




Speech By
Linus Power

MEMBER FOR LOGAN

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**

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (11.21 pm): I have been listening to Logan locals and I certainly have heard about the pressures on family budgets. Logan residents know that, post COVID, there are factors confronting us such as war and supply chain issues that have meant energy prices have increased all around the world and they feel it themselves. I have listened and now we are acting to help families and deliver services to Logan. The member for Mundingburra also spoke about the fact that he has listened and he knows that these are the measures that the people of Mundingburra—and I think the people of Logan—are calling for. We do not mind saying to Queenslanders that we think we have something better to offer. We have a connection and compassion. We have an understanding of where people are at. We are listening and we are doing something about it. We have had to make tough decisions to put us in a position to do this. The member for Mundingburra is absolutely right.

This is a renewed and reinvigorated government and the Premier and the Treasurer really get it, which is why they are delivering. For families, the biggest contribution is the \$1,300 energy rebate to help with electricity bills. It is \$1,000 from the state and \$300 from the federal government. I know the federal member who represents Logan, Jim Chalmers, also endorses this. I have sat down with residents from Jimboomba and Yarrabilba to Hillcrest to speak about this. It is extraordinarily welcomed. We have a government that recognises the challenges that families are facing. At St Paul de Chartres I spoke to Mary. I talked to her about the relief we are offering, which will mean taking off the table at least one of the bills that is confronting her. Hers is a fairly humble home so the rebate will probably mean her electricity bill will be taken off the table for an entire year. That is something that I am proud to do because we know people are facing tough times.

Mr Head interjected.

Mr POWER: I can hear the chirping from others in the chamber. That seems to be an indication that, although they do not want to get into their own election commitments, they object to and are against these types of initiatives. If they had the choice, people would not receive this relief. That is something that the people in Logan will be really aware of.

We know that many in Logan rely on a car to get to school, work and the shops. That is why we are reducing the cost of car and trailer registration by 20 per cent, which will be a saving for Logan families. That will start on 5 August and it will last for a full 12 months. When people receive their registration bill, even if they have a six monthly or monthly bill within that period, they will receive that relief. We are introducing that initiative to make it easier for Logan families.

For those who rely on public transport, we have a plan to get passenger numbers back to pre COVID levels and to reduce the cost of living by introducing 50-cent fares for six months. Jimboomba residents travelling on the 540 could save over \$8 and there would be similar savings for those travelling on the Yarrabilba 540, even if travelling all the way to the city or the Gold Coast. There has never been

a better time to make plans to get on a bus or train. This is a unique time because we have seen radical change in public transport and this 50-cent fare policy is just the thing to get people back on board.

Importantly, we are also expanding services in Logan with \$33 million budgeted. I have been campaigning hard for that with local councillors and others. From that fund we hope to announce improvements to services soon. Some of the new bus routes will pass new housing estates where people will be benefiting from the first home concession, which will be increased to phase out up to the dutiable value of up to \$800,000, which is up from \$550,000. That is a really important thing for families moving into their first home.

Our FairPlay vouchers make it easier for people to get their kids involved in sport. I have long been an advocate for that because if kids are out there playing organised sport then they are not going to be involved in worse things. I think it is a really important thing for Logan.

I want to speak about the Mount Lindesay Highway. We have a project under tender at the moment. It is an important project for the Jimboomba area. We have to recognise that, in their time, the LNP cut over \$160 million and there is nothing left from the LNP's time in government between Browns Plains and Jimboomba. In fact, they stopped one project that was well underway. I can show members the photos and the documents from QTRIP in relation to that.

One thing that no-one opposite spoke about is the three surpluses that have been delivered. A press release talks about our responsible fiscal management that has delivered a \$564 million surplus. None of them could speak about that. It builds upon the record state surplus of \$13.93 billion in 2022-23. Not a single one of them could mention that. I would love to hear them talk to that.

I want to follow to its conclusion their logic when they say they would cut these initiatives. That means that families would be worse off. Following their logic, there would be cuts to our cost-of-living measures and also cuts to the funding for the Mount Lindesay Highway such as we saw under the previous LNP government.

I want to speak about the fact that we are investing in education with funding for both the Park Ridge school and the new school in Logan Village.

An opposition member: Pork-barrelling.

Mr POWER: Isn't it disgusting that a member says that educating the growing number of families in Logan is pork-barrelling? I find that deeply offensive. I know it shows their attitude. The first thing that the LNP would cut is, as that member just said, funding to schools in Logan.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Order, members on my right. There is too much chat. Member for Logan, I am sorry to interrupt you. I know you do not need any protection. Member for Callide, occasionally your interjections are a little loud and I cannot hear what the member for Logan is saying so bear that in mind. I know he has been taking them.

Mr POWER: I was mostly speaking about the cuts the LNP made to Mount Lindesay Highway funding during their time in government. I want to emphasise that we are both investing and relieving the cost of living, which is all at risk. We hear from their interjections that that is what they would do. That is why I humbly ask for support to continue to deliver the right things for Logan.