




Speech By  
**Hon. Leeanne Enoch**

**MEMBER FOR ALGESTER**

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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**

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Treaty, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister for Communities and Minister for the Arts) (3.53 pm): I rise to support the Appropriation Bill 2024 and to offer my congratulations to the Premier and the Deputy Premier on the first Miles Labor budget, aimed squarely at taking the pressure off Queenslanders who are feeling the impacts of the rising cost of living.

This budget is about doing what matters for Queensland. Queenslanders have overwhelmingly told us that addressing immediate cost-of-living pressures is what matters to them. That is why the new Miles government is delivering a record cost-of-living budget—the biggest, I am advised, of any state in the country. Our \$1,000 energy rebate plus the federal government's energy rebate means we are taking \$1,300 off electricity bills for Queenslanders in the next financial year. This will be even more for concession holders. For a pensioner living in Parkinson, a concession card holder in Acacia Ridge or the many families living in Browns Plains, Pallara and suburbs right across the Algester electorate, this will mean huge reductions in electricity costs or, for some, nothing to pay until 2025. The budget is also reducing car registration by 20 per cent, which will make a huge difference to people right across the Algester electorate including Lynn and Dave from Forestdale, who said that the energy rebates and the reduction of their car rego means they will be able to save more money from their pension.

Another cost-of-living measure in this budget that will make a huge difference to so many people in the Algester electorate and across the state is the 50-cent fares on all Translink public transport. Whether it is taking the 460 bus from Heathwood to the city or a short trip on the 126 from Acacia Ridge to Sunnybank Plaza, every trip will cost only 50 cents. For the many people I spoke to recently as they were about to take the 142 from the brand new park-and-ride facility near Greenbank RSL at Hillcrest, funded by this government, this will mean a massive weekly saving that will make a huge difference to their weekly budget. One young mum said that she will save hundreds of dollars on public transport as a result of this announcement and, along with the upcoming electricity rebate, that it already feels like there is some relief in sight from rising living expenses. All of these cost-of-living measures and many more can only happen because we have made multinational mining companies pay their fair share and we have kept electricity assets in public hands.

On top of this record investment, we are also delivering \$20 million for cost-of-living relief and support for vulnerable Queensland families through my department of communities. The Miles government is providing \$3.3 million for emergency relief providers and \$2.2 million for the continuation of financial resilience support services, delivered in partnership with community-based organisations.

The Miles Labor government delivers more than \$23 million in critical funding to support First Nations Queenslanders through Closing the Gap initiatives, wellbeing and community safety programs, and reconciliation and truth-telling and healing. This includes: \$6.4 million for continuing locally led

wellbeing and community safety programs for First Nations communities; \$3.1 million over four years to strengthen the sector, including funding to the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Coalition; and \$1.7 million over two years to continue the Doomadgee Place-based Partnership and related programs. These initiatives will continue to deliver and support community-led, place-based programs to help close the gap in life outcomes for First Nations Queenslanders.

It is extremely difficult to address the complex issues represented in the national Closing the Gap Agreement without a true understanding of why the gap exists in the first place. This parliament voted, with bipartisan support from those opposite, to establish the Path to Treaty Act in May last year. I acknowledge the member for Barron River for his incredible work in shepherding that legislation through. That legislation was to establish the Truth-telling and Healing Inquiry and to prepare a framework for treaty negotiations with First Nations Queenslanders.

It is hard to say where the Leader of the Opposition stands on Queensland's Path to Treaty this week. After wholeheartedly supporting the treaty legislation last year and voting for it in this House—he said that treaty is 'an opportunity I believe Queensland should embrace wholeheartedly'—we know that, after a little bit of pressure from the far right of his party, he capitulated and backflipped on his commitment. Just last week, ahead of this budget, the Leader of the Opposition backflipped again and fully endorsed our budget—our plan for the next four years. He endorsed \$40 million that has been allocated over four years for the First Nations Treaty Institute. He endorsed the \$56 million over four years for the Truth-telling and Healing Inquiry, which will commence on 1 July 2024. He endorsed nearly \$18 million over four years to help community members share their stories with the inquiry through additional resources and access to extra specialist research and archival officers and additional resources for community and personal histories. When it comes down to it, we know that, despite the Leader of the Opposition claiming to support this budget, only Labor can be trusted to deliver it.

I can advise that the Speaker has reviewed and approved my speech on the budget for incorporation. As such, I ask that the remainder of my speech be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*.

*The speech read as follows—*

Speaker, we know that another key concern for Queensland communities is an increase in the cost of food, leading to food insecurity.

Increased food insecurity means more Queensland children are starting their school day on an empty stomach.

That's why the Miles Government has boosted the School and Community Food Relief Program by \$15 million in this year's budget—because no child should go to school hungry.

This is all in addition to the commitment of \$2.7 million, announced in last year's State Budget, to extend and expand the Miles Government's school breakfast programs, particularly in communities experiencing hardship across Queensland.

In addition to this important boost in funding, Minister Farmer and I are co-chairing the School and Community Food Taskforce, a cross-sector group which will provide expert advice on options to support access to healthy food and drink for Queensland families.

This budget also delivers \$200 FairPlay vouchers for all Queensland kids and I can tell you Mr speaker this announcement has many families and all our sports clubs in Algester very excited.

Removing the eligibility restrictions so that all Queensland kids can benefit along with the increased number of vouchers is a great opportunity for our clubs to grow and for our kids to engage in group sports.

Mr Speaker, we know the devastating effects isolation and loneliness can have on Queenslanders, which is why we initiated the Parliamentary Inquiry into social isolation and loneliness in Queensland in 2021.

We are continuing to deliver important outcomes and responses to this inquiry, including through the Communities Innovation Fund.

Our cost-of-living Budget continues our investment in Neighbourhood Centres with \$21.8 million allocated to the construction of new centres and upgrades to existing centres.

Our government is also investing in our future through Free TAFE and Free Kindy and building new schools as well as investing in our current schools with new infrastructure.

We are continuing our nation-leading Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan, creating over 100,000 new jobs and putting downward pressure on power prices.

Delivering stronger frontline services with record investments in our health and education systems and creating 70,000 jobs through our infrastructure Big Build

As we continue to develop Queensland's first LGBTQIA+ Strategy, we are investing \$1.035M over two years to establish the inaugural LGBTQIA+ Alliance, which will support continued engagement between government and LGBTQIA+ communities.

We will continue to support Queensland's veterans and their families with \$4.920 million over 4 years and \$1.23 million per annum ongoing for the Queensland Veterans' Council.

Mr Speaker children and youth will also benefit from this Labor State Budget, through the Queensland Government's \$501.98 million Putting Queensland Kids First initiative.

Through this initiative, we will invest \$15 million in partnerships with community organisations, to deliver much needed additional support services for Queensland children, young people, families and communities.

Mr Speaker, the Queensland Government is committed to continuing to protect and conserve Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage.

That's why we've allocated \$500,000 over 2 years for the management of discovered ancestral remains.

We also know that small businesses, including live music venues and arts businesses, are doing it tough as a result of cost-of-living pressures and changes in consumer buying patterns.

The new Queensland Night Life Economy Commissioner will work alongside the Queensland Small Business Commissioner and industry to support, promote and advocate for key aspects of the night life economy.

Central to the role will be focus on partnerships that promote the growth, sustainability and vibrancy of the diverse businesses that underpin this important sector.

Mr Speaker, it is critical that we invest in the heritage listed Queensland Cultural Centre, which is home to the state's cultural and collecting institutions, particularly as we look to the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games and delivering legacy outcomes for future generations.

Through this year's State Budget, we have committed \$25.3 million over two years to support critical asset maintenance work including \$1.5 million to complete a feasibility study for flood resilience improvements across the Queensland Cultural Centre, a further \$12 million for asset renewal and \$11.8 million to enhance important safety measures around the Cultural Centre.

An injection of \$5 million over 3 years will deliver critical asset renewal work at Queensland Museum's Cobb + Co in Toowoomba and the Queensland Museum Rail Workshops in Ipswich, recognising their important role housing valuable collections and delivering cultural experiences to locals and visitors.

Speaker, new investment of \$3.1 million will also support inclusive and diverse arts and cultural services and experiences.

This will see State Library of Queensland provide more than \$600,000 to enhance library services delivered through Vision Australia Queensland Library and Braille House, while \$2 million will support QPAC's First Nations Programming Initiatives, including its signature cultural festival—Clancestry.

And our leading art museum, QAGOMA will present compelling local and global stories with investment of \$500,000 to support programming at it Australian Cinémathèque and deliver exhibitions and activities for our youngest Queenslanders at its Children's Arts Centre.

#### Screen Queensland investment

Queensland is the place to be for the Australian and international screen industry.

Our investment in screen industry development is set to continue to deliver a pipeline of productions and projects for Queensland and will cement Queensland as a destination of choice for screen production.

An injection of \$38 million in this budget will boost the state's screen industry and support Screen Queensland's critical incentives; Production Attract Strategy; Post and Digital Effects; and Digital Games Program.

In 2022-23 Queensland's screen investment resulted in an estimated \$582 million in production and digital games expenditure and supported the creation of more than 4000 local jobs.

This new investment in Queensland's screen industry will ensure the state continues to build momentum though competitive incentives, coupled with first-rate studio facilities, highly skilled local crews and diverse locations.

#### Coen Art Centre

Building on a two-year investment to consider an emerging Indigenous Art Centre in Coen through our Backing Indigenous Arts initiative in 2022, the community has shaped its ambition to create a place for community and storytelling, where skills can be developed, and cultural maintenance is supported.

Mr Speaker, I am pleased to advise that through the State Budget, our Government has committed almost \$8.2 million over two years to construct an Arts Centre in Coen.

This investment will strengthen the local community and enable the development and sharing of arts and cultural practice and underpin the creation of experiences that will grow Coen's reputation as a tourism destination.

#### Conclusion

This is a budget that delivers what matters for Queensland, and I commend it to the House.