




Speech By  
**Mark Boothman**

**MEMBER FOR THEODORE**

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

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (7.38 pm): I rise here today to also contribute to the debate on the 2025-26 appropriation bills. Firstly, I would like to express my absolute gratitude to the Treasurer, the member for Toowoomba South, for delivering the first LNP budget in a decade. This budget represents not only a financial blueprint but also a renewed vision for Queensland—a vision that lays out a stronger foundation for our future and restores the dream of home ownership.

The 2025-26 budget focuses on four key areas: safety in the community, enhancing quality of life through a robust economy, ensuring health services are available when you need them and formulating a comprehensive plan for Queensland's future. However, for the last two days all I have heard is whingeing and whining from all those opposite. All these projects which could have been done 10 years ago—oh, they are so important now!

Obviously they were not important when they were in government. There may be a logic to it: maybe they want the LNP, who are obviously far better at government, managing the books and running projects, to do their projects because they are not very good at it. The length and breadth of our state we have seen failure after failure from the former Labor government. We have had cost blowouts on projects right throughout Queensland—projects like the Coomera Connector and Cross River Rail—but there is a future for Queensland.

**An honourable member** interjected.

**Mr BOOTHMAN:** I would like to take that interjection. After 10 years of Labor rule, there were all these little projects they could not work out. Even former cabinet ministers could not get projects up in their area—now they are all whingeing about it.

Let's talk about how good the LNP is. For the Coomera Hospital they wanted 404 beds. We will build 600 beds at that hospital. We will have a world-class hospital in Coomera which is what the residents of the northern Gold Coast want.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Whitsunday, the member for Currumbin and the member for Gaven: none of you has the call. The member for Theodore has the call.

**Mr BOOTHMAN:** I have stirred them up a bit here! The Theodore electorate has had a drought of funding for too long. Those opposite refused to give us money for sporting groups. We got a couple of little road projects. We had a road project at exit 57—it was just line marking—that cost \$25 million. If the LNP had done that we would have done a good job and actually fixed it up properly, but under former minister for transport, the member for Miller—a couple of my residents call him interesting names—it was an absolute shocker.

The Theodore electorate gets some serious wins from this budget. One of the wins is that the riverbank upstream from the John Muntz Bridge will finally be fixed. We have been whingeing about this since 2017. In 2017, the Tamborine Oxenford Road—one of the main connectors in the Theodore electorate—washed away. Twenty thousand cars per day go over that bridge. They promised in the 2020 election that they would fix it, but they pulled the funding in 2023. It has taken an LNP government to come into this place to get the funding to finally fix it properly and protect all the motorists in that area.

There is more. Sporting groups will get the funding they desperately need. The Hope Island Coomera Cricket Club, a fantastic club, will get lights—something they have been barracking for many years. The Coomera Cubs Baseball Club will get the lights they want. It just keeps on going—all of these sporting associations will get money. There is a change room for Pacific Pines AFL. Helensvale Hawks are getting change rooms. This is a big win for the Theodore electorate and Theodore residents.

Let's also talk about our schools. Upper Coomera State College will see money spent on an STEM excellence program and a sporting excellence program. This school has been neglected by those opposite for too long. This money will be well spent on making that school the best state school on the northern Gold Coast. It will be the best state school. It will have running tracks and a STEM program which is second to none. They are things that my constituents are very proud of. Helensvale State School will get an outdoor learning centre. Park Lake State School will get air conditioning for their school hall. Around award season at the end of the year it is extremely hot in that school hall. It is unbearably hot. There was a former education minister, the former member for Cooper, I believe it was, who said that we get sea breezes on the Gold Coast. I can promise you now, we do not get sea breezes out at Park Lake! It is boiling hot in summer. This is something that they need.

My residents are excited that money is finally being spent in the electorate. Most important is the East West Connector to bridge the divide between the M1 motorway and the new Coomera Connector. We have interchanges which are at capacity and we need additional bridges to take traffic away from those interchanges so the people on the western side of the highway can use the Coomera Connector. That will make a real difference for local traffic in the Theodore and Coomera electorates. This is something residents are begging for. All we heard was crickets from those opposite—there was silence. If we are building a new arterial link, would members not think it be would prudent to put in an east-west connector so residents on the western side of the highway can use the new Coomera Connector? We would think that those opposite would put that into the planning, but, no, they did not. It took an LNP government, under the leadership of the main roads minister, to come up with this genius idea and say, 'This is what we need to do'. I thank the minister. This desperately needs to be done.

Finally, it is a breath of fresh air to finally have an LNP budget handed down in this place. We have listened to the whingeing and whining over the last two days in respect of all these promises they wanted fulfilled. They had 10 years to fulfil them. It is enough to drive somebody crazy. I will leave it at that. Again, thank you, Treasurer, for handing down an absolutely fantastic budget for the northern Gold Coast.