




Speech By  
**Adrian Tantari**

**MEMBER FOR HERVEY BAY**

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Record of Proceedings, 13 June 2024

**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL; REVENUE  
AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL; STATE FINANCIAL  
INSTRUCTIONS AND METWAY MERGER AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr TANTARI** (Hervey Bay—ALP) (9.52 pm): It is a privilege to rise in support of the first Miles government budget—a budget focusing on doing the things that matter for Queenslanders and for the people of Hervey Bay: delivering cost-of-living relief, services and infrastructure backed in by the biggest building program in Queensland’s history, the \$107 billion Big Build. As a regional member I can say that this budget shows that our new Premier and the Miles Labor government have listened to regional Queensland and are delivering on their commitment to lower national cost-of-living pressures.

For the people of Hervey Bay, this budget eases costs for all and provides safeguards for our most vulnerable. This budget tackles cost of living head-on by providing new and expanded measures. Amongst these measures is \$1,000 off power bills—with the Albanese government’s further rebate, a total of \$1,300 savings off power bills—

**Ms Richards:** How good is that?

**Mr TANTARI:** It is so good—for all households from 1 July for the financial year 2024-25, with a higher rebate of \$1,672 for vulnerable households. That is each and every household in Hervey Bay getting a reduction in power bills. For many, this may go close to eliminating most of their annual power bill. This is a great outcome for many people in my electorate, because it is not just not about numbers in a budget paper. They are our Pensioner Concession Card holders, our Health Card holders, those on carer allowances and our Queensland Seniors Card holders.

Recently, whilst doorknocking my electorate, I spoke with many age pensioners who said that, with the \$1,300 and their ongoing Queensland government subsidy, they now will be able to use these savings for other household needs. That is a great outcome. These are just some of many people who have thanked the Miles government for listening and acting on their cost-of-living concerns. I know that families right across my electorate of Hervey Bay will welcome these savings. They will go a long way towards lowering some of the household bills that families are experiencing at this time.

On top of these savings, this Labor budget will also reduce vehicle registration by 20 per cent; eliminate stamp duty on homes purchased up to \$700,000 in value; and provide for 50-cent flat-fare trips across all Translink public transport services.

The Miles government has heard the community loud and clear. This was the No. 1 issue currently affecting them, and the government has delivered assistance when it is most needed. Our communities are receiving this assistance and getting their fair share because this Labor government is making multinationals pay coal royalties. I believe that this would not have happened and will not happen under an LNP government.

There is more. As a dad, I know how hard it is to balance the costs associated with kids' recreational and sporting activities. Keeping them happy and healthy does come at a cost to the household budget. The Miles government recognises this and has increased FairPlay vouchers to \$200 for every kid in Queensland aged between five and 17 years. This will be a great help to family household budgets.

Another excellent cost reduction measure is the indexation of all fees and charges, which will be frozen for the 2024-25 financial year. It is these everyday reductions in cost that have a big impact on the family budget at the end of the fortnight. I again congratulate the Miles government for acknowledging the impacts national cost-of-living pressures have on family budgets and for acting to ease the pressure.

This budget continues to provide the funding for the next stages of major infrastructure currently underway in the electorate of Hervey Bay: funding to continue the planning and construction of the new \$28 million Hervey Bay Police Station; the \$40 million expansion of the Hervey Bay Hospital, with a new acute ward bringing 59 extra beds to Hervey Bay; and the \$3.8 million Hervey Bay Water Police facility.

Further, there is funding for the \$55 million Maryborough Hervey Bay Road and Pialba Burrum Heads Road intersection. I acknowledge the member for Maryborough for his work and efforts in securing this. As was obvious earlier, the member for Chatsworth just continues with his dribble in this place. He referred to something to do with grass—I do not know what grass he is actually using lately—but there is action taking place. The member thinks he will be the minister for transport. He should know how a project is managed and progresses in stages. It is strange that he does not understand that at all.

In collaboration with the Fraser Coast Regional Council, there is the \$27 million Booral Road and Boundary Road intersection in Urangan and funding towards further trunk infrastructure that acknowledges the growth that is Hervey Bay today. There is funding to continue the rebuild of the \$22.5 million Pialba power substation.

Major school upgrades are happening right across my electorate, including \$700,000 to upgrade the existing Pialba State School amenities block and combined funding of \$555,000 to upgrade the Kawungan, Pialba and Sandy Strait state schools' tuckshops. Further funding has been allocated to increase specialist spaces at Hervey Bay State High School and an indoor rock climbing gymnasium—an envy of the region—upgrade at Urangan State High School.

Along with providing new infrastructure, these projects and the many that are currently under construction bring jobs and economic prosperity to the Hervey Bay electorate. This is what good Labor governments do: we listen to our communities and we act. With this budget, the Miles Labor government is doing what matters for the Hervey Bay electorate.

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

*The speech read as follows—*

Speaker, previous LNP speakers in this debate, use the same old language of doom and gloom about this good cost of living budget.

I believe, it is just not in their DNA to provide assistance this way.

Not a single one of us, on this side, let alone the most vulnerable in our communities, would have seen one single cent of a return from our asset that we have all worked hard to pay for, because they would have sold it off long, long ago and we know, who would have been getting the benefits from our assets and our royalties their billionaire LNP mates.

With no real thought or acknowledgement of the outstanding work by this Government to keep the budget in the black, something we all thought on this side was their economic mantra.

Speaker, we keep this budget in black and the LNP still moan, because the funding comes from the royalties of the resources that we all own, and not from the pockets of Queensland's families and the most vulnerable in our community.

Instead of embracing the massive action taken on tackling the national cost of living issues for the people of Queensland, and the work done to steer our economic prospects, the other side continues to drive division in our community.

We on this side of the house know that this budget delivers better cost of living relief and better services for all Queensland no matter where they live—unlike the LNP, who if they were in power bringing down this budget, would have just inflicted more cuts, sold more off and jacked up cost of living for Queensland families.

We know that the LNP can't wait to get their hands on a budget so they can start pruning away in the background, to slash and burn the budget by billions of dollars.

Speaker these cost-of-living measures in this budget are a great boost to the family budget, allowing these savings to go towards their other expenses, like paying the rent or mortgage and putting more food on the table, but also will support family's ability to work and improve the educational outcomes of their children.

The Miles Government must be applauded for increasing the availability of free kindy to more families and making TAFE free for those that want to expand their skills.

As the Treasurer stated in his budget speech, the people of Queensland recognise the importance of doing what matters, like better hospitals, smarter schools, safer roads and creating a pipeline of infrastructure that creates jobs for decades to come.

Speaker, previous budgets delivered record funding to ensure a strong health care system for all Queenslanders and this budget goes further again.

This budget delivered for Hervey Bay, ensuring our hospital is continuously upgraded and improved to meet the growing demand of health services in our region.

This 2024-25 budget keeps the jobs growth going in Queensland and continues that trend, by providing the funding for the many and varied programs and services needed to move my community forward.

This budget continues delivery on the commitments made and delivers for the people of the Hervey Bay electorate.

Speaker, a budget tackling the cost-of-living rises, growth in jobs, health, education, infrastructure, housing, and this is what a Labor budget is all about.

As I have said in this place previously, I will do my best to ensure the people of the Hervey Bay electorate gets its fair share from our government and with this 2024-25 budget the Miles Labor Government has delivered on its promises and commitments made to the people of Hervey Bay.

Speaker, the Miles Labor Government are doing what we promised, and with this budget we continue to build a better Hervey Bay.