




Speech By  
**Brittany Lauga**

**MEMBER FOR KEPPEL**

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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**

 **Ms LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (8.51 pm): I rise this evening to contribute to this debate and speak in support of the first Miles government budget. It is an honour and a privilege to serve in the Miles Labor government as the Assistant Minister for Health and Regional Health Infrastructure working directly with the fantastic Minister for Health, the member for Waterford. Our record \$28.9 billion health budget aims to address pressure on emergency departments, improve ambulance responsiveness, reduce wait times for surgery and specialist clinics, and support the health workforce. It includes: \$22.1 billion for the state's 16 hospital and health services, including a record \$870 million for the Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service, which is an eight per cent increase on last year; a \$2.16 billion infrastructure program; \$1.14 billion for the Putting Patients First 2024-25 plan; and funding for more than 4,000 additional staff to be employed.

I am absolutely passionate about all Queenslanders having access to quality public health care no matter where they live. It is especially important as I am someone who represents a regional community in this place. I am incredibly pleased that in my local community the budget includes funding for the brand new cardiac hybrid theatre and mental health unit at the Rockhampton Hospital, as well as the renal dialysis unit for the Capricorn Coast Hospital, for which construction is well and truly underway.

The budget includes funding for the continued construction works on the Yeppoon-Rockhampton road, which is a critical project for the 11,500 vehicles that travel this road every single day, as well as funding for the Rockhampton Ring Road, which is under construction. Both of these projects are projects I have been fighting hard for for years. There is millions of dollars of investment at local Keppel schools for new tuckshops, playgrounds, classrooms and administration buildings, including at Emu Park, Yeppoon, Cawarral, Frenchville, Lakes Creek and Taranganba state schools as well as North Rockhampton and Yeppoon state high schools.

I am proud to be delivering our improvements to Great Keppel Island. Last year our government seized the leases from Tower Holdings and brought them back into public hands. We have developed a community-led master plan, which we released in April, and we are investing in infrastructure. The One Nation candidate in Keppel is misleading people about our \$30 million commitment to the Great Keppel Island master plan. He is clearly out of his depth because he cannot even read the Treasury budget papers. This funding is clearly mentioned in the budget papers in the Department of Tourism and Sport Service Delivery Statements, and I table a copy for the interests of the House.

*Tabled paper:* Extract, undated, from the 2024-25 Queensland State Budget—Service Delivery Statements, titled 'Budgeted financial statements' [1067](#).

I am pleased to inform the House that Livingstone Shire Council is delivering the first piece of work, with \$10.1 million provided by the Miles government to build a new wastewater treatment plant and amenities blocks. The Miles government is also funding: \$500,000 to improve maritime access; \$5 million for a new gateway precinct for visitors; \$5.5 million for new and upgraded boardwalks, walkways and signage; and \$150,000 for a Woppaburra Land Trust feasibility study for a cultural centre. Led by the community and key stakeholders, the final GKI concept master plan has a strong focus on unlocking the island's full tourism potential, generating jobs and celebrating the island's rich history, cultural heritage and natural environment.

I am also incredibly pleased to announce an additional—let me be clear: an additional—\$5 million in this budget from the Department of Resources to secure and improve the safety of the former Great Keppel Island resort. A priority is installation of fencing to secure and manage unauthorised access to the former resort area and ensure that community safety is being progressed. Upcoming works will include the removal and disposal of rubbish on the site, management of hazardous materials including asbestos, undertaking pest and weed control, and working with council to make safe derelict assets such as the underwater observatory and the heritage listed Leeke Homestead. We are also ensuring critical services for the community are maintained through the continued operation of the Telstra mobile tower and ensuring the airstrip is accessible for emergency services, including CapRescue's helicopter services for medivacs.

I know that at the moment increased everyday expenses, including household bills, groceries and the price of petrol, are making it harder for everyone to make ends meet. This budget is doing what matters for Queenslanders. Because we own our own electricity assets and we have taken on multinational mining companies to return profits from Queensland resources to Queenslanders, we can fund the following: free TAFE; free kindy; 50-cent bus fares; 20 per cent off every car, motorcycle and trailer registration; \$200 vouchers for children to play sport; and stamp duty concessions on up to \$700,000 for first home buyers. In contrast, the LNP want to sell our assets. They will cost the state billions by scrapping our progressive coal royalties. Under the LNP, energy will cost more. They will privatise our energy assets and slash Queensland jobs. We cannot afford to risk the LNP when times are tough. I commend the bills to the House.