




Speech By
James Martin

MEMBER FOR STRETTON

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**

 **Mr MARTIN** (Stretton—ALP) (12.40 pm): I rise to support the first budget of the new Miles Labor government. There are smiles for miles in the Stretton electorate, thanks to this historic budget. It is a budget that is all about doing what is right for Queensland and the people of the Stretton electorate. It is a budget that takes action on cost of living, supporting ordinary Queenslanders in these difficult times. I know that people in my community are being squeezed at both ends. Everything is going up—groceries, bills, fuel—and I say to the residents of Stretton, ‘We hear you. We are listening and we are doing what matters.’ We are using the mining resources that we all own to put money back in the pocket of householders. This will put downward pressure on household bills so that we can get through these tough times and into a bit of clear air when interest rates finally come down.

The budget outlined by the new Premier this week presents a clear choice to the people of Queensland. It has a range of policies that will take action on the cost of living, including 50-cent fares on public transport; \$1,000 off every household electricity bill, with an additional \$300 thanks to the federal government, and a rebate worth over \$1,600 for seniors; 20 per cent off rego; \$200 FairPlay vouchers for all Queensland kids; raising the stamp duty threshold to \$700,000; and, locally, removing the Kuraby level crossing and the Coopers Plains level crossing and making a massive investment in local schools and hospitals, like QEII and Logan Hospital, and, of course, the new Eight Mile Plains Satellite Hospital.

In contrast, the LNP have offered the smallest of small-target budgets. I credit the Leader of the Opposition for that: he has taken the small-target strategy to new highs—or new lows, depending on how you look at it. If current reported polling is correct and voters fall for ‘LNP tricks on October 26’, Queenslanders will wake up to an LNP government. The member for Broadwater will be the premier, which is something that I genuinely fear—though perhaps not as much as some of his colleagues, or whoever leaked against him. Maybe it was the member for Mermaid Beach. He said yesterday in his speech that he wanted to ‘make Queensland great again’. I have a message for the member for Mermaid Beach and his LNP colleagues: Queensland already is great. I suggest he thinks about making the LNP great again. Maybe he could start there. The LNP are certainly a long way from being great. They are not united. They have no discipline. There is no direction. They certainly do not have any ideas of their own.

What happened to the LNP? They used to believe in something or stand for something. They have formed such a small target that they are afraid to say what they really think. They stand for nothing. It was truly bizarre to have their leader agree with a Labor budget, sight unseen, and then watch the backbench go along with it. Normally, the LNP backbench have a lot to say when it comes to voluntary assisted dying and termination of pregnancy. They have a lot to say when arguing against restrictions on land clearing. They certainly did not have much to say about it in this budget.

The LNP leader's strategy is clear: to turn themselves into a counterfeit, knockoff version of the Labor Party. It is no surprise, then, that his own side are leaking against him. Furthermore, their signature policy—a shared equity scheme—is another great Labor idea: intervening in the market to stabilise it using collective ownership. I am sure that was a bit of a surprise to his backbench and to LNP branch members. I am sure it was a surprise to Amanda Stoker, who described the federal shared equity scheme as 'really dangerous'. I have heard she might be going straight to cabinet. That might be really dangerous for the member for Broadwater.

Former prime minister Scott Morrison attacked shared equity schemes, saying the government wants to 'own your home'. Liberal senators Andrew Bragg and Dean Smith called shared equity 'entirely warped'. Every single federal LNP member voted against shared equity schemes, and that includes former member for Callide Colin Boyce. I am sure he would be very disappointed with his young replacement, who started off so well railing against 10-cent refunds for coke cans. His conservative credentials are certainly in the dust now. His own leader has sold out the LNP, stolen our homework and is now trying to hand it in as his own.

At the heart of this budget is a choice. We have made the choice to use our increased mining royalties to support cost-of-living measures, something the Leader of the Opposition has criticised and said he will renegotiate with mining companies. Local residents deserve to know what ideas and policies their elected representatives support. I strongly support this budget and our ideas and plan for the future. I commend the work of the new Premier and new Deputy Premier. This is a budget that does what matters and delivers for my community.

It has been brought to my attention that a social media post I made on 18 April could have misrepresented proceedings of the House. That was not my intention. I have removed the post and I apologise to the House. In conclusion, I say: do not fall for LNP tricks on October 26.