




Speech By  
**Kim Richards**

**MEMBER FOR REDLANDS**

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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 RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (2.58 pm): Wow! I think the member for Mermaid Beach would be better sticking with the chicken dance, to tell you the truth. We are absolutely doing what matters for Queenslanders. We are doing what matters for Queenslanders right now, and that is providing cost-of-living relief. When interest rates and mortgages are high and you go to Coles or Woolies and come out with a bag of groceries that cost over \$100, there has never been a more important time to pull every lever possible to put money back into the pockets and family budgets of all Queenslanders. That is exactly what our Miles Labor government is doing.

I cannot tell you what 50-cent public transport fares mean for my Southern Moreton Bay Islands residents. It will cost them 50 cents to travel. At the moment, if they were to take a ferry from Russell Island, jump on a bus at the marina and head to Redland Hospital, Victoria Point or wherever, they would be looking at \$11.46 at full freight. By bringing that down to 50 cents, a return trip will cost a dollar instead of over \$22.

Mary, a constituent from our islands, chased me down and said, 'You have just put \$180 a fortnight back into my pocket. It means a lot.' At the bus station I spoke to Tristan, who goes to Griffith University. He said that, when you do not have a lot of income coming in and you have the expenses of university, that 50-cent fare will make a huge difference to his back pocket. That is incredible. That is on top of the nation-leading energy rebates. I was talking to my aunty down in Melbourne. She cannot believe we are getting \$1,000 off our energy bills. For seniors there is an extra \$372.

We are absolutely doing what matters for Queenslanders right now. The 20 per cent off car rego is huge as well. There is not a lever we have not pulled, whether it is for our little ones with free kindy or our young people in terms of skills and training with free TAFE and apprenticeships, or whether it is discounts off car rego, energy rebates or seniors rebates and concessions. They are absolutely massive. In terms of cost of living, there is not one stone we have left unturned as a government to try to put money back into Queenslanders' pockets.

With regard to the contributions I have heard from the other side, you would imagine, from the way they have spoken about the budget, this is not something they would be doing for Queenslanders right now. This is not something they will be doing to support Queenslanders. When we talk about right priorities and doing what matters, that is exactly what we are doing right now.

I want to talk about my seven years as a member of parliament and what I have been able to deliver in those seven years. Shortly, I will table a document that lists some of the things. In terms of health, we have built a brand new satellite hospital in the Redlands. We have the intensive care unit and new wards under construction with ADCO. We have the \$150 million mental health facility being designed at the moment, and last week I had the opportunity to open a new Redlands crisis centre, a mental health drop-in space. These things are what transform communities.

In education, there is \$9 million worth of new classrooms that are being finished over on Russell Island and a new Scenic Shores State School. When we talk about track record and what we have delivered, it is absolutely massive in this space.

In domestic and family violence, a new HR team has been deployed. Thank you very much, Attorney-General. It was fantastic to go out with them. We are investing to ensure we put community safety at the forefront. That is amazing work. We are supporting our seniors with the Donald Simpson Centre. That, again, is fantastic.

In terms of sport and young people, we have the \$200 FairPlay vouchers on top of our infrastructure investments with the likes of the Charlie Buckler Sportsfield. The Russell Island Bowls Club is getting investment. Our Isle of Coochie Golf Club is getting investment. There is so much happening in the sporting space with our Miles Labor government.

In the community space, I cannot tell you what the Gambling Community Benefit Fund grants deliver for our community. There is the uplift in neighbourhood centre funding and the doubling of Meals on Wheels funding. That is what matters to Queenslanders; that is what matters to Redlanders. I am extraordinarily proud to be in my seventh year in this place delivering another amazing budget for all Redlanders. I table my track record for the benefit of the House.

*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, titled 'Delivering for Redlands' [1063](#).