




Speech By
Hon. David Crisafulli
MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

Record of Proceedings, 27 June 2025

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

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (7.47 pm): What a great honour to follow the member for Theodore after what was an impassioned show of how much he loves his community and how his community has not been well served over many years. To see the contribution from the member and know that some of those great sporting clubs, some of the beautiful schools—with or without the sea breezes—are able to get a contribution, I say, ‘Well done to you, member.’

I make the observation that this budget does as we said we were going to do. There are many barometers for how this budget has been received by Queenslanders. By all means, there is the commentary that we have received. There is interest in a number of the schemes, and the Treasurer will talk about one of them in a moment. A number of third-party groups are lined up to say great things about it. There has been general goodwill from many of the representative bodies that have spoken well. If you want the No. 1 reason I know this budget delivers the foundation for a fresh start, it is the fact that the opposition has not been able to come up with any form of coordinated attack on it.

The reason I wanted to make my contribution towards the end of the debate is that I have waited to find out what that coordinated attack might be, and it has not come. It has been ‘too much of this but not enough of that’, it has been ‘maybe this and maybe that’. There has been no coordinated strategy because those opposite know that this is a budget that does exactly what we said it was going to do. For them to fail in question time to even go close to making a credible attack on the Treasurer shows the quality of the work he has done. It has been a long time coming for this state to have a treasurer who respects the fiscal position of the state, who is able to work in concert with his cabinet and his colleagues and who is not at war with the people sitting beside him, and the results show that. It has been calm. It has been methodical.

The funds that we said would be delivered have been, the services we said would be bolstered have been and the scare campaign is over. We all lived through it: we lived through the personal denigrations, the backchats, the disgraceful attacks—it is over. This document puts it to bed. The lack of eye contact puts it to bed. It is over. It is exactly what Queenslanders voted for. They voted for change and I commend the Treasurer for delivering this budget.

I want to reflect briefly on one of the first things we spoke about, which was safety where people live. It is important that Queenslanders know that after 10 years of a youth crime crisis it is vital that fewer victims be the compass that guides us. Everything we do must be about fewer victims. There is money to make sure that we continue to do that. There is \$50 million for the Victims Advocate Service, 1,600 new police recruits, new police resources—and I reflected on what it would be like for police to have been calling for a number of those resources and to not have received them and how it would make them feel when they did not have the laws or the resources to do their job. That ends now following

the funding of \$147.9 million. On the DNA debacle and operational capacity, I think about how anyone would feel about people who have been denied justice—rape victims—with guilty people walking free, innocent people living with that and to not have those elements funded into the future. I speak of crime prevention schools, secure community partnerships and helping small and family business.

I turn to easier access to health services. That was one of the areas where we saw one of the most disgraceful of all the scare campaigns and heard of some of the horrible things that were said to not just the hardworking people who work in those hospitals but the patients. I still remember driving home at the end of polling day. I was coming from Ipswich and there was a giant billboard that said that a so-called satellite hospital was going to be closed without any basis. There was not one kernel of truth, yet that could be put on a billboard. That satellite health centre has not only been saved; it has been strengthened and there are new facilities rolling out in them across the state. There will be three new hospitals, there will be 10 upgrades and there will be extra staff to resource them, not the fewer staff we were told about. Do honourable members remember all of that? Do they remember the fewer staff? There is extra staff—lots of them—and they need to know that there will be more staff because we value and respect what they do.

There is \$1.8 billion in surgery waitlist reduction. The other day the honourable health minister outlined that we have seen good early signs on those surgery waitlists. Despite that, the Leader of the Opposition in his contribution said something that was completely contrary to that.

Mrs Frecklington: Yeah, he lied.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I will not take the interjection, but I am picking up what the Attorney-General is saying. I am sort of picking it up and I am nodding, but I am not taking it! She is certainly not misleading the House.

Mrs Gerber: Minister for Integrity.

Mr CRISAFULLI: That is for sure. The honourable health minister outlined that and I listened to it and I reflected on what he said in the ministerial statement. Then I heard the Leader of the Opposition say something completely contrary. I do hope the House is given the opportunity to have that clarified into the future.

I turn to housing. The thing I really want to talk about is the Boost to Buy scheme because there is a generation of young people who have given up hope of owning their home. We want them to aspire to more. This project sets higher thresholds for people who are still struggling to get into the market. It sets higher income thresholds and higher property price thresholds, but it gives the opportunity to those who just cannot quite fill that deposit gap to get into the market. Nothing would please me more than seeing a generation of people becoming home owners, because it opens up the opportunity for people to achieve all they can in their life. If people want that, they deserve to be given a crack at getting it. Nothing would please me more than that.

In the end, it is supply where our focus must be. I look at our \$2 billion Residential Activation Fund, by which we will fast-track some money out the door. I want to thank both the Deputy Premier and the Treasurer for the way they have worked in earnest on that. I talk of the 20 per cent uplift for specialist homelessness services. Interestingly, that was another one of those projects. Do honourable members remember that one? Do they remember all the ghosts and all the bad things that were going to happen? Instead of pointing to the honourable member and asking her to justify the disgraceful scare campaign, I will instead point to the people who provide the service and say thank you because they do a mighty job. They are the difference between somebody being on the streets or in a warm bed. They are the difference between—

An honourable member interjected.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I will take the interjection from the member. I am not sure what it was, but I do not think it would be a truthful contribution, so I will take it.

I talk about home ownership for Indigenous communities. It is my turn to return the favour to the Mayor of Palm Island, Alf Lacey, because I have been told overnight he secured a major award in front of a whole heap of people in Canberra. He said some very complimentary things about this government. I say to the mayor: right back at you. I say: thanks for trying to get your people into home ownership and we will do all we can because people in Indigenous communities deserve that opportunity.

I turn to cost-of-living relief—targeted, responsible and long term. I talk about the \$300 opportunity for people with kids going to school and playing sport and the \$100 Back to School Boost. It is very modest and very minor but has the ability to make a connection between a student and a

school. That is as important as the ability to make a contribution towards a stationery pack. The ability to form a connection between school and family means community. That is why it is an important initiative. There are the \$200 Play On! vouchers—remember, another scare campaign. I looked in the budget and I have to say that, when you are in the position that the honourable Treasurer is, you do not play the games that those opposite do. You want to see these things in the budget. You want to be surprised. You want to say, 'There's a few hundred million we don't have to find.' But no, there was not a line item!

In fact, let me turn back to housing just for one moment. There was not even enough money for crisis accommodation for the financial year we are in. Remember that? The honourable minister had to go to the cabinet to get money to put a roof over somebody's head—\$150 million—otherwise people would be on the street because they did not build homes and they did not even put in enough money to finish the financial year, let alone the forwards.

I continue on cost of living and I talk about free kindy health checks and the indexed electricity rebates for vulnerable households. We axed the patients tax. The member for McConnell keeps saying that there was no patients tax. There is no doubt they are going to bring it back. The former treasurer stopped talking to the former premier because of it. Of course, they want to roll it back in. I talk about the \$20 million Returning to Work program to support women re-entering the workforce, a very important initiative—

Mrs Gerber: Hear, hear! Real, tangible delivery.

Mr CRISAFULLI:—indeed it is—and a plan for our future. There is the Bruce Highway package, the deal they said was not possible. Do honourable members remember that one? It took him 2½ months, but I guess so. There are the new schools including special schools. I say to those opposite that there is no better opportunity for a family than the opportunity of choice, and nothing will please me more than to see six special schools rolling out across this state.

There is the Electricity Maintenance Guarantee, new opportunities for gas and CopperString—finally, money in the budget with a record investment. Destination 2045 is a long-term vision—45 new projects by 2045. We are rebuilding Paradise Dam by starting those works, are building manufacturing hubs on the Sunshine Coast and in Toowoomba and finally have an Olympics and Paralympics plan—a real plan.

I turn to our natural environment and its record funding—an increase for natural resource management, for 150 rangers, in money for Zero Litter to the Bay, of five new or expanded wildlife hospitals and of \$60.9 million for biosecurity and invasive species management. No wonder those opposite have found no credible attack point all week.

Finally, I want to turn to what it means to my part of the northern Gold Coast, and I say to the honourable member: it is not just your area that has been starved. There is finally money for the Jabiru Island bridge duplication—finally: a project that was on the forward works for this state over a decade ago and finally the people of Paradise Point and Hope Island will not have that congestion point. With regard to boat ramps, there is nearly \$1½ million for Paradise Point and Santa Barbara and the Hope Harbour marina refurbishment—thanks to the Department of Primary Industries—worth \$1.2 million. The honourable member for Theodore listed a whole heap of clubs including the Coomera Hope Island Cricket Club. I have good news for the Runaway Bay Cricket Club—\$500,000 from Games On!, and long may that continue. The Gold Coast Performance Centre at Runaway Bay will see an upgrade worth \$20 million.

This budget does deliver for Queensland, but it also delivers what we said we were going to do. It also delivers one more notch in the Labor Party's belt of scare campaigns that cannot be run again, because we all lived through them. We saw the same ones with the same graphics and the same writing and the same head shots and it was on repeat, and those opposite are still stuck there. They are broken. It is the same people who presided over the mess that this budget fixes—the same ones. They are in the same portfolios. They are refusing to move. Not a single one of them has backed a single thing that the Leader of the Opposition said. He is a corpse waiting, and all of them know it.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr CRISAFULLI: There is one thing for certain: for 10 years we have listened to it—for 10 years—and in one budget every scare campaign has been put to bed forever.

Mr SPEAKER: Before I call the Treasurer, Attorney-General, you know what I am going to say. I heard you use an unparliamentary word earlier. I would ask you to withdraw it.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I withdraw.