




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

Record of Proceedings, 15 June 2023

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

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services) (11.32 pm): This is a budget for the times. It is very important for this House to understand what are the times. In the times that we are living these are the things that are key to us making decisions: the escalating climate change crisis; the 2,000 people moving to Queensland because of our successful management of the pandemic; the rippling effects, economically and socially, from the pandemic in a range of areas; full employment, something that is very clear; a shortage of labour; and cost-of-living pressures. Why are there cost-of-living pressures? The simple answer to that is the record inflation left by Scott Morrison and the Liberal National coalition and their economic incompetence in Canberra. In this budget we are acting on climate change and seeking to reduce emissions through our Energy and Jobs Plan.

Mr Hart interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Walker): Member for Burleigh, you are warned.

Mr BAILEY: We are targeting 70 per cent renewable energy by 2032 and 80 per cent by 2035. We are ahead by two years on our 50 per cent target via electric vehicles, through hydrogen, through zero emission buses, through pumped hydro and through the SuperGrid. We have the most thorough plan for energy transition in the nation and the opposition ought to understand that, but they do not. They have no plan for one of the greatest transformations of energy in human history and they come in here and suggest that they are ready for government. It is ridiculous.

With 2,000 people moving to Queensland, there is more than \$250 million going into the housing portfolio to deal with social and affordable housing. I will not have any criticism from the Greens party who are holding up, with the LNP, \$10 billion in the federal Senate—an unholy alliance there if ever there was one. That shows it is all about politics. The Greens party frequently object to housing developments in their own electorates and then complain there is not enough housing. Max Chandler-Mather, the member for Griffith, is one of the worst offenders in that regard. He says one thing in Canberra and says another thing locally. He does not practise what he preaches.

This is a record health budget. It is up nine per cent this year—well above CPI. I acknowledge the Minister for Health in the chamber. There is investment in new hospitals and emergency departments, with seven satellite hospitals to open. We do not cut health, we do not sack nurses, we do not call them duds. We are a pretty standard Labor government that respects the people who look after us when we are ill. There is investment in police and youth justice and mentoring programs.

What we have in this budget is cost-of-living relief: \$550 for every household, more than \$1,100 for those who most need it. Ours is a government with a conscience that is acting on the times. We know how to fund it with progressive royalties. We are not pretending like those opposite who call it rivers of gold but will not commit to keeping it. What a weak, flimsy, shallow, paper-thin opposition leader

we have. He promises certain things but does not commit to how to fund them. He needs to clarify that. It is only this government that has a plan that is funded and that makes sense and deals with the issues of the time.

The Leader of the Opposition has no answers to any of these issues. The heart of the deception of the opposition is the fact that they ignore the pandemic and its impacts and they ignore the record inflation left by the Liberal National Party in Canberra still being grappled with. If those opposite want to talk about blowouts and cost increases, it is because there is inflation that we need to deal with. We are not going to cut projects, we will deliver projects. We are a proud government. We are not going to make the mistakes of the Newman government. How do we know they are going to cut projects? Because the opposition themselves say so. The shadow Treasurer says there will be \$10 billion worth of cuts to Sky TV. The member for Chatsworth says there is billions in cuts and savings—or ‘pruning’ is the new word, apparently.

One only needs to look at their form: there are 34 members of the opposition and 22 are ex members of the Newman government. We heard an extraordinary speech from the member for Clayfield who gave us a treatise on how great the Newman government was. That was incredible. You cannot fix obsession. We know the leadership style of the Leader of the Opposition. We know about the laptop dishonesty and deceptions. We know about him tolerating the member for Burleigh who wants a light rail past his brewery and will not call him out on it and discipline him.

Mr HART: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at the minister’s comments and I ask him to withdraw.

Mr BAILEY: I withdraw unreservedly. We have a Leader of the Opposition who talks about equality but then votes against women having choice. He talks about equality but he votes against voluntary assisted dying. The Leader of the Opposition talks about a fair go but then votes against tree clearing and the birth, deaths and marriages legislation debated yesterday. He says one thing and does another. He is a pretender and his spin is wearing thin. People are starting to work out that he is style—and not even that—over substance.

Now what we see from the opposition is a lot of scrappiness in question time and the media is starting to apply some scrutiny to them. They are going to need a lot more than a policy-free zone, lots of whinging, lots of whining and a lot of lightweight performances. Their front bench is still full of Newman government members of parliament. They are more park bench than front bench.

I will address a couple of the issues raised by the member for Chatsworth. Having had to deal with the record inflation left by the LNP, of all the mega projects, Cross River Rail has an increase in costs of 17 per cent. All the other mega projects have overruns of between 50 per cent and 80 per cent. Inland rail is at 300 per cent. Barnaby’s pet project is over 300 per cent.

The level crossing will be removed at Beams Road. Between Kuraby and Beenleigh there are five level crossings. Funding is getting very close at Coopers Plains. For Gold Coast stations there was an initial allocation. We were always going to top that allocation. Now we are in a high inflation environment but we will not walk away from our commitments. We will build the infrastructure we promised the community.

We hear the usual drivel from the Leader of the Opposition and the shadow transport minister where they count Queensland Rail projects and add them to the Cross River Rail project. Since 2020, budget documents have been clear about what Queensland Rail projects are and what Cross River Rail Delivery Authority projects are. There is some integration. Why would you have Queensland Rail and the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority doing separate accessibility upgrades for stations? That makes no sense at all. Of course the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority should be doing one thing overall. Integration is one of the key things that we have learnt in rail and it is logical. For the member for Chatsworth to then say, ‘We’re going to add billions and billions and billions’ is an inanity. At the heart of the opposition is: ignore inflation, ignore reality, ignore the residual impacts of the pandemic. That is their triumph of style over substance.

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

The speech read as follows—

This budget delivers across my portfolio.

Whether it is our \$321 million active transport program or more than \$73 million to tackle cyber-crime.

\$90.7 million to target freight disadvantage and reduce the cost of living in remote communities in the far north.

\$60.7 million to boost bus driver safety across the network.

\$6.0 million which is double the current amount for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Transport Investment Development Scheme.

In my own electorate of Miller, I am proud that Yeronga State High School will receive \$500,000 to construct new performing arts classrooms.

Funding will continue for station accessibility upgrades at Dutton Park, Fairfield, Yeerongpilly with Yeronga already completed.

From Cairns to Coolangatta and all stops in between, the Palaszczuk Labor Government is delivering the biggest investment in infrastructure in our state's history.

It is all part of Queensland's Big Build.