




Speech By
John Barounis

MEMBER FOR MARYBOROUGH

Record of Proceedings, 26 June 2025

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

 **Mr BAROUNIS** (Maryborough—LNP) (10.10 pm): I rise today with immense pride and a deep sense of responsibility as the representative for the Maryborough electorate. My community is, and will always be, my highest priority. When I say I will deliver, I mean it. I have listened to the voices of our residents, I have heard their concerns and I have taken action. I made the commitment to deliver for our communities, and that is exactly what I have done.

We promised, and we are delivering. Coastal erosion continues to threaten the Great Sandy Strait region—the communities of Maaroom, Boonooroo, Tuan, Poona and Tinnanbar. Without urgent intervention, more of our precious coastline will be lost to the ocean. I made the commitment to secure \$1.5 million in state government funding to safeguard these communities. I am proud to announce that this funding has now been allocated and will be spent on coastal protection efforts in this area.

We promised, and we are delivering. The Maryborough Salvation Army provides vital services to our most vulnerable, including meals, showers and laundry facilities. These facilities are in urgent need of upgrades to meet growing demand. I have secured \$150,000 in state government funding to upgrade these amenities so they can better serve our community.

We promised, and we are delivering. The founder of RDT Angels and the volunteers have been operating their community driven food stall from temporary marquees. Despite challenges with the operation, all proceeds go to support local organisations. With \$20,000 in funding, RDT Angels can now purchase an upgraded food truck, allowing for safer and more efficient operations and, ultimately, more support for our community.

We promised, and we are delivering. The Burrum and District Community Men's Shed in Howard offers a space for mateship, support and connection, which is especially vital for retired men who may feel isolated in rural communities. I have secured \$22,000 for an extension of the facility and new equipment to enhance their services and reach more local men.

We promised, and we are delivering. The Bruce Highway is critical to our region's connectivity, yet it remains dangerous and has claimed too many lives. Through the 80-20 federal-state funding arrangement, we are seeing significant investment in our road network, including the commencement of the Tiaro bypass and the broader \$9 billion Bruce Highway upgrade.

Additional funding that I have secured for my electorate includes: \$1,275,000 for maintenance and minor works for schools in the Maryborough electorate; \$7.2 million to continue the delivery of the rural brigade headquarters; \$7 million to complete the upgrade for the Maryborough Police Station facility; and \$2.7 million for Anzac Park lighting. The Maryborough Hospital is set to receive an essential services upgrade as part of the Hospital Rescue Plan. Thank goodness the LNP Crisafulli government cares about my electorate's hospital, because for many years it has been very much overlooked.

We are delivering for Maryborough. The Queensland Train Manufacturing Program site at Torbanlea is currently being constructed as a manufacturing hub for the 2032 Olympic Games. This brand new facility is about to employ another 200 blue-collar workers and 100 white-collar workers. This is tremendous news for the Maryborough electorate with the amount of money it will bring into Maryborough. I thank the Crisafulli LNP government for their confidence in Maryborough and continued support in getting this facility up and running to produce these trains on time for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The Downer site in Torbanlea continues to be a hub for workers within the train industry. Downer continues to provide reliable work for the residents and their families within my electorate. Maryborough people have been well connected with the Downer family for many generations, and I do not see this ending. Contracts are coming, and the future of Downer is strong under the Crisafulli LNP government.

We are supporting local industries and businesses. Maryborough will proudly host archery events for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. This opportunity is a testament to the leadership of the Premier, the Deputy Premier and the Crisafulli LNP government. The government has committed \$4.7 billion towards the games delivery plan, ensuring our region is ready to play its part in this historic event. We are delivering infrastructure for our community. The future of Maryborough is bright. I am very happy to deliver my first budget for the communities in our electorate. We promised and we are delivering.

In just eight months the Crisafulli LNP government has made significant progress. Promises are being honoured and results are being delivered across all electorates. Our Premier, the Hon. David Crisafulli, is a leader of vision and integrity. I am proud to work alongside him and his government to deliver a safer, more prosperous Maryborough and Queensland. The Crisafulli LNP government promised a fresh start and it is delivering exactly that. We are delivering for Queensland.