




Speech By  
**Melissa McMahon**

**MEMBER FOR MACALISTER**

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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**

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (4.50 pm): I have not made any such posts because I know most of the people in my electorate do not pay much attention to what happens in the House, but they will be paying attention to the money that is going to come from this budget.

I am proud to rise and make my contribution to this debate. This is a budget that is proudly Labor and one that I am proud to take back to my electorate, because this is a budget that will make a difference to people in my electorate. People in Macalister are feeling the cost-of-living pinch on a daily basis. Rental vacancy rates are at their lowest and many do not have a choice when their rents are hiked up. That means that people have to find a way to make ends meet so any measure that gives bill relief will be largely welcomed. I have been talking to hundreds of residents about the impact of the \$1,000 energy rebate and the relief of knowing that that is at least one bill they will not have to worry about when it drops after 1 July. Most families I speak to in my area have an average quarterly bill of around \$800 to \$900, and the thought that they will not have to pay the next bill and will be in credit for the one after that releases the pressure valve.

For people in the outer suburbs like those in Macalister, the biggest saving is going to be 50-cent public transport fares. Often, those who live in electorates like mine do so because housing is more affordable for families that cannot afford to live in Brisbane or on the Gold Coast. Logan is the affordable option. We welcome families to our fast growing city, but the downside of having to move further and further out because of the cost of housing is having to pay more to get to the urban centres where many of the jobs are. It costs a commuter living in Windaroo over \$13 a day for a return trip to the city on the 566—by the way, it is an hour and 33 minutes—which is \$66 a week. That weekly cost going from \$66 to \$5 is going to be a game changer. That is more than a cup-of-coffee saving; it is a family meal at the Windy Tavern on a Friday night saving.

Not everyone's job fits into commuting patterns and I get that. As someone who also has responsibility for school drop-offs, public transport is not an option. Kids, their bags, signing them in and out of OHSC—these daily tasks require a car and a round trip, on top of travelling to work. For those families that are reliant on the family car, or even a second car when the drop-offs are shared, the reduction in car registration will be a sweet relief.

Our young tradies are also winners in this budget. They are not really in a position to use public transport so a reduction in car registration will make a big difference to someone on an apprentice wage. Not only that: the tradies tool initiative provides first-year apprentices with help with the big expense of equipping themselves for their trade.

This budget will provide much needed relief to the families that are flocking to our high-growth areas. Suburbs like Holmview, where our newest primary school—the first in 30 years—is being built, and Bahrs Scrub are seeing a massive housing build. A quick look at the new estates shows dozens of

house-and-land packages for four-bedroom homes ranging in price from \$650,000 to \$800,000. Such homes are ideal for young families, who will be eligible to have their stamp duty abolished through this budget.

Those families and their young kids will also benefit from the extension of the eligibility and value of the FairPlay vouchers. Keeping our kids active and participating in sport and recreation is vital to healthy, connected communities. I hope to see big sign-on days coming up soon for summer sports and activities. Our young families are also going to benefit from the free kindy initiative. My area is one that does, unfortunately, have a very low take-up of early childhood education. I know it makes a difference to future learning when kids are engaged in structured education. We do these things now because they are needed now—not next year and not after October, but now.

Thanks to our progressive coal royalties, we have the funds from Queensland owned resources to give back to Queenslanders in the form of cost-of-living relief. Queenslanders, whether home owners who have struggled with consecutive rate rises or renters who have seen their rents rise because of those rate rises, are at breaking point. This cost-of-living relief is not something new. Last year's budget delivered energy rebates. They were welcomed, but the situation for many Queenslanders has not improved. In many cases family emergency savings have run dry so this year we stepped up our game in response to the needs of Queenslanders.

We have increased the energy rebate, we have discounted car registration and we have slashed public transport fares. This expanded cost-of-living relief is being delivered because it is needed and we are finally getting the royalties that Queenslanders deserve. That money is going into the pockets of Queenslanders, not overseas shareholders. People in my electorate are more than happy to hear that companies that make billion-dollar profits and only pay 10 per cent tax on those profits are paying for these measures.

The Deputy Speaker has reviewed and approved the rest of 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—*

Road upgrades in Macalister are also in this budget to assist our growing community. Upgrades at the Exit 34 entry in Beenleigh will address the queueing on the exit roundabout and traffic backing up onto the M1. The widening of Beaudesert Beenleigh Rd between Milne St and Tallagandra St will address a long known bottleneck for traffic heading out to our growth corridor.

And our schools, as always, are winners in this budget. Several schools are winners with tuckshop and playground upgrades and the renewal of Beenleigh State High School, Logan's oldest high school, continues with \$700,000 allocated to transform the old hall into a performing arts space. We are the home of many talented cultural performers and they deserve a place to shine.

I commend this budget and all that it will do for Macalister.