




Speech By  
**Hon. Meaghan Scanlon**

**MEMBER FOR GAVEN**

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Record of Proceedings, 26 June 2025

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

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (3.49 pm): If budgets are meant to reflect values, this one tells Queenslanders exactly where Premier Crisafulli's priorities lie—that is, not with them. This is a budget of broken promises and buried truths—a budget that delivers no universal energy bill relief and no support for millions of Queensland families still doing it tough. Labor brought in progressive coal royalties to fund energy rebates for everyone, but under the LNP the only thing being universally delivered is disappointment. The Premier loves to talk about tough decisions, but let's call this what it really is: a soft landing for the top end of town and a hard hit for everyday Queenslanders.

I want to go into the health budget, where the cuts are surgical and savage for the Gold Coast—114 beds cut at Robina hospital, gone.

**Mr Nicholls:** Didn't even have them! There were none there.

**Ms SCANLON:** Well, they are not there under the LNP, member for Clayfield. If you are a family in need, the LNP's answer is simply, 'Take a number, take a seat and take a deep breath while you wait,' because they are not delivering any new beds at Robina, despite the fact that Labor had invested and had committed to those beds at Robina. What about the Coomera hospital? Labor funded it and the community needs it, but this budget gives us unspecified funding and a hospital awaiting review. Who exposed that? It was not just me. The *Gold Coast Bulletin* dug into the detail and found the disaster. They were invited to sit in the Treasury lock-up, but they still could not find when the hospital is going to be built and how much the LNP is going to spend on it.

The Premier says that he is building, but what he is really doing is pausing projects, punting decisions and pretending that it is progress. There is \$13.1 billion of cuts to infrastructure over the four-year program. I want to talk about some specific Gold Coast projects. The east-west link in my community—the one that I fought for and secured funding to do some of that early planning work—is now in the LNP's glossy Olympics brochure, but there are no dollars and no delivery timeframe, just another Olympic-size broken promise, I suspect.

The light rail stage 4 is completely frozen solid, because Premier Crisafulli and the member for Kawana have decided it is easier to run a dodgy survey than to deliver real infrastructure. Let's talk about that survey. Not only was it slanted; it was skewed so hard it has effectively fallen off the rails. We still have not even seen the survey, even though it is now a month overdue. The LNP chose to give more weight to the southern Gold Coast than anywhere else—deliberately, I suspect, warping the outcome for their own political interest. Newsflash to the member for Kawana: the light rail actually starts in Helensvale, not Coolangatta. People in Helensvale—maybe in the Bonney electorate—Parkwood, Southport, Pacific Pines and Surfers Paradise have a pretty strong view about whether the line should be extended or not but, apparently, those people do not matter as much to the LNP.

Maybe the member for Kawana does not get down to the Gold Coast much, but if he did he would know that this project affects the entire Gold Coast, not just the patch he seems to be politically interested in holding. Now they are telling us that the business case is apparently quarantined. I am not sure whether it is an infrastructure project or a virus. Consultation was over a month ago. The community has spoken. My calls to the LNP are: release the report, do the business case and get on with it—no more surveys, no more spin. You might not want to tell people what your position is on the light rail, but you have done the survey now. Release it. Get on with it. That is what business leaders are calling for and it is what council is calling for. We hear a lot from those opposite about how they are going to work in partnership with local governments—except for when it does not suit them politically, it appears.

In my own electorate, while we did convince the government to lock in funding for the on-demand transport service, the LNP have refused to expand it. Labor committed to that. The LNP try to pretend like they understand the area but, clearly, they do not. When it comes to local sporting clubs and facilities, the LNP have also dropped the ball. They have nothing in the budget for Pacific Pines Netball lights, the Nerang Bulls or the Nerang Eagles, even though these were committed to by Labor, and less money for the Mudgeeraba Nerang cricket club, Carrara Saints and Nerang Roosters than under Labor.

The biggest slap in the face is that there is not a single dollar for the Nerang State High School sheltered courts, despite the fact that Labor committed \$4 million during the election. This has huge support in my community. It is backed by the Nerang RSL Netball Club and the Gold Coast Basketball club because they desperately need increased facilities. I wrote to the minister and I got a letter back talking up the multipurpose hall that has already been delivered, thanks to Labor's election commitment, which the LNP never matched. Even though the LNP now admit that the courts are a priority on the school's infrastructure plan, their response is, 'There's not enough money to deliver it.' That is literally what the education minister said: not enough funding to deliver it. There seems to be enough money to deliver stadiums for the Olympics, just not sports infrastructure for local state schools.

On the priority of housing, there is so much to talk about in so little time. Premier Crisafulli went to the election promising more homes and a reduced number of people waiting on the social housing register. Instead, the LNP have cancelled affordable housing projects and there are more people on the waiting list every single quarter under those opposite. You would think there would be a plan to get people into homes. Instead, their plan is to kick people out of those homes. Their changes to the rules for both social housing and emergency accommodation might help them fudge the figures, but they will not help people who are sleeping on the streets tonight. The cosplay progressive opposite, the member for Bonney, has clearly tried to distance himself from the conservatives over there, but the decisions he has made are exactly in line with what Campbell Newman did. He sits there next to the member for Everton, no doubt taking tips from the member for Everton, who was, of course, the housing minister in the Newman government, which brought in some disgraceful policies and actually managed to send social housing in this state backwards. The member for Bonney has the audacity to come into this House to listen to those awful stories that the member for Bancroft relayed from his community about people who are doing it really tough and says, 'Send them to my office.' Evidently he does not trust the Public Service.

**Mr O'CONNOR:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at that statement. That is disgraceful and I ask the member to withdraw.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Martin): It is not an opportunity to debate the point. Member for Gaven, the member has taken personal offence. Do you withdraw?

**Ms SCANLON:** I withdraw. Public servants are purely enacting the policies that have been given to them by politicians. The fact is that the member for Bonney has changed the rules to make it harder for everyday Queenslanders to get support. Let me break down some very real examples for the member for Bonney. Under these changes, two pensioners or a working single mum on the minimum wage with two kids sleeping in her car tonight would not be eligible for emergency accommodation. That is what the decision—

**Mr O'Connor:** You can't say that, member.

**Ms SCANLON:** I can say that to the member for Bonney, because that is literally the decision he has made. He has said that to be eligible for emergency housing you need to be on the social housing register, and those people would not be eligible under the 2006 income limits. Clearly, he has no idea what he is doing.

Premier Crisafulli said that he would deliver emergency accommodation to everyone sleeping rough. Instead, he is delivering bureaucracy over humanity. Their answer is to let the market sort it out and increase supply, but their actions demonstrate the complete opposite. The Deputy Premier's

answer seems to be to review regional plans and reduce the population projections. The LNP's answer is just to pretend fewer people are going to move here, despite what all of the modelling says, and then just build fewer homes. That is what that means. This is consistent with what they have done so far.

We know that they have axed a whole range of housing projects, at Arundel, Birtinya, Tewantin and Redland Bay—interestingly, in the electorates of the Deputy Premier, the housing minister and the assistant housing minister. Those have all been abandoned, even though they were going through fast-track approval pathways that the housing sector called for. Under Labor, there were 276 expressions of interest received with the potential to deliver over 30,000 new homes, with a guaranteed 15 per cent of those being affordable. We progressed a number of those projects that the member for Kawana has now scrapped. Now there are projects—four of them at least—that sit idle on the member for Kawana's desk, including 2,750 homes in Robina. They have not declared a single new project of their own. They have actually stopped assessing or progressing proposals altogether, in the middle of a housing crisis.

It is a deliberate choice to scrap a pipeline of nearly 30,000 homes. That is, coincidentally, 29,000 more homes than the LNP's shared equity scheme would support. I find it interesting that those opposite are now interested in a shared equity scheme, because of course they were not so supportive of one when we were calling on the federal LNP to ask their colleagues in Canberra to stop blocking the Help to Buy scheme. We know what they really think because we have heard the member for Oodgeroo say it. She said it was a 'really, really dangerous' shared equity scheme.

**Mr O'Connor:** We voted with you, so it was pretty clear.

**Ms SCANLON:** You might want to talk to the member for Oodgeroo, member for Bonney. In a single year the Help to Buy scheme would have helped at least double the number of Queenslanders compared to what is being proposed in this budget by the LNP, so let's be clear about what they are trying to con Queenslanders with. The LNP have proposed a program that will help one per cent of first home buyers, which experts have effectively said is too small to make any measurable difference. What we need in this state is a whole-of-system housing plan. We laid that out, and we even laid out additional measures today we would enact if we were given the opportunity to govern in 2028.

I want to turn briefly to some of the comments I heard interjected by the Attorney-General in this debate. She has announced further funding for the Integrity Commissioner. We welcome any additional money that has been allocated. No doubt, given some of the actions undertaken by those opposite, they will need more advice in the future. I suspect the real reason the Attorney is so proud of this funding is that any funding budget requests from the commissioner have to now be made public. That is because Labor initiated the process following a recommendation from the Coaldrake review, a piece of work those opposite had a lot to say about in opposition. They are less interested in letting the sun shine in now, aren't they?

Premier Crisafulli said his word means something. Well, let's put that to the test now, shall we. He promised openness and transparency; instead we have seen cabinet papers kept secret and the cost of transport projects covered up. He said he would govern with integrity and that there would be no politically linked directors-general. Just ask Tony Fitzgerald what he thinks about what happened there. He promised he would listen to experts, yet they are hiding from Queenslanders the Expert Legal Panel's advice. He said he would honour climate commitments and fund the Environmental Defender's Office. Both of those commitments clearly are not worth the paper they are written on. He promised there would be no new stadiums. He had said that Queenslanders' energy bills would be lower. He said there would be lower debt, yet projections are now higher than when Labor left office. Probably the cruellest was when he said he would respect First Nations communities and then, in the middle of the night, axed the treaty and Truth-telling and Healing Inquiry. Of course, today we heard that public servants are now being told they cannot even acknowledge traditional owners in their signature blocks. That is the level those opposite will go to.

On every one of these fronts Premier Crisafulli has failed, because if you take the Premier at his word you will end up with nothing but a collection of convenient quotes and inconvenient truths. Queenslanders deserve a government that builds, not one that backs away; one that puts people before politics, not the other way around; a government that actually has a vision for Queensland. This is a government built on spin, soaked in hypocrisy and sinking under the weight of its own broken promises—and it has not even been a year. Premier Crisafulli said that he is different, but when it comes to cost-of-living relief, housing, health and infrastructure, he has the same old LNP traits. When you say that your word means something, but every budget, every backflip and every broken promise says otherwise, then your word means nothing. Queenslanders deserve better; Gold Coasters deserve better. We all expected a lot more in what was supposed to be the first budget from the LNP.