




Speech By
Hon. Lance McCallum

MEMBER FOR BUNDAMBA

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**

 **Hon. LR McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (3.02 pm): Before I begin my contribution on the cognate debate, it has been brought to my attention that a social media post that I made on 18 April could be interpreted as misrepresenting the proceedings of the House, and I would like to make it clear that this was not my intention. The post has been removed and I apologise to the House for any inadvertent inaccuracy.

This budget is a budget that delivers on what matters for Bundamba, it is a budget that delivers on what matters for Ipswich and it is a budget that delivers for what matters for Queensland. In our community it is delivering record levels of cost-of-living relief, better local services and more good jobs through our infrastructure Big Build that is boosting our local community. All of this is only possible because we own our energy assets and we are making multinational mining companies pay their fair share.

Speaking of energy, this budget locks in at least a \$1,300 energy rebate for every single household bill in Bundamba and \$650 for our local small businesses. That is putting more than \$173 million back into the pockets of Ipswich locals. The budget is also delivering a really extensive \$280 million investment in Swanbank's big battery as part of Swanbank's clean energy hub, the very first one in South-East Queensland.

When it comes to transport, we have the 20 per cent registration discount on private and light commercial vehicles—that is going to save motorists and small businesses alike—and from 5 August we have our 50-cent public transport fares, which are going to save Bundamba locals a significant amount when they are commuting. When they jump on a train at Goodna, Ebbw Vale, Dinmore and Bundamba heading into either the Ipswich CBD or the Brisbane CBD, they will be saving money. We have the major upgrade of Bundamba station underway and we have a very significant \$42.5 million investment, which is the state's share, in the Bremer bridge repairs.

When it comes to housing, this budget is helping to get more locals into their first home quicker, as well as delivering more social homes. We are delivering a stamp duty discount or waiver which effectively abolishes stamp duty for homes up to \$700,000. We have doubled the first home owner grant to \$30,000, and there is funding for more social housing and rental assistance.

Locally, when it comes to education, there is over \$200 million for education right across Ipswich. That includes \$43.2 million for our new high school at Collingwood Park which is under construction, and there is significant funding for ongoing expansion of our brand new state school at Bellbird Park. There is funding for upgrades and improvements for schools right across Bundamba because Labor backs quality, world-class education. That is something that I am incredibly proud to deliver in our Bundamba community, along with free kindy and free TAFE.

When it comes to health care, we are delivering more free health care closer to home. We have already delivered stage 1 of the Ipswich Hospital expansion. We have funding to deliver stage 2, which will be an extra 200 beds and a bigger ED. We are expanding our brand new satellite hospital at South Ripley. That has been open and serving our community and soon, thanks to the funding injection in this budget as part of our Big Build, we will have a 90-bed non-urgent subacute facility there. There is funding for 174 public beds that we have committed to at the Mater at Springfield.

Families will save an absolute packet with our FairPlay vouchers being increased from \$150 to \$200. We have increased the number of vouchers from 50,000 to 200,000. The eligibility criteria for those vouchers has been expanded as well. If there is a local family of three who wants to go down to the Collingwood Park Power AFL club, they are going to save \$600. This is a budget that is delivering serious savings for our local community. I commend the bills to the House.