




Speech By  
**Shane King**

**MEMBER FOR KURWONGBAH**

---

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**

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (4.45 pm): I am always proud to speak to our appropriation bills, particularly today with our 2024-25 offering introduced by our outstanding Treasurer, Hon. Cameron Dick. We in the parliamentary Labor Party stand up every day for jobs, housing, health, infrastructure education and action to ease the cost of living, which is a hallmark of this government when times are tough for Queenslanders. This is our best budget yet, and I will take a few minutes to highlight why.

We are wiping another \$1,000 off household energy bills over the next 12 months as part of our record spend—over \$11 billion—on concessions and cost-of-living measures. They include 50-cent train fares from 5 August to revolutionise the way we travel for work and recreation; 20 per cent off vehicle registration for when we do need to drive; half-price Airtrain fares—no more stressing about the taxi or Uber running late; and 150,000 new FairPlay vouchers, bringing the total to 200,000. We have also increased the voucher value from \$150 to \$200 because we know that participating in sport is not cheap but it is such a valuable way for kids to engage in community, so we are expanding the eligibility criteria as well.

We are boosting the budgets of emergency food relief providers—OzHarvest, SecondBite and Foodbank Queensland; we are delivering \$15 million for the School and Community Food Relief Program; and we have doubled the funding to Meals on Wheels. I have to give a shout-out to Wendy Smith and the team of heroes at Meals on Wheels Moreton Bay. I hope this helps.

This budget also raised the threshold for first home concessions to over \$700,000 home purchases, in rueful recognition that a house and land for \$550,000 is going the way of the dodo. Finally, on cost-of-living action, funding for free kindy will continue.

It is no surprise to anyone who knows me that I am passionate about the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan. I mentioned in the debate of the motion earlier this week that the feedback I have had about our plan across the board is overwhelmingly positive—from Kurwongbah locals who are interested in microgrids and community batteries to supply industry tradies excited about a world of new job opportunities to businesses of all shapes and sizes that are positioning themselves in the window of opportunity we are providing in Queensland.

This budget outlines another \$26 billion worth of investment over the next four years that will underpin our economy, revolutionise and stabilise our power supply and help ensure a cleaner, brighter future for the next generations. While we are feeling revolutionary, our 50-cent train fare trial has the potential to completely change the way we move around in built-up parts of the state, especially here in the south-east. We have just realised, after listening to the member for Gympie, that you can go from Gympie to the Gold Coast for 50 cents. He is excited. He is all of a quiver about that.

**Mr Perrett** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Lui): Member for Gympie, order!

**Mr KING:** You can see the excitement, Madam Deputy Speaker. We know that Queensland is the greatest state in Australia, so it is not surprising that more people want to live here. Population growth presents more challenges and opportunities, and we are addressing some and embracing others by almost fully subsidising train travel. We have listened to those who have told us that the cost of transport is a barrier to keeping the car at home. We have listened to those who have told us that the cost of fares tips the scales on a family outing to South Bank or to the museum or to the Gold Coast or the Sunshine Coast—or on a quick trip from Gympie to the Gold Coast. It tips it over to unaffordability. We have listened to those who want to be cleaner and greener. If they have to leave home earlier to catch a train and pay a price that does not differentiate enough from the cost of petrol, the convenience of a car will always win, so this will really help. Fifty-cent fares could change everything.

With five stations across my electorate, including a new and improved Burpengary station that is set to open at the end of August, I am really excited to see how this goes. Speaking of stations, I cannot and will not forget our government's commitment to delivering more parking at Narangba station, which I successfully got funding for a while back. We could really use it at the moment while Burpengary station is out of action as it is being refurbished, and I have delivered that message to the minister. I am told that we have entered into the design phase. I look forward to seeing that work completed in the coming months. There is \$6 million in the budget for the Narangba park-and-ride. I know the price of concrete is high, but I reckon that is enough to get it started. I am sure the minister and TMR know that I will be asking for regular progress updates.

There are many benefits for my electorate in the budget. I will not go through them all, but I encourage anyone from my electorate who is watching or listening to check my Facebook page and to keep an eye on their inbox for details. This budget highlights the revolutionary thinking of the Miles government. I am proud to be part of such an extraordinary team. We can and will deliver more for Queenslanders. I commend the bill to the House.

I understand that on 18 April a post was put on my Facebook page that hurt some feelings and was not a completely accurate reflection of what went on in the House. I have corrected the post to more accurately reflect what happened here. I apologise to the House for the error.