




Speech By  
**Corrine McMillan**

**MEMBER FOR MANSFIELD**

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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 McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (5.46 pm): I am proud to rise today to speak in support of the Appropriation Bill delivered by the Hon. Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment. I congratulate the Premier, the Treasurer and their team. What a great budget it is for the Queensland we serve, including for the good people of the electorate of Mansfield—a budget that is responding to what matters for Queenslanders. This great Labor budget addresses the cost-of-living challenges—the No. 1 issue for my community. Every local constituent I speak to is so grateful for the cost-of-living measures this budget outlines. My community is hurting as a result of interest rate rises, cost of groceries, water and insurance. These measures are exactly what my community needs right now.

This budget also responds to the health, housing and community safety challenges, impacted by mass interstate migration, labour shortages, increasing interest rates, record inflation and nine years of neglect by the federal LNP government. This budget creates jobs, setting out a clear economic plan, attracting investment and delivering infrastructure: the Big Build, including Cross River Rail, the expansion of the Pacific Motorway from Eight Mile Plains to Daisy Hill, and the Rochedale park-and-ride. All this infrastructure is so important to my community.

All Queenslanders will receive a \$1,300 cost-of-living rebate off their electricity bill in the next financial year and \$1,672 for pensioners and concession card holders. Further, new Premier Dr Steven Miles has responded to the No. 1 issue affecting our local people—cost of living. This has been evident in his announcements of: free kindy, which will save local families \$4,600 per year; free TAFE, free flu vaccines; 50-cent bus fares; 20 per cent off car registration this financial year; \$200 FairPlay sporting vouchers for children aged five to 17; the new satellite hospital at Eight Mile Plains ensuring our community has access to free health care, with free parking closer to home; making bond when renting a house transferable and capping rent increases to once per year; making the contraceptive pill and UTI medication accessible over the counter without having to see a doctor—that is important for women in my community; ensuring women are paid superannuation during 12 months unpaid maternity leave—all of this helps; and increasing the stamp duty threshold for first home buyers from \$500,000 to \$700,000, just to name a few.

The Miles Labor government can deliver this record investment because of our courageous revenue initiatives which ensure Queenslanders get paid for the resources they own—a budget that delivers health and education infrastructure for the future success of young Queenslanders and cost-of-living measures for the prosperity of our great state. As the Assistant Minister for Youth Justice, a former school principal and still a passionate registered teacher, it comes as no surprise that I have worked hard to secure nearly \$9 million for local schools in the Miles government's 2024-25 budget. This includes: a new building for Wishart State School; two new car parks for Mount Gravatt East State

School; \$1.25 million for Upper Mount Gravatt State School to refurbish student administration facilities; new and refurbished science classrooms for Rochedale State High School; and an additional \$279,000 for school upgrades across the electorate.

I also congratulate our wonderful education minister for the tremendous increase in funds that she has been able to fight for and allocate to our state education system. Congratulations, Minister. I know that our education profession is very much appreciative of your work and your leadership, so I thank you immensely.

To address the challenges in our health system, the Miles government has delivered the largest investment in new hospitals and new beds in Queensland's history, with the 2024-25 state budget providing additional funding of 10.6 per cent for our health and hospital system. The delivery of our new Eight Mile Plains Satellite Hospital will enable our tertiary hospitals to continue safely managing seriously ill patients. This is much welcomed by my community. The 112 new beds at the QE II Hospital and 249 new beds at the PA Hospital are also much appreciated. This budget allows for the recruitment of a further 206 ambulance operatives statewide, bolstering services within the Metro South region and providing increased frontline ambulance services.

This is what Labor governments do, and this is exactly what the people of Queensland elect Labor to do. In order for Labor to do this work, we need to elect a Labor government. My community understands that strong and proven community leadership and a good, strong, stable government is what is needed at all times, but especially in times of global economic headwinds. Locally, 1,471 people lost their jobs during 2012 to 2015. Not a week goes by that locals do not remind me of this. There is one thing that is most important in times of economic headwinds, and that is job security. Our community knows they can rely on a Labor government here in Queensland to ensure their job security. I am proud to stand part of a Queensland Labor government led by our Premier, who has a vision for this great state of Queensland. The 2024-25 state budget ensures a progressive Queensland which will be more educated, more critical, healthier, more mobile and better prepared for the ongoing economic challenges that lie ahead. This will be the work of one government—a Labor government—and the result of only one party: the Australian Labor Party. I commend this bill to the House.