




Speech By  
**Mark Robinson**

**MEMBER FOR OODGEROO**

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

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (2.31 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Queensland budget bills. I commend the LNP leader, David Crisafulli, and shadow Treasurer, Dave Janetzki, for their budget reply and challenging the budget failures and putting forward solutions to the current crises we face.

The Queensland budget confirms that even the rivers of gold extracted by Labor's heavy taxation measures will not restore the trust in government that has been eroded by eight years of broken promises. While there may not be a budget deficit this year, there is something worse than that; there is a trust deficit.

The Treasurer's rivers of gold have failed to repair frontline services or to deliver long-term cost-of-living relief. They have extracted \$60 billion more than forecast less than three years ago, but the Redlands Coast, particularly the Oodgeroo electorate, has little to show for it.

This budget fails to deliver long-term solutions to the cost-of-living crisis; to solve the youth crime crisis; to heal the Queensland Health crisis; to adequately address the housing crisis; to deal with our high debt levels; to reform our high levels of tax, levy, charges and fees; and to deal with a culture of project overruns and delays.

After eight years of this government being in power, Redlanders can no longer trust them to fix the problems they have presided over. Their constant state of chaos and crisis means they have stopped listening to Redlanders. However, the LNP leader, David Crisafulli, and the LNP hear their voices and we are acting on them. David recently visited Redlands Coast and held a health crisis town hall, joining our new LNP candidate for Redlands, Rebecca Young, and me to listen to the stories of local people at Redland Hospital. I thank him and Rebecca for caring, and I know our local community does, too.

The budget invests little in Oodgeroo to solve the current crises in housing, youth crime, traffic congestion and cost of living with locals doing it tough with price hikes in power, rent and food—and power bills will rise by 21 per cent from 1 July. Little has been invested in the Oodgeroo electorate across a range of state areas: education, roads, public transport, policing and community safety. North Stradbroke Island received a little, but the Dunwich Harbour upgrade that was promised as part of the SEQ city deal does not seem to have had any funding allocated yet. If there has, it is yet to be declared. There is nothing clear yet in that regard.

Straddie residents have, sadly, gotten used to not being involved in decisions about their island and lives, and they tell me that on a regular basis. The chaos in the Redlands is made worse by the Redlands not having its own regional action plan. Rather, it is lumped in with Greater Brisbane. It is much harder to get to the bottom and hold the government to account.

Sadly, the 2023 state budget confirms what Redlanders already know: the Palaszczuk government is addicted to announcements and unfunded promises in the never-never. This budget proves that the Premier and Labor govern by announcements but does not always deliver. Therefore, nothing she says about the future can be trusted. Sadly, when the government fails to deliver in the Redlands, instead of owning up to it and fixing it Peter Beattie style and getting it back on track, they hide the truth from the public and when caught out, they make more announcements. Redlanders will not be fooled by the smoke and mirrors of new promises when current promises are not being honoured and delivered on.

The complete chaos and crisis at Redland Hospital highlights this incompetence. Despite the great work done by the staff at Redland Hospital—our doctors, nurses and others—often under very trying circumstances, the people of Redlands have lost confidence in this government's ability to provide adequate health and medical services for our rapidly growing city. The sad fact about Labor's shame at Redland Hospital—and it is on the public record—is that Redland Hospital had no ICU, no intensive care unit, during the pandemic. There were chronic bed shortages and long waiting lists not to mention some of the worst ambulance ramping on record. Labor promised to fix the record high ambulance ramping at Redland Hospital that was at its worst levels in history at 73 per cent and still remains dangerously high at 63 per cent.

Labor promised in the 2020 election that the stage 1 Redland Hospital expansion would be built in 2022 with an ICU and 32 new beds—that was the promise. However, 2022 came and went, and even another budget year does not fully deliver it as promised. The budget proves you cannot trust Labor to deliver. Labor has also promised the stage 2 Redland Hospital expansion, but the AMAQ and sources inside Metro South fear it has been indefinitely delayed and mothballed. There is still some confusion, despite new announcements, about that.

On the issue of the so-called Redland satellite hospital, while additional health facilities are welcome and much needed, this facility should have been accurately named to create a reasonable expectation of the services available. It should not have been prioritised and built at the expense of the real hospital upgrade already promised, and there are still questions to be answered. First, the satellite hospital was announced in the budget papers; I believe the 2020-21 budget had its own line item called the 'Cleveland satellite hospital'. Labor promised in their budget, clearly laid out, a satellite hospital in Cleveland. That is clear, etched in their budget papers. What else could that mean with the word 'Cleveland' in it? However, someone decided to shift it without adequate explanation, without clear reasoning and without consultation. Consultation was promised; it was meant to happen, but nobody that I am aware of was part of that consultation process. The promised funding was whisked away and sent to another city, another place. Labor just broke a budget promise between budget years.

The government had thought it covered its tracks, but someone forgot to update the 2020-21 and 2021-22 budget regional action plan maps for Brisbane and Redlands. The project was itemised as No. 36 in the listings, but it vanishes from the map. Further, residents were told about the consultation, but it was tightly controlled if it was held at all.

When you just take things out of the budget and move them around for political purposes, people do not trust you. This budget has a deficit, a trust deficit. Instead of prioritising the delivery of previous election promises such as the Redland Hospital upgrade, promises at the real hospital, they put the real hospital upgrade on the backburner where it still sits today. Redlanders know you cannot trust Labor promises—not in past budgets and not in this one.

We see a history of how this government has treated Redland Hospital and its staff. There is much more I could have said on that today—and I have been saying it on the record and I will continue to say it. I will stand up for my hospital as well as the staff, nurses and others against this government that has brought chaos and crisis to the hospital. An LNP government will restore stability and heal the health crisis at Redland Hospital caused by failed Labor policy.

That brings me to the new promise on mental health. Any new promises at Redland Hospital, no matter how good they sound, will be met with some suspicion until the 2020 election promises are first honoured and the promise clarified. I have a question on notice in the system and I am hoping for an honest answer from the health minister. Hopefully, we get to the bottom of what is really happening there.

There are a whole range of things that we could talk about in terms of education. There has been some good investments made in Cleveland District State High School, Wellington Point State High School and in other schools. I would like to see continued investment in my schools and in non-government schools. There have been some media reports and questions raised around what will happen with non-government schools and funding. I hope that the government will continue to invest, as in the past.

There is much that could be said on homing and homelessness. North Stradbroke Island's Quandamooka people still do not have the homes that they were promised in the last eight years. There has been a lot of talk, but no delivery.

Redlands is not immune from youth crime. It is a lovely area. I have addressed this issue regularly, and will continue to. We need more police, and not police numbers to be cut. Our laws need to be strengthened, and there are a whole range of other measures the LNP has put out to bring the change that is needed.


In conclusion, this budget does not solve the chaos and crisis in Oodgeroo and the Redlands Coast. It does not provide a fair share, in my view, to the Cleveland district or to North Stradbroke Island, nor does it adequately relieve the cost-of-living pressures that Redlanders are experiencing.

Mr Acting Speaker, with your indulgence, I wish to conclude my speech in the debate on the budget with a short statement. After much deliberation, I have decided not to recontest the Queensland election in 2024. It will be five terms, and over 15 years of service as the state member for Cleveland and Oodgeroo, by the time I complete this term. I feel that I have run my best race. I have run it strongly, I have given it my all and I achieved much of what I set out to do when I started in 2009. I want to run other races outside the political sphere, to be honest—things that have been on hold and on my heart.

Our family needs are also changing. I have four grandchildren, and I love my 'Poppy time'. It is very hard to compete with that. My lovely wife, Julie—whom I want to thank—and I are also the primary carers for our mums, who are in their 80s and 90s and are not getting any younger. My wife and adult children would like to see a bit more of me too, I believe. It is my hope that a local female will be chosen and go on to become the new member for Oodgeroo. She would create history by becoming the first female member of parliament for Cleveland/Oodgeroo on either side of politics in the 30-plus years of the history of the seat. That is something I would dearly like to see happen as I leave.

I want to thank the good people of the Cleveland/Oodgeroo electorate for your support, and the trust that you have placed in me to represent you in this House and in the community. I will continue to work hard for you until the last day of this term. Announcing my intentions now allows plenty of time to have the best local candidate for Oodgeroo out in the field who can hit the ground running. We refuse to take for granted the strong support of local constituents over the last 14 years. I am confident that the next LNP candidate will work hard and have the trust of the people, too.

I thank LNP leader David Crisafulli for his support over the years. He is a colleague, and someone I count as a friend. I wish David and the team every success in forming government at the 2024 state election. I remain committed to working hard to see a change of government. Over the years I have been honoured to have served in several roles, including: shadow minister for main roads, marine infrastructure and fisheries; shadow assistant minister for the multicultural community; shadow assistant minister for international student attraction; shadow parliamentary secretary for apprenticeships and trade training; and in government as the deputy speaker of the Queensland parliament. I thank my lovely wife, Julie, my family, my amazing staff, supporters and friends and my colleagues here in the parliament—all of you. It has been an honour to serve alongside you all. It really is a great privilege that we have to serve in this parliament, to serve our local constituents and to serve together—mostly in agreement. Finally, I want to thank God and my saviour Jesus who has given me the energy and strength to serve the people of my community every day. There is plenty of time to say more, so I will leave that for a later date. I wish you all God's richest blessing. Thank you.

 **Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Before I call the next speaker, I will add a few words. Thank you for all you have done for your community and for this parliament. You have certainly served your community well, and will continue to do so until the next election. You have been a passionate advocate for the things that you believe in. On a personal level, you and I have had many discussions around difficult topics that this parliament has dealt with and have done so respectfully, even on those things that we do not necessarily agree on. I think many members of this chamber have a much better forehand or backhand thanks to the work that you have done as the co-chair of the parliamentary Friends of Tennis. Just yesterday we had a conversation in the coffee shop about the need to get more time on the tennis court. I am glad that you will be able to achieve that when you are not having that 'Poppy time'. Thank you, member.