




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR BUNDAMBA

Record of Proceedings, 27 June 2025

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

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (11.00 am): What we have from this Crisafulli LNP government is a budget that is full of broken promises. It is a budget that has turned its back on Bundamba and turned its back to break promises. It has left families, workers and small businesses in our Bundamba community wondering where is the support from their government that they need when they need it most.

This first LNP budget in over a decade has blown away cost-of-living support for our local families. In doing that, the LNP have broken the promises they made to Ipswich families during the election campaign. Let us not forget that the LNP promised to lower energy prices. The LNP promised that they would continue to deliver cost-of-living energy rebates for as long as people were struggling. We know that families and businesses are still struggling, yet David Crisafulli and this LNP government have broken their promises. Power bills will be increasing significantly from 1 July, by at least 3.7 per cent and ranging to over 10 per cent. Of course, by not extending the \$1,000 nation-leading energy rebate that Labor delivered, every single household will need to find an extra \$1,000 this year. Let us take a moment to consider those deliberate decisions from this LNP government. They have made an absolutely clear-eyed and heartless decision not to continue with essential cost-of-living support when people need it most.

When it comes to local commuters, our Bundamba community is going to suffer more congestion because there are delays to congestion-busting projects such as the Springfield to Ipswich rail loop. Having looked at the budget papers, I see no new money whatsoever for that project. It is stuck in the planning stage. There is also no new money for a much needed pedestrian crossing over the Centenary Highway at South Ripley—something that, along with the Springfield to Ipswich rail loop, the other Ipswich members and I have been advocating for for an extremely long time. The LNP's budget papers only contain funding already committed to by Labor for the planning stages. There is not one dollar to get a shovel in the ground. There is not one dollar to get an excavator on the ground to help deliver those much needed congestion-busting projects in our community.

What does this budget contain when it comes to education for our community?

Mrs Frecklington: The special schools.

Mr McCALLUM: I will get to that, member for Nanango, so just wait for it. When you look at one part of the Capital Statement there is mention of a new state school at Whiterock in Ripley, but when you look at a different part of the Capital Statement in Budget Paper No. 3 it says that a new state school will be built in Ripley Valley at Ripley Central. That is a little confusing, especially when you consider that the new state school at Ripley Central was built and opened by Labor in the past couple of years. There is a little issue there.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr McCALLUM: I acknowledge the member for McConnel, who, as the education minister, joined us for the opening of that wonderful, state-of-the-art school that is serving our community. We have built and/or improved so many schools in the Ripley Valley alone. We opened the new high school at Collingwood Park—another great Labor project. The school that is funded in this budget which is presumably going to be built at Whiterock, where there is massive residential growth, was in the pipeline under Labor. It is a Labor project any way you look at it. I acknowledge the education minister for continuing an important Labor project.

I turn to the special school for Redbank-Springfield. It is going to have to be a pretty long school if it is going to stretch from Redbank through to Springfield, cutting through several other suburbs. We would absolutely welcome that new school, but obviously we need more clarity. The government needs to tell us exactly where this school is going to be built. Where do they plan to build it? Give us an address so there can be a bit of clarity for parents. Speaking of special schools, I see that there is a relatively modest commitment in the budget to continue the excellent investment that has occurred at Goodna Special School over at least the past five years. It is great to see that wonderful school getting some more support.

Everything in this budget with respect to health commitments for our community is Labor projects. The stage 2 expansion of the Ipswich Hospital, which will deliver an extra 200 beds and an expanded ED, was committed to and started, with shovels in the ground, under Labor. Of course, Labor delivered the satellite hospital, as it was called then—the Ripley Satellite Health Centre as it is called now—at South Ripley. We committed to the expansion of that facility to provide a 90-bed subacute facility and some other improvements like car parks et cetera. That work was well underway during the last term of the Labor government and that work is continuing. Again, those are two excellent Labor projects for our local community.

Shamefully, this budget does nothing locally to solve the severe shortage of social and affordable homes. Another glaring omission in the budget relates to the Olympics plan that the government likes to crow about. When they announced their Olympic plan, we saw that the proud sporting city of Ipswich was completely overlooked. We get no new infrastructure and no sporting events. The government stands absolutely condemned for that.

On a brighter note, this budget does show that the power of the people works, because the LNP have committed to continuing Labor's \$200 FairPlay vouchers. They have renamed them Play On! vouchers, but they are not kidding anyone: it is a Labor initiative. I would like to thank all of the local families who signed our petition. I have been sitting down to talk with the clubs, the volunteers, the managers and the players—

Mr Healy: How good are they?

Mr McCALLUM: Absolutely. The wonderful volunteers, who are the lifeblood of our local clubs, were really worried that this heartless LNP government was going to cut the \$200 FairPlay vouchers.

Government members interjected.

Mr McCALLUM: Absolutely it would have been cut. I believe it would have been cut unless the people spoke up—and they did, in their thousands. They got behind another great Labor policy that was so good not even the LNP dared to cut it.

Mrs Frecklington: You were living in Melbourne when we started the program.

Mr McCALLUM: As opposed to living in New Farm now? The home owner equity scheme is another great Labor policy that the LNP saw fit to co-opt as part of their budget. While we are talking about extra cost-of-living measures, the LNP have funded Labor's 50-cent fares in this budget. They like to say that they have funded it permanently, but it is only in the forwards. If they were serious about locking them in permanently—actually making them permanent—they would introduce a law to hardwire in future payments beyond the forwards. The new members opposite who are having trouble understanding it should ask one of their colleagues who has been around a little longer to explain the forwards to them.

While we are on the issue of budget forwards, let's talk about debt. A few speakers from the LNP have trotted out the lines they have been given by the Treasurer's office, probably only half understanding them. The Report on State Finances that preceded this budget and which the Treasurer tabled showed that Queensland's net debt had halved last financial year after a \$1.7 billion surplus was achieved. We know what rating agencies have been saying publicly about the LNP as far back as the midyear economic update. S&P Global called out the LNP for their political approach to budget figures—juicing up the debt by over \$23 billion. It was so bad that an independent credit rating agency needed to call it out. They downgraded our forecast. Since this budget was delivered, this same agency, S&P Global, has been on the public record saying that, as they foretold with the forecast coming down, the credit rating for Queensland might come down a step. That is obviously going to cost every single—

Mr Hunt: You already messed that up.

Mr McCALLUM: I take those interjections. They still keep blaming Labor. This is the LNP's budget. It is a line in the sand.

Mr Ryan: It sounds like they do not want to be in government anyhow.

Mr McCALLUM: They do not get it. I take that interjection from the honourable member.

Unfortunately, I have only a couple of minutes left. As shadow energy minister, I have to mention the go-slow on CopperString. They have cut it in half. They are not building it all the way out to Mount Isa. They have not funded it in the budget to go all the way out to Mount Isa. It is only going halfway, to Hughenden at this point. They are on a go-slow on large infrastructure projects such as Borumba pumped hydro. The poor old member for Gympie has had his big project cut in half.

Mrs Frecklington: I think the member for Gympie is pretty okay.

Mr McCALLUM: I am sure he can talk for himself, member for Nanango. They have descoped the Gladstone transmission hub. They have absolutely gutted that essential investment. We know that the LNP do not like publicly owned power. Let's look at the cuts to publicly owned power in this budget. I am advised: CleanCo, over \$240 million cut from the previous budget; CS Energy, the one that exploded under their watch, over \$65 million cut; Powerlink, \$334 million cut; Queensland Hydro, over \$619 million cut; Stanwell, \$759 million cut. That means that the LNP have ripped over \$2 billion from Queensland generators. That makes a mockery of their commitment and their so-called policy of the Electricity Maintenance Guarantee.

This budget just adds to the fast-growing mountains of LNP broken promises—broken commitments around delivering infrastructure that growing communities like mine need, broken commitments around delivering cost-of-living relief during a cost-of-living crisis, broken commitments to keep on delivering the services that our communities rely on. These are the decisions that David Crisafulli and David Janetzki have made. This budget shows that they do not care about Queenslanders. This budget should have come with an apology to Bundamba and all of Queensland.