate. It never delivers what it promises and Queenslanders are paying the price.

This budget does not concern itself with the real issues impacting the lives of Queenslanders. Not only does it fail to deliver any long-term solutions to the crisis in health, cost of living, housing and crime; in my electorate the budget has also failed to deliver on fundamentals like supporting our local schools to help deliver world-class education—projects that should be a priority like upgrading asbestos-ridden and flood-prone classrooms at Coolool State School and building a multipurpose hall for Coolool State High School.

As we stare down the runway towards the 2032 Olympics, this budget should also be a time of critical investment as we lay the foundations in order to reap the benefits of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Millions of dollars of investment in vital infrastructure upgrades have yet again been completely overlooked in this budget. Despite record coal royalties, the rivers of gold that should be flowing through all communities in this state appear to have dried up once they have left 1 William Street. This is clearly evident with the government's failure to commit any funding to the Sunshine Coast heavy rail connecting Beerwah to Caloundra to Kawana to Maroochydore. This budget was an opportunity to ensure the Sunshine Coast did not miss out on the benefits of the 2032 Olympics by investing in public transport systems that would connect with the north coast rail line. By not funding this project we now know what we have always feared: the promise of legacy Olympics infrastructure will be either non-existent or just concentrated in Brisbane.

Bli Bli is one of the fastest growing suburbs on the coast, but unfortunately the population growth has long overtaken the ageing substandard road infrastructure. In 2023 when the government is boasting a \$10 billion surplus, how can this be? Earlier this year a school student narrowly avoided serious injury when she was hit by a car on David Low Way and just down the road you will find pedestrians and cyclists holding their breath as they run the gauntlet to cross the 60-year-old Bli Bli Bridge on the narrow pathway that runs beside two lanes of heavy traffic carrying up to 15,000 vehicles daily. This is also one of the main thoroughfares to the new Sunshine Coast international airport.

They are just the start of the road hazards you will face in the Ninderry electorate. It was back in 2008 the then Beattie government first announced plans to duplicate the Sunshine Motorway. Now 15 years later and dozens of lives lost on this dangerous road and staring down the runway to the 2032 Olympics, my community and the wider Sunshine Coast have been left yet again stranded. We all welcomed the initial investment to start planning the duplication of the motorway, but once those plans are ticked off what then? This budget could and should have provided funding to move on to the next stage of this multimillion dollar infrastructure project.

The budget should also have addressed the serious safety issues my community has been raising along Eumundi Noosa Road. This road is the major route into Noosa—one of the brightest jewels in the state's tourism market. Surely that should be enough to prompt action and spending on basic

road maintenance to support not only the local population but also the growing drive market that helps sustain our state's tourism industry. Recently I attended a community meeting where dozens of locals flagged serious safety issues about this road. A number of the safety improvements could be achieved simply by addressing overdue maintenance issues along with a reduction in the speed limit on a section through the Doonan trading precinct.

These come at little cost and impact so I am hopeful the transport minister—and I acknowledge his presence here tonight—will listen. We are grateful for some work that has been done, but the government's track record is not instilling us with much confidence. Multimillion dollar maintenance backlogs have become one of the hallmarks of this chaotic and checked-out, third-term Labor government that cannot deliver on time or on budget.

One of the most notorious overdue maintenance issues is the western section of Yandina Cooloom Road. A few years ago I took a ride with a local truck driver to film the shocking conditions of the road, which more resembles a bitumen patchwork than a major arterial road. I sent the footage to the minister, but apparently it still did not meet elusive thresholds that would warrant action.

Another sore point for thousands of motorists is the long overdue upgrades to the busiest intersection in one of the busiest industrial precincts on the Sunshine Coast. The intersection of Maroochydore Road and Pike and Killick streets in Kunda Park was on the government's priority list long before I became the local member. Years of advocacy, including petitions and letters to the minister, has seen us finally progress to the detailed design stage, but how much longer must we wait until this priority project is funded and shovels are in the ground? Will it take more accidents or worse before the government starts listening? In the meantime, as the conditions worsen and the chaos and the chorus of motorists who share safety concerns and pay out insurance excesses grows louder, we apparently must take comfort that the state government is managing Queenslanders' hard-earned tax dollars wisely, investing in the things that really matter and ensuring cost-of-living pressures are being addressed.

Excuse me for assuming that none of the hardworking families, pensioners, seniors, students, young people, tradespeople, retail workers, health workers, frontline staff and small business owners who make up the population in the Ninderry electorate hosted a budget party this week. There will be little celebration among those who are struggling to feed their families, struggling to keep a roof over their head, struggling with soaring electricity prices and struggling to access health services. There will not be any celebrating for the growing number of Queenslanders who have been caught up in the state's crime crisis.

Short-term relief leads to long-term pain when there is no serious reform. Queenslanders are facing the worst cost-of-living pressures in the country and will not be fooled by the government's cash handouts that will do little to ease the pain when the next bill cycle comes around. Despite all their promises and announcements, this government fails to deliver. Time and time again Queenslanders have been failed by a government more concerned with the way things look than how they actually are. While they look for solutions and leadership, all they get are staged performances and empty promises. Queenslanders deserve better and only an LNP government can deliver better outcomes, driven by real performance measures, transparency and accountability, something that the Palaszczuk Labor government has a proven track record in failing to deliver.