




Speech By
Ray Stevens

MEMBER FOR MERMAID BEACH

Record of Proceedings, 26 June 2025

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

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (7.30 pm): After the last 10 years of budgetary irresponsibility by Labor it is my great pleasure to rise in this House to speak to a budget that has at its core fiscal responsibility, a focus on core issues affecting Queenslanders and an infrastructure program financially well planned to get Queensland back on track. I pass on my sincere congratulations to the Treasurer, Mr Janetzki, for delivering the first Crisafulli LNP government budget for the betterment of Queenslanders, not like the Labor Party of the last 10 years which delivered budgets to benefit themselves. It will take some time to reduce the humongous debt the Labor Party inflicted on Queenslanders, but with this budget we may have made the first small steps towards delivering on our core election promises in a financially prudent manner that Queenslanders deserve after 10 years of hard Labor!

We went to the election in October of last year on four key promises, and in this budget we have delivered in spades on those promises and more. Cost-of-living pressures, the housing crisis, out-of-control crime and the struggling health system were the hallmarks of a tired 10-year Labor government and Queenslanders rightly said in an emphatic manner it was time to give the David Crisafulli LNP team a go at fixing Labor's mess. We have bounded out of the starting gate, to use a racing euphemism, in all four areas in our first six months. This budget will set in stone the pathway forward for the next financial year and the four-year forward estimates that will put Queensland back in its rightful place as the best performing state in Australia. With the mighty Maroons squaring the State of Origin series against the Cockroaches, they are taking a leaf out of the Crisafulli playbook, snatching victory from the jaws of defeat.

A stand-out financial commitment in the 2025-26 budget papers is the Crisafulli focus on delivering the best Olympic Games ever for Queensland in 2032, and I thank the wonderful Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games, the member for Everton, Tim Mander, who is doing a great job in spreading the largesse right around the state. This event will bring the eyes of the world to Brisbane and Queensland, showcasing our magnificent natural environments and our wonderful man-made pleasure assets. For three years the former Labor government procrastinated over a plan to deliver the games on time and on budget and yet in six months the Deputy Premier, Jarrod Bleijie, has delivered a plan that will see Queenslanders enjoy those games right across the state, which will bring financial rewards to the regions of Queensland and not just to the south-east corner. The construction and works start now with the financial commitment in this budget of the Treasurer, and Queenslanders can feel safe knowing their dollars will be appropriately spent on the long-term legacy projects that will make Queensland the new sporting capital of Australia. We cannot afford to run a second-rate Olympic Games like the former Labor government tried to do with temporary facilities and patched up stadiums. Stand by for the greatest Olympic Games ever in 2032, and it will be in our very own backyards right across Queensland. Go, Gout Gout!

The major infrastructure spend in my electorate is obviously the construction of Light Rail stage 3, 85 per cent of which travels along the Gold Coast Highway in my electorate. As the transport minister has previously noted in this House, the cost blowout on Light Rail stage 3 has amounted to over \$500 million, which is typical of Labor's incompetent budgeting, resulting from their subservience to their union puppetmasters extorting wages and lack of work productivity at the ultimate sacrificial cost to Queensland taxpayers. The latest projections for a date that Light Rail stage 3 can actually take passengers from Pacific Fair Broadbeach station in my electorate to Burleigh is mid-2026, which is way beyond the original opening date proposed under Labor of mid-2025. That is another classic example of Labor incompetence in building important infrastructure on time and on budget.

My residents will be able to travel to Burleigh, but will they be able to travel to the airport? If there is no funding from the Albanese federal Labor government for Light Rail stage 4—and at this stage there are crickets chirping in relation to any money coming from Albo—the \$7 billion last leg has no hope of going ahead. I do thank the many residents and businesses still surviving along the Light Rail route for their patience and understanding under incredibly trying circumstances as construction continues to inflict noise, inconvenience and traffic chaos upon them. This is a very difficult infrastructure project to deliver and the Crisafulli government is committed to delivering its outcome in the shortest time possible.

Mr Deputy Speaker has reviewed and approved my speech for incorporation. As such, I ask that the reminder of my speech be incorporated into the *Record of Proceedings*.

The speech read as follows—

Also in the Mermaid Beach electorate, there has been a decision by the Gold Coast City Council to re-locate the Gold Coast Lapidary Club and the adjoining Burleigh Men's Shed from their current location. Following lengthy and ongoing discussions with Mayor Tom Tate, Treasurer David Janetzki has generously provided \$850,000 towards the relocation of both important facilities in the Mermaid Beach electorate at Pizzey Park. The members and committees of both organisations do a fantastic job in our community and an upgrade of their facilities will be most welcome.

On the education front, there is ongoing work in the budget on Miami Primary School and excitingly, there is a multi-million dollar commitment for the building of a brand new administration and classroom unit at Broadbeach State School in the Mermaid Beach electorate. New Principal Steve Josey is over the moon on this brand new budget commitment but we must also say thank you to long-term past principal, Bruce Langes, for his hard work in seeing this commitment come to fruition. Broadbeach State School is a beacon of great public school education in Queensland and I can't wait to share the opening of this brand new facility with Education Minister John-Paul Langbroek who is using his great Education Department experience to further education standards in Queensland. With the booming population explosion on the Gold Coast, re-invigorating aged education facilities on the Gold Coast is an absolute priority and one the Crisafulli Government is totally committed to.

One of the major issues that has been front and centre in my community under the Labor Government for the past 10 years has been the plague proportion of youth crime. That has resulted in the Crisafulli Government focusing on the laws to address this unacceptable situation and already we've seen green shoots of redemption of this out-of-control activity brought about by strong laws introduced by our no-nonsense Attorney General, Deb Frecklington. This problem, created by Labor weakening the juvenile laws when they took power 10 years ago, has seen a constant escalation of youth offending resulting in murder and serious assaults and rampant car stealing. Already we've passed stronger laws on adult crime, adult time and our commitment to increasing policing has seen 240 new police officers commissioned in our first 200 days of government. This budget re-enforces our commitment to the "Thin Blue Line" with not only putting more police on the front line but changing the whole ethos of how our officers are treated and we can thank forming serving police officer and Minister Dan Purdie for his incisive understanding of police needs and his front line experience delivering much-needed outcomes for our most important law enforcers. Another 230 police recruits were sworn in on June 12 brining a wealth of experience from different work backgrounds taking our increased police numbers to 370 already in just 6 months.

Of critical importance in maintaining law and order in Queensland is the role of the judiciary when the hard work of police enforcement ends up in court. It is time for the judiciary to understand the community outrage at ridiculous judicial decision making when youth offenders have knowingly cut and sliced law-abiding citizens in their own home and end up with "no criminal conviction" recorded. What planet does anybody live on that doesn't find a deliberate and pre-meditated body-slicing attack a criminal event? It will be some time before ridiculous judgemental decision-making is exorcised from the court system, but I am quite sure under a Crisafulli led government, it will happen.

Moving to our third pillar of our election promises namely housing, the Gold Coast is the epicentre of unaffordability in both rental situations and housing prices. New South Wales Premier Chris Minns said the other night that Sydney has the dearest real estate in the world. Well the Gold Coast is not far behind them as people move out of Sydney following the sunbelt migration forcing real estate values to unaffordable levels and particularly making it impossible for our Gold Coast children to buy a house in their home city.

The Crisafulli Government has already moved to try and make housing for young first home buyers more affordable by abolishing a Labor tax in stamp duty on their first home. However, more needs to be done in terms of releasing more land and the Council should focus on affordable housing around transport nodes such as outer Gold Coast suburbs rather than infilling the whole of the seaboard east of the Gold Coast Highway.

In a brilliant budgetary move, young and diligent Housing Minister Slamming Sam O'Connor has allocated \$600 million in this years budget to proactively support the homeless situation right across Queensland. Of that \$600 million \$365 million, will be allocated to emergency crisis accommodation which should address my issue in Mermaid Beach electorate of people camping on prime environmentally sensitive beach sites and a further \$200 million is allocated to homelessness services. This is an outstanding financial commitment to a difficult and growing problem and should ameliorate this social burden right across Queensland.

It would be remiss of me if I did not laud the outstanding work of the Health Minister Tim Nicholls, who has the most difficult portfolio to deal with trying to unscramble the mess the previous Labor Government left the Health Department in under the stewardship of several incompetent Labor Ministers.

Minister Nicholls has already reduced the ambulance ramping numbers, has clearly put the health infrastructure build delivering more beds for Queenslanders in a definitive and costed time frame and has committed to a record Queensland health budget that will deliver more, better and on time services to Queenslanders who have been left hanging on surgery wait lists under Labor for far too long.

Finally, in addressing cost of living pressures, the Crisafulli Government has already moved to stop bloated CFMEU wage blow-outs on Government infrastructure projects, we've re-commissioned our coal-fired electricity generator which will help bring cheaper power prices and I mentioned earlier, we have cut the stamp duty payable on first home buyers which assisted more people getting into home ownership.

Ray Stevens, Member for Mermaid Beach is a very proud member of the Crisafulli LNP Team determined to bring financial responsibility to the Government of Queensland. Again, I thank David Janetzki, Treasurer of Queensland for his outstanding first budget and I look forward to the many years ahead of a prudent, fiscally responsible budget being presented to the people of Queensland.