



Speech By


**Bruce Saunders**

**MEMBER FOR MARYBOROUGH**

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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 SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (6.07 pm): I rise after that pitch from the member for Whitsunday to be the new leader of the opposition, because that is what it sounded like to me. Before I start I want to thank the LNP for turning up tonight. Thank you very much. It is great to have you here doing your job in the House. We know what happened the other night—they hid in the toilet, they hid in the bar or wherever they could possibly hide. They were in the broom cupboard. We know that when the pressure is on the LNP it does not turn up. I will say one thing about the member for Whitsunday's speech: at least it was better than the leader's reply. The leader's reply earlier today was like a *Seinfeld* episode—something about nothing. That is what it was about. It was called 'the Seinfeld reply to the budget', and it was absolutely worth nothing. While we are talking about the budget, I refer to an article from *Independent Australia*, and I will table it too.

*Tabled paper:* Extract from a media article, dated 10 June 2024, titled 'Data shows Queensland Labors economy outperforms other states again' [1065](#).

The article states—

As elections approach, the mainstream media are ramping up efforts to deceive voters into reinstalling the Coalition ...

Australia's economy is travelling well. Queensland's economy is in exceptionally good shape relative to the other states. These realities were confirmed last week in the quarterly national accounts from the Australian Bureau of Statistics ...

Unfortunately many Australian citizens, especially in Queensland—

I will repeat that, especially in Queensland—

are unaware of these truths because of constant mainstream news misreporting. With the Queensland State Election set for October, the deceptions are becoming more insidious.

Let's talk about the budget. It is a great Labor budget for the Maryborough electorate. There is more money in health. I saw the education minister here today. What a great budget for my schools across the Maryborough electorate. There is money for the special school and upgrades for all of my schools. This is an education budget. I am amazed at what is coming for schools in my electorate. I would like to thank the education minister. She came up and visited my electorate and talked to my principals and teachers, and that was great. The proof is in the pudding with the great outcomes we are receiving for schools across the Maryborough electorate.

In terms of roads, the Tiara bypass is funded. We call the federal member for Wide Bay 'Laryngitis Llew'. During the Morrison years he had no voice, but now that there is a Labor government it is a miracle and his voice has come back. I can see him at church every Sunday saying, 'Bring back my voice,' and it came back. It is unbelievable to see a federal member without a voice for so many years and suddenly now he has a voice. He is calling for projects that he did not call for when they were in government and he was a Deputy Speaker of the federal parliament. That is 'Laryngitis Llew'.

We have money for the Burrum Heads-Pialba Road intersection. The member for Chatsworth wants to give us tough love, which is that love where—

**Mr Tantari:** Pruning.

**Mr SAUNDERS:** I take that interjection from the member for Hervey Bay. He does like pruning. He has the shears out ready to come and prune all of the services around Queensland. In 2015 we had SOS—save our services. If the member for Chatsworth gets his way, we will be having SOS rallies again—save our services.

We have Burrum Heads-Pialba Road—tick. There is funding for that. I thank the transport minister. We have Oregon Creek on Pialba Burrum Heads Road at Toogoom—tick, done. In terms of the Maryborough Hervey Bay Road, the member for Hervey Bay and I have been talking to the transport minister and the Treasurer about this. There is a big 'boom' and a tick for that; we are getting money for the Maryborough Hervey Bay Road. How great is that? It would not be a speech from me unless I talked about trains. There is money for the QTMP. There is great money for Torbanlea for the trains. This is going to be fantastic because we are going to have trains.

We have money for the rural training fire centre—the first in Queensland—and that is because it is being delivered by a Miles government. We are miles ahead in the Maryborough electorate thanks to this budget. I would like to thank the Treasurer because he has done a great job.

There is more money for Skilling Queenslanders for Work. One thing they cut in 2012 was Skilling Queenslanders for Work. That was absolutely disgraceful and that is what made me run for parliament—when they cut Skilling Queenslanders for Work—because it is such a great program. We reinstated it, and it is great to see people get real jobs from it. That is the difference between us and them on that side. For a start, we turn up and we do not go and hide in the toilet when the vote is on. The second thing is that we make sure everyone is looked after. This budget is a great Labor budget. It is a great budget for the Maryborough electorate. Thank you very much, Treasurer.