




Speech By
Lance McCallum

MEMBER FOR BUNDAMBA

Record of Proceedings, 13 March 2025

**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) (SUPPLEMENTARY 2023-2024) BILL;
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 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (4.38 pm): I rise to contribute to the cognate debate on these appropriation bills. Of course, appropriation bills such as the ones the House is considering at the moment relate to a broad range of expenditure. It can be unforeseen expenditure and it can be expenditure that is required for emergent situations, particularly things such as responding to natural disasters. Indeed, my Bundamba community has just experienced the impacts of a natural disaster with ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred.

I pay tribute to the resilience and strength of my community. Unfortunately, we are no strangers, like so many other Queensland communities, to the impacts, challenges and threats of natural disasters. We always back each other up. We stand together, and our response to Tropical Cyclone Alfred was no different.

I do want to make a couple of shout-outs to some local organisations and people. A place of refuge was set up at the Shiloh Church at Goodna. Pastor Phil and all of the team there answered the call from the Ipswich City Council to help the community. I was able to go up there and talk to the team and to some of the local residents who were there.

I also pay tribute to the skill, hard work and utter commitment of our frontline workers and our emergency responders—our State Emergency Service volunteers, our fireies, our police and, of course, our frontline energy workers who are still working to restore power to homes and businesses. They worked through some of the most atrocious conditions of this weather event. Even though it was still windy and still raining, they were out there using all of their skill to reconnect power. Over 330,000 homes and businesses were disconnected and a vast majority of those have been reconnected. It truly is incredible.

I have spent time with impacted businesses and residents. Bundamba Creek burst its banks during the cyclone and, unfortunately, businesses and residents were impacted, particularly in Mining Street, Bundamba. I also popped down to the Ipswich Men's Shed to say g'day to the team, our local shedders, and residents along Bergins Hill Road in Bundamba. I spoke to Paul and Janet, who are Bundamba residents. Their house was built in 1972 by Janet's mother and, unfortunately, they are no strangers to the impacts of flooding.

Residents from Redbank Plains were impacted. Residents from Collingwood Park were impacted. I am really glad to see that after urgent lobbying from local Ipswich MPs disaster assistance grants were activated this morning for impacted residents. These personal hardship financial grants have finally been opened up for around 30 individual suburbs in Ipswich, including Bellbird Park, the suburb of Bundamba itself, Goodna, South Ripley and Ripley. There are residents in other suburbs who have been impacted but are not included and we urgently need the—

Mr STEVENS: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I think we have strayed away from the appropriation bills for quite a while now. I do appreciate the member is getting some issues out but we have been on it for quite a while and I think we should return to the bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): Debates on appropriation bills are generally given quite a wide latitude. From my hearing of the debate, that has happened on both sides. I will allow the member to continue.

Dr ROWAN: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I seek your guidance in relation to anticipating debate in relation to the motion. I do understand that a wide range of matters can be canvassed in appropriation bills but some of the contribution that I have heard may be anticipating debate in relation to the motion later on this afternoon.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I remind the member not to anticipate the motion that is coming up in 15 minutes.

Mr McCALLUM: Thank you for your guidance, Mr Deputy Speaker. I refer to the comments that I made when I started my contribution—the fact that the appropriation bill contains revenue for emergent and unforeseen circumstances such as the impacts of natural disasters. I was talking about natural disaster relief grants that people in Ipswich and constituents of mine are not entitled to when they should be entitled to them. I will not be silenced by the LNP when it comes to standing up for my community. I will make sure that they get the support that they need, and they need it urgently. I hope to see the disaster recovery grants expanded to cover the entirety of the Ipswich local government area. I, along with the members for Ipswich, Jordan and Ipswich West, will not stop until that occurs.

The appropriation bills include funding for the Inspector-General Emergency Management. It is very concerning to see reports that this officer was not around to help respond to the disaster. The government and the police minister need to explain to the House why that person's leave was not cancelled.

Speaking of funding and appropriation, there have been a few cuts recently under the cover of Cyclone Alfred. The Attorney-General had a pretty busy fortnight. In that time, the Attorney-General cut the entire Independent Ministerial Advisory Council, which was an advocacy body for victims, and axed two years worth of work of the Queensland Law Reform Commission in relation to the approval of mining leases. There are also reports that the housing minister has been busy cancelling head leases for social housing. It is absolutely shameful.

I turn now to some of the contributions from government speakers, in particular that of the Treasurer and energy minister, who took great pride in attacking energy projects here in Queensland. The LNP love to trumpet that they have cut Pioneer-Burdekin. They use very threatening language when talking about projects like CopperString and Borumba. We know that that is LNP speak for cuts. If they go ahead with the projects at all, they will not do them properly. They will be downsized. They will be cut, just like they cut the CQ-H2 green hydrogen project in Central Queensland and just like they cut energy rebates to Queenslanders, which is an absolute shame.

We have heard news today that the Australian Energy Regulator has issued a draft determination which shows an almost six per cent hit to the hip pockets of Queensland families in the form of power price hikes. Imagine cutting an energy rebate in a cost-of-living crisis just as there is to be a six per cent, or possibly more, increase! It is so tone deaf. That is around \$120 a year. It could not get worse. It is just another broken promise from this LNP government. They said that bills would go down. We have heard today from the independent federal regulator that prices will go up. It is just one broken promise after another.

It is the same with the Olympics. The poor old Premier got himself in a bit of a bind when he promised that he would not spend more than \$7.1 billion on Olympic Games infrastructure. He has the report now but he does not know what to do with it. The report is from the board that was hand-picked by the Deputy Premier. What a stitch-up of the Premier by the Deputy Premier! He is in a spot of bother: if he spends more than \$1 over \$7.1 billion, it will be a broken promise; if he builds a new stadium, it will be a broken promise; and if he does not follow the advice of the hand-picked board, it will be a broken promise.