




Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Furner**

**MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE**

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Record of Proceedings, 27 June 2025

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

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (3.42 pm): Budgets are clear statements of what governments value. Where governments put their resources says everything about their commitments and how they value the people they represent. This budget certainly tells the people who live in the Ferny Grove electorate what this government values and it is not my constituents. This budget treats people in my electorate as an afterthought. They are people who build our homes, drive on our roads and send their kids to our schools. For the previous 10 years, the constituents of the Ferny Grove electorate have been represented. Labor governments have heard them and delivered for them. Labor governments improved their roads, their public transport infrastructure and their schools.

This budget, on the other hand, fails to deliver. It fails to deliver for our local schools, our local roads and our local services. It pushes the future over the horizon and out of sight as planned upgrades have been delayed or forgotten. Long-term plans have been made to deliver the infrastructure Brisbane's north-west needs to thrive and prosper and much has already been delivered, but much is yet to come. That holistic plan of necessary investments is now under threat as it is clear this government has stumbled at the first real hurdle.

On education, during my time in this place previous Labor governments have built over 60 new and refurbished classrooms. Those classroom investments were necessary to address existing classroom needs—some rooms are up to 90 years old—and the shortfall in classroom spaces as our local suburbs become revitalised with new families moving into the electorate. That population expansion has also pushed school numbers across the board in most of our local schools. That growth has necessitated other investment such as in the STEM Centre of Excellence for Ferny Grove State High School, which incorporates cutting-edge educational fabrication and engineering equipment to educate the next generation of Queensland inventors and innovators. It also includes the new learning centre at Newmarket State School, which incorporates its first-ever music room and instrument storage facility.

Mitchelton Special School also needed support. That is why the Labor government built new facilities and provided the largest upgrade the school has ever seen in its history. I note that earlier this week the Premier, the Treasurer and the education minister visited Mitchelton Special School in my electorate, to use it as an example of how great special schools can be and what their special school plans could look like. I commend them for visiting the school and educating themselves on what good governments deliver. They should take Labor's blueprint and replicate it.

Ferny Hills State School recently celebrated its 50-year anniversary. It has been the beneficiary of a long-awaited new amenities block. We focused on the details as we wanted to make sure our students are comfortable at school. We air-conditioned all Queensland classrooms because we wanted to keep kids cool and comfortable so that they can focus on learning. That is another great Labor initiative.

Other local schools have benefited from Labor's attention to the education needs of our students. Under Labor, four of our local schools received new and upgraded multipurpose halls. The most recent of those halls was built at Oakleigh State School. I was pleased that the education minister, John-Paul Langbroek, visited the school earlier this month to officially open that great Labor initiative. He was quite impressed by the new hall, as well he should be. Labor governments deliver the infrastructure that our students need.

**Mr Langbroek:** You're welcome.

**Mr FURNER:** Thank you. The Patricks Road State School hall had a significant upgrade to deliver the internal hall infrastructure the school needs. The school now has a sports undercroft that will make oval activities far better resourced. Ferny Grove High School grew so large it could no longer hold an all-school assembly indoors. Today, because of the investment of the Labor government, Ferny Grove High School can hold an all-school assembly in their double-sized sports and performance hall. Mitchelton State High School has also received a new hall thanks to the previous Labor government, in addition to a new resource and coding centre and covered double basketball courts. Labor governments deliver for education whereas the LNP are obviously still learning.

I turn to transport and roads. Anyone who has travelled in Brisbane's north-west along Samford Road in peak hour would know the value of effective traffic-busting programs. Today, Samford Road carries over 15 million car journeys per year. That is why Labor undertook the Samford Road intersection improvement program that delivered the first full traffic assessment of Samford Road in a generation. That has delivered a series of sensible, fully planned and cost-effective solutions to the various intersections. Earlier this month, the department completed works on the Glen Holm Street turning pocket, which is already saving people time on their way home from work of an evening. These are sensible solutions to long-term problems and have been delivered in systematic and cost-effective ways by Labor governments.

The next intersection upgrade that needs to be delivered as part of the program is the Osborne Road and Samford Road intersection. Surveys have been completed and the technical business cases have been submitted. It is ready to go, but it was not funded in this budget. Like so many other congestion-busting solutions, it has been pushed down the road and off into the never-never. That is interesting as the LNP candidate for Ryan committed to it at the recent federal election. The LNP committed to it and then dropped the ball. That is hardly surprising.

Everyone in this place knows that it is Labor that has looked out for the needs of public transport commuters. Labor committed to a massive expansion of parking at the Ferny Grove railway station. Under the LNP, commuters were not prioritised. Despite the best rebranding efforts of the new government's spin doctors, it was the previous Labor government that put commuters first by introducing 50-cent fares.

Every day leading up to polling day and at pre-poll at the last election, someone came up to me to thank me for Labor's 50-cent fares. In fact, only the other week I was with the member for Inala at a hearing. On behalf of themselves and their organisation, one of the witnesses expressed their gratitude for Labor's 50-cent fares. I heard copious times, not only at hearings but also from people interstate, about the success of this fantastic Labor initiative. These are Labor values. These are Queensland values. These are maroon values.

When it comes to cost-of-living savings, the LNP only came to the table when they were dragged kicking and screaming by the previous Labor government. Even then they had to rename the program and break out the colouring-in pencils just to feel safe. It is not just 50-cent fares that have been subject to the Premier's rebranding project. FairPlay vouchers, which were a roaring success, have been rebranded 'Knock On!' vouchers—sorry, Play On! vouchers. Those opposite could not even be bothered continuing the 20 per cent discount on rego and they have ditched the universal electricity rebate so that today average Queensland families will be \$1,000 worse off. The Premier promised that energy bills would be cheaper. Just like his promise that debt would be lower, that is a promise that is already broken. After less than one year of the LNP being in charge, Queensland has gone from surplus to deficit.

I turn to the meagre scraps the Treasurer has thrown our way. I cannot help but notice that this LNP government has taken to providing money to their cash-strapped mates in the Brisbane City Council and packaging it up as a state initiative. We all know what a desperate state the BCC is in. Last year the Labor government allocated \$3.9 million to them to fix Minnie Street in Upper Kedron, something I note has been claimed all over again by this Treasurer as his own idea. On top of this Labor initiative, the Treasurer has now added money, as I understand, for the Brisbane City Council to roll out CCTV and to build a sportsground in Upper Kedron. While these investments are welcome, it is clear they should have been provided by that council.

I also note that the government chose to build another great Labor initiative, the Ferny Grove Police Station, which was delivered by the Beattie Labor government. The men and women at Ferny Grove police do a great job. I am quite often down there celebrating their successes in keeping our community safe. This police station has served them well for the last 27 years. Labor builds projects that are valuable and built to last. It is great to see this government building on another Labor success.

In conclusion, when Labor builds projects we do it as part of fiscally responsible, well-managed Labor budgets—budgets which have consistently delivered surpluses to Queensland, unlike this year's reckless budget, which mortgaged Queensland's future. For all this debt, the Premier has still found money to advertise this bad budget in every major media outlet in Queensland. He has blown money on polling which will never see the light of day. What is in this polling that is so opposed to what Queenslanders want that they are so afraid to release publicly? Perhaps it is because Queensland might object to this LNP government fundamentally changing what patriotically Queenslanders stand for. For as long as I can remember, Queensland has been synonymous with maroon. What sort of premier decides Townsville is not good enough for him so he skates off to the Gold Coast and then decides Queensland is not good enough for him so he changes the state colours to New South Wales blue? Seriously! If he does not like it, there is the door. It is bad enough that this budget itself fails to prioritise health, transportation and cost-of-living relief; they actually took the time to design new non-Queensland blue budget covers. It is, frankly, a joke.

I guess I should not have expected anything else from this bumbling Treasurer, but now that we have seen the details of this budget it is clear that the joke is on all Queenslanders. The Crisafulli LNP government's first budget is not boring; it is a bad, scurrilous budget of broken promises. The only good elements are Labor ideas. It overwhelmingly lacks vision from a government that sat in opposition for a decade. Debt is higher than they promised, there are delays in the infrastructure pipeline and millions of families will miss out on cost-of-living relief. Instead of delivering a fresh start for Queensland, this budget is a false start for families doing it tough. In contrast, Labor will always stand with Queenslanders, through the good times and the hard times.