



Speech By
Ali King

MEMBER FOR PUMICESTONE

Record of Proceedings, 14 June 2024

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

Ms KING (Pumicestone—ALP) (12.20 pm): As always, it is interesting to follow the member for Bonney in any contribution that he makes, watching him suspended above the barbed wire fence that is being the LNP's environment spokesperson, not allowed to talk about climate change and not allowed to talk about emissions but allowed to talk about organic waste and permitted to talk about the protected area estate. There was no comment on the LNP's complete turnaround on supporting our nation-leading pumped hydro scheme in the Pioneer-Burdekin, just a regurgitation of the LNP's vague talking points—

Mr O'CONNOR: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence. I had a whole section on that in my speech. I ask the member to withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): I am going to take some advice. The member has taken personal offence. I ask you to withdraw.

Ms KING: I withdraw. I am always happy to be corrected by the member for Bonney. Should the LNP in fact have any nation-building plans for landscape-changing pumped hydro then we are very happy to be corrected on those. What we have heard is a series of patched together, last-minute, vague policy attempts that will make no difference and not really move the dial on emissions and storage of power into the future. Queenslanders deserve better and they are getting better from our Miles Labor government's first budget.

I congratulate the Treasurer and the Premier on delivering a proud Labor budget that is 100 per cent focused on doing what matters for Queensland and for the people of Pumicestone. Our groundbreaking 50-cent public transport fares will make commuting affordable and get cars off the road.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Members, there is far too much chatter in the chamber. If you want to have a conversation—member for Maryborough, I am addressing the chamber. There is far too much chatter in the chamber. I am having difficulty hearing the speaker on her feet and I am sure Hansard are as well. If you want to have conversations, take them outside. Apologies, member for Pumicestone.

Ms KING: For locals who drive, our 20 per cent reduction in car rego will take real pressure off household budgets. Our budget also helps cover the costs of kids' sport and active recreation with our \$200 FairPlay vouchers, which for the first time will be available to every Pumicestone family.

Our budget is not just a record cost-of-living budget; it is also a record health budget. This budget backs our Bribie Island Satellite Hospital, which will open to huge community excitement on 17 July this year. Bribie's satellite hospital will bring key hospital services closer to home, reducing travel, easing pressure on the busy Caboolture Hospital ED and giving people who cannot get or cannot afford a GP appointment an alternative pathway to urgent care. Our budget also backs our Bribie satellite hospital stage 2 cancer care centre, which I fought so hard to deliver, and that is due to open next year.

Our Miles Labor government's first budget is a big education budget, with tuckshop or playground upgrades for every single state school in Pumicestone. Compare that to the LNP's dismal record on public education in the Moreton Bay region. Who can forget them trying to close Everton Park State High School and flog off the Kallangur State School oval in our fast-growing Moreton Bay region?

Record interstate migration combined with high interest rates have made housing really tough, and our Miles Labor government's Homes for Queenslanders plan is the only fully detailed, fully costed and fully funded plan to support Queenslanders with housing. We believe in helping people into their first home, so our budget abolishes stamp duty for first home buyers buying a home up to \$700,000, saving them over \$17,000. Our doubled first home buyer grant of \$30,000 if they choose a new build gives them even more help and will increase supply into the market.

At this point the LNP have stopped trying to shape any kind of vision. Their only tactic is to shrink down to the tiniest of targets, deliver a few three-word slogans and, in their mind, coast into power. Take their so-called signature shared equity scheme as an example. It is a pale shadow of the Albanese government's shared equity plan. The LNP are too frightened of Peter Dutton to support it. The LNP's shared equity scheme offers a smaller contribution to the cost of first homes to only 1,000 Queenslanders, whereas Queensland's share of the federal Help to Buy scheme would support 7,000 more Queenslanders with a higher amount of funding. The LNP are so fearful of Peter Dutton, so empty of ideas, that they are trying to bamboozle fewer Queenslanders into accepting less support and to pay for it with Queensland funds, when the federal government has put money on the table to support those first home buyers. Only a Miles Labor government is focused on doing what matters for Queenslanders.

It has been brought to my attention that a post I made on social media on 18 April this year could have misrepresented proceedings of the House. This was not my intention. I have removed the post and I apologise to the House.

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

The speech read as follows—

Thanks to our Free Kindy program, Pumicestone little ones will be able to access high-quality early childhood education, like the award-winning Bribie Island Community Kindy, to give them the best possible start in life. And once kids start school, our free school breakfasts and lunches will help them learn and play every day.

When it's time for young people to choose a career, our Free TAFE has their back, whether they train for a trade or study a free Diploma of Nursing, worth \$25,000. And for those starting apprenticeships, our \$1,000 cashback will help them afford the tools they need to succeed.

Cost of living is biting hard, and Labor will always do what matters to support Queenslanders doing it tough, from doubling funding to Meals on Wheels Queensland to building the brand-new Bribie Island Neighbourhood Centre.

That's why we're backing every household with \$1,300 off their power bills, while Pumicestone seniors and concession holders grappling with fixed incomes and rising costs will get a massive \$1,672 off their power bills.

But we can only give these big rebates because Labor fought to keep our power generating assets in public hands.

Speaker, there's a crucial choice facing Queenslanders this October. It's a choice between our Miles Labor Government's progressive coal royalties versus the LNP's plan to give multinational mining companies a massive, unfunded tax cut.

The LNP's promise to cut taxes to multinationals while reducing debt, along with their major unfunded road infrastructure commitments, leave a black hole at the black heart of the LNP's plan for Queenslanders.

And cuts are all they have to fill that hole—job cuts, service cuts, and infrastructure cuts.

Queenslanders will never forget the cuts, the sackings, and the sell-offs that left our communities bleeding from the thousands of wounds inflicted by the LNP.

If the LNP can convince Queenslanders to choose them, we'll see the knives come out, just like when the Leader of the Opposition sat around the cabinet table along with so many of his tired shadow front bench and sacked 14,000 Queenslanders.

Who can forget the 731 local nurses the Leader of the Opposition marched out the door the last time Queenslanders trusted him to take charge of our state?

Who can forget the services he defunded? Who can forget that he tried to sell off Caboolture TAFE and the thousands of road workers and QBuild tradies he sacked?

By contrast, our Miles Labor Government's first Budget invests in the services, infrastructure, and cost of living support Queenslanders need. We will always work to build a strong, resilient community where everyone can thrive, because our priority is doing what matters for Queenslanders.