




Speech By
Hon. Nikki Boyd

MEMBER FOR PINE RIVERS

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. N BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (Minister for Fire and Disaster Recovery and Minister for Corrective Services) (2.25 pm): Mr Deputy Speaker, I implore you or another honourable member to help the member for Everton to download Google Translate. He is having awful difficulty understanding what is actually going on in this place. What we will never forget when we reflect on the past is the crisis that the member for Everton contributed to as a former housing minister in this state of Queensland. It is audacious of him to come in here and talk about supply when he was the very minister who sold off public housing. Northsiders will never forget.

Mr Mander: Which house was sold?

Ms BOYD: Northsiders will never forget that you tried to put Everton Park State High School on the chopping block.

Mr Mander: I have a statue there because I saved it!

Ms BOYD: Selling off local schools was your plan, member for Everton, for the local community.

The Miles government is delivering on cost-of-living relief for Queenslanders. We are doing what matters for Queenslanders. That includes providing much needed relief by reducing the cost of public transport, discounting rego prices and providing energy bill relief and financial assistance for families to support kids in sport. This is a government that is looking out for Queenslanders where they need it. Because we own our energy assets, we are able to provide at least \$1,000 off power bills, with a \$1,372 rebate for pensioners and concession card holders. That is a huge relief for the household budget. That is what this budget is all about.

Speaking with local residents, I know just how much of a difference the 50-cent public transport fares will make to everyone travelling in my community by bus or by train. We can reduce those everyday costs and encourage more Queenslanders to use public transport. That is really important for a community like mine in outer suburbia so that we can cut down on the congestion—we can cut down the number of cars that are on our roads. This is a real cost-of-living relief package that will see government charges such as renewing your driver's licence, hospital charges and the emergency management levy completely frozen. Car registration will not just be frozen; it will be reduced—slashed—by 20 per cent.

We know the housing market has become increasingly difficult for young Queenslanders. That is why we are scrapping stamp duty for first home buyers and we are also raising the threshold, meaning more people can get into their first home sooner. For families, we are expanding the FairPlay vouchers to all kids and raising the value as well so that we can get kids involved in sport, as well as helping around the kitchen table. Reducing the cost of club memberships will help local clubs get more kids active and reduce financial barriers for families.

I am proud of these initiatives that help everyday Queenslanders reduce their cost of living because that is what they are telling me is their No. 1 issue right now. We can fund these initiatives and we can help ease the cost-of-living pressures because we have made tough decisions such as implementing progressive coal royalties—decisions that those opposite would never, ever take. The LNP are a threat to our progressive coal royalties. The Leader of the Opposition said making mining multinationals pay their fair share was ‘a bad plan. It was a dishonest plan. It broke the trust of the industry.’ He promised the coal lobby, ‘What we take to the election at the end of the year you’ll be able to take to the bank.’

LNP shadow ministers have been meeting with the Queensland Resources Council and its lobbyists, and now the QRC is funding a huge ad campaign against progressive coal royalties, which give money back to Queenslanders and fund the cost-of-living relief initiatives in our budget as well as build hospitals, schools and roads. All of that is at risk under the LNP. The Leader of the Opposition must come clean. What has he promised the Queensland Resources Council? We have already heard the leader of the LNP say that the LNP backs the budget before even seeing it, but they are already criticising it, only a couple of speakers in. The actions of the Leader of the Opposition are like putting a noose around your neck and then kicking the chair out from under yourself. Queenslanders know that the LNP cannot be trusted. Queenslanders cannot risk an LNP government. Everyone knows that the LNP would stop progressive coal royalties, and that would mean a direct cut to cost-of-living relief.

My own community is going to benefit so much from this budget: Linkfield Road, the Eatons Crossing Road upgrade and the Gympie Road bypass tunnel. We fought for those projects in the community, and I am so pleased to deliver them in this budget. There are upgrades to Bray Park State High School, Pine Rivers State High School and Bray Park State School. There also are sporting upgrades for the Pine Rivers Rapids Baseball Club and the Pine Rivers Netball Association. This is a good budget for Pine Rivers and a good budget to address cost-of-living pressures.

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

The speech read as follows—

Speaker, improving community safety is at the forefront of the Queensland Correctional Services budget.

The Miles Government has committed \$1.88 billion to the combined 2024-25 capital and operational budget.

That will deliver more prison capacity, improve access to rehabilitation including vital domestic and family violence programs, and support victims.

In this budget, the Miles Government is delivering \$333.6 million over the next four years, and \$22.6 million ongoing for the improvement of assets to support the safe and effective operation of Queensland correctional centres.

\$111.9 million will be provided over the next four years, and \$10.5 million ongoing to construct and operate additional prison capacity to sustainably manage Queensland’s growing prisoner population.

Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre is expected to start commissioning at the end of this year.

With a total budget of \$885 million, the new centre will be a modern, purpose-built facility with over 1,500 beds.

This state-of-the-art facility will provide correctional officers with safe, fit-for-purpose facilities where rehabilitation programs to reduce the risk of further offending and assist prisoners in their safe re-entry into the community can be delivered.

Once fully operational, Lockyer Valley Correction Centre will continue to provide economic benefits through secure, ongoing employment and service opportunities.

In anticipation of Lockyer Valley opening, QCS has been recruiting and training correctional officers, with more than 600 staff recruited since June, 2023.

This uplift in staffing numbers will support correctional officers to manage the ongoing demand for services across Queensland correctional centres.

In delivering the Queensland Government’s Community Safety Plan, support for victims will also be boosted, with \$2.3 million over the next four years and \$624,000 per year ongoing to enhance the capacity of Queensland’s Victims Register.

This funding will directly assist victims of crime and ensures that they are kept informed and that their voices are heard in sentencing and parole decisions.

\$37.7 million will be delivered over the next four years to deliver end-to-end case management across our correctional centres.

Between December 2019 and October 2023, close to 5,000 people were supported through end-to-end case management to address specific needs and risks, reducing reoffending and improve prison and community safety.

Recognising the prevalence of domestic violence perpetrators within correctional centres, \$14.8 million will be delivered over the next two years to deliver domestic and family violence perpetrator programs that support rehabilitation and re-entry to the community.

Mr Speaker, the Miles Government is committed to keeping our communities safe.

We are investing in our frontline firefighters across the state, with more fire stations, fire trucks, and safety equipment to ensure they have the resources they need to protect Queenslanders.

Whether it is new facilities, vehicles or equipment, Queensland firefighters will be well resourced and equipped to respond to the needs of their communities.

\$11 million will be delivered to complete the delivery of new Fire Rescue stations at Airlie Beach, Caloundra South and Mitchell.

\$2.5 million has been allocated to begin construction on the new fire station at Beerwah, after land was acquired in the previous budget for a replacement station.

Communities across the Far North will benefit from a \$4.5 million investment to replace the Fire Communications Centre in Cairns.

Fire Communications Officers play a vital role in ensuring that our firefighters are able to respond quickly when call upon.

This investment is about ensuring that locals can call Triple O in an emergency and know that their call is being received by people who know their local area.

The Rural Fire Service will receive \$13.1 million for new and upgraded facilities.

This will include new rural stations for Abbot Point, Biggenden and Mount Ossa brigades—as well as replacement stations for volunteers in Swan and Emu Creek, Delaneys Creek, Biddaddaba, and Bell Town brigades.

Fleet delivery will also be boosted with \$23.8 million allocated to Fire Rescue and \$19.5 million to Rural Fire Service for new and replacement trucks.

A further \$17 million will deliver new operational and training equipment across both fire services.

We back our frontline firefighters and volunteers, who work every day to protect their communities from danger.

When it comes to the valuable work of the QRA, we are seeing \$1.822 billion for Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements paid to councils, Queensland Government departments and agencies for reconstruction, betterment and other projects relating to natural disaster events between 2020 and 2024.

This program is jointly funded by the Queensland Government and the Australian Government.

We are seeing \$38.2 million as part of \$95.4 million towards high priority disaster resilience and mitigation infrastructure projects jointly funded by the Queensland and Australian Governments from DRFA Efficiencies.

And we are seeing \$13.1 million towards the \$65.5 million Queensland Resilience and Risk Reduction Fund, part of a National Partnership Agreement.

Speaker, the new Miles Government is serious about addressing community safety and providing cost-of living relief and that's what this budget proves.