




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

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

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.16 am): There are few greater honours than to rise in this place and provide an alternative path for our state to follow. As my team and I have developed this path, we have done so in a calm and methodical way. We promised at the start of this term that we would focus on the priorities of Queenslanders and we have been relentless in this focus. We have travelled across Queensland and we have listened to people at the front line, those at the coalface of the big four crises gripping this state: cost of living, youth crime, health and housing.

The government's slogan for this budget is 'Doing what matters', yet they are now telling Queenslanders that what they have done in the past no longer matters. The record shows that this government did not do what mattered when it mattered, and Queenslanders are paying for that fact today. Let me remind the government of their record, because Queenslanders are living it today—that is why it matters: the Queensland housing crisis, the Queensland youth crime crisis, the Queensland health crisis, the Queensland cost-of-living crisis. With a past like this, it is little wonder a government would attempt to run miles from its record. With a past like this, Queenslanders will not want to forget.

Queenslanders have lived this government's failures and they are living it today. The victims of these crises cannot forget. To this Labor government I say: victims of the housing crisis matter; victims of the cost-of-living crisis matter; victims of the health crisis matter; and victims of the youth crime crisis matter. People affected by the failures of this government matter. People matter. We believe that the crises facing Queenslanders are about people. It is only when we talk to these people that we develop our policies. To me, the solutions to these crises do not lie in George Street; they lie in the communities suffering through them. These are not trivial issues where a government spits out five different plans in four years. These crises are not a laughing matter. Certainly, the youth crime crisis is not a laughing matter.

Over the last four years I have watched this government rush to meet political cycles, lurching from one position to the next and blaming different groups for different problems that have been of their own making. That is not my style of leadership. It is why I have spent my four years as opposition leader meeting people, not just in boardrooms but also in the community through public events like our 39 health crisis town hall meetings. I have done that because I want our team out listening to the issues that matter and putting forward ways to solve them. This approach has given our team early insight into the problems facing Queensland. When we first started raising these issues with Queensland Health, we were accused by the government of making up stories. When we started raising youth crime as an issue, the government said it was a beat-up. When we started to warn about the impending cost-of-living issues, the government said we were doomsayers. When we started talking about the increasing number of people living in tents, we were mocked. These issues were not as front and centre when we

started talking about them but, through the strength of the victims of these crises and their stories that we had the privilege to share, we dragged the issues into the spotlight. That is the formula for leadership I have tried to follow.

If you want to know about the issues affecting Queenslanders, then you have to listen to them. You need to understand what matters to them. Throughout my discussions with Queenslanders I have found them to be thoughtful and practical people. They are willing to share their ideas. They also understand these crises have been created over the past nine years and the solutions will not happen overnight. They understand their leaders will make mistakes and they will forgive those errors if their leaders are focused on the interests of Queenslanders rather than their own political interests. They will not forgive a government that runs miles from its record. They will not forgive a government whose definition of doing what matters means the experiences of the Queenslanders they govern do not matter.

Cost of living is a priority for the LNP because it is a priority for Queenslanders. Queenslanders have endured price rise after price rise under this government: electricity, water, rent, food, insurance, and the list goes on. We are living through the steepest cost-of-living pressures in the country because of the failures of this government, but according to the government this does not matter. Never have Queenslanders faced such major impacts to the hip pocket, threatening their way of life. No matter where I visit across our state, I spend time listening to people and the message is always the same: families are struggling. They are having to decide which bill to pay and which bill will fall past the due date. It is a devastating choice and they should not have to make it. It is not the Queensland I know and it is not the Queensland I want to see in the future.

As I travel across the state I have not found one family that tells me they have been better off in the last 10 years under this government when it comes to cost of living. Because this Labor government is consumed by chaos and crisis and has the wrong priorities, Queenslanders are paying the price. From last year's CPI data we know Queensland household electricity bills increased by 19.9 per cent, which is almost three times the national average. The CPI figures also reveal the following: a 6.7 per cent increase in health costs, which is the highest in the country; a 4.2 per cent increase in transport costs, which is the highest in the nation; an 8.4 per cent increase in rent; an 18.5 per cent increase in insurance costs; and a 7.4 per cent increase in the cost of sport participation.

The government's initial response to the early signs of this emerging crisis was hampered by its insistence that everything was okay. To its credit, the government is now rolling out some short-term assistance, and we welcome that. What is needed is a long-term plan to address the issues that they have embedded in Queensland. The LNP supports the cost-of-living measures in this budget as an inevitable cost of nine years of planning failures. The difference is that we will also embark on a new plan—a plan that seeks to address the long-term causes of Queensland's cost-of-living crisis.

Our first step is a commitment to a maintenance guarantee on our power plants. A major driver in high power prices has been the failure of the power plant at Callide. It has been below capacity for almost three years and that has driven up the cost of power. The maintenance guarantee will ensure the necessary work required to keep our power plants up and running, and that will deliver cost-of-living relief.

Where we differ with the government is a focus on driving real reform to lower the underlying cost of government services—things like electricity and water. Real reform to lower prices is something that the LNP has committed to, including through our supercharged solar for renters policy which will save renters over \$700 on their bills. We will do this by incentivising the owners of residential properties to install solar so their tenants can reap the benefit of clean energy. The LNP will also deliver cheaper learner licences after we led the campaign to reduce the cost of getting a learner driver's licence.

Sadly, more and more Queenslanders are becoming victims of crime because of a government that prioritises offenders' rights over the rights of victims. There is a cost associated with this. Through our Making Queensland Safer laws, which will pass by the end of the year if we are elected in October, Queenslanders will be able to again feel safe in their homes and local communities.

The cost of insurance is a massive driver in the cost-of-living crisis. The dual failures of not properly planning for disasters and watering down the youth justice laws have led to a perfect storm for insurance premiums. Home insurance, car insurance and business insurance have all been pushed up by avoidable pressures. By removing threats from our community and through tougher laws, we will lower those pressures. We will invest in traffic congestion busting infrastructure such as the Sunshine Coast heavy passenger rail, delivered all the way to Maroochydore, and progress projects such as the Barron River bridge and a north side tunnel for Brisbane that for 10 years have been put in the too-hard basket by this government. We will invest in community resilience infrastructure to minimise the risk of natural disasters and drive down the cost of water through better water security.

Queenslanders want solutions that last longer than an election period. There are opportunities for cost-of-living relief in the transition, but only if it is done right and with a genuine plan. The government does not have a credible plan. They have a multibillion dollar fantasy based on the Pioneer-Burdekin Pumped Hydro project—a project that energy experts and environmentalists believe will not happen. Massive cost blowouts on the project will unavoidably drive up the price of power. This is a project without direct funding, no approvals and no social licence from the local community. It will inevitably lead to higher prices for consumers.

There is a difference between responsibly supporting budget supply and honouring fully funded programs that are underway and backing exorbitant thought bubbles. For these reasons, today I announce that an LNP government will not proceed with the Pioneer-Burdekin Pumped Hydro scheme. In its place we will embark on a long-term plan that will provide alternative storage options to this unachievable project. The LNP will investigate opportunities for smaller, more manageable pumped hydro projects. We will bring in new laws to ensure all projects are treated equally.

While to this government regional Queensland is just a media backdrop for announcements that eventually join a growing list of unkept promises, regional Queenslanders will know that a government I lead will have their backs as we work together to preserve the jobs we have and create more jobs in the future in our regional communities. No special treatment will be given in relation to planning and environmental approvals. That process will start during estimates with a thorough examination of the costings and planning for the government's pumped hydro project at Borumba. Whether it is a farming project, a residential project or a renewable project, the same standards have to apply.

Let me be clear: the Pioneer-Burdekin project is not feasible. It will never be built and the government knows it. This is why there is a \$1 billion equity investment in the company but no actual capital investment in the project. This is why there is nothing in the forwards and this is why there is no backing from the federal government. The Pioneer-Burdekin project is reported to cost around \$20 billion, yet the government cannot even be honest with this. If, as the Treasurer claims, the project is fully funded under Labor, then Labor must explain ahead of the election what it will cut to fill the \$20 billion hydro hole or admit the LNP now has an additional \$20 billion for roads, rail and infrastructure projects for the next decade. You choose. The LNP will deliver a solution that will make energy affordable, reliable and sustainable.

Fixing Queensland's youth crime crisis is a priority for me because it is a priority for Queenslanders. The impact on Queenslanders has been immense. We are all aware of the tragedies of the past nine years. This government might believe that victims of crime do not matter, but we do. What has happened to Queenslanders matters. Their stories matter.

On Australia Day three years ago, a young couple preparing to become parents were out doing one of the most ordinary acts, walking their dogs on a clear afternoon, when a stolen four-wheel drive driven by a 17-year-old ploughed into them. Three lives were lost and so many more have been impacted forever. The next year, on Boxing Day, a family went to bed like it was any other holiday season. What they went through that night has been etched in the mind of every Queenslander. A mum was struck down by the teen who broke into their house, a father was injured and he and their teen daughters have been left distraught. What happened inside their home changed our lives forever.

This year we found that even the shopping centre on a weekend afternoon is not always safe. The fundamental shift has come because it has shaken the ground of normality for us. We could all picture Kate and Matt walking down the road on Australia Day—there is a calm on a public holiday like no other—chatting about the week ahead. We could all imagine the house of the Lovells with the fridge full of leftovers, the tree still up and presents strewn around the floor. We can all imagine a grandmother taking a young child to the shops. The loss of Kate, Matt and baby Miles still matters. The loss of Emma Lovell still matters. The loss of Vyleen White still matters. All of these acts are what we hold as the normality of Queensland life, and we have been shaken.

The conversation about where to leave your keys at night is not normal. The conversation about whether a road is dangerous because it is a known hotspot for stolen cars or hooning is not normal. The conversation about which car park is safer at a shopping centre is not normal. Yet it is what Queensland has become because this government did not do what mattered when it mattered. That is not because of Australia Day 2021; it is because of what those opposite did in 2015—this same government. The shift has been felt profoundly by Queenslanders in the last few years, but the fate was sealed when this government came in and took away consequences in 2015. Detention as a last resort was reinstated. The Childrens Court was closed to scrutiny. Early intervention programs that were working were shut down. Consequences for action were taken away, sending a clear message to young crims: do whatever you want as there are no consequences under this government.

Since then there has been a 115 per cent increase in unlawful use of a car, a 54 per cent increase in unlawful entry, a 50 per cent increase in other theft and a 220 per cent increase in assault. Even taking away property crime victims—because this government does not count them as victims—there has been a 213 per cent increase in victims since 2015. To put that into reality, in 2014 there were 25,734 victims of an offence against a person; in 2023 there were 81,166 victims. I have sat down with victim after victim who has felt abandoned. The Queensland youth crisis was started by this government. The Premier might try to say that he is new, but he sat around the table for every single decision that led us to where we are today. Things must change. Queenslanders want them to change.

If elected in October, we will introduce the Making Queensland Safer laws. We will remove detention as a last resort for young offenders. We will open the Childrens Court to victims, their families and the media. We will put the rights of victims ahead of the rights of offenders in sentencing provisions. We will send a clear message that actions have consequences, because they do. I never thought we would get to the point where instead of running from the police young offenders would run directly at them, endangering lives with no thought of the impact. The men and women of the Queensland Police Service deserve our respect and gratitude for what they do. It is a hard, tough job, and they should be proud to do the job. A recruitment pipeline is great, but if police are walking out the door faster than they can be replaced then their hands are tied. It is little wonder that the government's 2020 election commitment is in tatters. There are over 1,500 fewer police today than Labor promised at the 2020 election there would be now. We will give police the laws and resources they need to stop the thin blue line getting thinner.

I turn to health and the problems gripping our state's public health system. It is now a well-established fact that Queensland Health is in crisis. That is no reflection on the dedicated staff working in and supporting the system—I shudder to think what it would be like without their grit holding the system together—and it is no reflection on the ill and injured patients; it is a reflection on the government, which has been responsible for planning, resourcing and running it for the last decade. I want to talk about how we arrived at this point and make this observation: four years ago the words 'ambulance ramping' barely registered in the lexicon of the Queensland public. There was a time when those on the government benches tried to shut down and even deny the term or refer to it as something that was just an LNP word. That is not the case. Paramedics tell us that some patients will actively ask them whether or not they will be ramped at the hospital they are being taken to. It has gone beyond a simple awareness of the issue to a fundamental understanding. Queenslanders understand what it means to them or their loved ones to be ramped.

Tragically, as we all in this chamber know, the consequences can be fatal. For those families and individuals who have spoken up and out, desperate for change in a system groaning under pressure, I want you to know: you have been heard. For those staff—paramedics, doctors, nurses and allied health professionals—in those hospitals who are crying out, wanting the system to do better for their patients, I want you to know: we have listened. Health care is about people and it is about patient care. Dollars fund bricks and mortar—that is important—but health care is about people and patient care.

When the budget rolls around we hear that it is a record health budget and there is record investment with record funding, but what has that record health funding actually delivered for Queensland and the staff working in those hospitals? It has delivered record ambulance ramping of 45.5 per cent. That is the worst ever recorded. It has delivered an elective surgery waiting list which for the first time has passed 60,000 patients. It has delivered a waiting list to see a specialist now nudging 300,000 Queenslanders—unprecedented. The government does not think that matters to Queenslanders. Spending money is not an outcome. Record funding is not an outcome. Record ramping and record waiting lists are outcomes—just not the right ones.

Unbelievably, the record health spend this year has also seen Labor's Health and Hospitals Plan blow out by over a billion dollars. Last year's Capital Statement showed that the redevelopment of 15 hospitals would cost \$9.785 billion and deliver an additional 2,200 beds. This year the same program will cost taxpayers \$11.215 billion—nearly \$1.5 billion, or 15 per cent, more in one year. The problem is that, according to the budget papers, the blowout will not fund a single extra bed. I shudder at the thought of how many frontline health staff or elective surgeries could have been funded with that money.

I note that this week the government has released its Health Workforce Strategy for Queensland to 2032. I make this point: it was in my budget reply last year that I gave the commitment that an LNP government would deliver a contemporary Queensland Health workforce plan. It is why we made that commitment. While it hardly came as a surprise, my colleagues and I were humbled that we heard those opposite had embarked on one. It is but one more an example of an LNP policy commitment undertaken by the government. I am happy to give credit where it is due. To see investments, albeit

slight, in programs to grow nurse practitioner pipelines or prevent occupational violence in hospitals is welcome. What we now need is transformative strategy. There is nothing that truly charts a course to develop the clinicians we need in 10, 15 or 20 years.

The LNP knows that workforce is the No. 1 issue impacting the sustainability of our state's public healthcare system into the future. I will have more to say on this in the weeks and months to come, but growing a health workforce in Queensland is a priority for us. It is no secret that a key focus of mine has been the health portfolio. The reason is simple: our health system touches the lives of so many across the state. Queenslanders rely on it. That includes mental health. As we have for the last two budgets, we will back the levy. We ask the government to deliver the transparency about where it is being spent. Its management is something that must be done well and right. It is about accountability, ownership, transparency and compassion. I want Queenslanders to know that it is how an LNP government will run our health system. Within 100 days of the election, Queenslanders will see in real time what is happening in their hospitals. Delivering the best possible patient care will be our relentless focus, because that is the single most important outcome we can strive for.

Housing is a priority for me because it is a priority for Queenslanders. Last year I revealed that Queensland had the lowest home ownership rates in the country. New rental properties have also flatlined, while predicted population growth has come to fruition. I already have spoken of our commitment to taking Queensland to the top of the home ownership table and lowering the pressure on rents. We are all acutely aware of the depths of the Queensland health crisis. Under Labor, the Queensland housing crisis has seen: a sharp decline in the number of new housing lots approved; development application processes that take longer than any other state; a lack of investment in infrastructure to unlock housing; a significant increase in construction costs; a lack of investment in social housing; and a reluctance to partner with the community housing sector.

Today I announce our plan to address the Queensland housing crisis, not just in the here and now but for the next 20 years. Today we are releasing the LNP's Securing our Housing Foundations plan. It is bold, it is big picture but, most importantly, it is a detailed plan that clearly outlines how we will achieve our targets and get more Queenslanders into more homes.

The LNP Securing our Housing Foundations plan consists of six policy areas: A Big Boost into Homeownership, Boost to Buy, Unlock the Homes for Queensland's Future, Open the Door, Homes with Purpose, and Breaking Down the Barriers to Building. Our plan is unashamedly designed to increase housing supply and get more Queenslanders into more homes. Whether you are renting or buying a home, the economics are simple: an increase in housing supply will put downward pressure on prices. A government I lead will do that with the LNP's Securing our Housing Foundations plan.

Our first goal of this plan is clear: I commit to one million extra homes by 2044. Our plan uses a number of levers to achieve this goal. Too often we see a lack of ministerial leadership leading to different departments working at cross-purposes. We will end this. The LNP will establish a Cabinet Housing Taskforce to ensure any policy that impacts supply is strategically aligned with one goal, and that is increasing supply and putting Queenslanders into homes.

When it comes to putting Queenslanders into homes, the LNP will put our money where our mouth is. If elected, we will create a new \$2 billion infrastructure fund. That is money over four years to accelerate the delivery of infrastructure that is preventing new housing lots from getting to the market. The new fund will be administered through partnerships with local government, industry and local communities with flexibility to cater for the individual needs of each. This fund will include grants, co-contributions, loans and offsetting of charges. Every part of our state will be eligible. Priority will be given to local governments and developments which are able to deliver the greatest number of lots in the quickest possible time. We will reward those who step forward first, ready to go to get the houses out of the ground.

There is also a need to further reform and bolster Economic Development Queensland. We will embed in legislation a schedule of priorities that focus the EDQ on what we see as their top priority, and that is housing Queenslanders. EDQ will be an exemplar with approval timeframes and results that are the envy of the country. When faced with competing interests, the interests of Queenslanders looking for a home will win out under an LNP government. These reforms will continue right across government.

The blame games must end. We must give industry and councils confidence by setting timeframes and sticking with them. Whether they are for simple approvals or complicated infrastructure agreements, industry must be able to rely on the timeframes set—and they will. These reforms must include our partners in local government—and I do mean partners. The war with councils will end. Comments like those of the Treasurer setting up councils to take the blame for the cost pressures they are facing will end. Reforms must be delivered in concert with local government, not dictated to them.

Finally, we must streamline the approvals process for planning scheme amendments while preserving a rigorous community consultation process. The process is long and arduous for local government and industry and is a deadweight on housing growth. The LNP will reset the planning partnerships with local government.

This brings me to the regional plans—an important planning tool that for too long have been treated as an afterthought. Today I commit to ensuring that our regional plans are current, fit for purpose and provide for infrastructure that keeps up with population growth and maintains regional identity and protects lifestyle. The failure around regional plan delivery has seen areas impacted by high population growth miss out on the infrastructure needed to make life bearable. These areas will be prioritised in the development of future regional plans, which will then have a regular update cycle.

The LNP will also publish alongside each regional plan a regional infrastructure plan that will set a framework for the government's future infrastructure investments. This will include all social infrastructure such as schools and hospitals. The publishing of a regional infrastructure plan will not only aid in the government's forward planning but also provide comfort to existing residents. An LNP government will not allow population growth without additional infrastructure investments by government.

Another drag on supply that falls at the feet of government is a lack of timely provision of utility services in new developments. I have been made aware of reports of temporary generators being installed to allow families to move in or, even worse, homes lying dormant while waiting for a utility connection. While currently EDQ can direct utility providers to accept, provide and maintain services within PDAs, most development occurs outside of these. The LNP in government would combine shareholder directions to government owned utility providers and legislation to institute the enforceable KPIs needed to address these issues.

No matter whom you speak to, a universally accepted fact is the cost to construct housing is skyrocketing and is a major factor in the Queensland housing crisis. I have always supported a well-paying and safe construction industry. As a result, contracts must be honoured and productivity must improve. Anyone who disagrees with this is not serious about getting Queenslanders into homes.

I have previously announced an LNP government would re-establish the Productivity Commission. Today I can reveal its first order of business will be to conduct a regulatory review of the building industry. The review will seek to identify ways to strengthen the building industry, making it easier to build a house in Queensland. We will call for public submissions in relation to the terms of reference and ensure we hear from consumers, industry and unions.

When it comes to housing the vulnerable, it is all hands on deck. I believe the social housing target should be a shared goal. Today I commit the LNP to the delivery of 53,500 social homes by 2044 and will outline a credible plan to get there.

The LNP will work with faith-based and charity organisations and amend planning regulations to allow them to build social and community housing on their surplus land. Currently this is not easily permitted. An initial review by the Catholic Archdiocese of Brisbane and the Salvation Army has identified surplus sites that could accommodate 2,000 new dwellings. Including other organisations, it has been estimated that up to 10,000 homes could be created. I am hopeful this will inspire other organisations to come forward with more sites.

Organisations that have helping others in their DNA will help house vulnerable Queenslanders. They will have to enter into a planning and development process, as all developments do, to ensure housing solutions meet community expectations. We envisage a partnership between these organisations and the community housing sector. I did, however, say all hands on deck. The LNP will use the Housing Investment Fund to address the critical lack of supply. That is why I commit an LNP government will ensure every single dollar from the Housing Investment Fund will deliver new housing supply.

The community housing sector in Queensland has been forgotten. These wonderful, dedicated, not-for-profit organisations are ready made to help house the vulnerable. The LNP will give this sector more responsibility to do what they do best, and that is looking after vulnerable Queenslanders. That means a commitment to giving community housing providers long-term management leases. This will allow these not-for-profit groups to leverage the stock they care for to build and grow their own supply. As new social housing stock is built, an LNP government will engage increasingly with community housing providers to help us manage it.

For nearly a decade, the community housing sector has been calling for a master agreement with the government. We will deliver one. A priority for the LNP government will be to sign a master agreement with the sector to deliver certainty and stability for this segment of the housing market to grow. We will unleash and empower the community housing sector, an untapped powerhouse, to deliver homes for Queenslanders.

The cracks in our housing system are getting wider and, consequently, more people are falling through them. In these times the heroes that support our homeless require certainty. All funding committed to in the budget for the next four financial years for housing support and homeless services will be guaranteed under an LNP government. That means the LNP will commit to delivering, among other things: eight new supported accommodation services for young Queenslanders; bolstering after-hours outreach homeless services for those sleeping rough; and 10 new and replaced domestic and family violence shelters for vulnerable women and children. In addition, the government has committed to an uplift in specialist homelessness funding until the end of 2024-25. We will extend contracts with these key organisations until 2027-28. I want to assure the people involved in providing homeless services that we understand the importance of long-term agreements and the confidence needed to attract and retain staff. We will work hand in hand with you.

This government's failure on housing supply has created a rental crisis. With the population growing and new housing stock slumping, vacancy rates are now at record lows. This has driven rents through the roof, which means more Queenslanders cannot get a roof over their head. The LNP's Securing our Housing Foundations plan has a relentless focus on increasing supply, because more homes for more Queenslanders will ease vacancy rate pressures and help make rent more affordable for Queenslanders. An LNP government will have a 10-year target to put Queensland at the top of the nation when it comes to home ownership. Queensland has the lowest rate of home ownership of any state at 63.5 per cent, and just 35 per cent of Queenslanders aged 25 to 29 own their own home. The measures I have already announced will go a long way to addressing housing affordability for all people looking to buy or rent a home. I now want to outline some more detail about the program the LNP would roll out to assist first home buyers specifically, giving first home buyers hope.

As this House knows, the LNP has long foreshadowed an increase in the stamp duty threshold for first home buyers. The government has maintained a \$500,000 threshold for nine years as the younger generation's dream of home ownership disappeared further over the horizon. In the shadows of an election I welcome their about-face. I can confirm that the LNP will raise the threshold for existing homes to \$700,000, gradually phasing out up to \$800,000, which will save a first home buyer around \$17,350. We anticipate that an extra 10,000 homebuyers a year will benefit from the new threshold. This change lifts the threshold beyond the median unit price in every local government area and beyond the median house price for every local government area except Brisbane, the Sunshine Coast, Gold Coast and Redlands.

We have made a conscious decision to tackle supply with our housing policy, and that is what we must do with stamp duty policy too. Today I announce that an LNP government will completely abolish stamp duty for first home buyers on new homes. If you want to build your first home, then you will not pay a single cent in stamp duty under an LNP government. We are abolishing a tax. When did you last hear that in this place? We are not just reducing tax for first home buyers chasing the great Australian dream; we are removing it forever. We want to get more Queenslanders into more homes, and it is a plan to increase supply. We are taking action. We anticipate this will come at an investment by government of around \$400 million across the forwards. This is the clearest reflection of our commitment to bring Queensland's home ownership rate to the top of the table—the best in the nation. We will make the great Australian dream more of a reality for more Queenslanders. That includes Queenslanders living in Indigenous communities. We want Indigenous Queenslanders to be able to own their own home in these Indigenous communities, and I reaffirm my commitment to make that happen.

A government I lead will look at all ideas to give first home buyers a leg-up. Unnecessary regulation and red tape cannot be allowed to cruel the ambition of our next generation of home owners. Right now there are restrictions on the recipients of stamp duty concessions and the first home owner's grant that mean you cannot rent out a room or a granny flat within the first 12 months of buying a home. These are rooms that could be used to house Queenslanders who rent, rooms that could help assist a Queenslanders paying a mortgage. It is untapped supply. Today I announce that we will open up these rooms. Under a government I lead, first home owners who continue to live in their home will no longer have any restrictions when it comes to earning a little income from renting out a room to help them make ends meet, to meet those mortgage repayments. We are bringing down barriers to home

ownership and opening up more rental options. That is good news for everyone. I am confident that an agreement with a friend to rent a room might also mean the difference between actually getting the loan in the first place or not.

The sad facts of the current housing crisis are that people are losing hope they will ever be able to bridge the rent/ownership divide. On this side, we are willing to try all options. That is why today I announce an LNP government will institute a shared equity scheme for up to 1,000 property buyers—a Queensland scheme exclusively for Queenslanders. An LNP government will take a 25 per cent equity stake for existing properties and 30 per cent for new builds. The scheme will be restricted to properties valued up to \$750,000 with a two per cent deposit required. I am constantly told stories about people who need the support of their parents to save for a deposit. Not everyone has this option. I want young people who do not to still be able to aspire to own their own home. We want to give as many people as possible a shot at home ownership, and we are stepping in and taking action to make sure Queenslanders can. It is modelled that the trial will cost around \$165 million.

It is always important to be respectful of the resources that Queenslanders entrust to government to administer. This is even more important when Queenslanders are doing it tough. A government I lead will be respectful in dealing with Queenslanders, responsive in dealing with business, and resourceful with our finances. A priority for Queenslanders is for the state government to rein in cost blowouts on infrastructure projects. Queenslanders know that every dollar overspend takes a dollar out of the community. This is why a government must make every dollar count. There are a number of steps that a government I lead will take to make this a reality.

First, I will implement my plan to create the best homegrown public service in the nation by: establishing an independent public sector commission; setting clear goals and KPIs so ministers and directors-general can be held accountable; reviewing internal complaints procedures to restore integrity, independence and fairness to the process; enhancing graduate opportunities and programs; requiring all contracts and consultancies to include a substantial training and professional development component to strengthen public service capability; provide training and professional development to better suit public servants' individual needs; embrace new approaches to deliver better infrastructure and services; and committing to no forced redundancies.

I want to reiterate that when it comes to reductions in the Public Service two things stand out: Queenslanders have said unequivocally that they do not want them; and, equally importantly, they just do not work. A public service that is secure in its employment, empowered in its decision-making and free to give fearless and frank advice will help a government drive more efficient projects and help rein in the billions of dollars of waste that is rife under this government. Why is this important? When we build the capacity of the public service, when we empower the public service, when we take responsibility for managing projects out of the hands of expensive consultants, we will then start to rein in the billions of dollars of cost blowouts being inflicted on Queensland projects every year.

The LNP will also reinstate the Productivity Commission. Along with a regulatory review of the building industry, the commission will assist the government to reduce red tape and provide business with a more friendly business operating environment. The LNP is the party of small and family business. Supporting them is at the core of who we are because, along with nearly one million employees, they are the backbone of economies and communities. When I travel the state, small and family business tell me they feel like they are always an afterthought of the Labor government. The pain I see in their eyes when they tell me about their increasing costs is stark. It is bad. The last few weeks have been rock bottom, and businesses need hope. The Labor Party has abandoned this space, and last-minute announcements will not change that. A Brisbane tradie recently remarked, 'It seems like the state government's Small Business Strategy is to give us the scraps that fall off the table of the big boys.'

A government I lead will put small and family business first when delivering government products and services while ensuring value for money for taxpayers. I announce today that an LNP state government will prioritise putting Queensland small and family businesses first so they can genuinely compete for government tenders and procurement opportunities. The feedback from small business is that they need smaller tender sizes so they can tender for them directly rather than operating as a subcontractor for big business. They need simplified tender processes and improved resources to make it easier and less costly to compete for government contracts.

We will implement a Buy Local Small and Family Business Procurement Policy to ensure that local small and family businesses are prioritised for local tenders. Labor's Buy Queensland policy too often results in regional businesses missing out to larger Brisbane-based companies. We will make fixing that a priority. An LNP government will implement a Small and Family Business Innovation Pathway to directly engage a Queensland small and family business on short-term contracts of up to

\$1 million for the purpose of proof-of-concept based trials. The program is to be used to assess or demonstrate the feasibility to solve a specific problem or improve service delivery of state government services.

Alongside our small and family business procurement initiatives, an LNP government will ensure Queensland's small and family businesses that do business with the state government will be paid on time every time. Small and family businesses that do business with the Queensland government will register to be eligible for the payment terms to ensure fast and easy payments within five business days. We will also implement a payment system whereby small business payments under \$10,000 can be paid immediately. Right now the state government frequently fails to pay small business within the terms of its own inadequate 20-day payment terms. State governments should be leading the way, not a laggard. The LNP is the party of small and family business and today we are proving we are serious about backing the backbone of small regional communities.

Queensland is in the middle of a skilled worker shortage of the government's making. For the last nine years the apprenticeship completion targets have not been met, meaning there are 17,600 fewer qualified tradies and skilled workers across Queensland. We are serious about tackling the skilled worker shortage and we need both TAFE and the independent training providers to deliver the skilled workforce that Queensland needs. We commit to a well-resourced TAFE sector and stable contracts with training providers to ensure more people finish what they start. The education budget includes some new and much needed initiatives to support vulnerable students in the early years.

We have not heard from the education minister how the government will fix the broken student behavioural management framework and restore standards. We have not heard how the government will support teachers and take a zero-tolerance approach to violence in our schools. We know the teacher workforce shortage is having an impact on teachers' wellbeing and on students' literacy and numeracy outcomes. At the last election, Labor promised to deliver 6,190 new teachers and 1,139 new teacher aides over four years. The latest public workforce profile shows this commitment is in tatters. There are asbestos materials in hundreds of schools, buildings and facilities in desperate need of refurbishment works. This year's budget includes \$1.274 billion in capital works, but we know that the government has not been keeping up because of an underspend in the capital investment program in the last year.

When it comes to this government's failure to take responsibility and produce outcomes, you need look no further than the child safety department. Under this government, the number of children in residential care has almost tripled and, worse still, the government continues to neglect this growing population of children, exporting the care to third parties to which it shows neither respect nor a desire to partner with. There are over 11,000 lives in the care of this government, yet it has cycled through minister after minister and does not seem to see the potential for the future for these young people. The LNP wants to provide hope and opportunities for these young children. We will provide the stability, support and security needed to allow them to thrive. This will give them the best chance in life and protect our communities.

If the LNP forms government in October we will take practical measures to break down the barriers of women entering the workforce. We will offer \$5,000 grants to women who have become disconnected from the workforce, whether that is because of taking time out to care for their kids, caring for family members or battling illness. These grants will allow women to buy the necessary devices, to get some new work wear, to put money towards a car or other transport options or even to pay for some of the initial child care. The LNP is about actions, not announcements, and this measure can knock down one more barrier to women's participation in the workforce. To have the strongest state possible we need both men and women in every sector, and we will be a government that does everything in our power to support that.

In 2015 the then environment minister and now Premier committed to protect 17 per cent of Queensland. A decade later, what progress has the government made? Labor's record is not even protecting one per cent more. That is barely a rounding error. This third-term government's failures are scattered throughout Labor's time in office and their environmental strategy was clear—set the target, make the announcement, job done. Our environment must matter more than just being an announcement. We must be driven by outcomes to make sure everything we love about Queensland—what makes our state special—is protected for generations to come. The LNP will be driven by results. We will improve our recycling rates. We will partner with landholders to voluntarily protect more of Queensland and ensure it is properly managed. We will make sure the state government is no longer the worst neighbour you can have by having better bushfire and biosecurity management. We will deliver sustainable ecotourism opportunities by creating more world-class experiences to drive conservation through education.

Our prosperity relies on ensuring the products and resources we generate in Queensland can get to market. I am concerned about the government's lack of interest in ensuring we have high-capacity links to our ports. Planning for the connection to the Port of Brisbane is on a perennial go-slow. Projects to improve access to the ports of Gladstone and Mackay have also had reductions in the 2024-25 spend.

Queensland is a state built on the back of agriculture. Primary producers across this state tell me how they are struggling with sky-high input costs like water and electricity. They are also struggling to find on-farm labour and, in many cases, crops are not being harvested because of this. We have a vision for Queensland to be at the cutting edge when it comes to on-farm productivity. We want Queensland to be seen as a state of envy once again when it comes to agriculture. Lower input costs to see better yields for our growers; trusted advice from a government that growers see as a partner, not an inhibitor; and new opportunities through agtech or new training opportunities will be the hallmark of what we do.

Water is essential not only for agriculture but also for other industry and manufacturing—huge pillars of the economy. This budget is a missed opportunity when it comes to new water security. For farmers, the lack of certainty on future water allocations means an unwillingness to invest in more crops, which reduces supply and increases grocery prices for Queenslanders. The other challenge is with urban water supply. Population growth has been in line with government forecasts since 2015, but no new dams have been built and there is absolutely no planning from this decade-old Labor government to build one. Where will future Queenslanders get their drinking water from?

The Olympics and Paralympics were initially pursued as a chance to provide Queensland with lasting transport infrastructure legacy and a chance to market Queensland to the world. A lot of time has been wasted, but I believe we can deliver a games Queenslanders can be proud of. While over a thousand days have been squandered, I am asking Queenslanders for 100 days to sort out the mess. We must salvage our reputation on the world stage.

If elected in October, the LNP will immediately appoint a truly independent Olympic coordination authority to conduct an exhaustive review of the Olympics and the Paralympics. The authority will be required to deliver options within 100 days on the following: prioritise roads and rail infrastructure necessary for the games; use existing venues and achieve this with the funding envelope that is no greater than what is currently on the table; and present legacy options for regional Queensland. We must ensure there are legacies for grassroots sports, especially in the regions. I want to ensure the Olympic and Paralympic Games grow sport right across our state.

While we all have statewide interests and other roles in this place, our first duty in this chamber is as a local voice for the communities that we represent. I would not be doing my job as the member for Broadwater if I did not point out that another year has gone by without a mention of the duplication of the Jabiru Island bridge. Residents understand that a project like this will not be built overnight, but, with the huge population increase at Hope Island, to have it absent from QTRIP's long-term forecast remains a huge disappointment, as is the lack of certainty for a plan to replace demountables at Biggera Waters and build additional classrooms at Coombabah state schools to give our kids the best facilities for their learning environments.

I was pleased to see the investment in boat ramp replacement at Santa Barbara. The Broadwater is the environmental and recreational haven of my community and, with increasing use, this is very much needed. I note, too, the funding for a community battery at Hollywell and will be writing to the minister for a briefing on the timing and implications for our local community from this project.

Today we have focused on the big four crises facing Queenslanders: the Queensland housing crisis, the Queensland cost-of-living crisis, the Queensland health crisis and the Queensland youth crime crisis. We have focused on these four crises because they are the priorities Queenslanders want us to deal with. As much as Labor does not want Queenslanders to judge it on its record, there is no other way to judge someone after 10 years. It has been in power for almost a decade and its past actions have led to the position we are in today. For all of this time it has blamed all of its issues on everyone else. It has continually blamed previous governments for its failings but now does not want Queenslanders to judge it on its own failings. It makes no sense. It is embarrassing to watch.

Today I outlined the LNP's Securing our Housing Foundations plan which will address the housing crisis. In the lead-up to the election the LNP will continue to roll out plans to address the crises impacting Queenslanders. This October Queenslanders will have a clear choice. It is a choice between a fresh, united LNP with detailed plans to address the major issues facing Queensland, or a tired, decade-old government looking for a fourth term. It is a choice between an LNP who have spent the past four years methodically holding the government to account and developing plans for Queensland,

or a government which is ashamed of its past. It is a choice between the LNP with the right plan for Queensland's future, or a decaying Labor Party which thinks doing what matters means running a mile from its record.

In October there is only one question for Queenslanders to answer. It is the question that matters. After 10 years of this government, are things better or worse when it comes to health, housing, youth crime and cost of living and who has got the right plan for Queensland's future?