




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR MACKAY

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**

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (5.30 pm): It is interesting to follow the member for Clayfield, who talked about past behaviour being an indicator of future behaviour. He referred a number of times to the member for South Brisbane. It was actually his party's preferences that saw her elected to the House. In terms of future behaviour, I am sure that on 26 October they will do the same again, so they can spend another four years spreading LNP-Greens policies.

The Miles Labor government budget, delivered by Treasurer Cameron Dick, is a budget that reflects the needs of the Mackay community. People tell me each day that they are doing it tough. They are looking for household budget relief. Mackay is growing. This budget is investing in our local clubs, tourist attractions, critical infrastructure and services to support that growth. Our Labor government will always put Queenslanders first and do what matters to them.

In my region we know that a roof over your head—a safe place to call home—is something everyone should have. Mackay will see homes delivered faster through our modular homes program—homes built in factories on the Gold Coast and Cairns and transported to regional Queensland. We need housing for our frontline workers and to attract teachers, health workers and police officers. This will take pressure off the private rental system. Modular homes can also be used for good quality social housing, reducing the waitlist for vulnerable residents.

The 20 per cent increase in funding was well received by our community housing providers. When I spoke to groups such as CASSA, they said that the money will allow them to support people into accommodation and support them to keep their lease. Some of these people find it difficult to stay in their accommodation. They can also guarantee their casual staff ongoing employment. On top of this, we have slashed stamp duty for first home buyers on homes up to \$700,000. Also, households will benefit from our power rebate of \$1,000, along with the \$300 rebate provided by our federal Labor mates. People need to get around our great state so there is reliance on motor vehicles. The 20 per cent discount on car rego will help households make ends meet.

Our children need support to be able to grow into their best self. Our free kindy is saving families \$4,000. Kindy opens up the opportunity for children to engage in activities that will develop their social and emotional skills and get them ready for formal education. To keep our kids engaged and fit, we have increased our FairPlay vouchers to \$200 and made them available to all families, not just those with concession cards. Children need support through their whole life to make good choices for their health, education and work into adulthood.

The Mackay Base Hospital is undergoing an extension. As our region is growing quickly, we are outgrowing our local hospital years earlier than expected. We will get a new women's ward, birthing suites and children's ward. This is all welcomed. We look forward to health students from the south

doing their practicum training in our hospital. They can do this with the support of the state Labor government. When people come to the regions to work they will see what a great place we live and work in and will be more likely to apply for jobs when they finish their training.

Members opposite have cheered on their threat to scrap the Pioneer-Burdekin Pumped Hydro. I hope the member for Whitsunday is ready to explain to the manufacturers set to establish their businesses in my region. They were coming because of the green energy that this project would produce. The member is trashing our economic future. Industries that would diversify—the cane industry producing biofuture novel foods like proteins from sugar to ensure a good outcome stream for our farmers and millers—are at risk if this project does not go ahead. The member for Whitsunday is putting a huge roadblock in the sugar industry's viable future. The project is vital for Queensland's economic future. It is disappointing that those opposite have jumped on the bandwagon of putting down pumped hydro. Queenslanders will have their futures destroyed because of the LNP's short-sighted and simple way of thinking. When companies walk away if those opposite get their chance to cancel this vital project, my community will know that it is the LNP that has destroyed their future. The LNP is stealing the economic future of our children. I support the bills.