




Speech By
Joan Pease

MEMBER FOR LYTTON

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 PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (11.02 pm): I want to begin by quoting some words from the famous Ben Chifley. He stated—

I try to think of the Labour movement, not as putting an extra sixpence into somebody's pocket, or making somebody Prime Minister or Premier, but as a movement bringing something better to the people, better standards of living, greater happiness to the mass of the people. We have a great objective—the light on the hill—which we aim to reach by working the betterment of mankind not only here but anywhere we may give a helping hand. If it were not for that, the Labour movement would not be worth fighting for.

That was from his speech in June 1949 and that should be the goal of all good governments. In response to the member for Surfers Paradise, I think his shameful speech with regard to treaty and support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people actually goes a long way to talk about his party and the LNP and what they do. This was a party that stood up in Cairns and actually voted wholeheartedly in support of the Path to Treaty Bill and then not long after turned around and stood down and did not support it. How shameful to do that. I am gobsmacked, quite frankly, and ashamed to be sitting in the same room as that man.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Order, members on my left. Member for Callide, your interjections are not being taken and are verging on the disorderly. Member for Bundaberg, your gesticulation at the back of the chamber is not welcome. If you wish to make a point of order, rise to your feet and do so, otherwise please refrain from what you have been doing.

Ms PEASE: Mr Deputy Speaker, thank you for your protection. I would also like to point out that it was interesting that the member for Surfers Paradise, who I assume must be the shadow or assistant spokesperson for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander issues, stood up—

Mr Head: Catch up.

Ms PEASE: I do not need to know who he is. It is completely irrelevant to me, quite frankly, because they achieve nothing and deliver nothing. Do not say to me that I need to catch up. What I am wanting to point out is the fact that this person, who has been in the House long enough to know better, would have the audacity to stand up and make outrageous allegations against our wonderful Indigenous First Nations minister with regard to expenses whilst investigating the Path to Treaty. Might I point out that if we were to look further into his history we could look at the claims he made on his GTA. Perhaps he might like to explain to his community why he is claiming for hotel accommodation in his own electorate whilst coming to work here in parliament. The member for Surfers Paradise should be very cautious about what he is saying about our minister, the member for Algeester.

Let me get back to the budget. Queensland and the bayside are, I believe, the best place to live and work. I know it, my constituents know it and so do the tens of thousands of people who have flocked to Queensland in recent years. We are a parochial mob in Queensland and the bayside. We stick together and we always look out for each other, whether it be during the pandemic, floods or fires or cost-of-living pressures because that is the Queensland way. Looking out for Queenslanders when they need a hand—that is the Queensland way and that is the Labor way. There should be equity and opportunity for all now and into the future. That is why this budget, the first budget of the Miles Labor government, is focused on doing what matters to Queenslanders.

I know that what matters most to baysiders is cost-of-living relief. That is why this great Labor budget is delivering nation-leading cost-of-living relief, ensuring that no baysiders or Queenslanders are left behind, as in the words of our great former prime minister Ben Chifley. We know that people are always more important than numbers on a balance sheet. There is \$11.2 billion in concessions to lower household bills, supporting all of us when we need it most. All baysiders will automatically receive a \$1,000 up-front rebate on their electricity and a further \$300 from the Australian government. Eligible families will receive a further \$300. This budget delivers for everyone across Queensland. I commend the bills to the House.