




Speech By  
**Hon. Leeanne Enoch**

**MEMBER FOR ALGESTER**

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Record of Proceedings, 26 June 2025

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

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algeester—ALP) (8.03 pm): Budgets are about more than numbers. They are a reflection of values, priorities and vision. They declare in unmistakable terms who a government chooses to stand beside and who it leaves behind. This first Crisafulli LNP budget reveals a whole lot about the misaligned values of this government and even more about how they intend to treat Queenslanders.

This is a budget that is fundamentally built on broken promises. During the election campaign last year, the now Premier made a lot of promises to Queenslanders—a lot. He declared to Queenslanders, over and over, that he could be trusted to honour his promises because his word meant something. In fact, he said, 'When I say something, it means something.' However, this budget of broken promises reveals that when the Premier says something there is a good chance that it means absolutely nothing or, worse, it means the complete opposite.

The Premier said that if Queenslanders placed their trust in him then debt would be lower. What has he delivered in this government's first budget? After three consecutive surpluses under Labor, supporting record investment in roads, hospitals, schools and cost-of-living relief, the Premier and his bumbling LNP Treasurer have managed to deliver a staggering \$8 billion deficit and a projected debt of \$205 billion by 2028, which is higher than under Labor. To make it worse, all of that debt does not equate to a pay-off for Queenslanders. We get higher debt but no comprehensive cost-of-living relief for Queensland households at a time when Queenslanders are still doing it tough—higher debt but delays to congestion-busting infrastructure projects that are critical to ensuring that people can get to and from work, home and school in a timely fashion.

The LNP described their budget as a boring budget but, in reality, it is a bad budget. It is a bad budget not only for my electorate of Algeester—and I will talk more about that shortly—but also for Queenslanders living with disability, elders and seniors, our arts and creative communities and First Nations peoples. I begin with people living with disability and seniors because that is where governments show what they really care about when no-one is watching.

Under the 2024 Labor budget, significant investment was made to respond to the findings of the disability royal commission and the NDIS review. Over \$160 million was committed. That was not simply a matter of compliance; it was an act of respect for the rights and dignity of Queenslanders with disability. It reflected a government that was listening to lived experience and taking action accordingly. What does the LNP 2025-26 budget offer? It is silent on critical investments like Labor's commitment of \$15.1 million over four years to support strategic leadership, implementation and monitoring of disability reforms. I have seen no mention of this in the LNP budget or the increased funding of \$5.5 million over five years and \$300,000 per annum ongoing for stakeholder engagement activities to develop and implement responses to the NDIS review and the recommendations of the royal commission and for the continuation of the delivery of language services. I have seen no mention of this in the LNP budget. It is not in there.

There is no mention of the additional funding of \$3.8 million over four years and \$360,000 per annum ongoing for increasing data analysis and reporting capability for Queensland's disability data holdings. I have seen absolutely no mention of that in the LNP's bad blue budget. All of those budget line items that were committed over the forwards by Labor deserve to be fully funded and clearly listed to give our disability stakeholders peace of mind in knowing they are being supported.

What about our seniors? Labor invested more than \$10 billion in age-friendly infrastructure and health, targeted \$10 million for social isolation prevention and delivered \$34 million for elder abuse prevention because we believe older Queenslanders deserve dignity, safety and belonging. What is the LNP's approach? Not much at all in terms of targeted support for older Queenslanders.

As for the arts, it is an incredibly bad budget for such a critical part of the economy. In his budget speech, the Treasurer spruiked the LNP's investment in Screen Queensland, for instance. What he failed to recognise was that the LNP's investment this year is not that much different to the Labor investment last year. Last year, Screen Queensland received funding of \$57.6 million, \$38 million limited life and \$5 million capital grants funding to help support film and television projects, build a pipeline of exciting screen projects and support an industry that continues to grow opportunities in Queensland.

The arts are a critical part of our economy but they are also important in terms of the industry's cultural impact, social connection and the sense of identity and place that no other sector can provide. That is why it is incredibly disappointing to see a real lack of any kind of vision for the arts in this bad LNP budget, particularly when we consider the important role they will play in the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games when the world will be watching and Queensland's unique cultural identity will be on display. This is an arts budget of beige—and not the stylish version, either. It is uninspired, unimaginative and devoid of any cultural ambition for Queensland. It also ignores the strategic \$50 million of investment over four years under the second action plan of Labor's Creative Together 10-year road map for arts, culture and creativity in Queensland.

I turn to my portfolio responsibility of closing the gap and reconciliation. Sadly, since day one what we have seen from this LNP government has been a systematic attempt to erase Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from the Queensland landscape. This LNP government is hell-bent on winding back any progress made regarding reconciliation in this state. This government is determined to undermine the impact of years of cross-cultural training and agreed protocols designed to ensure government agencies are able to effectively serve some of the most vulnerable people in our community. This government appears to be finding new ways every day to unpick rights that have been hard fought for by many generations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in this state.

Just this morning we saw a leaked directive from a government department stating that they 'are no longer permitted to add additional departmental branding elements, such as the First Nations acknowledgment' to signature blocks. This directive represents the latest in the barrage of attacks on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from this LNP government and their absolutely clueless minister.

On day one they made the shocking decision to rush through the repeal of the Path to Treaty legislation, dismantling the Truth-telling and Healing Inquiry after just a few hours of debate. The Premier said he would treat Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with respect and decency on this matter. At the state's recent reconciliation awards—and I believe the minister responsible was present as well—a presenter on stage so eloquently described it as hurt and pain inflicted on First Nations people. The minister responsible for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partnerships in this state supported the repealing of the Path to Treaty Act and declared that the LNP would be repurposing the centrally held \$300 million Path to Treaty investment fund to focus on Closing the Gap projects.

While that sounds noble, the projects the member has already announced against that funding would ordinarily be met through responsible departments. For instance, the Indigenous Councils Critical Infrastructure Program saw Labor invest \$120 million from the local government department for critical water, wastewater and solid waste infrastructure to Queensland Indigenous councils such as Kowanyama, Aurukun, Woorabinda, Yarrabah and Wujal Wujal, to name a few. Last year the former Labor government announced \$61.6 million over two years to continue delivery of the needs-based Indigenous council's funding program and it was funded from the local government department. The \$172 million in capital grants and property, plant and equipment for social housing dwellings in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities was funded through the department of housing last year. I have named just a few. I could go on, but you get the idea.

Unfortunately, it would appear that the redirected \$108 million that the minister has allocated does not have its own budget line but rather seems to be plugging holes in the budgets of various departments that should be allocating funds to local councils, as they always have and as they do for any other local council in Queensland. It is pretty clear that the rebranded Closing the Gap Priorities

Fund is about funding business as usual. It is about plugging gaps in the government's budget, not investing in new ways to address important issues to help close the gap in life outcomes of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders in this state.

As it stands, more than a third of that Closing the Gap Priorities Fund has already been committed by the minister, supporting just over two per cent of the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population. This is destined to be a hopeless approach to meeting this state's obligations under the national Closing the Gap agreement. Maybe that is what they want.

With more and more families choosing to call the Algester electorate home, I have been proud to secure continuous investment in our schools, roads and public transport over the past 10 years. I have been able to secure over \$100 million of funding for Algester electorate schools in that time, millions of dollars for public transport infrastructure as well as more than half a billion dollars for road upgrades that saw the increasingly busy Beaudesert Road and Logan Motorway upgraded to help ease congestion. Of course, in a growing part of Brisbane there is more to do.

Unfortunately, this bad LNP budget has completely ignored my community. There is no new funding at all for schools in the Algester electorate. That means that in this growing community there will be no new or upgraded classrooms, toilet blocks or playgrounds. Our schools have absolutely been left behind by this LNP government.

Education was not the only shortfall. This LNP budget cuts billions and has failed to plan for congestion-busting projects. This is a budget that will make it harder for Queenslanders to get around. If the LNP were serious about busting congestion and boosting traffic flow through the suburbs, one of the first steps would have been ensuring locals have access to bus services along with making clear the costings and the timelines for road upgrades.

If increasing services or at least maintaining the current services was not viable, the LNP could have invested in delivering better road networks. For example, almost 60,000 vehicles, including cars, buses and freight vehicles, travel along Beaudesert Road in Algester daily. This includes a significant number of heavy vehicles, with over 5,100 recorded daily. The high traffic volume contributes to congestion at intersections like Beaudesert Road and Illaweenah Street, which is why the former Labor government—and I was proud to announce this with the member for Stretton and see it completed—delivered over \$30 million to upgrade the Beaudesert Road, Algester Road and Illaweenah Street intersection.

**Mr Power:** Great benefit for Logan too.

**Ms ENOCH:** I take that interjection from the member for Logan. It made a huge difference to his electorate also. This upgrade has relieved traffic pressure and has allowed locals to get to and from their locations quicker and safer. The next phase of this project could have provided more congestion relief by extending the upgrades further along Beaudesert Road, but that is not clear in the QTRIP documents.

Further, the Salisbury to Beaudesert rail line is quoted on page 24 of QTRIP, but there is no construction timeline. When will the LNP deliver congestion-busting infrastructure like that rail line? There is no generational infrastructure, as the Premier declared, but there is generational congestion and a failure to plan for the future.

I will acknowledge, though, that this budget does allocate some money to the Algester electorate—\$400,000. That goes to the Souths Acacia Ridge Rugby League Football Club—one of my favourites—and the Serbian Australian Community Centre in Willawong for sports infrastructure. That \$400,000 is all that was announced in the budget for the Algester electorate.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Ms ENOCH:** I had to actually fight for that funding to make sure that it was going to happen. I had to write to the minister. I will recognise the minister. He did write back to me. He is one of the only ones who has written back to me.

While these infrastructure upgrades are welcome news to those sporting clubs, the budget does little for the average Algester household. The cost of living remains a priority for locals in my electorate, and they tell me that every day. Garath from Parkinson said, 'There are six adults living in our household, so we really depend on the cost-of-living relief. With that being cut, it's going to hit our budget hard and we'll definitely have to cut back in other areas.' Shelley from Algester told me, 'As a single mum of two, my budget was already tight, so the electricity rebate and the rego reduction made a real difference to my budget. It's very disappointing that there's no cost-of-living relief at all.'

As I said at the start, budgets are more than numbers; they are reflections of values, priorities, vision and whom a government chooses to stand beside or leave behind. It is pretty clear that this bad blue budget of broken promises has sadly left behind many Queenslanders.