




Speech By  
**Linus Power**

**MEMBER FOR LOGAN**

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Record of Proceedings, 15 June 2023

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

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (8.33 pm): It is so disappointing to see the real challenges and problems of our society distilled down to cynical TikTok grabs where they are attacking the very institutions that make our state strong. I cannot believe that the parents of Brisbane State High School would listen to that diatribe and think they are going to a terrible school that is falling apart. It is an extraordinary school filled with extraordinary students and fantastic teachers who are achieving so much.

It is unusual for me to say that there are also fantastic institutions that the whole of South-East Queensland relies on such as the Queensland Children's Hospital, the very institution this Clayton's AOC wants to attack, which has been enhanced and built and provides great services for our children. We used to have people who believed in internationalism, believed we could build great things here in Queensland and show the world we had something to say—not clinically attack the Olympics and throw away international relations. We are actually a party that believes in bringing people together, showing off our great state and being proud of it. What I am disappointed about is that nothing we have heard is about real solutions. This is all about generating false and fake anger, creating internet bitterness and dividing our society. We on this side reject that absolutely. Those opposite, including the member for Callide, who supported that speech so well, are actually the people who elected that piece of cynicism, and we reject it because we are trying to steadily build for a better Queensland.

I rise to support the Queensland state budget and the appropriations bills. Logan is a growing area, and every day new families move there to new housing to start their journey to a great Queensland lifestyle. The government, the Premier and Treasurer get that. They understand that growing areas need services. They need schools, health investment, better roads and cost-of-living support. To do that we need a strong economy and we need a strong budget. That is why this budget delivers a surplus, and it is off the back of hard decisions we had to make during COVID. They wanted to bring in the disease from down south. They wanted to fly planes in. They wanted to open the borders 64 times. There were hard decisions when we had to say that a share of those super profits belong to the people of Queensland. That is why we made the tough decisions about ensuring that we have progressive coal royalties. If we had not made these tough decisions, if we had not kept Queensland safe, if we had not kept the focus on the Queensland economy, the size of our economy and those employed would have been much less. This strong economy means that we can deliver for areas like Logan.

Growing areas need investment, and that is why, where others are cutting, we are continuing and increasing our Big Build program. The Logan Big Build includes the Mount Lindesay Highway investment, which has just been completed through to Chambers Flat Road—four beautiful lanes—and now we are moving ahead to do four lanes through Jimboomba to get that vital flow of traffic through there. We also have four new floors at the Logan Hospital, which is an extraordinary investment for families and seniors in Logan, who absolutely need the best services.

We are building new schools like the one we have just announced off Park Ridge Road to service Logan Reserve and Park Ridge, but that builds upon the ones we have built in Everleigh, which I share with the member for Jordan, and Yarrabilba. We are building the Greenbank battery, which is part of our investment in transforming our energy system, bringing energy security to our local area but also ensuring that renewables match in with our old network. We are keeping our community safe through investing in cameras and police.

We also know that families are doing it tough. Inflation, especially in housing, is stretching budgets. Look, our Premier gets it; she speaks to renters in Inala. Our Treasurer gets it. He knows that young families are struggling with mortgage payments in Barambah. I know that, when I speak to people at the Park Ridge shops, costs are going up. We get it; they get it. That is why this budget delivers extensive, but targeted, relief. There is relief for seniors. There are SwimStart vouchers for families who want to give that vital skill to their kids. There is free kindy, which is essential. I am not a prep teacher, but I have spoken to many prep teachers who know that if kids do not get kindy they start off at a disadvantage. It is not just for the kids who did not get kindy: if we have an equal playing field, every kid goes in together so your kid and the other kid can immediately start on the next lesson instead of perhaps being held back by kids who did not get that experience.

There are electricity rebates, and the reason why we can do that is because we own the assets. That means we can provide that relief, and that is really important. Because electricity prices are one of the things that has contributed to inflation, the ABS and Phillip Lowe have made it absolutely clear that this is a disinflationary initiative. Putting it in the bills means that that brings back some of that inflationary effect. Well, they do not get it. It is a basic concept, but they do not get it.

I have not really heard them say it, but the key question here is if they have the guts to say whether they support progressive coal royalties. We know going forward that this is important to keep our budget strong and to be able to provide these things. Are they going to be clear about it? Are they going to say whether they support it or not? I understand the member for Burleigh is going to be clear, but we cannot hear that same kind of clarity from the opposition leader. The member for Broadwater does not have that clarity because he is whiffing and waffling and he is unclear. He is saying one thing to one group and another thing to another group. Let us have some clarity and say how secure our economy will be. Let us keep progressive coal royalties because we own the coal. It is our coal. When there are massive profits, we deserve a fair share of it.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): Member for Logan, in referring to someone's intestinal fortitude before, you used unparliamentary language. I ask you to withdraw.

**Mr POWER:** I apologise and I withdraw. It was a slip and I acknowledge that and I apologise.