




Speech By
Janelle Poole

MEMBER FOR MUNDINGBURRA

Record of Proceedings, 27 June 2025

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

 **Mrs POOLE** (Mundingburra—LNP) (11.39 am): I also proudly rise to add my contribution to the Appropriation Bill on behalf of the people of the Mundingburra electorate. Like my colleagues on this side of the House, I commend the Treasurer, the Premier, the Deputy Premier and all of the ministers for delivering a budget that both honours our commitments and has respect for taxpayers' money.

On 26 October last year the Mundingburra electorate voted for a fresh start for Queensland. They voted for safety where you live, a better lifestyle through a stronger economy, health services when you need them and a plan for Queensland's future. They voted for a government that would provide certainty and honour their commitments, and this is exactly what this budget delivers. This budget delivers cost-of-living relief, it funds services that would have ceased and jobs that would have ended. It saves infrastructure and projects that would never have been built.

I went to last year's election with commitments to deliver a variety of projects that our community wanted me to fight for. Not only does this budget deliver that funding in the Mundingburra electorate; in some instances commitments have been upgraded. For the Mundingburra State School the original election commitment was for a partial fencing upgrade to the school's back boundary to address their concerns in relation to the school not being adequately protected. I am proud to say that the Crisafulli LNP government will be providing a full fencing upgrade for the entire school boundary. This is exceptional news for the school and the school community. I am proud to say this is funded and it will be delivered in full.

Some of our other election commitments for the Mundingburra electorate funded in the budget include the installation of a new public toilet block at Aplins Weir Rotary Park in Annandale. It includes power, water and wastewater to the site, and it was also included in this year's budget. This commitment came about as a result of hearing from families with young children who were not using the park due to a lack of toilet facilities. To those families with young children, please know that you were heard. I listened and I fought, and we are now delivering for you. Our Hermit Park Tigers AFL Club is receiving upgrades to their grounds, their clubhouse and their car park. Once again, I am fighting for our sports clubs in the Mundingburra electorate.

Under the Hospital Rescue Plan we will deliver 165 new overnight beds as part of the Townsville University Hospital expansion, with services that include day surgery and operating theatres. We will also be delivering eight new perinatal mental health beds to support our new mums and bubs. There will also be more frontline health workers, with additional funding to grow the workforce to 6,378 FTE positions in the Townsville Hospital and Health Service. But that is not all; we are also going to give them somewhere to park with a much needed, long overdue 700-bay multistorey car park. Overall, the Crisafulli LNP government is delivering a 10.2 per cent uplift to the health operating budget, taking it to \$29.4 billion to fully fund critical health services, ensuring our community can access health services when they need them.

We are also delivering an upgrade to the Angus Smith Drive roundabout in Douglas to unlock congestion and the potential for growth at both the university and the hospital. One does not have to get on a plane, fly to Townsville and fly back in one day to know that that was funded; one just needs to go to the fourth page, second dot point of the Delivering for North Queensland regional plan to see what we are delivering for North Queensland. Our community voted for these commitments. Unlike the former Labor government, they have been budgeted for and we will deliver them.

Our No. 1 priority has, and always will be, tackling the Labor created youth crime crisis. This budget sets a clear path forward to reduce victim numbers and make our community a safer place for everyone. We have always said that we will give the police the laws, the tools and the resources they need to do their job. This budget is testament to that, with \$147.9 million to fund upgrades and improve critical operational equipment. This investment replaces end-of-life lease equipment that was not funded by the former Labor government, which left our frontline officers without the resources they need to keep themselves and our community safe. We are delivering 1,600 police recruits and stronger laws that will allow our police to do their job. We introduced the Making Queensland Safer Laws before Christmas like we said we would do. We focused on Adult Crime, Adult Time, introducing 33 offences, consequences for actions and putting the rights of victims before the rights of offenders, and we made Jack's Law permanent.

Reoffending rates skyrocketed under the former Labor government, and my electorate of Mundingburra and the greater Townsville area were the first ones to call this out. We are introducing schools to help divert our young people from crime and re-engage them with community and education. Early intervention is key to changing the narrative and giving our at-risk youth a positive alternative to the path that the former Labor government laid out for them. We are investing \$560 million for comprehensive early intervention and rehabilitation with purposed programs across the state to reduce youth offending and the number of victims. Let's remind ourselves that the vast majority of our young people in our community are doing amazing things. It is our role and our responsibility to support them and give them the opportunity for the best start in order to be their best.

For our little ones we are funding free health checks for kindy kids. I am proud to say that Townsville will be the pilot location for this program. As a former school-based police officer myself, I have seen firsthand the importance of early identification. We want to ensure that we are giving our young ones the best possible start in life. For our schoolkids we are funding \$200 Play On! vouchers—another great LNP initiative. Play On! vouchers deliver cost-of-living relief for Queensland families and it helps keep our young kids active. The vouchers will be provided over two rounds—one for summer and one for winter—and we have added an extra \$10 million over the four years. Most importantly, they have been budgeted for and they are funded. The 2032 Brisbane Olympics will see the next generation of our young athletes perform on the global sporting stage, and these vouchers will ensure that all of our children are given the chance to chase this dream if it is theirs.

We are serious about giving our young adults the keys to their first property. We have axed stamp duty on new builds for first home buyers and we are allowing them to rent out a room for the first 12 months. In this budget we announced Boost to Buy to reduce the deposit gap for first home buyers. We want to rebuild aspiration in our state and take Queensland's home ownership rate from the lowest in the nation to the highest.

This budget draws a clear line in the sand from the former Labor government and allows us to continue anew. This budget cleans up the mess those opposite have left. It is a budget that delivers hope over fear. It is a budget that puts people before politics. This budget lays the foundation for a fresh start for Queensland, delivering for Queenslanders.

The Speaker has reviewed and approved the remainder 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—

Deputy Speaker, the youth crime crisis is not the only crisis the former Labor government created.

They also created the health crisis.

The former Labor Government released a grand pie-in-the-sky illusion called the Townsville Hospital Expansion Plan and they told our community it would cost \$500M.

There was just one problem, they didn't budget for it.

An independent Report, the Sangster Report, uncovered the real cost of the so-called Plan at \$1.029 billion.

This is an over \$500 million cost blow-out.

The Sangster Report labelled the plan, 'undeliverable.'

But the Crisafulli Government are determined to right their wrong.

That's why we have released the Hospital Rescue Plan and this Budget commits to delivering the project in full.

This Plan will deliver 165 new overnight beds, services including day surgery, operating theatres and the much-needed 700 bay multi-storey car park to ensure our community can access health services when we need them.

This plan will deliver a health system we can rely on and one that Queenslanders deserve.

Deputy Speaker, as the cost of living continues to increase, so too does our housing waitlist as more and more families require crisis support.

As of this month, our social housing waitlist in Townsville sits at 4,113 residents.

That's not good enough, so we're fixing it.

In this Budget, the Crisafulli Government will deliver more funding for homelessness support than ever before.

We are backing our specialist homelessness services with a 20% uplift for our entire term of Government and boosting funding for crisis support by \$365 million.

We are making our State's social housing system fairer by restarting annual rent reviews and eligibility checks.

Under the former Labor Government, some tenants have been earning \$200,000 a year but paying less than \$200 a week in rent.

That's just not fair.

Not only this, but we are ramping up social and community housing construction across our State.

When we say we want Queenslanders to have a place to call home, we mean it.

Deputy Speaker, the 2032 Brisbane Olympics are only 7 years away and we have a lot of work to do to ensure they are a success for our athletes and for our state.

We have made significant in-roads in this space and although we still have a long way to go, we have a plan to get there.

I have already spoken about our \$200 Play On! vouchers to give every child the opportunity to play sport and to reduce the cost of participation.

But we have also handed down the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Delivery Plan, a plan that takes advantage of the opportunity to host the Olympics and Paralympics, that ensures we all, including our community in Townsville, benefits. A Games for all of Queensland.

However, our changes go all the way to transitioning the Queensland Academy of Sport to a statutory body.

We have appointed a new eight-member advisory board to steer the transition, including our very own Annette Maidment.

Annette has a wealth of business and sports administration experience.

She will be representing our region and ensuring our emerging athletes are supported by the QAS for years to come.

To quote our Treasurer after the former Labor Government handed down their last Budget, 'Queensland has been left with generational debt, without a generational outcome.'

This week, our Treasurer handed down his first Budget that corrects the course.

I am so proud to be part of the first Crisafulli LNP Government Budget and I would like to thank our Treasurer for his emphatic commitment to delivering a fiscally responsible budget for our state.

This Budget is the budget that we needed.

Delivered by a Government that promised a calm and methodical approach, mature and responsible.

A Government that has respect for taxpayers money.

Delivering our election commitments.

Targeted and responsible cost of living measures to support pressured households.

Investing in services.

Finding a way to save, build and deliver infrastructure and projects.

And, beginning the work of long-term budget repair.

This budget marks an important first step.

This budget is delivering for Queenslanders.

This Budget lays the foundation for a fresh start for Queensland.