




Speech By  
**Daniel Purdie**

**MEMBER FOR NINDERRY**

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

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (7.32 pm): I rise to deliver my reply to the state budget. I am grateful for the opportunity to represent the people of my electorate in this place because at the end of the day they, and all Queenslanders, are what matters. My colleagues and I have been listening, unlike those opposite who for nearly a decade have proudly wound back our strong laws and failed to deliver the fundamental services that Queenslanders not only deserve but rightly expect. From what we have seen over the past three terms of this Labor government and what we have heard this week in their last-ditch attempt to buy votes, it is clear Labor has only one priority and that is to keep their jobs.

The budget is another Labor fiasco and reveals everything we need to know about how desperate they have become to clutch at the straws of power. Let us take a close look at what this budget is. It is a budget with the second largest deficit in a decade. It is a budget for four months, not four years. It is a budget that delivers a short-term political sugar hit instead of meaningful reform. It is a pre-election budget that is focused on one goal only and that is to re-elect a tired, lazy government that has run out of ideas. It is a budget that offers a bandaid solution to long-term systematic issues that have resulted in a deterioration of the most basic services that Queenslanders rely on. It is a typical Labor budget, in that Queenslanders will be worse off once the short-term measures have expired. It is a budget that Labor MPs are all hoping will be a lifeline. It is a blatant display of shameless hypocrisy in the hope it might be enough to buy votes and to save their jobs. It is a budget that should set alarm bells ringing for every household, business and company across the width and breath of this state. It is a budget of desperation.

In terms of what this budget is not, it is not a budget that delivers long-term economic security and future prosperity for Queenslanders. It is not a budget that addresses the government's failings in crime, cost of living, health and housing. It is not a budget that delivers generational opportunities. It is not a budget that delivers anything beyond 26 October. It is not a budget that delivers anything for my electorate, other than short-term measures as a reward for forgiving and forgetting a decade of Labor failures.

Labor have repeatedly proven that they cannot be trusted when it comes to law and order and they have absolutely no credibility when it comes to giving our police the backup they have been calling for. At the 2017 election they promised 535 extra police. By the time of the next election in 2020 they had failed to deliver on this promise, falling around 130 officers short. They then doubled down and promised to boost police numbers by 1,450. We now know there are 89 fewer frontline police on the beat across Queensland today than there were when they made this announcement at the last election. That is 1,539 police short of their commitment, but Labor does not want Queenslanders to reflect on their past performance or hold them to account for their failures. They want people to forget the past and believe their new empty policies. Our frontline police do not and will not forget.

Labor wants all Queenslanders to forget about the increasing number of innocent victims of crime who have bravely told their story in the hope that the government was listening, and that something would change. They want Queenslanders to forget about how they have had to install security cameras and change their locks and barricade themselves in their homes because crime is out of control. It is simply abhorrent that this government should be asking Queenslanders to forgive and forget. How do you move on from burying a loved one whose death could have been prevented if the government had not proudly watered down the laws when they took office nearly a decade ago?

Our hardworking police are leaving in droves because this government has failed to support them with the laws and the resources they need to do their job and to keep our community safe. Even worse, this government has admitted they have run out of ideas on how to solve the crime crisis. The Premier himself admitted their cupboard is bare. Despite all their promises, they have no plan to deliver the laws that our police and all Queenslanders need. This budget reveals that they have not even funded the police helicopters they are promising. There is no money in the budget for the interim helicopters for Cairns, the Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay, and no money for the permanent helicopter in Townsville.

These commitments have been left high and dry by a government who cares more about how things look than how they are. Our police have publicly acknowledged that by the end of 2023 crime had reached an all-time record high. From 2012 to 2014, the number of victims of crime, including offences against the person and property crime in Queensland, reduced by 30,000. By the end of 2023 that had increased by over 130,000—an increase of 60 per cent. There is no doubt that crime has exploded across Queensland since this government watered down the laws, but these are the numbers the government wants you to forget.

The government has sold this as a budget that is doing what matters for Queenslanders, but this government stopped listening a long time ago and Queenslanders know that doing what matters goes much further than a cash hand-out. How will that help them when the short-term measures expire after the election? This government should be ashamed of itself for asking hardworking Queenslanders to forgive nearly a decade of failures, cost blowouts, the crime crisis, the housing crisis, the health crisis and the cost-of-living crisis.

As I have said numerous times in this place, the highest priority of any government should be the safety and security of its citizens. Only an LNP government will give our police back the laws and the resources they need. We will introduce our Making Queensland Safer laws by the end of year. This includes removing detention as a last resort, putting victims' rights front and centre and embedding consequences for actions.

The cost-of-living crisis impacting each and every Queenslander is a direct result of the failures of this decade-old government. Let us not forget who has been sitting around the cabinet table for the past decade. The same faces who are trying to reinvent themselves as a new government are the exact same faces who have been calling the shots for the past three terms. Some of them have swapped seats, but there is nothing new or different about the priorities and competence of this government.

Queensland is ground zero in the cost-of-living crisis, and skyrocketing costs and inflation figures prove it. Under this government, Queenslanders are facing the steepest cost increases in the nation, including rents up 9.5 per cent, health costs up seven per cent, transport up 6.4 per cent and insurance up 15.9 per cent. Every single one of these costs are critical state government responsibilities and have been directly impacted by decisions of this Labor government.

Labor's failures are costing Queenslanders in the hip pocket. When a government fails to invest in our road network, it is Queensland motorists who see their fuel bills grow through congestion. When government lets youth crime grow out of control, it is Queenslanders who see their insurance premiums go through the roof. The more cost blowouts there are on infrastructure, according to the IMF, the more inflation surges. Every dollar an incompetent Labor minister wastes is a dollar that cannot go into the pocket of a Queenslander who is struggling. Labor's chaos and crisis is leaving Queensland families with difficult decisions to make around the kitchen table.

Home ownership rates in Queensland are the lowest in the nation. After nearly a decade of Labor, lot and building approvals have both declined by 30 per cent, sending rents and house prices soaring. Queensland now has more than 40,000 people waiting for social housing who have been priced out or who are unable to secure rental properties in the middle of a housing crisis.

I am proud to be part of an LNP which is providing real solutions to the housing and home ownership crisis that we have seen escalate at the hands of the Labor government. An LNP government has a bold vision that will give Queenslanders the hope and aspiration to own a home with the Securing Our Housing Foundations policy announced by our leader earlier today. The policy will abolish stamp duty for all new homes for first home buyers and raise the stamp duty concession threshold; introduce a new shared equity home ownership program designed to close the deposit gap for buyers; plan for

one million extra homes by 2044; remove restrictions preventing first home buyer grant recipients from renting out rooms or opening up rental supply; allow 10,000 new social and community homes on church and charity owned land; and fast-track development approvals to build new homes quicker.

Let us compare this to Labor's track record. Under this government, the housing crisis has seen a sharp decline in the number of new housing lots approved, lengthy development application processes, a lack of investment in infrastructure to unlock housing, significant increases in construction costs, a lack of investment in social housing and a reluctance to partner with the community housing sector. Labor's hallmark solution is, and has always been, to come after your money when it runs out of its own. Never before has a government taxed more, spent more or borrowed more and yet Queenslanders have less to show for it.

Economists have warned that the Treasurer's budget cash splash could add to inflationary pressures and potentially lead to the RBA delaying rate cuts. Other media commentary in the *Australian Financial Review* this week referred to the budget as a 'politically shameless and fiscally irresponsible attempt by a Labor government staring at seemingly certain defeat' while the *Australian's* Judith Sloan has likened the Treasurer to Sideshow Bob stuffing vote-grabbing show bags at the Ekka.

One of the most important aspects of this budget is what it delivers for my electorate of Ninderry. Unfortunately, though, other than some much needed cost-of-living relief there is not much else. We received very little investment in the infrastructure desperately needed to support our growing region; no significant investment in our languishing road network that continues to deteriorate from the pressure of the population growth and long overdue maintenance; nothing to help our local schools build, grow and develop to ensure the needs of our students are being met now and into the future; and nothing that will help families better manage their budgets once the cash handouts have expired.

A government with a long-term vision would have funded new buildings at Coolum State School to get our children out of flood-prone and asbestos ridden demountables. The school has embarked on a long overdue master plan and the first stage is out for public consultation now. With the investment we have secured in upgrading the roundabout and school parking, it only makes sense to continue the momentum, but sadly there is no money to start construction on these desperately needed new buildings. Similarly, there is no money for a new multipurpose hall at Coolum State High School—one of the shining gems of secondary education on the Sunshine Coast. Despite its first-class educational standards and outcomes, the school lacks a dedicated multipurpose hall. Even with the hard work and support of a passionate and dedicated P&C and a community campaign, we have been left empty-handed. The short-term vision of this government has failed to deliver for the students of my electorate.

I welcome the investment in a number of road projects, including an extra \$1.43 million for the planning and upgrade of the aging Bli Bli bridge. This is in addition to the \$1.6 million we have already secured, and I know locals will be pleased to finally see some progress. The \$7 million to install lights at the Denna Street intersection on Bradman Avenue is also welcome and will greatly improve safety in this area. Similarly, after many years of fighting for upgrades at the notorious intersection of Maroochydore Road, Pike and Killick streets at Kunda Park, the government is finally committing further funds to progress the preferred design. It is nowhere near enough, but this investment is long overdue and congestion is increasing by the day.

The most significant funding in the budget for my electorate is the additional \$5 million for a new pedestrian bridge in Eumundi. This is a project that spans more than 20 years. Since we first secured the funding in 2020, we have been waiting for the works to start. It now appears the total cost has ballooned from \$1.1 million to \$6 million. Thanks to a \$3 million injection from my local federal counterparts, I am delighted to be able to announce this long-awaited project will commence before the end of the year.

In conclusion, Queenslanders know that it will be a very costly mistake to elect this decade-old Labor government for another four years. As Robert Menzies once said, the only guarantee for failure is to stop trying. This is a government that has run out of ideas and resorts to bribery in a final attempt to buy votes. Queenslanders have lost faith in this Labor government. When a government loses the trust of its citizens it is forced to resort to desperate measures. Only the LNP has the right priorities for Queensland's future.