




Speech By
Nikki Boyd

MEMBER FOR PINE RIVERS

Record of Proceedings, 26 June 2025

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

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (2.40 pm): This budget is a massive disappointment to the people of Pine Rivers. Described by the *Courier-Mail* as as boring as 'Weet-Bix with no milk', it is just as hard to swallow. Queenslanders are gagging on it. This is worse than boring; this is a bad budget—a bad budget made by a bumbling Treasurer. It does not put the people of Queensland first. It prioritises blue political ideology over hip-pocket relief for families, minus cost-of-living relief and an actual focus on Queenslanders—the people who bleed maroon. This takes much of last year's budget and reheats it, chops it up and sprinkles it in smaller pieces over the forward years. It prolongs transformative infrastructure, congestion-busting projects that we are in desperate need of, medical treatments that people are crying out for and essential services that we rely upon every single day.

The road projects in this budget—in a first for Queensland—are hidden with uncertain expenditure and hidden timeframes. There are a few I know the people of Pine Rivers are really keen to know more about. They are keen to know more about an election commitment the LNP made at Samford for a roundabout at School Road and Mount Glorious Road. They committed \$500,000 for a Samford Village concept plan—a plan to install a roundabout that the Department of Transport and Main Roads has long maintained is an entirely unworkable solution and would make that juncture less safe. Half a million dollars was committed by this government—not that you can find it in the budget papers—at the last election and the people of my community want to know what on earth is happening with that. They also want to know what is going on with the \$2.5 million that was committed for Terror's Creek. There is no clue around the timeframes with that project. When I talk to the regional director of TMR and say, 'Hey, what is the plan with this one?' 'Oh, we do not know yet.'

On top of that, the people of Pine Rivers are suffering under the bungled project that we have now been enduring for years. We were promised a safety upgrade on Eatons Crossing Road and it is finally coming to fruition. A project that was intended to have more turning lanes to make the road safer is actually removing a turning lane at a major junction of Mount Samson Road and Eatons Crossing Road—absolutely bumbling—but then, they have put in a bike lane that road users are actually using as a second turning lane anyway. Just last week I was contacted by a constituent who almost had a crash there—a crash she claims would not have happened if there was still the same infrastructure in place prior to the upgrade.

An opposition member interjected.

Ms BOYD: It is indeed slippery. It was actually an intersection that was functioning very well prior to the upgrade. The Department of Transport and Main Roads is saying, 'If you want to fix that, we are happy to put traffic lights in there.' My community is not happy for that to happen. My community does not think that is a good use of taxpayers' money. That is not an expenditure that my community is willing to foot the bill for. It is a problem that should not have happened. It is a problem that only came to light in May this year, and it is a problem my community wants to see fixed right now while there is still construction on that road.

When it comes to schools, I was delighted to open the budget papers and find that there will be a Moreton Bay South special school. I have been advocating heavily in my region for an additional special school. I know that the Pine Rivers Special School is bursting at the seams. As much as we are endeavouring to get additional infrastructure, that school's capacity is being overwhelmed by enrolments. That project is now all bundled up with a bunch of other projects with an \$800-plus million price tag. No-one actually knows how much money is going to that school and no-one actually knows when that school will be delivered.

Mr Power: It is hopeless.

Ms BOYD: It is hopeless, member for Logan, I take that interjection. To add insult to injury, when you look at the Regional Delivery Plans map for the Moreton Bay South special school, the map pins it directly on top of the Pine Rivers Special School at Lawnton Pocket Road. That is not going to work and it does not inform my community about the things that are important to them. There are important details in this budget that my community ought to know. There ought to be transparency around this. Of course, the parents from other schools in my electorates want to know about how their schools are being supported. There are no details at all about them in this budget. There is just one reheated upgrade that I have already committed to for Pine Rivers State High School that is in there.

When it comes to the \$100 Back to School Boost, what a massive anticlimax. I have a primary school kid, and I will have to buy two pairs of school shoes this year because her feet just keep on growing and \$100 will not get me there. Not only that, I cannot access that \$100. It goes to the school and then there is some kind of convoluted system that we have only learnt about days after the budget has been handed down. This will not go far for families. This will not go far in a family budget to cover the increasing costs of living. At a time when we are seeing a global increase in the cost of living, this Crisafulli government is stripping back cost-of-living relief for power bills and stripping back cost-of-living relief for registrations. Queenslanders are slipping further and further behind under this government.

I want to talk about the fire portfolio in this budget. It is a disgrace that fire and rescue services in the Queensland Fire Department will see a three per cent decrease in capital. What that means is fewer trucks and stations across our growing state and across our growing communities. I know the communities of Hervey Bay and Bundaberg need new stations. I know in Mackay they need new stations, too. Growing suburban populations in the south-east need new stations. Every fire on our front line knows this. The government needs to stump up the money to service a growing population because if you are not investing in the appliances, if you are not investing in the stations in growing communities then you will have less of a frontline response. You will have communities that are less safe. That is not something that we want to see across Queensland. That is what this budget will do.

The member for Hervey Bay was in here a minute ago saying, 'I will keep jabbering on about this.' I was talking to a firey from Hervey Bay as he was making his contribution and the feedback from that firey was that the LNP pushed for a stronger Queensland but they are actually making us weaker. They need to put their money where their mouth is. Fireies do not want lip-service from this government; they want a government that will build the infrastructure that they need to service our community properly.

This needs to extend also to rural fire brigades. We need unfilled positions filled. We need the orders to be placed for the resources that our rural fireies are telling us they need right now. We need them to have the safety equipment that they are requesting to come down the line to them—that has come to a grinding halt under this LNP government. It is little wonder that Yellow Ribbon Day came into being under an LNP government. Rural fireies had to march on the gates of this place because the LNP were stripping their funding. They failed to respect and failed to fund and support our rural fire volunteers appropriately. All this Minister for Fire knows to do is play politics. The Greater Springfield Fire and Rescue Station is a great example of this. It became clear to the world when we saw actual footage of the Minister for Fire trying and failing to use a shovel. She could not dig and she could not pick up soil in a shovel.

Ms LEAHY: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence and I ask the minister to withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McDonald): Member for Pine Rivers, will you withdraw?

Ms BOYD: I withdraw. There is not much hope for building the infrastructure that our fireies need in this budget under this minister. We have heard a lot of lip-service from the LNP about volunteers, but there is not a single dollar in this budget, there is no plan and no ideas, and there is very little goodwill left with the volunteer sector right now.

In local government there is the so-called equal partners agreements, but what we are seeing is a \$132 million bin tax that is flowing on to local governments as a direct result of this budget. That will flow on to ratepayers in those local government areas. If ratepayers see that there is a charge on their

rates, I want them to know that it is not their local government that is instilling that charge on them; it is actually this LNP government that is doing that. These local governments have asked for the environment minister, the Treasurer and the Premier to intervene in this and to turn the tide on it. Instead of treating them like equal partners, this government and this environment minister have decided to use this issue as a political battering ram because this is a government that cares more about playing politics than it does about serving the people of Queensland.

Not only is all of their cost-of-living relief being torn away under this LNP; in Cairns, in Rockhampton, in Gladstone, in Bundaberg, on the Fraser Coast, in Townsville and in Mackay people will be paying more in rates under this government. The environment minister said, 'This is a charge that came into place in 2009.' How many budgets have there been when those ratepayers have footed the bill? I will let honourable members know: zero; there have been absolutely no budgets under Labor where those costs have flowed on to ratepayers. This budget under an LNP government will be the very first time we see that.

If the LNP are fair dinkum about being equal partners, they will take their grant funding packages for local government and actually deliver \$100 million a year, like they promised, in permanent Works for Queensland funding, not just scurry it about in a way that is convenient for them in this budget. They would actually get it out the door and deliver it for the sector. If they were fair dinkum about grant funding in local government, not another day would go by without having these new grants and funding packages—which have been rebadged and, dare I say, rebranded in blue, unknown to the sector—in place. Let's have a minister who fronts up and explains what they are, what this means for local government and who is providing the analysis for councils as to whether they are getting more or less or whether there has just been a cost shift in this space. It just looks like this is another move from a hapless minister who is cooking the books.

I welcome the continuation of Labor's water funding and more localised projects in this budget and I call on this government and this water minister to release the local council water infrastructure report. In terms of the cost-of-living rebates, we know that prices are going up—people are paying more for groceries and power. That will continue under the LNP because they have no plans in place to actually alleviate any pressure on local families.

I will turn for a second to sports because I know that time is ticking down. I congratulate and thank the members of my community who fought for and won sports vouchers. We know they make a real difference in the lives and the budgets of people in my community. There were some big commitments made last election: \$4.1 million for Pine Rivers United netball, a project that is already funded and underway with federal and local government funding. I am keen to know where that is at. I am also keen to know where the \$3.8 million is for the Pine Rivers football club.

Mr Mander: Read the letters that I sent you.

Ms BOYD: The minister keeps on coming in here—I hear him chirping on—and yelling.

Mr Mander: What else do you need?

Ms BOYD: What else do I need? I need some clarity. He comes in here yelling. There are regional highlight documents that are part of this budget, regional highlight documents that have smaller projects than the \$3.8 million that the LNP committed to this club. Why on earth is this not in a highlight document? Why on earth is this not something—

Mr Mander: It wouldn't be a nice surprise for you.

Ms BOYD: I am sure there is going to be a big surprise under this minister! A smaller PCYC upgrade and the even smaller, meagre Scouts commitment has been highlighted in these documents, but the bigger sporting facility—

Mr Power: I wonder why.

Ms BOYD: I wonder why, too. The bigger sports facilities have no clarity around them and for a minister who has been so outraged and so offended that he has even been questioned on these things, I would have thought he would be rushing to provide clarity and certainty of funding on these things—important commitments for my community. This club was good enough for the LNP to roll into to announce their signature Games On! funding app but not good enough to feature in this, not good enough to have a funding commitment. I am reminded, too, that this is not new.

Mr Mander: I can't wait to cut the ribbon.

Ms BOYD: I cannot wait for the Minister for Sport to cut the ribbon either, because I want to see him actually deliver the money, and right now there is no certainty of that happening. There is no certainty at all. I would welcome that upgrade for the club. The reason I am fighting so hard for that is I want that to come sooner rather than later. When you have a minister and a government that do not

actually put these things as line items in the budget, when you do not have transparency, when you do not have disclosure around this, when you have a record of a Treasurer who in a few short months has already been cooking the books, everyone is left wondering. Absolutely everyone is left wondering.

This is not a budget that delivers for Queensland and it is not a budget that delivers properly for the people of Pine Rivers.