




Speech By
Hon. Steven Miles
MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

Record of Proceedings, 13 February 2024

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

MacMahon, Dr A; White, Ms V; Miles Labor Government

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Premier) (9.44 am): I am sure I speak on behalf of all members in wishing the member for South Brisbane the very best in her recovery. I know that our hardworking doctors and nurses will look after her.

I want to acknowledge Vyleen White. Her life was taken too soon in an abhorrent act of crime that should never have happened. Her family have suffered an immeasurable loss. I know all members of this House and all Queenslanders share our thoughts with her family as they pick up the pieces. What happened in Redbank Plains this month should never happen. Every person has the right to feel safe at the supermarket and in their home. That is why my new ministry now has a minister dedicated to community safety. It is one of many new portfolios and new faces on this side of the House, because I promised Queenslanders a renewed government with fresh faces and fresh approaches.

I want to welcome our five new ministers—the members for Pine Rivers, Aspley, Bundamba, Jordan and Cairns. These new ministers have hit the ground running in delivering for Queenslanders. The member for Pine Rivers has overseen more disasters in a few weeks than most would in their entire career.

Mr Bleijie: She's in the Labor Party!

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Kawana!

Mr MILES: I certainly do not think our season of natural disasters is a laughing matter.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members to my left!

Mr MILES: The member for Bundamba is leading his community through an awful grieving process while also implementing free TAFE to ensure we have the skilled workforce of the future. The member for Aspley made sure all those roads damaged by the storms and floods were reopened as quickly as possible. The member for Jordan is supporting our multicultural communities through sometimes challenging times and also ensuring the safety of our most vulnerable children. The member for Cairns, himself a product of our state's tourism industry, acted so quickly to support tourism operators in the state's Far North and Gold Coast to help them keep Queenslanders in work during recovery. They have been busy as has my whole cabinet and our caucus.

I announced that we will reduce our emissions by 75 per cent by 2035. This week, the legislation to lock in that target will be introduced to the House. By legislating this target, we will create certainty for industry and support a pipeline of jobs for the next generation. Only this government will deliver a clean economy for Queensland's future. Our health system is under pressure. The causes are complex and there is no quick fix, but new measures are making a positive difference. Thousands have been to our satellite hospitals in Caboolture, Kallangur, Redlands, Ripley and Tugun. Bribie Island and Eight Mile Plains will come online very soon.

As I said last year, I am working with the Minister for Health to see where we can put more to deliver better health care close to home. With bigger, better hospitals and new satellite hospitals, we need to train and retain more doctors and nurses than ever before. This year, more than 3,600 medical, nursing and midwifery graduates are joining the ranks of Queensland's front line. That is 869 first year doctors, 2,522 nurses and 264 midwives. This is one of the largest intakes in Queensland's history. It is a demonstration of our commitment to bolster the state's health workforce because only our government will deliver more doctors and nurses for Queensland.

We also know that cost of living is having a big impact on family budgets right now. From high interest rates to price gouging at the supermarket, it is not good enough. I said I would meet with supermarkets to understand why the price at the check-out differs so greatly from the price at the farm gate. I have had those meetings, and their explanations were not good enough. It is why this week we will be announcing a parliamentary inquiry into supermarket pricing.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members of the House, I know it has been a little while. You have a lot to say. Please do so at the appropriate time.

Mr MILES: Where there is more to be done, Queenslanders know that I will do it. I will always fight for Queenslanders' best interests—to put money back into the pockets of hardworking mums and dads.

One of the first things I did after I became Premier was to visit Musgrave Park. I saw firsthand the important work outreach services do in connecting the homeless with support services and into accommodation. National pressures are making it harder for people to find a home, stay in a home or save for a home. That is why we released the Homes for Queenslanders plan this month. It is our government's vision to deliver more homes faster—all while supporting renters and first home owners, building our social and affordable housing stock, and working to end homelessness. It is a \$3.1 billion plan to deliver one million new homes and sets a target of 53,500 new social and affordable homes by 2046. We are also cutting red tape and supporting developers to build more homes in the right places. Together with industry, our government is delivering the biggest boost to social housing in history.

In the 60 days since I was sworn in as Premier this state has weathered two cyclones, wild storms and multiple flooding events, but we Queenslanders are a resilient bunch. We stand shoulder to shoulder to build back better. I want to thank the thousands of volunteers who dedicated their time to the recovery efforts, from the Far North to the Gold Coast. Recovery is a long road, and our support does not stop when the rain stops pouring. To all those impacted I say: my government is with you now and for the months and years that follow. Recovery will be at the core of my government's upcoming community cabinet in Cairns. There is no better way to listen than to show up and hear firsthand from locals about the issues that matter to them. That is why we will do even more community cabinets this year and host opportunities for Queenslanders to speak directly to me and to the cabinet.

There is more to do, but we cannot do it alone. My commitment to Queenslanders is that I am listening. I will always listen, and when I say that I will deliver for Queensland I will.