




Speech By
Jason Hunt

MEMBER FOR CALOUNDRA

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 HUNT** (Caloundra—ALP) (3.22 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution to this fantastic Labor budget. Tucked away on page 97 of the budget's Capital Statement, about two-thirds of the way down the page, is one of the most significant budget lines that Caloundra and, indeed, the Sunshine Coast will ever see—\$110 million, which is the first tranche of a whopping \$5.5 billion in the budget, something the LNP have never achieved at any level of government. This funding represents the biggest transport infrastructure project the Sunshine Coast has ever seen. All it took was state and federal Labor governments—and two MPs in the member for Nicklin and me—who were actually willing to do the work. It is all at risk in October.

Our government wants multinational corporations to pay their fair share so that we can push ahead with gigantic projects like the Direct Sunshine Coast Rail and our huge infrastructure spending in health, while the LNP would open up the gate—yet again—and watch all that money flow overseas. As a member of this government, I can again celebrate by wearing my shiny gold 'reply tie' from the world-famous Chaps Menswear in Bulcock Street, Caloundra.

Aura is one of our state's largest and fastest growing communities. More than that, it is young, bright, vibrant and filled with young families and three fantastic state schools with three amazing and motivated P&Cs. Regrettably, towards the end of summer this year, there were some unavoidable and highly inconvenient power outages in that community. By making the multinationals pay, this government is able to commit \$53 million in this budget to a new substation at Bells Creek to service that fast-growing community. That is not all this budget includes for Aura. There is \$15 million for a huge, brand new PCYC in Aura, an initiative that is already generating huge excitement in that community.

There is yet more. The final allocation of over \$3 million has landed in this budget for our enormous, brand new police station in Aura, which is coming out of the ground incredibly fast. Alongside that is our brand new fire station, which also received \$2.3 million to bring it to completion this very year.

This government has not finished with the QFES love in Caloundra. There is over \$2 million to completely rebuild the fire station in Caloundra. This will be very welcome. The Caloundra Fire Station is getting on and has done good service, but it is time now to provide our local fires with a big, new station. There is yet more support for QFES in Caloundra.

Mr Saunders: No.

Mr HUNT: I kid you not, member for Maryborough. Some \$2.5 million has been allocated to begin replacing the fire station in Beerwah with yet another brand new facility in my electorate.

As always, this government has backed in our schools and educators with \$700,000 for a massive program of classroom refurbishment at Golden Beach State School. There is funding for a brand new addition to A block at Caloundra State High School, upgrades to Beerwah State High School playgrounds and upgrades to the Caloundra State School tuckshop and playgrounds. This happens to be the school where I first started my education.

'Pork-barrelling and tricks' is how this ideologically stunted and vacuous LNP opposition has describe our cost-of-living measures. Let's unpack how out of touch they are. Let's examine how this budget is making life better for a Queensland family. This family can now access free kindy for their young daughter and free TAFE for their teenage son. While he is waiting to get into that free TAFE, he can keep playing for his local cricket team, thanks to Labor's FairPlay vouchers. When the family drive to school to pick up their kids, they will be driving in a car they paid 20 per cent less to register. Later on in the week, their elderly parents will be coming up to visit on the train or bus, and that will cost them 50 cents each. Their parents will be visiting more often now too, because \$1,600 worth of rebates have wiped out their electricity bill and given them more money to live on. Soon, the family will be living closer to their parents because they will take advantage of Labor's huge first home owner grant and stamp duty exemptions to buy their first home. For millions of Queenslanders, young and old, this budget provides a stepping stone from life as it is now to life as it should be by doing what matters for Queensland.

I finish by adding this educational note of instruction for the LNP. Costing is when you write the shopping list and funding is what happens when you get to the checkout. Queensland expects you to be able to tell the difference.