




Speech By
Hon. Daniel Purdie

MEMBER FOR NINDERRY

Record of Proceedings, 26 June 2025

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

 **Hon. DG PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (9.29 pm): The 2025-26 budget represents an opportunity for the Crisafulli government to set out its priorities for the people of Queensland for the next 12 months and lay the foundations for a fresh start for Queensland. Our election victory saw us assume responsibility for meeting the great challenges that Labor's decade of neglect created. We saw a decade in which government was reduced to the issuing of a host of media releases as a substitute for sound policymaking. This was doomed to fail. This budget is the first step on the long road to repair Labor's record of financial mismanagement, while continuing to provide those services to which Queenslanders are entitled. Importantly, this budget is delivering for Queensland.

My electorate of Ninderry is one based on families, businesses, community and sporting groups and schools. This is a budget of optimism and kept promises—evidence that we have a plan for Ninderry's future, and that our future is bright with the LNP Crisafulli government. This budget focuses on four key areas: safety where you live, a better lifestyle through a stronger economy, health services when you need them and a plan for Queensland's future. From kindy kids to high school students there is something in this budget to help families give their children the best start in life. Kindy kids will receive free vision, hearing and speech development checks as part of the \$37.5 million Healthy Kindy Kids program. For the first time, parents of primary school students will receive \$100 vouchers for each child to help cover the cost of school essentials as part of a \$250 million investment in our Back to School Boost program.

With our new and improved all-seasons and all-abilities \$200 Play On! sports vouchers, we will help cover the costs of participation in organised sport from ages five to 17 years old. Support for local sport is so important to the health of our communities. Since 2018 I have worked with the Coolum Beach Breakers Junior AFL Club, Coolum State High School and Sunshine Coast Council on the master plan for a multipurpose sports facility. Our investment of \$5 million in stage 1 is a very important start. While discussing sports, Ninderry will reap the benefits of legacy infrastructure investment in the 2032 Olympic Games. When the Sunshine Coast Mountain Bike Centre at Parklands is open for business, there will be a trail head, car park, bike shop, amenities and cafe, and possibly the home base for our popular local mountain bike group, the Bushrangers.

We have made it easier for first home buyers to enter the market sooner through our Boost to Buy shared equity scheme, which will help reduce the deposit gap. Labor's housing crisis left a growing number of vulnerable Queenslanders locked out of a home and failed to build social and community housing to keep up with population growth. This budget invests \$43.9 million to expand and improve social and community housing, with 240 social homes in construction or under contract towards the delivery of 53,000 homes by 2044. More cost-of-living relief has been delivered by abolishing stamp duty on all new homes for first home buyers, extending the first home owner grant to \$30,000 for 12 months.

Residents of Ninderry will have better access to health care with additional funding to grow the workforce to 7,892 FTEs across the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service. What a relief for many to know that a \$1.8 billion investment to deliver more elective surgeries will reduce wait times. Still in the health space, expecting mothers can rest easier knowing that \$48.7 million has been allocated to deliver the legislated but previously unfunded midwife-to-patient ratios.

There are many small tourism businesses in my electorate who promote our beachside and hinterland environments while making a living. These businesses will benefit from this government's focus on the importance of tourism in building and sustaining our local economies. The commitment of \$446 million to support Destination 2045, a plan to deliver Queensland's tourism future, includes funding for aviation attraction, event attraction and new product development. This once again highlights the Crisafulli government's visionary and strategic management of our great resources.

Part of the 2032 Delivery Plan is, of course, the public transport infrastructure that will help visitors to the Sunshine Coast get around seamlessly and fill an existing gap in public transport that will help residents better connect with other local communities. After nearly a decade of Labor mismanagement, the people of Ninderry and communities across the Sunshine Coast have been left behind—stuck in traffic, let down by crumbling infrastructure and forced to fight for the basics like safe school drop-offs and functioning pedestrian crossings. Labor has wasted over \$20 billion in project cost blowouts. That is money that could and should have been invested in the everyday infrastructure our growing communities urgently need.

I am proud to be a part of the Crisafulli government that is delivering real, local solutions to make our communities safer, stronger and better connected. Since becoming the very first member for the newly created electorate of Ninderry in 2017, I have been fighting alongside my community for long overdue infrastructure upgrades. After years of fighting Labor for the funding and finally delivering a safer signalised intersection at the Coolum State School, the next stage to bust congestion was the construction of a second interchange on the Sunshine Motorway at Mount Coolum. It has taken the Crisafulli government to stump up the funds for this major infrastructure and at last we will see a new interchange at Mount Coolum, with two new south-facing ramps connecting to council's planned extension of South Coolum Road. Once constructed this will be a major milestone in our delivery of our congestion-busting plan, changing the daily commute for residents north and south of Coolum.

It has taken this government, which prioritises safety, to finally upgrade the deadly Woombye intersection at Diddillibah Road and Nambour Connection Road with \$2.5 million. Locals have been desperately calling for this before another life is lost. The safety and health of our school communities is paramount and important infrastructure upgrades have been funded. Four Ninderry schools have received extra funding: \$1 million will improve parking and upgrade the school drop-off zone at North Arm State School; Eumundi State School will receive \$75,000 to deliver a new access car park and handrails which are long overdue; at Peregrine Springs State School we have funded \$25,000 to upgrade the school tuckshop, supporting our volunteers and ensuring that every child can access healthy meals in a space fit for purpose; at Kuluin State School we have funded \$150,000 to improve pathway accessibility and all-weather protection, ensuring every student, regardless of ability, has a safe and inclusive learning environment.

The budget has also delivered on our promise to provide \$600,000 for Eumundi footpaths, part of the Streetscape Project, and invest \$250,000 for pedestrian safety upgrades in Bli Bli, a rapidly growing area where hundreds of young families and older residents rely on safe crossings to get through the busy town centre. As I have indicated on many occasions, this government is committed to keeping our community safe. Central to that objective is our intention to provide our police with the laws and resources they need to do their job. Labor never accepted that their policies and their actions generated the crime crisis that confronted Queenslanders. 10 years in the making, it struck at the very heart of our communities—lives were lost, families were torn apart and nothing was done. All that has changed. The difference between Labor's politically driven agenda and our measured, targeted response to fighting crime could not be clearer. This budget, with expenditure across the police portfolio of \$4.05 billion, constitutes record spending in this area, surpassing Labor's last budget by \$324 million. This will ensure our police are better able to do their job, to meet the challenges they face and to keep our communities safe.

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—

The fact that this budget provides \$140 million to overcome Labor's financial mismanagement of the Police portfolio points to the complete absence of financial responsibility. Labor demanded the QPS undertake a range of tasks but offered no funds to back up these demands. The Police were left to pay for Labor's promises from their own resources.

However, this is not the only example of police being left in the lurch by the former government when promises were made but no funds were provided to live up to those promises.

This government has made the Youth Crime Group permanent whereas Labor was only willing to fund its predecessor—Youth Crime Taskforce—until 30 June this year. Transitioning from a temporary taskforce to a permanent Youth Crime Group ensures the QPS has the leadership, resources and coordination required to respond to youth crime.

The crime crisis in Queensland was nothing more than a short-term political issue for Labor.

Before last year's election—in a desperate attempt to shore up support—Labor promised Polair's Airborne Law Enforcement services would be extended to Cairns and the Sunshine Coast. However, once again, that funding was due to run out on 30 June this year with no sign of the extra funds needed to keep Polair resources in the air.

In contrast to Labor, this budget provides funds to keep Polair flying beyond the remainder of this term.

Labor made police positions permanent—but never funded them. This occurred across the portfolio, including the critical area of domestic and family violence.

Had Labor remained in charge of the purse strings 61 people from this area would have been out of a job next week. We have acted to fund these positions and halt Labor's sackings.

Those opposite who loudly proclaim their abhorrence of domestic violence should examine their consciences when it comes to making sure there are sufficient funds to pay those charged with combatting this scourge.

High visibility police patrols were promised—but funding wasn't continued.

Labor failed to fund the necessary equipment our police need to combat crime—happy to claim a headline but unwilling to back that up with dollars and cents. This was another shabby exercise for which all those who sat around the Cabinet table with the Opposition Leader and the former Treasurer, the member for Woodridge, should be ashamed.

In contrast to the opposition this government believes that stronger laws, which Labor never accepted, should be accompanied by the funding our police deserve.

This budget is the first step on the long journey of providing our police with the practical support they need to do the job that people expect of them—and that they expect of themselves.

We are committed to, and are funding, 1,600 police recruits over four years. This is in stark contrast to Labor's record.

Under Labor we saw the number of sworn operational police increase by only 734 in the past ten years. In Labor's last four years in office the number of police increased by a mere 174.

Of importance is our commitment to provide a new \$13.5 million mental health support framework for current and former officers.

We will fund the equipment that Labor denied our frontline police.

They will be supported by the \$148 million in this budget for new tasers, vests, body-worn cameras and other safety equipment.

We will support our police with a capital works program amounting to over \$290 million to build new and upgraded police stations, facilities and beats at Burleigh, Nambour, Logan Central, Mount Gravatt, Boondall, Ferny Grove, Redcliffe, Edmonton, Palm Island and Goodna. This will give our officers the facilities and resources they need to tackle crime.

Beyond this, we are looking to the future and recognise the need for our new and developing communities to be serviced by adequate police facilities. Accordingly, money is provided in this budget to buy land for new stations at Yarrabilba, Rainbow Beach and Caboolture West. Acting on police advice, we will fund both Bundaberg and Bargara police stations.

Our new laws designed to tackle youth crime—introduced at the first available opportunity after the 2024 election—will be backed up by an investment of \$348 million.

As we have said, Queenslanders should no longer have to tolerate a generation of habitual offenders whose rights outweighed those of their victims and for whose actions there were no consequences.

This may have been the Labor way, but it is not our way. We are backing up our words with actions and the necessary financial support. The tables have been turned and we will give our police the support and resources they need to undertake the crime fighting role for which they are trained.

There is a strong link between the level of crime in society and the capacity of society to remain prosperous and enjoy a measure of economic growth.

Just last month Heidi Cooper, the CEO of Business Chamber Queensland, when commenting on this government's \$40 million Secure Communities Partnership Program, said—

'Crime is a community issue which has become a barrier to business. Crime solutions must balance community and business needs, and we welcome the opening of the Secure Communities Partnership Fund to address this issue.'

This highlights the importance of what we are seeking to achieve—and why it was critical to remove those who refused to accept the consequences of their ill-conceived policies.

The policies and practices of the past championed by Labor have failed. They have been consigned to the rubbish bin of history and we are charting a new course to ensure community safety and the rights of victims take the priority they deserve.

The measure of a Budget's reception is not what members of this House might say about it but what others, with a stake in our state's economic and social development, say.

Our Budget announcements have received support from a range of industry and professional groups.

These include, amongst others, the Property Council, Infrastructure Partnerships Australia, Queensland Major Contractors Association, Queensland Master Builders and the AMA.

I do not expect the opposition to endorse any supportive comments. However, they should have the grace to concede that the policy prescriptions that our dire financial position demands could not have been introduced by those who caused the massive problems in the first place.

We have set a new course which, in time, will restore this state's budgetary position. We could not afford one day longer to languish in the financial doldrums which Labor bequeathed us.

In contrast, Labor remains stranded in the past.

Over two days we heard Labor members support the policies that led us to our current financial state. They are without shame—they are without insight.

The Crisafulli government stands by the policies and initiatives presented in this budget.

It represents a fresh start for Queensland; it deserves the wholehearted support of the entire House and I look forward to its speedy passage.