




Speech By
Hon. David Janetzki

MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA SOUTH

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

 **Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (8.02 pm), in reply: Following that outstanding performance and presentation from the Premier, it gives me great privilege to rise tonight to reply to the budget debate. I am going to take my full 30 minutes, colleagues, so you do not need to sit here for all of it. You do not need to stay here for all of it. You are very welcome to, but I am going to take the full 30 minutes because, as the Premier said, we have waited a very long time to be able to present a budget into this House. It has been nearly 11 years now since we last presented a Liberal National government budget in this House, so it has been a long time coming. As the Premier has said, this budget ends the scare campaigns. It officially ends the scare campaigns, and I am going to run through them over the next half an hour as I reply to the budget debate tonight.

I want to thank all members across the House and on this side for their contributions to the budget debate. In particular, I want to offer my congratulations to those members who made their first speech on the budget over the last couple of days. It is a proud moment to be able to represent your electorates and I took significant pride in listening to all of you speak so passionately about your areas, about your homes, about your regions, about your loved ones, about your community groups and about the good causes that you back in. It was a real pleasure to hear it, so congratulations to everybody who made their contribution reflecting how this budget delivers for their region, for their electorate, for their people, because they have waited a long time to have a budget that represents their interests rather than just simply glossy brochures and announcements to get through the next election.

I want to thank the Leader of the House because budget week is long. It is long and he has had to do a lot of organising. I acknowledge the efforts of the Leader of the House and his entire team to have such a smooth budget week. I want to formally thank the Premier, the Deputy Premier and the finance minister for the hard work that was done during CBRC. I think I said at a couple of press conferences that this calm and methodical approach that we have taken to the budget would not have been achieved without the leadership of the Premier. Members heard just then what this budget and this opportunity means to the Premier. He brought that commitment every day to the budget process, and I thank him for his support during it. I also want to once more thank the Treasury staff who helped us prepare this budget—our first budget in a very long time—and we wanted to do it calmly, line by line, agency by agency, and that is exactly what we have done to honour our election commitments, to save the jobs and services and to build the projects and infrastructure that Queensland needs.

This is a budget that lays the foundation for the fresh start that Queenslanders voted for—it is—and it delivers for Queensland. It delivers targeted and responsible cost-of-living relief. The Premier touched on it, but I am going to do it as well. I am going to go through the targeted and responsible cost-of-living relief because it is recurrent and responsible, it is targeted, it is timely and it was carefully thought through to help those people who are doing it tough. It is done to help those people who are doing it tough.

There is the \$100 Back to School boost for primary school-age children no matter where they go to school—state school, Catholic school, independent school. We wanted to offer that support to those families who are sending kids off to school in 2026. With regard to the \$200 sports voucher program—formerly FairPlay under those opposite—it was a Liberal National program, by the way. I have to emphasise that. For the last few days we have had to endure those opposite carrying on like it was their idea. It was not. It was not their idea; it was a Liberal National idea in our last government. It was our idea. We started it. They were going to let it end. When was it ending? Next week. It was ending under those opposite next week. It was all over next week and we decided, 'No, we're going to make it permanent. We're going to put it in the budget,' because that is what the people of Queensland deserve. When you couple that \$200 voucher with two rounds a year, you are going to get an awful lot of families that can make the decision which sport is played when, which season, what time.

Mrs Gerber: It makes a difference.

Mr JANETZKI: It does make a difference. I take the interjection from the member for Currumbin. They get that opportunity to make that choice. So we have our sports vouchers now in the forwards. They are there.

We lifted the former Labor government's freeze on indexation for vulnerable households. There are 600,000 vulnerable households in Queensland and the former indexation had been frozen. We have lifted that, so the rebate for vulnerable households now goes from \$372 to \$386. For as long as I am Treasurer that will continue to be indexed and increased every year because those vulnerable households deserve to have that support. They deserve to have that support.

We have also extended the first home owner grant boost of \$30,000 for another 12 months. That is going to help a couple of thousand people. What we want more than anything else is to incentivise young people to get into home ownership. We make no apologies for that, and I am going to have a bit more to say about home ownership later. This budget also locks in permanently the Crisafulli government's 50-cent fares. It locks them in permanently. Those opposite were never locking them in. We did.

Mrs Gerber: It was a headline for them.

Mr JANETZKI: It was: it was just a headline; it was a gimmick. However, it means something to us.

A government member: We've put it in the forwards.

Mr JANETZKI: It is built in now: it is in the forwards. It means something to us. It is not just a gimmick. It is going to help people get home sooner. It is going to ease congestion on our roads. It is going to boost productivity. It means something to us.

This budget also front loads investments into jobs and services so that Queenslanders can reap the benefits sooner. It saves jobs and services. It invests into capital projects that Queensland needs for a growing population and to prepare for the games in 2032. When I think about some of the investments into jobs, into services and into projects that we have seen in this budget, I think about health with a 10.2 per cent increase, a total operational and capex budget this year of \$33 billion, and I think about the Hospital Rescue Plan—\$18.5 billion invested into hospitals around the state; the new hospitals, the refurbishments.

Mrs Gerber: Real people behind it!

Mr JANETZKI: Real people behind it, real projects. These new hospitals will deliver the health services for Queenslanders no matter where they live because everybody deserves that. In housing I think of the \$5.6 billion record investment. I think of the \$365 million investment into housing services and the 20 per cent uplift in specialist homelessness services. I think of the hard work that the housing minister has done advocating for that. This budget builds it in.

In the education department we have a \$21.9 billion investment in the budget—\$814.8 million in capex, six new special schools, two new schools. We were at Mitchelton Special School during the week talking to families there. We know what it will mean for them to have outstanding facilities. We need those facilities for a growing population. As we draw on the education deal that the Premier struck with the Prime Minister—

Mrs Gerber: They couldn't do it!

Mr JANETZKI: I will take the interjection. Those opposite could not do it. I think about the 1,600 police we have committed to in the budget. We have the \$147 million boost for tasers, body worn cameras and other equipment for the police that we talked about during the week.

When I think about the Olympics investment, I think about the question from the member for McConnel. Why would they get her to ask a question about the Olympics? We are not even sure if she wants Victoria Park. Unlike them, we want a games that Queensland can be proud of. Under those opposite it was years of wasted time, ridiculous plans, costings done on media releases, QSAC thought bubbles without a thought to how anyone would get there and temporary stands. It is extraordinary.

Mrs Gerber: They still support QSAC.

Mr JANETZKI: I think they do still support it. In this budget we have tipped in \$950 million out of a total spend for athletes villages and \$862 million on venues. We want to deliver a games that Queensland can be proud of. The budget lays the foundation for budget repair. The long-term investments that we are making into structural reforms will put downward pressure on prices and improve living standards. When I look at the Electricity Maintenance Guarantee—we need our generators operating at capacity so we need them properly maintained—we have lifted that from \$1.4 billion to \$1.6 billion, having already spent \$450 million in this financial year. When I look at the Deputy Premier's Residential Activation Fund, we have made a commitment to that in this budget. We know we need supply. Notwithstanding the key investments we are making into housing and our tax initiatives, we need more supply. That is fundamental. Under our Residential Activation Fund, we will have delivered \$1 billion in grants to councils and developers by 30 June next year. That is the kind of investment that we are making into supply because we are determined to work with local councils and developers to get more supply to the market.

We have achieved this budget repair against the backdrop of declining royalties. That is an area that I will not go into tonight. We know what that did to investor confidence. Those opposite promised 26 times they would not raise taxes and they broke that promise. We know that coal royalties are stagnant.

Mr Head interjected.

Mr JANETZKI: I will come back to that, member for Callide. There was one notable absence during this entire debate: there was not one mention from those opposite about the GST. I went to the tape. There was not one comment—not a peep, not a whisper, not a mention.

Mrs Gerber: The deputy opposition leader could have knocked on his neighbour's door and asked him outside.

Mr JANETZKI: That is exactly true. I will take the interjection. I love it. I will come back to it. The silence of those opposite over the last few days about cuts to Queensland's GST take is very different from how they used to talk about it. Just for a moment let us have a bit of a history lesson. The office of the member for Woodridge, as the member for Currumbin rightly points out, is literally next door to the federal Treasurer. They could reach out of their offices and shake hands.

Mr O'Connor: I don't think Dick is there much.

Mr JANETZKI: I am not sure how much time the 'Oracle of Woodridge' is down there. Bearing in mind the backdrop was that Queensland had suffered a cut to GST, the member for Woodridge said—

This is a very simple test of the leadership of the Leader of the Opposition. Do they support this cut to Queensland or are they going to finally stand up for Queensland? Some debates in this House are more important than others.

One can imagine the member for Woodridge saying that.

Mrs Gerber: I can picture it in black and white.

Mr JANETZKI: I can picture it in black and white too. He went on—

This is one of those debates. The impact of this sort of change to the financial position of Queensland would be absolutely profound.

Let us go to what the member for Murrumba said when Queensland had cuts to their GST from Canberra. It is interesting. He said—

The LNP in Canberra wants to cut Queensland's GST distribution by \$1.5 billion.

They were moving motions in the House. They were nearly marching down the street. The member for Nanango was the leader at the time. He went on to say—

She does not want to have to choose between Queensland and her bosses in Canberra, but the problem for her is that she has to choose; she cannot have it both ways.

Those opposite cannot have it both ways.

Mr Bennett: Their comrades are more important.

Mr JANETZKI: Yes, their political allegiances in Canberra are far more important than the people of Queensland. When it comes down to it, they will take their Labor political interests over the interests of Queenslanders. As \$2.3 billion of Queensland's hard-earned GST goes over the border there was not a single mention from anyone in the entire couple of days of debate. A couple of years ago the member for Murrumba was saying 'she has to choose'. Give us a break. Stand up for Queensland's interests. Stand up to your mates in Canberra. Pick up the phone. How many times did we hear 'pick up the phone'? Get on the blower to Albo. Member for Woodridge, go next door and talk to your mate Jim. We on this side of the House have been consistent. We always said we would fight for 50-50 health funding whatever the colour in Canberra. When the government changed in Canberra those on that side of the House did not want to know about it. There was absolute crickets.

I am worried that I will run out of time, so I will have to move on. Yesterday, I said that the member for Murrumba should not have given a budget reply speech; he should have given an apology, a statement of regret, a mea culpa—whatever it might be. He should have done that but he did not. Let's think about what he has to apologise for: record debt of \$218 billion, record debt per capita and the four crises of crime, housing, cost of living and health. I think he needed to apologise for the state election campaign last October and the utter lack of graciousness on election night as well.

I think the opposition leader should apologise for suggesting state owned everything: state owned medical practices, another state owned energy retailer and state owned service stations. I think the people of Queensland deserve an apology for that. Frankly—and the Premier touched on this perfectly—they should apologise for the scare campaign because it has been proven to be utterly false. This budget proves it was false because we have invested in the jobs, services, projects and infrastructure that we promised.

When the member for Murrumba gave his budget reply speech, what did we hear? We heard about tens of billions of dollars worth of unfunded and uncoded promises. I remember how those opposite would always ask, 'How are you going to fully fund and fully cost that?' Yesterday, by my count, the opposition leader made promises worth at least \$50 billion because they have never walked away from Pioneer-Burdekin, they have never walked away from state owned servos, they have never walked away from state owned medical practices, they have never walked away from state owned energy retailers and they have never walked away from a whole range of other projects.

Mrs Gerber: They were going to reintroduce the patients tax.

Mr JANETZKI: They would bring back the patients tax. They have never walked away from that. They have never walked away from any of it. My question to them is this: what taxes will you raise, because you cannot borrow all that money? How will they pay for it? Where is the fully funded and fully costed plan? They have a choice. What will it be? I think it is going to be taxes. The patients tax would be coming back. We know Labor love to tax unrealised gains. They have never seen an unrealised gain they did not want to tax. I reckon that is what we have to look forward to from those opposite.

The Leader of the Opposition agreed with the Crisafulli government's permanent 50-cent fares and a range of other jobs and services that are funded in this budget. It is excellent news that those opposite support our 50-cent fares being embedded in the budget. That is excellent. The Leader of the Opposition's centrepiece announcement is based on a policy that has had zero applications and zero concessions granted since they first announced it in 2023. That is not even a small target. I do not even know what that is. It is a nothing. We continue to support those measures but we do not need to wait for five years to make the announcement.

We saw an opposition obsessed with the colours of the cover of the budget documents and not the figures inside the documents that actually mean something to the Queensland people.

Mrs Gerber: You had to tell them the page numbers.

Mr JANETZKI: Yes. They were not real keen on the page numbers.

Mr O'Connor interjected.

Mr JANETZKI: My advisers are still working on it. They are trying to work it out and tell me whether the font is noto sans and what the GSM is. I think they are more worried about the font and the thickness of the paper than what is inside the documents, which is what matters to the people of Queensland.

The Leader of the Opposition is more interested in parroting lines for TikTok than giving a meaningful contribution in this parliament. That is pretty consistent. We have seen that for a long time. He spent more time trying to take credit or disavow a home ownership policy that he never came up with than he did apologising to Queenslanders for leaving over 50,000 of them on the social housing waitlist, reducing new lot approvals by 29 per cent and allowing rent to increase in the way he did. Somehow he spent an entire budget reply speech saying that he hoped the focus would be on Queenslanders and their needs, yet he spent more time talking about our government. He criticised me for mentioning Labor 12 times in my budget speech. I have gone to *Hansard* to check the record. He mentioned our government and the Liberal National Party 50 times, but that's just the Leader of the Opposition.

There has been a litany of mistruths, distortions and a few questions along the way from those opposite. There were too many to mention them all but I will run through a few quickly, just to make us aware.

The member for Waterford, a reluctant shadow treasurer on the best of days, drew on ChatGPT, as is customary for her. Sometimes, it just does not work out. She cooked up a ragtag bunch of non sequiturs as she struggled to present a coherent message or any meaningful understanding of economics. She talked of increased debt while reducing the debt per capita program while also not funding services. None of it made any sense. Talk about a magic pudding. The good news for the member for Waterford is that she probably will not be shadow treasurer next year.

From self-indulgent moody black-and-white photos on budget day to facile House histrionics, you can always trust the member for Woodridge to make it all about him. For that and his broken tax promises, it is probably an appropriate punishment that, for the rest of his time in this parliament, he will have to defend state owned service stations. I think that is an appropriate punishment for the member for Woodridge. He made some other contributions along the way. He criticised the government for keeping progressive coal royalties after claiming that we would get rid of them. He claimed that we were increasing debt and reducing spending at the same time. He struggled to work out whether this budget was increasing or decreasing the number of homes and whether that was good or bad. The member for Woodridge was all over the place. Five budgets in this House from the member for Woodridge was five too many.

For the member for Bundamba, I am happy to again confirm that we are funding the Mackay-Bucasia Road. That is on page 89, if he ever feels like reading the budget papers or QTRIP. The shadow energy minister claimed investment into our government owned corporations was reducing next year. That is wrong. It will be up by \$700 million. The member falsely claimed that the government reduced the investment in and halved the size of CopperString. That is wrong on both counts. We have increased the investment to a record \$2.4 billion and we are building it from Townsville to Mount Isa.

The member for Sandgate raised concerns about our Boost to Buy program, saying that we did not provide enough details. The member for Sandgate also said that our Boost to Buy program was not worth it because it will help only 1,000 people. The member for Gaven criticised our Boost to Buy scheme as just a cheap knockoff of their plan, which is ironic, really, considering the federal Labor scheme that she legislated in Queensland when she was the housing minister. We are investing in nation-leading parameters: \$1 million no matter whether you live in the regions or in urban areas and the highest income thresholds of \$150,000 for a single person and \$225,000 for a couple. We are making a difference for home ownership. We are driving home ownership. On that count, the member for Murrumba said that the scheme was too small to make any measurable difference. He should go and tell that to the generation of young people giving up on home ownership. All members opposite who commented negatively on Boost to Buy should go and tell young people that that is what they think.

The opposition's inability to read QTRIP reached legendary standards during the course of the past few days. For the member for Ipswich: the inner-city bridge across the Bremer River in central Ipswich is in QTRIP on page 39. The member for Lytton could not find the Lindum railway station in QTRIP. It is on page 38. Get in and do some work. Read the papers. They do not have advisers hanging off them anymore. They should go and do some work. The member for Springwood claimed he could not find the Mount Cotton Road and Valley Way intersection in the budget papers. It is on page 36 of QTRIP. The member for Aspley claimed there was no money allocated for the Bruce Highway western alternative. He should look at page 50 of QTRIP. The member for Pine Rivers struggled to keep up with Mount Mee Road over Terrors Creek. It is on page 49 of QTRIP. They just cannot keep up with it.

The member for Inala said our four-year capital program was smaller than Labor's. It is not. I only found out this week that the member for Cooper is the shadow assistant minister for treasury. Who knew! I did not even know that was a thing. In her defence, though, of the five shadow ministers who follow me around in my various portfolios, the member for Cooper, unlike the member for Waterford, did in fact try to deal with some macro-economic conditions. I will give her that credit.

I thank the member for Morayfield for listing all the projects that are being funded and delivered by the Crisafulli government. The member for Gladstone claimed the budget contained no funding for renewable energy projects. Wrong! The budget allocates more than \$1 billion next financial year for the advancement of renewable projects. Finally, it is good that the member for Stafford got the Labor talking points. I am very pleased.

A government member: He's still on the email list.

Mr JANETZKI: He is still on the email list. I am very pleased that the member for Stafford got the talking points. One year ago the member for Woodridge said in his budget speech, which we will all remember—

Queenslanders will be asked to make a choice about their future, not to express an opinion about the past.

Who could ever forget that is what he said. He brought the House down at the time, but not as he intended. After 10 years and everything that those opposite had put Queensland through, it symbolised how disconnected Labor was from the everyday worries of life—cost of living, health, crime and housing.

Queenslanders certainly made a choice about their future on election night, not that the Leader of the Opposition had the grace to recognise it. This is a budget that delivers for Queenslanders. It really is. We have very calmly and methodically gone through the key areas. We promised cost-of-living relief for those who need it most. We have funded the jobs, services, capital projects and infrastructure that Queensland needs. It is a budget that delivers for Queenslanders.

It will take more than one budget and more than one term to turn around the mess that those opposite left behind. We promised a calm and methodical approach to the budget with respect for taxpayers' money, and that is exactly what we are doing. We know that this is the start of a long journey and it will take more than one budget to turn it around. This budget marks an important first step. This budget is delivering for Queenslanders. This budget lays the foundation for a fresh start for Queensland.