




Speech By
Lance McCallum

MEMBER FOR BUNDAMBA

Record of Proceedings, 15 June 2023

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

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (9.36 pm): Queenslanders cannot trust the LNP. Today the leader of the LNP said in his budget reply speech, ‘Don’t make promises you can’t keep.’ Well, that is more than a bit rich coming from a member who was part of an LNP government that told public servants they had nothing to fear right before it sacked 14,000 workers. The LNP said that, if elected, ‘it would draw a line in the sand so it can overhaul the Public Service in order for it to be reborn’. To be reborn, first there would need to be a death, and with the LNP we know that it will be death by a thousand cuts—cuts to jobs, cuts to services and cuts to infrastructure. The LNP always cuts; Labor always builds, and that is clear in the budget—a budget with an \$88 billion Big Build of job-creating and economy-boosting infrastructure over the forward estimates.

In contrast, the LNP has an infrastructure cut hit list. We know this because it was helpfully published on social media by its leader before it was quickly taken down. That LNP hit list includes health facilities like satellite hospitals, mental health units, ambulance stations; transport infrastructure like Cross River Rail and bridges; sports fields; critical transmission infrastructure like CopperString 2.0, and the list goes on and on. Through its budget reply the LNP offered up wet-lettuce policy solutions like a health workforce plan—not one commitment for a new health facility, not one commitment for an extra health job, not one commitment or policy on the climate or the environment, which is something that the member for Bonney and shadow environment minister conveniently left out of his speech. In fact, it barely mentioned jobs at all or the economy.

The LNP refused to commit to keeping our progressive coal royalty scheme even though it voted for it and even though it funds at least \$550 in power rebates to each and every householder in their electorates and to each and every Queensland household. Wait for it; I am getting to it, members. Instead of being straight up with Queenslanders that it will not keep it, we heard weasel words about supporting current revenue measures without ruling out repealing the progressive coal royalty regime that is delivering the cost-of-living relief for every single Queensland household, that is delivering new hospital beds and that is building job-creating infrastructure.

This is LNP duplicity in action. This is why Queenslanders cannot trust the LNP. There is always plenty of criticism from the LNP, but they never have any solutions, no new ideas or policies, just the same old faces from the Newman government joined by a few new faces like the member for Callide who fits right in with the old ones.

This is a budget for all Queenslanders. It is a budget that delivers a fair go to keep our local Bundamba community booming, a budget that delivers on the Palaszczuk Labor government’s continued commitment to tackling the cost of living, creating more good local jobs and better services closer to home. It is a budget with a clear vision built on Labor values to help all Queensland households at a time when they truly need it most. The power of public ownership of energy assets means that our local households will receive an automatic \$550 rebate on power bills with more than \$1,000 in rebates

for vulnerable and low-income households. This is only possible because we have kept our energy assets in public hands. They are not for sale. This is a great Labor budget for Bundamba and all of Queensland that should be passed as quickly as possible.

On that note, the Acting Speaker has reviewed and approved my budget speech for incorporation and as such I ask that the remainder of my speech be incorporated into the *Record of Proceedings*.

The speech read as follows—

Deliberate and targeted support will ease cost of living pressures for our local Bundamba community through a record \$8.2 billion in concessions funding the biggest package in Australia. Free kindergarten for all will save our families up to \$4,600 a year, and we are expanding our hugely popular \$150 FairPlay vouchers to include swimming lessons.

I'm proud that our publicly owned Swanbank precinct an icon of our local community will be transformed through a \$54.4 million investment. This is a landmark move for Swanbank, which is set to become South-East Queensland very first Clean Energy Hub, starting with \$41.5 million to support the installation of a 250MW battery. The state-of-the-art battery project will support 60 highly-skilled local jobs during construction and up to 10 upon completion. We're also investing in a turbine upgrade and other overhauls at Swanbank, and this is exactly why we can continue to keep power prices down while at the same time providing our local households with the nation-leading rebates announced this week. It's all about more good jobs through clean, cheap, reliable energy.

Our cost of living support extends to our record housing investment to get more Queenslanders into safe, secure and affordable accommodation sooner. Locally that includes more social and affordable housing across the Ipswich community, with \$59.2 million for new and upgraded facilities. In Bundamba we've already opened four social housing complexes, and another at Goodna is nearing completion. The biggest ever concentrated investment in housing in Queensland's history also includes funding for homelessness support, emergency accommodation, rental grants and bond loans.

Health and education continue to be two other key areas of investment for the Palaszczuk Government, and this budget includes more than \$230 million for our local community. The 200-bed expansion of Ipswich Hospital is being backed by a new purpose-built acute clinical service building, a new emergency department and six additional operation theatres. The \$710 million Stage 2 project is expected to support 1,700 jobs during construction. New and upgraded schools will help give our local kids the very best start in life. This includes funding for the next stages of our local Ripley Valley State Secondary College, Ripley Central State School and Woogaroo Creek State School, and a further \$52.6 million for our new state school at Bellbird Park that is on track to open next year. Upgrades will also be completed at Bundamba State Secondary College, Collingwood Park State School, Goodna Special School, Redbank Plains State High School and Riverview State School, and we're delivering more than \$1 million in general maintenance and minor works at schools across our local community.

The full accessibility upgrade of Bundamba train station is on track with more than \$14 million for this major project. This is a huge investment in our local community, and works will provide improved access for all commuters, particularly people with disability, the elderly, those travelling with prams or luggage, and people recovering from injury. The project will support more than 200 good local jobs during construction, delivering better public transport services. When it comes to train transport, I'm particularly pleased with funding to progress more essential infrastructure to support our local community the Ipswich to Springfield rail loop. The Palaszczuk Government has matched the Federal Albanese Government's \$3.75 million commitment to undertake the Ipswich to Springfield Rail Line Business Case, bringing the total to \$7.5 million. This is in addition to the \$2.5 million previously allocated. The Business Case could see a total of nine potential stations connecting the Ipswich line and the Springfield Central line, and this would include two stops in the booming Ripley Valley, another important area of investment.

This budget supports one of the fastest growing communities in Australia with \$8.5 million to deliver more essential infrastructure and unlock more land for housing in the Ripley Valley Priority Development Area. Our record Ripley funding includes a further \$78.9 million for our South Ripley Satellite Hospital, \$26 million for the neighbouring sub-acute facility, \$7.3 million towards the new Ripley Ambulance Station, and \$5 million for the new Ripley Police Station. The budget also includes:

- Over \$3.8 million for infrastructure upgrades at our local Bundamba TAFE.
- More support for those impacted by the 2022 floods with \$220 million for the raising, repairing and retrofitting of homes as part of the Resilient Homes Fund.
- Funding for our hugely successful local Skilling Queenslanders for Work and Back to Work programs.

This is a budget for all Queenslanders that will keep Bundamba booming while supporting our local households with record levels of cost of living relief. It is another investment in good local jobs, better services and the great Queensland lifestyle we all enjoy. And it caters for our rapidly growing local community with more world-class health and education closer to home, improved infrastructure, and record numbers of frontline workers. I commend the bill to the House.