




Speech By
Hon. Amanda Stoker

MEMBER FOR OODGEROO

Record of Proceedings, 27 June 2025

**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL; REVENUE
AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Hon. AJ STOKER** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (5.13 pm): I rise with great enthusiasm to speak on the Crisafulli LNP government's first budget—one that I am pleased to say reflects the reorienting of this state towards the right priorities and the things that make a real difference to the quality of life of Queenslanders. I am really pleased to say that this budget recognises the needs of the Redlands more than any state budget we have seen for over a decade. It strikes an important balance between providing help with the cost of living, budget repair and delivering quality, reliable services where you need them and it speaks to many of the concerns that locals raise with me as I go around our community.

People are still fearful of their safety after Labor emboldened a generation of untouchables by watering down youth justice laws. They are worried about their access to health services after ambulance ramping hit a record 45 per cent at Redland Hospital during Labor's health crisis. They are concerned about the ability of young people and future generations to afford a home after a decade of Labor failing to build a pipeline of supply. They are trying to stretch their dollar further as they deal with the high cost of living. I am pleased to say that this budget takes meaningful action on all of these fronts and I congratulate the Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership on a budget that focuses on these very concerns, and that is a really difficult task given the mess that Labor left behind.

Usually when election commitments are made it takes a full term of four years before they get funded, but this budget is different. It fully funds every single election commitment I made locally and I know that is going to mean so much to our local community. Janese and the team at the Redlands University of the Third Age are busting to finish their building with the \$250,000 that is provided in this budget so that they can get on with running the courses and programs that help our community stay active and learning in their senior years. I know Darryl and the team at Wellington Point Bowls Club are eager to use the \$1 million that has been allocated for shade and surfaces to get players of all ages enjoying the benefits of active living while staying sun safe. Sean and the crew at Redlands Cricket are driving a passion for the growth of women in cricket at the grassroots and at the elite level with a project that gets a much needed boost of \$1 million for women's amenities. If we are serious about seeing women of all ages being served by a government, barriers to participation like this must be overcome.

The Point Lookout Surf Life Saving Club is an absolute powerhouse, patrolling multiple beaches and offering a vibrant nippers program, and we have committed to extending the tenure of the club at its current site. Lifesavers and Straddie beachgoers will also be safer, as the Shark Control Program has been doubled to cover both Cylinder and Main beaches with drone monitoring at a cost of \$300,000 per beach per year. I know people like Barry, Kim and Mark at Redlands United Football Club, along with many other clubs, will be thrilled to hear that the Play On! sports vouchers program—originally

established by the last LNP government—is back with a bang. It will operate more fairly than during Labor's time in government, covering summer and winter sports, and it will be properly funded so that the vouchers do not run out like they so often did under Labor, leaving many families without.

Our local schools have great teachers and family supports and they will love the record funding of Education in this budget. Many local school facilities have been neglected in our patch over the last decade, so I am pleased to see this budget investing over \$700,000 in vital maintenance and \$1 million for a new amenities block for Birkdale South State School. The facilities at this great little school—a school with so much heart—were foul smelling, dark and unable to be kept hygienic and kids were avoiding them, risking their health and being unable to concentrate in class as a result. I was outraged for families when I learnt of it and was determined to fight for this to be made right. Toilet blocks might not seem glamorous but, along with the member for Capalaba, I am so proud to deliver this for our community because it is about the health and dignity of these kids, their safety from bullying and making sure everybody gets a chance to learn. There is security of tenure for the Sycamore School to give families of children with autism choice in education. There is funding for extra classrooms for Redlands Special School. There is also \$73,000 for shade, seating and musical instrument upgrades for Ormiston State School. For all families with a primary schooler, there is \$100 per child to help with the cost of getting back to school each year.

Redlanders deserve better access to health services when they need them, I am so glad to see the Crisafulli government investing heavily in the Hospital Rescue Plan. It was so wrong that Labor went around announcing hospitals to all and sundry with none of the preparation work and none of the costings or funding that were needed to make them a reality. With that kind of operating, no wonder there was a health crisis.

Along with free kindy health checks for the littlest Redlanders, the budget gets started on stage 2 of the Redland Hospital expansion with \$150 million for a new 43-bed mental and allied health building. Heaven knows we need those extra 20 mental health beds. It would also be remiss of me not to mention the axing of Labor's patients tax which would have pushed up the cost of seeing a GP for us all. Under Labor, the Redlands had the dubious record of having the worst hospital ramping in the state so I am pleased to see a billion dollar boost to the Queensland Ambulance Service as part of the strategy to get ramping rates down. There is also provision for 4,500 additional health workers over the next year and a big boost to the Surgery Connect program to smash down the surgery waiting list that was allowed to balloon under Labor.

Redlanders know that making our communities safer is our first priority as a government. Along with Adult Crime, Adult Time, new early intervention and rehabilitation programs and a new victims advocate service, we are putting victims at the centre of the justice system with an overall investment of \$5.2 billion. We are backing in our police with 1,600 new recruits and \$147.9 million for the equipment needed for officers to do their difficult work and come home safely.

Hooning continues to be a big problem locally and so, with the help of the Cleveland Point Precinct Residents' Committee, I fought to get a \$600,000 investment in CCTV cameras to prevent it at the problem hotspot—that is, the VMR Raby Bay car park—as well as mobile cameras that can be used throughout the electorate to prevent hooning. It is a real safety concern in our patch. Just this week at Wellington Point a car went through a fence into a front yard. The constant noise is seriously damaging local amenity. These tools will help our council and police with prevention and enforcement. Speaking of amenity, Redlanders love their local wildlife and ocean life and we are caring for it with \$12 million for an RSPCA wildlife hospital at IndigiScapes and a plan to upgrade stormwater to deliver Zero Litter to the Bay by 2030, valued at \$35 million.

The budget includes a record \$116.8 billion in infrastructure investment across the state to unlock economic opportunity and get people out of traffic. It includes planning work for the upgrade of Cleveland-Redland Bay Road in Thornlands and funding for planning and design work on the Cleveland rail line, the first step toward duplication. The budget has a real plan to keep the dream of home ownership within the reach of young Redlanders with a Boost to Buy program, the abolition of stamp duty on new homes for first home buyers and the ability to rent out a room without losing concessions. It includes the extension of the \$30,000 first home buyers grant and there is also a \$2 billion Residential Activation Fund to fund the infrastructure needed to get more housing supply into the market without reducing the quality of life for people who already have their home. It will take us from being the state with the lowest rate of home ownership in the country to the very top within a decade. There is more investment than ever to increase the supply of social homes for those in need. It will give more Queenslanders a place to call home.

This budget recognises the Redlands like never before. Together with my colleagues, the member for Redlands, the member for Capalaba and our federal member, we are determined to deliver right across the Redlands an enviable standard of living that makes our corner of Queensland the very best place to live, to work, to raise a family, to retire, to build a business and to play. Together we are building a better Redlands. As you can see, I am determined to keep delivering for my constituents in our beautiful corner of this state. We will deliver safety where you live, a better lifestyle through a stronger economy, health services you can count on when you need them and a strong plan for Queensland's future.