




Speech By
Hon. Dale Last

MEMBER FOR BURDEKIN

Record of Proceedings, 27 June 2025

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

 **Hon. DR LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development) (12.29 pm): This budget lays the foundation for a fresh start not just for our economy but for our regions, our industries and the people who power them. As Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development, I am proud to be part of a team that backs industry, that is restoring confidence and that is delivering real results across Queensland.

We are delivering for the people who power this state: the manufacturers, the miners, the farmers and the quiet Queenslanders who entrusted us to fix the mess left by Labor. They put their trust in the Crisafulli government to deliver a stronger economy and a plan for Queensland's future—a future that supports jobs, encourages investment and restores certainty to the sectors that have been taken for granted. This budget does exactly that. We are delivering a total of \$595.2 million across the natural resources and mines, manufacturing and rural and regional development portfolio with targeted investments that will grow our economy, boost innovation and create regional jobs. This includes a \$79.1 million investment to unlock the full potential of Queensland's manufacturing sector with our new Transforming Queensland Manufacturing Program. This program will drive high-value, future-facing jobs by helping local manufacturers to innovate, tap into export markets and bring more production back onshore.

Queensland's regions will no longer be left behind. This budget delivers on our election commitment to expand Queensland's network of manufacturing hubs with a \$10 million commitment to establish a new hub in Toowoomba. This was an important election commitment to strengthen Queensland's manufacturing footprint where it matters most—in the regions—and we have gone one better. In addition to delivering the Toowoomba Manufacturing Hub, the Crisafulli government will also establish a brand new hub on the Sunshine Coast. Through strong fiscal management, we are delivering both hubs within the same funding envelope. We are committed to building skills, attracting investment and growing local supply chains right across Queensland.

The next stop from the Sunshine Coast is Maryborough, where we are saving the Queensland Train Manufacturing Program. Queenslanders have not forgotten how Labor derailed the Queensland train manufacturing project with a \$2.4 billion blowout and delays and they have not forgotten how those opposite tried to cover it up. This budget delivers \$4.8 billion over the forward estimates to get the Queensland Train Manufacturing Program back on track. Construction at the Torbanlea facility is progressing at pace, with new jobs and real career opportunities opening up across the Maryborough region. Expressions of interest for the 200 blue-collar and 100 white-collar jobs have gone out, with interviews to commence in October. This is what delivery looks like.

In Central Queensland we are giving worker safety the attention it deserves with \$10.7 million to establish a dedicated Mining and Resources Coroner. This will deliver closure for families who have suffered the unthinkable and drive industry-wide improvements in safety right throughout the resources

sector. In exploration, we are backing the next generation of projects with \$5.1 million for targeted geoscience and data to uncover new mineral opportunities across the state. In North Queensland this budget delivers \$8.5 million to progress the Queensland Resources Common User Facility—another key step in fast-tracking resource development. It is critical funding to get critical minerals investment moving.

In our schools we are planting the seeds for Queensland's future workforce. The budget delivers \$2.5 million to expand the Queensland Minerals and Energy Academy, including programs that increase women's participation in the resources sector. We are investing in the skills pipeline we need to support long-term growth and we are delivering a record \$117.8 million in funding for natural resource management groups across Queensland to support biodiversity and on-ground action across the state. This is especially critical in regional areas where communities and ecosystems are deeply connected. We are also delivering practical cost-of-living relief for our farmers, with a 10 per cent cap on rent increases for primary producers on state leasehold land. Without this cap, some producers were facing rent hikes of more than 250 per cent. We are stepping in to provide certainty, reduce pressure and back those who grow and graze in this state.

Our regions are the engine room of Queensland's economy. This budget invests \$100 million to seal the roads that keep that engine running through our Country Roads Connect Program. It means safer routes, less disruption and more resilient supply chains for our rural communities. This is a budget that delivers for Queenslanders. It delivers for rural and regional Queenslanders. It backs the industries that drive our economy. It restores confidence to sectors abandoned by Labor. It delivers on our commitments, and it delivers them with fiscal discipline. While those opposite left a legacy of blowouts and broken promises, we are building a legacy of delivery. This budget rebuilds trust with industry, with workers and with hardworking Queensland families. It backs our miners, our manufacturers, our farmers and the communities that depend upon them. It delivers clarity, confidence and common sense to the sectors that drive Queensland forward.

Moving on to the mighty Burdekin electorate, I start by saying what a difference a year makes. The regional action plans for last year's budget showed a grand total investment of under \$20 million into the electorate that generates the lion's share of Queensland's royalty income. Essential infrastructure and services went unfunded thanks to the member for Woodridge. Compare that to this budget, which delivers on the commitments the Crisafulli LNP government made to Queensland and to the Burdekin electorate. Compare the previous government's \$20 million to our regional action plans which outline over \$95 million for the Burdekin electorate. The focus of this budget is the priorities that Queenslanders supported at the last election—and, boy, have we delivered! From improving education to housing and from tackling crime to delivering better health care, we have funded the necessary programs and infrastructure to address those issues, including in the Burdekin electorate. In total, that funding amounts to almost \$600 million in the mighty Burdekin electorate alone, and that figure will rise. Why? Because that figure does not include the record-breaking \$9 billion investment in the Bruce Highway under the 80-20 funding split with the federal government—the deal that those opposite said was impossible. Just like this budget has delivered for the Burdekin electorate, this government secured that deal when those opposite would not even try.

If we drill down on what this budget delivers, we see that the \$3.2 million upgrade of Clermont's Aquatic Centre and upgrades at the Clermont State School are now locked in. In Moranbah almost \$42 million is provided for the construction of the Resources Centre of Excellence and the \$1.6 million expansion at the Early Learning Centre and additional affordable housing for non-mine workers are fully funded. Healthcare workers in Collinsville can look forward to new, fit-for-purpose accommodation and the community will see increased services via a \$14.6 million upgrade at the Collinsville community precinct, as well as the expansion of the Collinsville Men's Shed.

Heading from Collinsville to Bowen, travellers will see work on upgrading a level crossing in the near future to improve road safety and in Bowen itself there is housing for frontline workers, a new station for the Abbott Point Rural Fire Brigade and this government will finally end the back and forth when it comes to master planning of the Bowen harbour. We are also looking to the future with funding to provide essential infrastructure with a \$9.8 million investment in the Salisbury Plains Industrial Precinct. The budget also includes funding for remediation works at the Bowen Courthouse, shade structures at the Bowen pool and lighting upgrades for the mighty Bowen Seagulls at Denison Park.

In the Burdekin LGA, the budget means work will soon be underway on the installation of a CT scanner at the Ayr Hospital and upgrades at the Home Hill Hospital. Also, \$2 million funding is locked in to purchase land for a new fire station in Ayr to finally move our emergency services workers away from potentially carcinogenic chemicals. Funding for upgrades at both the Ayr and Home Hill swimming pools is included in the budget, as is funding to complete stage 1 of the Ayr Water Treatment Plant and the refurbishment of block D at the Ayr State High School. And from here in Brisbane you can almost

hear the screams of delight from the members of Burdekin Netball as they see their \$3.5 million upgrade is fully funded, and from the members of the Cungulla fishing and social club whose upgrades are also now fully funded.

Mr 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—

Mr Speaker, the Burdekin electorate is as diverse as the people who live there. We work hard and all we ask in return is for our fair share and to be respected.

For almost a decade, those opposite determined that our fair share was a few trinkets and, all too often, they were announced but never funded or honoured.

In stark contrast, the Crisafulli government's first budget includes funding for all of our election commitments and makes a real difference in tackling key issues.

For the Burdekin's farmers, the budget brings about decisive action when it comes to addressing irrigation costs and a commitment to not only finding a solution ... but also delivering action when it comes to the issue of rising groundwater.

Those actions, combined with this government's commitment to boost our agricultural sector, means real progress on turning opportunity into reality.

We've taken steps that those opposite would never take by consulting on a genuine basis with primary industry to achieve short and long-term goals, and this budget proves that this government will step up and help address the challenges to ensure a bright future for primary industry in the Burdekin electorate and beyond.

Since the 2017 redistribution added Moranbah, Dysart, Clermont and Middledmount to the Burdekin electorate, worker safety in the resources sector has been an issue that is raised with me on an almost daily basis.

As I have said many times, it is the resources projects in the Burdekin electorate that generate the lion's share of royalties for Queensland. But none of that is possible without the workers.

Even if you ignore every other reason, the safety of workers in the resource sector is crucial for our economy.

Hearing directly from workers, their families and the families of workers who lost their lives is my reason for taking a stand on worker safety.

Through my ministerial portfolio, we have set to work on ensuring we have the right structures in place to set safety standards and to ensure compliance.

This budget includes funding for the Mining and Resources Coroner with the goals of providing answers when things go wrong, and ensuring lessons are learnt. For the resource workers who live and work in the Burdekin electorate, the message is simple.

Under the Crisafulli government, your safety is a priority, not something that comes under the microscope only in the event of a fatality. This budget is not just funding to establish the role... it is locked in long term funding that ensures improving worker safety on mine and quarry site remains a priority.

It is about consistency and ensuring that accidental deaths at mine sites, quarries and petroleum sites are appropriately investigated and that Inquests are conducted in a transparent and timely manner.

Mr Speaker this is the 10th budget I have seen delivered in this place, but this is the 1st budget I have seen that delivers so comprehensively on the issues that are important to my constituents and this is the first budget that delivers for rural and regional Queensland.

Whether it is part of a statewide program or a focussed, local project, this budget marks a huge change when it comes to issues like roads, education, healthcare, justice and the key industries that make the Burdekin electorate Queensland's powerhouse.

Like Queenslanders across the length and breadth of our great state, the people of the Burdekin electorate deserve the same level of services and infrastructure as their city cousins.

This budget doesn't just acknowledge that fact ... it sets a course for delivery.

In reply to last year's budget, I said that I believe in my electorate. That I believe in the value of the people who live and work in the towns, on the land and in the mines. I said I believe in people who have aspirations to do better.

I said I would not give up on them and that I would fight for our fair share of the infrastructure and services we deserve every single day.

In response to this budget, Mr Speaker, I say that I believe more than ever in the Burdekin electorate and the value of the people who live and work in the towns, on the land and in the mines. And I certainly believe more than ever in those who have aspirations to do better.

I believe more than ever because we didn't give up, because we fought for our fair share and because this budget delivers it.

This is a responsible budget built on respecting taxpayers' money, delivering on our commitments and continuing to deliver the services and infrastructure we all need. It is a budget that sets Queensland on the right course for long-term budget repair that will ensure that we, and future generations, enjoy a brighter future whether we live in the Burdekin electorate or elsewhere.

The fight does not end here ... it merely takes a turn and there is more to do.

Together with the constituents of the Burdekin electorate, the fight now is to take advantage of the opportunities provided to us.

Whether those opportunities be in resources, in primary industry or in another industry, we now have a government and budget that will back our fight to turn those opportunities into reality and to deliver a brighter future for us, for our families and for future generations.

I commend the Bills to the House.

Budget Commitments for Burdekin Electorate

- Confirmed funding for a CT Scanner at Ayr Hospital
- \$2M Confirmed funding for land acquisition for the new Fire Station in Ayr
- \$2.1M for upgrades at Home Hill Pool including water filtering and heating
- Confirmed funding for Burdekin Netball upgrade of facilities in Ayr
- \$21.8M to tackle rising groundwater
- Complete refurbishment of Block D at Ayr State High School
- \$6.1 to complete stage 1 of the Ayr Water Treatment Plant

Bowen/Collinsville

- \$12.5M for remediation work at Bowen courthouse
- \$800,000 for a new station for Abbot Point Rural Fire Brigade
- Replacement of Collinsville Hospital staff accommodation to provide appropriate, safe and fit-for-purpose accommodation
- \$400,000 Confirmed funding to expand Collinsville Men's Shed
- Solar system and shade structures for Bowen pool
- \$14.6M to upgrade Collinsville Community Precinct to deliver more services
- \$9.8M to provide essential services and infrastructure corridors at Salisbury Plains Industrial Precinct
- Confirmed funding of \$250,000 for lighting at Denison Park for Bowen Seagulls

Isaac

- Lighting upgrades at Moranbah Football
- \$41.7M to construct Resources Excellence Precinct
- \$1.6M to remodel classrooms at Moranbah Early Learning Centre to provide 25 additional childcare places
- Clermont State School Multipurpose courts
- \$3.2M for Clermont Aquatic Swimming Centre

Plus confirmed \$60k for upgrades at the Cungulla Fishing and Social Club