




Speech By  
**Martin Hunt**

**MEMBER FOR NICKLIN**

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Record of Proceedings, 27 June 2025

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

 **Mr HUNT** (Nicklin—LNP) (3.08 pm): Abraham Lincoln said, ‘You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today.’ After years of Labor delay and denial, this government is finally taking on the responsibility and Queensland and Nicklin is no longer being left behind. This is a great budget for Nicklin and this is a great budget for Queensland. It is a budget that puts safety back on our streets, a budget that puts service back in our suburbs and a budget that puts hope back into the hearts of Queenslanders.

Listening to the Leader of the Opposition and the contributions from those opposite, it is astonishing how they can so casually turn a blind eye to the fiscal disaster they have inflicted on Queensland through a generation of mismanagement. Driven by self-preservation over public service, they remain fixated on clean—

**Mr Power** interjected.

**Mr HUNT:** At least I show up for work. Driven by self-preservation over public service, they remain fixated on clinging to power while communities like mine were left behind. They seemed to have forgotten why they were so overwhelmingly rejected at the last election and why Queenslanders chose a new government that listens, acts and puts people first.

I turn my mind to the 4BC train wreck interview we heard about this morning. When the opposition leader was asked this morning, ‘Why in your budget reply speech was there no real mention of victims of crime?’ his reply was, ‘I mentioned the things that we support.’ Of course we know that those opposite do not support Adult Crime, Adult Time and they do not support Jack’s Law; they do not support the strong laws that we are bringing into this House. We know what they would do; at the first available opportunity they will repeal them all and go back to the soft-on-crime approach that saw us in the crisis we face today.

When I last served in this House as the member for Nicklin from 2017 to 2020, I fought tooth and nail to deliver for my community and often against a wall of resistance from the Labor government. Time and again Labor said no to the things Nicklin needed most or made me fight for projects that were already long overdue like the Nambour Police Station and vital upgrades to the Nambour Hospital that were years behind. For over 22 years Nicklin had not had a member on the government benches, so when I lost the seat in 2020, while disappointed, I held on to some slim hope that, with a Labor member in place and a Labor government, Nicklin might finally get the attention it deserved. What followed? Four wasted years, missed opportunities and minimal delivery; the new Labor member seemed more interested in cutting ribbons on the projects I had already secured than in delivering anything new. The priorities of the community did not change: dangerous intersections, the long ignored need for a police beat in the Nambour CBD and meaningful action on rising crime and community safety, but Labor refused to act. They missed their chance to invest in visible policing, making roads safer and easing the

burden on frontline services. When locals raised concerns, the former member did not just dismiss them; he famously blamed the media and turned a blind eye to what people were living through every day. This budget and this government make a clear break from that inaction.

**Mr Smith** interjected.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr HUNT:** Member for Bundaberg, you are back at work; great to see you. This time someone finally listened. Nothing sends a message more—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Whiting): It is getting a little bit rowdy. I request you to make sure there is no cross-chamber chatter.

**Mr HUNT:** Thank you for your protection, Mr Deputy Speaker. This time someone finally listened. Nothing sends that message more powerfully than the \$3 million investment to deliver a permanent police beat in the heart of the Nambour CBD, backed by cutting-edge CCTV upgrades with a live feed to the police. This is the most significant community safety commitment in our region in over a decade—a response to what locals have been asking for year after year. This is not just policy; this is peace of mind for businesses, families and frontline officers who need the infrastructure to do their job safely and efficiently.

I returned to this House with a clear purpose: to deliver for the people of Nicklin. I am proud to say that after just eight months in the job in a government that listens and acts, we are well on our way. This is a great budget for Nicklin. It delivers real outcomes on the issues that matter most: community safety issues, cost-of-living relief, road and school upgrades and support for those doing it tough. These are not new issues; they are the legacy of years of Labor neglect, but this government is stepping up where the last one failed and finally delivering the infrastructure and services our region deserves. Let me turn now to some of the key local measures funded in this year's budget.

This budget invests in compassion and care with funding for a dedicated short-term accommodation village at endED eating disorder service in Woombye. Founded by Mark and Gay Forbes, endED has grown into a nationally recognised, evidence informed organisation supporting people with eating disorders and mental health challenges. Their 2.7-acre House of Hope property in Woombye reflects their vision for connection, dignity and recovery. This accommodation village will allow families and individuals in crisis to stay close to care—practical, person centred reform at a time when it is needed most.

We are also backing the incredible work of the Everyday Foundation with \$1 million to renovate and expand their new home on Currie Street. For over two decades they have provided hot meals, affordable groceries, emergency relief and pantry support, delivering over 52,000 free meals and helping 1,000 families each week. This new site will bring all services under one roof, increasing accessibility and strengthening the food security safety net. With cost-of-living pressures bearing down, this is the right investment at the right time for the people who need it the most.

We are also tackling housing stress with \$43.9 million allocated to expand social and community housing and 240 social homes under construction or under contract. On roads and transport, this budget makes safety a priority. There is \$2 million to construct cycle lanes on Petrie Creek Road, Nambour; a business case and design for long overdue upgrades at the Palmwoods rail overpass; design works in Cooroy at the Elm, Myall and Diamond streets intersections; and upgrades at Diddillibah Road and Nambour Connection Road. These upgrades are not just about easing congestion; they are about saving lives and delivering the basics that communities like ours have gone without for far too long. These were brought to the attention of the previous member, who had the audacity to criticise me for not fixing them during my three years in opposition prior to the 2020 election, only to be elected himself and do nothing for four years in government. Labor, again, is all spin, all about themselves and no action.

One of the most important statewide initiatives in this budget is Daniel's law, with \$10 million committed to establish a public child sex offender register. It is about law, safety, transparency and accountability. I am proud to support it in honour of Daniel Morcombe and the tireless advocacy of his parents, Bruce and Denise, and the rest of the family. Of course, Daniel House is in my electorate at Woombye. We are also investing in local schools, sport and community infrastructure; a major entrance upgrade at the Woombye State School; \$500,000 lighting upgrade at the Cooroy Sports Club; and \$540,000 for Palmwoods Warriors Football Club to deliver lighting equipment and field upgrades. These are just the highlights. There is so much more in this budget that will help improve our community.

These are practical, real world investments in a stronger, safer and more connected community. The people of Nicklin do not want spin; they want solutions. This budget lays the foundations for a fresh start. It begins the long overdue process of repairing the generational damage caused by Labor. It sends

a clear message this government is backing regions like Nicklin. It is listening to the community, it is investing in people and it is delivering where others only talked. Let me be clear: I am not done. I will keep fighting for the people of Nicklin every single day I am in this House. I will keep walking the streets listening to locals and pushing for what matters because at the end of the day this job is not about titles or talking points; it is about standing up for the people who sent us here. I will never stop fighting for Nicklin.

With this budget we have taken the first powerful step in rebuilding what Labor ignored. The fresh start begins now and I will make every day I spend in this House count for the people I proudly represent.