




Speech By  
**Natalie Marr**

**MEMBER FOR THURINGOWA**

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Record of Proceedings, 27 June 2025

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

 **Ms MARR** (Thuringowa—LNP) (2.45 pm): I rise to speak on the 2025 state budget. This budget is for you, Thuringowa—our families, our communities and our future. It is a budget delivering for Queenslanders. During the election I heard loud and clear that they were tired of empty promises and last-minute election stunts. They wanted commitments I could keep. I listened and the Crisafulli LNP government has also listened. My approach to my election promises was deliberate and measured, ensuring every promise was achievable. Today I am proud to confirm that we will deliver on those commitments, not at the eleventh hour before the next election but now when it counts.

The honour of representing my community in this parliament, and the privilege of being part of a government committed to delivering for Queenslanders, is one I hold with respect and great pride. To my community, today I stand here to speak of a budget that reflects your voice and sets a bold foundation for our future. We have inherited a challenging fiscal situation from the previous Labor government—a budget that was desperate, mismanaged and unsustainable. Despite this, I commend the Treasurer for delivering a measured, fair and fiscally responsible budget that meets community expectations while delivering on every election promise.

We heard from the opposition leader in his speech that a good government addresses the problems of the day—the here, the now. He also said that a good government steps up and does more and they put people first. Well, I say to the opposition leader that that is why I am sitting in this seat for Thuringowa—because I stood up, I listened, I did more and I put people first. The opposition leader and his government ignored my community time and time again, treating them like fools. They did not do more and they did not listen. The Crisafulli LNP government's priorities are clear—safer neighbourhoods, stronger communities and a budget that makes Thuringowa a better place to live.

Continually reducing crime remains a priority. I will not hide away through the tough times. I am committed to safer streets through early intervention, rehabilitation programs and tougher laws that are accountable, fully funded and results driven—no more ad hoc and bandaid approaches. We will deliver long-term results. We are investing \$7.2 million over four years in Townsville to implement Making Queensland Safer Laws. We have stronger legislation with Adult Crime, Adult Time and we have added another judge to our region, two new courtrooms and more police boots on the ground. There are a total of 1,600 new police recruits in the state. These steps will protect our community, support our youth, provide new programs to turn kids away from crime and strengthen our community.

The opposition leader spoke about the cost-of-living crisis, a burden left by the Labor government's reckless economic mismanagement that hit Thuringowa families hard. He boasted about his FairPlay vouchers. I just want to point out that that was an LNP initiative from over a decade ago. He mentioned his mates Paul, Deborah and Heidi who were very happy with the vouchers. I am happy for Paul, Deborah and Heidi from the south-east who enjoyed them, but my residents in Thuringowa tell me they were not fair because too many missed out because their kids did not play the right sport or

they live in regional Queensland. The LNP government listens to all Queenslanders. We have made it fairer with Play On! \$200 vouchers, guaranteeing regional Queenslanders get their share and offering two rounds to ensure every family can benefit.

This government is removing the economic barriers for women transitioning back to the workforce after having children, caring for family or following illness. With over 14,000 families in Thuringowa and more than 51 per cent of our community being women, this will be welcomed. I am also confident the 14,000 families in Thuringowa will celebrate our \$100 Back to School Boost, slashing the cost of school essentials every year with real relief.

The budget also boosts sporting opportunities for Thuringowa, in particular for women and girls. I am delivering on my election promise with \$1.6 million for Jabiru Park to upgrade lighting and build female change facilities, fostering inclusivity and safety. The baseball community have been begging Labor for years to help their sport. Now it will be delivered by a Crisafulli LNP government. A further \$505,000 will upgrade Greenwood Sporting Complex with better lighting and field repairs, addressing the 2019 flood damage. These investments strengthen community pride and opportunity.

Let's talk about the multipurpose hall at Thuringowa high. Here is a great example the opposition leader was talking about when he said his government was listening. They promised to deliver a multipurpose hall for year-round use, including the students' theatre restaurant, but they ran over budget and could not deliver. So, what did they do? They decided to build it without the air conditioning. Can you imagine the heat in the middle of a North Queensland summer? It is absolutely appalling! I promised the students, teachers and families that I would deliver on \$2 million funding to air-condition their hall, ensuring this community hub is accessible all year round. It will be delivered and the school community could not be happier.

I want to touch on the speech by the member for Greenslopes because Townsville means so much to him. What a waste of taxpayers' money, taking a day off from parliament during budget week to fly to Townsville, do a quick media stunt, then fly back home! I am not quite sure what his community felt about his speech when he came in here, trying to be a comedian, fell a bit short and had to laugh at his own jokes. I am happy to hear that the member for Greenslopes visited Townsville because it reassured me that Townsville people have woken up to Labor because, quite frankly, they did not know who he was. Labor had three members in Townsville for 10 years who never showed up and who never listened. I have been turning up for my community for 30 years, member for Greenslopes, and for the last four years I have turned up and I have listened. It will take more than you coming to Townsville with your scare campaign to try to claw back my seat and tear my community apart for another 10 years under Labor.

This budget is delivering on other important issues to my community and across Queensland. We are addressing the housing crisis and building stronger communities with the \$2 billion Residential Activation Fund to help kickstart new housing developments through essential housing infrastructure. Once again working harder for regional Queensland, the LNP Crisafulli government has ensured we get our fair share with \$1 billion of that for regional Queensland. There is an \$89 million investment to expand and improve social and community housing in North Queensland. This reflects our government's focus on practical, long-term solutions.

I want to mention the hardworking police in Queensland, but especially those in the electorate of Thuringowa. I often visit my police at the Kirwan station to remind them of the great work they are doing and to thank them. Domestic and family violence calls take up a large majority of their workload. I thank the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence for her genuine dedication in this role and working with the police and victims for real change with a \$37 million boost to police responses, \$28.5 million to pilot a new GPS tracker program for high DV offenders and \$31.3 million to double the capacity of Womensline and Mensline. Minister, my community thanks you.

This government has already started to deliver on their promise to back our police by putting more boots on the ground and providing them with the equipment they need to be safe and do their job. We will continue to back and thank them for the hard work they have had to endure during 10 years of the youth crime crisis under Labor, one they have endured more than most in this state.

This budget is a bold statement of what you can expect from me as your state member. It is grounded in your trust and my promises. I am here to deliver results, not fanfare. Thank you, Thuringowa, for your support. I look forward to continuing this journey together, making our community a better place to live, work and raise a family. I am proud to back this budget, delivering for Thuringowa and Queensland.