




Speech By
Kendall Morton

MEMBER FOR CALOUNDRA

Record of Proceedings, 26 August 2025

**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL;
GOVERNANCE, ENERGY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE, REPORT**

 **Ms MORTON** (Caloundra—LNP) (3.17 pm): I rise to speak today on the 2025-26 budget estimates process and what it means for Queenslanders, especially for my community of Caloundra. This was my first experience of the budget and the estimates process and I would like to start by thanking the Premier, the Treasurer and the Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Trading as well as the exceptional teams that work so hard to prepare for the whole process and deliver quality information for the scrutiny of the budget.

This budget sets out a clear path for growth, relief and opportunity, but it also shows us the sharp contrast in Queensland politics: a Crisafulli government delivering real results and a Labor opposition stuck in negativity. Let me start with Labor's statement of reservation. They accused the Premier of waffling for six minutes just to run down the clock when he was asked a question. Is this really the best they can do—cheap shots about speaking time while families in Caloundra are crying out for action on housing, training and congestion? Queenslanders know that our Premier is articulate and succinct and provides fulsome answers so that all Queenslanders are clear on our plan and how the plan will be achieved. Those opposite went on to say—

It is clear that the outcomes of the Crisafulli LNP Budget ... lay at the feet of LNP Premier David Crisafulli and his team.

We proudly accept that accountability, because the outcomes of this budget are apprentices who will be trained in Caloundra, first home buyers getting real support and traffic finally being addressed through the Caloundra congestion-busting plan. If Labor wants to pin those outcomes on us, we will wear that badge with pride. What we know is that a decade of neglect is because of those opposite and a fresh start is the beginning of change for Queenslanders that will benefit us all.

Those opposite also claimed that they hold concerns regarding the direction of TAFE Queensland and the higher education and training sector under the Crisafulli LNP government. I want to assure the opposition that they do not need to be concerned about the direction of TAFE. During estimates we heard of the brilliant TAFE centre of excellence being delivered in Caloundra. Those opposite did not even consider the growing population that we all live with without the infrastructure investment to match. This TAFE also has a focus on construction trades. How exciting for our young people to have the opportunity to become skilled tradies—a sector we all know is filled with opportunity to achieve great things. Those opposite cannot pretend to care about training now when we are the ones delivering a \$78 million Caloundra TAFE centre of excellence. The Caloundra community is absolutely thrilled.

Then those opposite tried to smear our trade minister. Queensland trade deserves a minister who prioritises evidence over ideology. Sadly in the view of the Queensland Labor opposition, Minister Bates failed this test. This is from the party that damaged investor confidence with its own stop-start policies, botched energy projects and unstable leadership. They talk about stability, but their record is slogans and no substance. Some of us had the unfortunate burden of running a local business under

the former government and, believe me, it was a muddle of poor communication and unnecessary barriers.

During the estimates hearing I was absolutely ecstatic to once again hear the Premier confirm and reaffirm the LNP's commitment to busting traffic congestion in Caloundra. This is the No. 1 issue for our community and the people of Caloundra are so happy to hear that works have started and the commitment is there. We are finally seeing some real investment after a decade of neglect from the former Labor government, which had poor planning, lacked investment and—as I have always suspected—did not even know Caloundra existed. On behalf of the people of Caloundra, we thank the Premier, Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Transport and Main Roads for listening to our electorate and taking action that is 10 years overdue. Investment into key road projects as well as public transport with the Wave will completely transform how we get around and is the most significant step forward that Caloundra has ever seen. These projects are gutsy and I have no doubt hard decisions have been made, so thank you all. While those opposite complain, we are getting on with delivering our \$78 million TAFE, our first home buyer support and the Caloundra congestion-busting plan.