




Speech By
Bryson Head

MEMBER FOR CALLIDE

Record of Proceedings, 26 June 2025

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

 **Mr HEAD** (Callide—LNP) (12.41 pm): It is fantastic to see a few more members turning up to work in the House today. Neither of the two contributions we have heard from the opposition so far have offered an apology to Queenslanders for the crisis that they left this state in. They have said, though, that we have delivered a bad budget. I do not know how restoring maternity services to rural communities is a bad thing for Queensland. I do not know how delivering the Electricity Maintenance Guarantee for our coal-fired generators and building the peaking gas plants that we need to restabilise the grid are bad things for Queensland. The workers at the Kogan Creek Power Station and the Callide Power Station very much welcome the investment that we are delivering for Queensland.

I do not know how axing the patients tax—a tax that the former Labor government were trying to sneakily introduce—is a bad thing. We are axing stamp duty for first home buyers buying a new home, but the Labor members in their contributions today have said that that is a bad thing. That is their message to Queenslanders: they do not support the important initiatives that the LNP government were elected to deliver. It shows us that the opposition are tone deaf and do not listen to Queenslanders.

They had no plan to outline to Queenslanders what they would have done differently and how they would have reduced the debt burden in Queensland. As one of the youngest MPs in this House, the reality is that it will be my generation and those younger than me who will bear the burden of Labor's debt. The former treasurer, Cameron Dick, received \$70 billion more in revenue than was originally forecast. What do we have to show for it? We should have \$70 billion of new infrastructure and legacy projects, yet it hardly paid for the budget blowouts of those opposite. The reality is: they are in denial about the crises that they left Queenslanders in. It is simply not good enough.

On the other hand, the budget that the Treasurer handed down will fund every single election commitment across the great electorate of Callide. We have the Moura multipurpose aged-care extension project, which is an important project in my backyard. It was meant to have been started back in 2019 when the then LNP federal government secured money for that important project. Six years on, it still has not been delivered but we are getting on with that job. I thank the Moura community for their steadfast advocacy for this important project. Construction will start imminently under an LNP Crisafulli government and health minister Tim Nicholls.

As part of the Hospital Rescue Plan, we are delivering by progressing the Chinchilla, Jandowae and Biloela hospital upgrades and delivering staff accommodation units at Biloela as well. It was fantastic to have the minister in Biloela recently to talk about those plans and to talk to the fantastic staff at that hospital. This budget also delivers more frontline health workers for the Darling Downs, Wide Bay and Central Queensland regions.

This budget delivers important water security and local infrastructure for Queensland. The Cooranga Weir project on the Boyne River, south of Mundubbera—a project that the community has fought for for decades—will be delivered under the LNP Crisafulli government. I thank Mark, Russell,

Graham, Troy, Ken, Cindy, Paul and Mary for their decades of fighting for this project and everyone else in that great community who has wanted to see this get off the ground. We will see shovels digging in the not too distant future, I am sure.

The electorate of Callide has the single biggest infrastructure spend of any electorate in this budget. Unfortunately, a lot of that is thanks to the Paradise Dam improvement project—a project that we have to do. I would prefer we not do it, but we have to fix Labor's failures. This budget allocates \$4.4 billion to deliver this important project, but Queenslanders should not forget why we have to spend that money. I would much prefer that money be spent on new projects, but we are getting on with the job and fixing yet another Labor failure.

The electorate of Callide has an abundance of great community groups and sporting clubs. The Calliope Football Club, whose home ground is Liz Cunningham Park in Calliope, is one of these and this budget delivers \$30,000 to upgrade that club's fields and facilities. It was fantastic to have the Premier at that club only last week talking with Morgan and Louisa, who are fantastic locals in that community and doing great work. That football club is steaming ahead and I congratulate them for their efforts.

We also have \$25,000 for the Gin Gin sports ground, which is utilised all year round by four local sporting clubs, including Little Athletics, Rugby League, soccer and touch football. Muppi Dean, who is a strong advocate and a great champion for the Gin Gin community, came to me wanting some more investment there and the LNP Crisafulli government is delivering it.

We are also delivering \$40,000 for the installation of security cameras in Miles and Jandowae. These security cameras will be very welcomed by local business owners, such as Paula from the Miles Creek Cafe, who makes fantastic coffee.

We have \$1 million to deliver the Bell Rural Fire Brigade station. It is a station that was meant to be built under the previous government, but it never happened. We will deliver that. There is also \$800,000 for the Biggenden Rural Fire Brigade. Tony has been persistent, and I respect him for that. I am glad that he has been because we are making sure that we are getting on with the job of fixing Labor's mess and building this rural fire station for the Biggenden community. It was meant to have been built many years ago, but it will happen under this government. We are getting on with the job to deliver that project.

There is plenty of investment across the many schools of Callide. We have 60 schools in total, both public and private—the most of any MP in this House. We are delivering a record investment for the great schools of Callide. Some of the schools that are receiving funding for projects in this budget are: Bell, Biggenden, Biloela, Gayndah, Miles and Thangool. We also have significant funding allocated for maintenance and minor works across the electorate. I have mentioned in this House previously that maintenance was simply not happening at our schools. We had schools in a state of disrepair with paint flaking off the walls under the previous Labor government. It is simply not good enough. We have \$300,000 for the Calliope State School pick-up and drop-off zone. That was a commitment that we made and the money is there in the budget. We will be delivering this. It was fantastic to meet with stakeholders about that project recently.

I have mentioned some of the energy investments we are making, and they are incredibly important for the electorate of Callide. The electorate of Callide produces a quarter of Queensland's electricity. I want to see the electorate of Callide be the powerhouse electorate into the future, and we are delivering that through significant investment in this budget. Over \$1 billion has been allocated to the Brigalow gas peaking plant in the budget, and we will be getting on with delivering that project.

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 in the *Record of Proceedings*.

The speech read as follows—

This is a budget for all of Queensland with funding allocated throughout the state, stretching far and wide, providing the foundation for the fresh start for Queensland.

This budget key funds for the Copper String transmission line from Townsville to Mount Isa, to connect the Queensland North West Minerals Province to the national electricity grid. Copper String is the biggest energy project in North Queensland's history and one that will create lasting benefits for the region. We are also building the Queensland Resources Common User Facility in Townsville, and funding its operation. This development will help unlock economic opportunities within the resource sector, particularly within critical minerals. We have recently unlocked more gas exploration areas, helping drive investment into an industry that generates significant wealth for our state.

The Crisafulli LNP Government wants Queenslanders to live a healthy and happy lifestyle, and as such we have delivered a record budget allocation for \$200 Play On sport vouchers. The LNP has also put a stop to the previous discrimination on the former program—which was not funded into the future—by providing a dedicated allocation for children living with a disability or living in regional or remote areas. Importantly, these vouchers can now be used for both summer and winter sports.

Fixing the Bruce Highway is of importance to all Queenslanders, especially regional Queenslanders who rely on it to travel to and from work or to access services. This budget brings back eighty-twenty funding that we said we would fight for. This means Canberra is once again paying a bigger share, delivering a \$9 billion program to upgrade this road thanks to the Crisafulli Government.

This budget delivers on all local election commitments, but it would be remiss of me not to mention some of the numerous projects that are still in want of funding across Callide.

Now I have successfully fought for the full sealing of the Monto Mt Perry Road, my next top priority road for significant upgrades is the Mundubbera Durong Road. The widening of the remaining 11km section of this road would allow road train access to the North Burnett, creating freight hub opportunities. Importantly, it will drastically improve safety for the users of this road.

There are many other road concerns across that require future attention including but not limited to Gayndah Mount Perry Road, Chinchilla Wondai Road, Dogwood Creek Crossing on the Warrego Highway, Maryborough Biggenden Road, Gladstone Monto Road, Jackson-Wandoan Road, Jandowae Kingaroy Road, Gin Gin Mount Perry Road, slow and heavy vehicle passing lanes on the Leichhardt Highway, Burnett Highway, and turning lanes from major highways for rural access roads like Dawson Gates Road on the Warrego Highway.

The Bruce Highway runs directly through the main street of Gin Gin and as such I would like to see 'Slow for Sam' signs installed along the main street to alert vehicles of the speed that they are travelling, reminding them to slow down. I will also continue to advocate on behalf of the Gin Gin community for the reinstatement of the local driver reviver, as it was ripped away by the Labor Government in 2023 from passionate locals like Pam who dedicated their time to running this vital rest stop on the Bruce Highway.

This budget restores safety for Queenslanders by delivering more police and new equipment. The Chinchilla Police Station has been outgrown, and to meet the needs of increased staff numbers I will continue to advocate for the upgrade that is needed here.

Raised with me on numerous occasions is the need to upgrade many of our rural police stations so that they have all ability access, this includes Police Stations at Theodore and Wandoan. There are known space constraints, however, if solutions can be found, installing all ability access ramps will allow equal access to the essential services provided by these regional Police Stations.

Throughout the electorate of Callide there is a dire need for more designated housing for departmental staff, this includes housing for our hard-working police, teachers and doctors. A decade of underinvestment from the previous government has left our departments with crippling housing shortages, and at times, an inability to attract staff.

Agricultural Shows are a highlight in the calendar for the local community and play an essential role in fostering community spirit and social engagement. They are often recipients of the Gambling Community Benefit Fund, thanks to the tireless work of their committee. Additional support for these would be very much welcome in future budgets. I know Gin Gin would very much appreciate funding for a new grandstand.

This budget importantly provides additional funding for the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme. A scheme that the people of Callide need to use far too often. The previous government did not have this program keep pace with inflation, and I will continue to advocate for this program to provide more to those who rely upon it.

I would also like to see future support of fantastic initiatives like the Calliope Community Hub and further support for lighting for sporting groups like the Biloela Touch Association.

There is much more potential to unlock water supply in Queensland. Various projects are important to constituents in Callide and need to be fully explored and considered in the future, such as the Nathan Dam project near Taroom. This will provide long-term, reliable water to the Dawson region in Central Queensland and the Surat Basin Coal Basin. The Coalstoun Lakes Pipeline from Paradise Dam would provide water security to growers within the North Burnett Region, unlocking a new food bowl.

The Crisafulli Government listens to Queenslanders. It is a privilege to serve alongside my colleagues and work with the people of Callide to deliver for Queensland. This is a fantastic budget and one that delivers the foundation for the fresh start that Queenslanders voted for.

I commend this budget to the house.