




Speech By  
**Hon. Brent Mickelberg**

**MEMBER FOR BUDERIM**

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Record of Proceedings, 26 June 2025

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

 **Hon. BA MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (9.03 pm): It is always a pleasure to follow the 'Greenslopes Grifter', the 'Fiscal Fibber' from Greenslopes, a man who thinks he is the funniest person in the parliament—

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Dr O'Shea): Member for Buderim, that language is unparliamentary.

**Mr MICKELBERG**: I will withdraw. He is a man who thinks he is the funniest person in the parliament—the only person he is entertaining is himself. Perhaps he would have been with the Greens. They are coming for you next time, mate.

**An opposition member**: Or Woodridge.

**Mr MICKELBERG**: Or Woodridge. He still lives there; he might as well run.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER**: Member for Buderim, address your comments through the chair, not to other members.

**Mr MICKELBERG**: The Crisafulli government's first budget is about delivering for Queenslanders. After 10 years of chaos and crisis under Labor, we have major challenges, but we are up to the challenge. Before the election, we promised we would act on the major crises Labor left Queenslanders with, and we are doing just that. We promised we would deliver health services when Queensland needs them. This budget works to reduce ambulance ramping with a \$1 billion boost to the Queensland Ambulance Service along with three new and 10 expanded hospital—all a part of our \$18.5 billion Hospital Rescue Plan; a plan to tackle Labor's underinvestment in new hospitals and in regional health services over the past decade which left hospitals on life support and created the Queensland Health crisis. We committed to restoring safety where you live for every Queenslanders. Youth offenders now face tough consequences for 33 offences under Adult Crime, Adult Time and we are bolstering the frontline with 1,600 new police recruits to keep our community safe. It will take time to reverse Labor's decade of failure on youth crime, but we are already seeing positive improvement.

We are abolishing stamp duty on new homes for first home buyers and implementing our Boost to Buy scheme to reduce the deposit gap while stopping Queenslanders paying more for the doctor by axing Labor's patients tax. Our government's 2025 budget lays the foundation for the fresh start that we promised. It is a plan to deal with the big crises left behind by Labor and to chart a positive course forward for the future.

I am proud of what our government is delivering for Buderim. Before the election I committed to upgrade the Mooloolaba Road and Sugar Road intersection, and we are delivering, with funding committed in this budget. Construction will begin on this upgrade by the end of the year. It is something Labor promised to deliver but cut from their budget and now the Crisafulli government will deliver it.

Sunshine Coast residents will also benefit from the Wave, with heavy passenger rail from Beerwah to Birtinya connecting with a metro-style service all the way to the Sunshine Coast Airport through the Maroochydore CBD. As a part of that project, the Mooloolah River Interchange will be upgraded, easing congestion from our road network, and those upgrades will deliver a lasting legacy for the people of Buderim and the wider Sunshine Coast after countless years of underinvestment on the Sunshine Coast by Labor.

Ensuring our children get the best start in life through a quality education is a top priority of the Crisafulli government and we are acting. We are supporting the next generation in my electorate in Palmview by expanding the Palmview State Secondary College and we are delivering upgrades at Mountain Creek State School as well. The Crisafulli government is investing in a responsible program of work that provides for Queensland's future—one that is bigger than this state has ever seen.

I know that the Leader of the Opposition wanted to peddle falsehoods in his budget reply today. He said we are hiding things, but if he bothered to look behind the colour palette of the budget papers and he read QTRIP, he will find that the Lansdown Eco-Industrial Precinct works are on page 95 and 97; the Townsville Eastern Access Rail Corridor is on page 96. The Cairns Western Arterial Road is listed on page 108 and the Coominya bridge is included on page 47.

**Mr Ryan** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** One moment, member for Buderim. Member for Morayfield, could you address your comments through the chair.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I should mention that it was the former Labor government who was first asked by their federal Labor mates to go back to the drawing board on the Cairns Western Arterial Road because the federal government was so concerned about the former Labor government's ability to manage the cost pressures on that project. That is what we are now doing in a disciplined methodical way to ensure we deliver the necessary upgrades in advance of Brisbane 2032.

When it comes to the Bribie Island bridge, the opposition leader is again misguided. He will find that the business case estimate is within the range we have included for the project in QTRIP. That is on page 45 for the member for Aspley's benefit, in case he is having trouble reading QTRIP like his colleagues are. Maybe he just needs to get up earlier and work a little bit harder.

I would also like to mention that for the first time ever in QTRIP we are actually providing time information alongside our projects in planning, which will help the industry plan ahead and manage their workforce and their business effectively. We are working collaboratively to meet our mammoth infrastructure task.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Dr O'Shea): There is too much noise from the members on my left. I would like to be able to hear the speaker.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** We know that after his insipid budget reply in which the opposition leader was not able to offer any excuse or reasoning for the many messes that this government inherited, the opposition leader has a case of the blues. Maybe it is because he had a blue with his shadow cabinet colleagues. Maybe it was a blue with the opposition leader designate, the member for Waterford, or is it because he already knows the writing is on the wall and he will not make Christmas?

Over on this side I am proud that our transport program in this budget has a focus on delivering value for money and a commitment to ensuring efficiency with every single dollar of taxpayers' money. Developing this transport plan has been a huge task requiring a massive effort by departmental and ministerial staff alike. I want to acknowledge the considerable time and effort that my department, led by Director-General Sally Stannard, have undertaken in developing this budget. In particular, I want to acknowledge Tony Philp and his team for going above and beyond for many weeks.

We are delivering transformative infrastructure projects that will shape the future of our state and ensure that we are well positioned to meet the challenges of hosting the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games just like we said we would. We are continuing to fund key programs that are important to Queenslanders like the Wheelchair Accessible Taxi Grant Scheme, the Keeping our Waterways Safe Program, the continued rollout of Smart Ticketing as well as saving the School Transport Infrastructure Program. All of those programs were underfunded or completely unfunded due to the budget mismanagement of the former Labor government.

We are also making sure that our bus network is appropriately funded so that Queenslanders can continue to make use of the LNP's permanent 50-cent fares. This is despite Labor budgeting exactly zero dollars to make 50-cent fares permanent. Despite all the rhetoric in advance of the election by the

opposition leader, the Labor Party spent more on advertising 50-cent fares than they did on making it permanent. As the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, I am proud that a record \$41.7 billion has been committed in the Queensland Transport and Road Investment Program across the forward years.

**Mr Mellish:** Where? Where?

**Mr MICKELBERG:** Read it; you will see it there. I will list some of the key highlights for the member for Aspley since he cannot read the document: \$9 billion for the Bruce Highway Targeted Safety Program on an 80-20 basis—something that the member for Aspley could not deliver and something the Labor Party said could not be done. We have done it.

**Mr Mellish:** You do not need to yell.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I do need to yell because the member likes to yell over the top of me, so I will make sure he cannot be heard. There is the Wave seamless public transport all the way to the Sunshine Coast airport—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** One moment, member for Buderim. Members on my left, you expect to be listened to. We need to listen to the member now on his feet.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** We are delivering the Safer Roads, Better Transport Plan with the Barron River bridge, the Bribie Island bridge, the Caloundra Congestion Busting Plan and the Mooloolah River Interchange; and faster rail between Logan and the Gold Coast with a \$5.7 billion package jointly funded with the Australian government. The majority of seats that that runs through are Labor seats and they could not deliver it. The Crisafulli government is delivering it. There is also the \$100 million Country Roads Connect Program, boosting the safety and flood resilience of regional unsealed roads; \$27.5 million for the School Transport Infrastructure Program, improving the safety and the operation of schools across Queensland; \$15 million for Keeping our Waterways Safe Program with a focus on action and enforcement activity; \$2.2 million to remove the fee for a new disability parking permit, delivering on our election commitment and providing cost-of-living relief. All of that work and much more supports 25,000 jobs here in Queensland. We are focused on delivering value for money and ensuring that Queenslanders benefit from the transformative infrastructure projects shaping our state's future. That is what a fresh start looks like. It is exactly what we said we would do and it is exactly what we are delivering.

With the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games on the horizon and more people choosing to call Queensland home, it is an exciting home for our state. Despite the over 1,000 days of confusion, indecision and delay under the former Labor government, we must ensure that we cater for the significant transport demand that we will see during the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, respond to population growth here in Queensland and leave a transport legacy that lasts well beyond the games. Our investment program reflects our commitment to that by building a transport network that meets the needs of our growing population, supports our economy and connects our community. We will deliver a legacy in transport infrastructure for the games.

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 into the *Record of Proceedings*.

*The speech read as follows—*

With the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games on the horizon and more people choosing to call Queensland home, it is an exciting time for our state.

Despite the over 1000 days of confusion, indecision, and delay under the former Labor Government, we must ensure we cater for the significant transport demand that we will see during the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, respond to population growth and leave a transport legacy that lasts well beyond the games.

Our investment program reflects our commitment to that, by building a transport network that meets the needs of our growing population, supports our economy, and connects our communities.

It delivers upgrades in every corner of Queensland, generational infrastructure projects that will leave a lasting legacy long after the 2032 athletes are gone.

Regardless of how it is measured, Queensland is one of the fastest growing states in Australia.

We are experiencing the fastest population growth in Australia. Looking ahead, Queensland's population is projected to exceed 7.3 million by 2046. Population growth will place increasing demands on the transport networks and it is the challenge the Crisafulli Government faces to manage impacts of this growth, harness opportunities and mitigate associated risks, such as increased traffic congestion.

We are investing in a responsible program of work that accounts for and secures Queensland's future.

With a focus on delivering value for money and ensuring efficiency with every dollar of taxpayers' money, we're working with government and industry bodies to explore innovative products and delivery options to drive value for money.

In last year's budget, and Labor's last QTRIP, we found after coming into government that there were \$6.7 billion of blowouts, most of which were hidden from Queenslanders.

Cost pressures remain a challenge for TMR and we continue to implement targeted initiatives to manage cost-related risks effectively.

When projects aren't delivered on time and on budget it means that other worthy projects need to be delayed.

This year, the new QTRIP layout categorises investments by "Planned Investments" or "Contractually Committed Investments", with budgets only displayed for investments that have achieved contract award.

This new format continues to provide useful information to support the industry, maintains transparency, and delivers improved competition and value for money by not publishing project budgets for Planned Investments.

This Budget, and this QTRIP, is one that outlines a comprehensive plan to connect communities in the Queensland of the future, leaving behind the decay and the neglect of the former Government.

Safe and reliable roads are the backbone of Queensland's rural and regional communities, driving industry growth and connecting people to vital services and opportunities.

Thanks to a strong partnership with the Australian Government, we are delivering transformative infrastructure projects that will shape the future of our state.

The Federal and State Government's \$9 billion Bruce Highway Targeted Safety Program has already begun with works commencing on projects along the Bruce Highway.

The Program will deliver wide centre line treatments, intersection upgrades, improved rest areas and overtaking lanes on priority sections of the highway north of Gympie to improve safety and reduce the time that the spine of our state road network is closed due to accidents.

The Crisafulli Government is not just talking about this project but getting on and delivering it. Five priority projects are now under construction, with a further two to commence shortly, while six are under procurement with three more to be in procurement in the coming weeks.

Construction is also well underway on the \$1.98 billion Rockhampton Ring Road – jointly funded with the Australian Government, a project set to enhance safety and efficiency for road users.

Planning is continuing on the Tiaro Bypass – another project jointly funded with the Australian Government – to improve productivity, increase safety and improve flood immunity.

Initiatives such as Country Roads Connect will help seal vital transport links to provide greater resilience during times of natural disasters.

We are working with the local governments, allocating \$75.95 million in 2025–26 for the Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme.

This scheme provides essential funding to local governments to support infrastructure upgrades across Queensland's road and transport networks.

There is funding for several other major projects jointly funded with the Australian Government, including:

- Coomera Connector Stage 1;
- Barron River Bridge; and
- Gateway and M1 upgrades.

Our Caloundra Congestion Busting plan targets the biggest pinch points and helping to manage congestion along the Caloundra Road corridor and this budget delivers the Mooloolah River Interchange. Something Labor never could.

These road projects are crucial in delivering safety upgrades and time savings for roads users across the state. But we want to get more people out of their cars and onto the public transport network where possible.

The Queensland Government is committed to make public transport more affordable, frequent, reliable, and safe.

Rail infrastructure continues to be a priority with works progressing on key priority projects to help reduce traffic congestion and support increasing customer demand on the public transport network.

With the success of the LNP's permanent 50 cent fares, investment in rail infrastructure will provide more frequent and faster services, making it easier to access more locations and get to where you need to go.

Our investment program includes funding for projects including the Logan and Gold Coast Faster Rail, with commuters one step closer to catching faster rail to the Gold Coast with the Crisafulli Government announcing funding to start preconstruction works on this key project.

The Crisafulli Government is investing across the State to provide the essential infrastructure our state needs, ensuring Queenslanders get home sooner and safer.

This budget demonstrates our commitment to making it safer and easier to get around our great state as our population continues to grow, and as we get ready for the opportunities of hosting the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

We need to be ready – whether it be helping Queenslanders get to where they need to go or hosting the world's greatest athletes in our backyard.

These investments will do just that, along with unlocking jobs and growing our economy.

The Crisafulli Government is committed to giving Queenslanders better roads, and better public transport, as we deliver a fresh start for Queensland.

That's what we said we would do. That's what this Budget does, and that's what we will continue to do.