




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR MOUNT OMMANEY

Record of Proceedings, 13 June 2024

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

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (3.38 pm): There is just so much good stuff in this budget. We have the \$1,000 energy rebates for every Queensland household and the 20 per cent car rego discount, but let us start with the kids, because the children are our future, and that future starts with free kindy. Free kindy kicked off this year and the new Miles government is committed to ensuring our four-year-olds can access this 15-hour-a-week program at a quality early education service. Free kindy ensures that all preppies start school with the building blocks they need to get the best start in life. I am so proud of that program because it ensures that every child has access to a quality education, which is so important.

When families are grappling with the rising cost of living, sports and active recreation can be the first thing that gets cut from the family budget. That is where FairPlay vouchers can be crucial. Previously, fairly strict criteria have applied to get FairPlay vouchers but now our new Miles government is offering 200,000 Queensland children \$200 vouchers, which is up from the previous amount. As always, we know that these will go quickly so I encourage Mount Ommaney locals to apply and not miss out when they become available.

In my community you do not have to go far, probably just down to the local bus stop, to find someone who is going to benefit from the game-changing 50-cent public transport fares trial. I speak to parents of high school children, like mine, whose children catch the bus. They stand to save hundreds of dollars per year. City employed commuters such as Riverhills local Adam, who catches the train from Wacol most days, could save thousands of dollars per year when the trial starts. That is a significant sum for families looking to save money while interest rates are at an all-time high. It is also really exciting to note that people may start to catch more public transport instead of paying for petrol, also reducing congestion on our roads.

That leads me to the always exciting Centenary Motorway upgrade and the Jindalee bridge. When they drive through, people will see that major works are well and truly underway on the Jindalee bridge on the Centenary Motorway. It looks absolutely incredible coming up out of the ground. New things are happening every week. I have never seen so many cranes in my life. We know that the Jindalee on-ramp will be much longer and much safer once it is complete. There was another nasty bingle there this week. It is a well-known black spot. The upgrade is much needed by our community. Over the next few years, over \$159 million has been allocated to this fantastic and very important project for our community.

I now turn to the reason that we can fund many of these cost-of-living programs. A few budgets ago we made the decision to implement progressive coal royalties to make multinational mining companies pay their fair share. The previously existing coal royalty tiers were designed primarily for lower coal prices with a top tier sitting at \$150 per tonne and royalties charged at 15 per cent. I think it is only fair that if mining companies are making super profits then their royalty rate reflects that. These

resources belong to every single Queenslanders and I believe that every single Queenslanders deserves to get the benefits. That is what our cost-of-living measures are delivering. Over the first six years of their implementation, it is forecast that new progressive coal royalty tiers will deliver an extra \$12.2 billion to Queensland coffers. Every government has to make choices and the new Miles government has chosen to help everyday Queenslanders while their cost of living is at an all-time high by making mining multinationals pay their fair share.

While I am on my feet I thank the co-treasurer of my household, my wonderful husband, Talbot. Today is our four-year wedding anniversary and I am thrilled to be spending it with you all. Happy anniversary, darling. This year I outsourced gift purchasing to the Queensland Treasurer who came up with a really fantastic package that is not limited just to my household; it is for everybody in Queensland. Thank you, Treasurer, for this fantastic budget week gift. It is a record-breaking budget for Queensland. I commend the budget to the House.