




Speech By  
**Hon. Craig Crawford**

**MEMBER FOR BARRON RIVER**

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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**

 **Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (12.01 pm): It is great to see the member for Southport back on his feet in this place. I do not agree with his speech, but it is great to see him literally back on his feet in this place. It has been brought to my attention that a post that I made on social media on 18 April this year could have misrepresented proceedings of the House. That was not my intention. I have removed the post and I apologise to the House.

This is a budget about cost of living and my electorate, like everywhere else, feels that first and foremost. I do not think that there would be a member of this House who has not heard that message loud and clear. The \$1,000 off energy bills will go a long way. The 50-cent bus fares will go a long way, in particular here in the south-east but also up in the Cairns area. We have an extensive bus network in Cairns. Not a lot of commuters use it. Hopefully over the six-month trial we can encourage more commuters to get on the bus, save some money and maybe save some time. If we can build up the bus patronage in Cairns then we might be able to bolster the service even more. The 20 per cent discount off car rego is good, but I want to give a big shout-out to the mighty caravan, RV and campervan owners and people who tow boats and trailers who will also get 20 per cent off.

**Mr Whiting** interjected.

**Mr CRAWFORD:** All built in Burpengary! I take that interjection. That is near where I got mine. The average household has anywhere up to three, four or five registered vehicles and trailers, so it does actually make a difference. In my electorate I am pleased to see ongoing funding to continue two major projects in schools: at Freshwater State School construction will start shortly on a hall and at Redlynch State College a hall is currently under construction and should be finished over the next financial year or so.

Last night in this place we discussed the Barron River bridge. Money has been allocated to get the detailed design and planning moving. The Caravonica section of the Western Arterial Road has been an ongoing issue between the state and Commonwealth in relation to the release of Commonwealth money. I am pleased that the state has moved forward with early works on that while the Commonwealth work out how they are going to manage their share.

Finally, I support the Miles Labor government's energy proposal for the two big pumped hydros. In my patch this will make a significant difference politically because there is a huge amount of attention in the Far North, particularly in the seat of Barron River, over where our energy comes from, how it is made and how it is distributed. I want to give a huge shout-out to CleanCo. I have a hydro in my electorate. The current Barron River hydro has been there since the 1960s. It was knocked out by the Cyclone Jasper flooding event, but in the corridor the other night I was informed by the energy minister that the Barron River hydro was actually fired up for a couple of hours the other day, a test was run, water was put through the turbines and it was generating power. It is great to see that shortly CleanCo

will have that hydro back up and running so that they can contribute to the grid. Energy will be what separates this side of the House from the other side of the House. I do not support 70 pumped hydros being built across the state. I do not think that will ever happen. I think it is a smokescreen so that they can bring in a nuclear energy plan when they give in to the pressure from Peter Dutton. I support the budget.