




Speech By  
**Shane King**

**MEMBER FOR KURWONGBAH**

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Record of Proceedings, 16 June 2023

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

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (12.51 pm): I am proud today to speak to this year's Appropriation Bill, introduced by our Treasurer, the Hon. Cameron Dick. What a fine Treasurer and what a fine budget, I must say. This is now my ninth year of supporting a strong state Labor budget with cost-of-living relief, jobs, infrastructure, health, education and housing all at its forefront.

We are delivering \$550 in cost-of-living relief straight to Queensland households through their electricity bills. I have already had calls to my office about how helpful that will be. For vulnerable households with electricity concessions, the relief is nearly double, and there is a \$650 rebate for eligible small businesses as well. My biggest motivation—and most members in this place know this—to run for parliament was to make sure that we kept our electricity assets in public hands. We have and that is why we can deliver these dividends for Queenslanders, right when they need it most.

Our \$89 billion four-year Big Build capital infrastructure program is phenomenal for our state and will support around 58,000 jobs in the next financial year alone. It is exciting to see the number of clean energy projects, including the largest pumped hydro project in the world, getting their start in this budget thanks to our Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan. There is also money for dams—I know those opposite love dams—including \$12 million over two years for a safety upgrade at North Pine Dam, located at the southern end of my electorate and mostly in the electorate of my neighbour the member for Pine Rivers. I know that this will make residents in Whiteside and Joyner very happy and, once completed, we will be able to raise the dam's capacity back up over its current level of around 70 per cent.

Another budget item that will make residents in the south of my electorate happy—and many in the north too who commute towards the city for work—is \$15 million to deliver an upgrade to the intersection of Dayboro and Youngs Crossing roads. I look forward to working with the Moreton Bay Regional Council on this project. I will just put on the record once again that I still want to see consideration given to another river crossing to the west of this intersection as part of the longer term Moreton Motorway planning process. There are plenty of powerline corridors that could be utilised for roads as well.

For public transport commuters in and around Burpengary there is great news in this budget—almost \$15 million for the Burpengary station accessibility upgrade. The project tender has been awarded to Hutchinson Builders. Earlier prep works commenced back in February and locals will soon see a lot more high-vis activity on site. There is a bit more money for the Narangba station parking extension too. I am sure the minister is sick of me knocking on the door about this one, but it is a project that is very close to my heart and I will be jumping for joy when it is delivered.

We have increased health funding by almost 10 per cent. There is funding in the budget to operationalise our new satellite hospitals, with both the Caboolture and the Kallangur facilities set to benefit my constituents by providing non-urgent health care close to home. It was great to tour the Caboolture Satellite Hospital with the health minister a couple of weeks ago. I want to thank the previous health minister for her work in delivering these revolutionary new medical spaces as well.

The Caboolture Hospital redevelopment, worth almost \$400 million, is also nearing completion, with a new and expanded emergency department, an expanded special care nursery, a day chemotherapy unit, more beds and more parking set to come online this year. This budget continues funding for construction of new ambulance stations at both the north and south borders of my electorate in Morayfield and Lawnton. We did the sod turn at Morayfield last month. I know that the member for Morayfield, my neighbour, Minister Ryan, is very excited about that as well.

In education, we are making kindy free for our little Queenslanders from next year, saving new kindy families \$4,600 and allowing parents and carers some time to get back into the workforce or take on more work if they choose to. While we are talking about our little people, I will mention the new SwimStart vouchers we are funding for families with children aged zero to four. They will be able to apply for up to \$150 each. With the cost of living rising across the nation, I know swimming lessons can seem a luxury for struggling families. This program is set to help them out.

More on our education investment: the nine state schools in my electorate will share in a million dollars of maintenance and minor works money, with a classroom block refurbishment also funded for Burpengary State School.

**Mr Whiting:** Hear, hear!

**Mr KING:** I know the member for Bancroft is particularly passionate about Burpengary State School. It is Narangba State School's turn for some big ticket love this year, with \$3.5 million in the budget to build additional specialist classrooms and fund two refurbishment projects. I want to acknowledge Principal Angela Bell, who is new to the school this year, on these great early achievements and I commend the hardworking P&C there as well. I look forward to working with the school community to deliver these improvements.

I want to once again thank the Treasurer for delivering this amazing budget, as well as acknowledge the tough economic climate in which it is delivered. Those opposite have not agreed to continue our revenue stream of progressive coalmining royalties. That is not surprising really when you consider that the head of the Resources Council's anti-Labor campaign is a former LNP minister. I do not know how those opposite are going to fund the promises they have made without the progressive coal royalties. I know of a few ways they could do it. They could sell assets like they did last time. We hear from those opposite, 'Labor sold assets.' The LNP sold over \$10 billion of assets when they were in power last time. I have tabled documents in this place again and again that show that. That is one way they fund their promises. They also fund things by sacking and cutting services.

If they do not accept the coal royalties, it would seem the LNP would rather see struggling Queensland families choose between food and rent, struggling seniors choose to be cold for fear of their energy bills and struggling workers unable to put petrol in their cars than ask their mining mates to share the billions and billions in profits they make from Queensland's natural resources. I do not think that passes the pub test.

Sometimes we have to make tough choices. I am proud to be a member of the Palaszczuk state Labor government that is making those choices for the benefit of our battlers, delivering cost-of-living relief, good jobs and better services, and continuing to invest in our great lifestyle here in Queensland.

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—*

Delivering for Queensland and Moreton Bay

In addition to the projects in the Kurwongbah electorate that I've mentioned, this budget includes:

- \$1m to begin work on a new Moreton Bay Housing and Homelessness Services Hub.
- \$52.9m for social housing in Moreton Bay.
- Built-to-rent tax concessions for eligible developments providing affordable homes with cheaper rents.
- \$72m for First Home Owners Grants, a program that has delivered almost 7000 grants worth over \$115 million to new home owners just in the Moreton Bay region since the Palaszczuk Government came to power.
- \$9.7m for Skilling Queenslanders for Work programs—and I want to give a shout out to the Youth Development Foundation who've been doing some really great work down at Old Petrie Town.
- A new youth detention centre at Woodford.
- Youth Co-responder teams for Moreton Bay, to deal with and divert at-risk young people in our communities.
- \$87.5 million over five years to recruit more police, and
- A record operating budget for the Queensland Police Service in 2023-24 of \$3.281 billion.

- \$14.8m towards our billion dollar expansion of Redcliffe Hospital.
- Over \$200m for the Resilient Homes Fund, helping people affected by flooding to repair and retro fit more flood proof homes.
- \$13m more for our Modern Manufacturing Initiative, helping businesses improve their processes and adopt new technologies.
- \$234m over five years for waste and resource recovery—and Speaker, I never waste an opportunity to say how much my community loves our Containers for Change program!

This budget progresses our Path to Treaty, continues our offering of free TAFE places, invests \$68.6m in our Rebuild of QBuild, and funds subsidies for businesses to hire eligible unemployed job seekers. It allocates \$4.3m for more food and emergency relief (including vouchers, food parcels and help to pay utility bills), and \$2.7m over two years to expand delivery of school breakfast club programs.

There's also \$13.4m in QCAT funding over 4 years which I know will make some of my constituents very happy, and \$16.3m over four years for wraparound seniors services such as expos and tackling social isolation.

I mentioned our historical Cost of Living Rebate, \$550 for every Queensland household at the beginning of this speech, and at a cost of \$1.435 billion, Speaker, I think it's worth mentioning again.

And Speaker, we are delivering all of this while bringing the budget into surplus. Because we've made the right choices, the responsible choices for the benefit of all Queenslanders. I commend the Bill to the House.