




Speech By  
**Rob Molhoek**

**MEMBER FOR SOUTHPORT**

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Record of Proceedings, 27 June 2025

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

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (3.54 pm): Today I rise to speak on the first budget of the Crisafulli LNP government—a budget that delivers on our promises, restores trust in government and puts Queenslanders first. For my community of Southport, this budget marks a real turning point. After years of neglect under the former Labor government, we are finally seeing meaningful investment in the people, services and places that hold our city together. The foundations of our health system, our housing system and our communities have been left crumbling for too long. This budget is about rebuilding those foundations with discipline, with compassion and with a clear vision for the future.

Let's not forget the mess we have inherited. For more than a decade Labor talked big, spent big and delivered very little. Housing budgets flatlined while homelessness exploded. Youth crime became a crisis, while funding for early intervention lagged behind. Southport residents waited in record numbers for access to basic services while billions were poured into flashy announcements with no substance behind them. This budget changes that course.

Let me start with housing and homelessness, because in Southport it is the issue people raise with me more than any other. For years our city has been at the centre of a housing crisis. The waiting lists for social housing have grown longer, the number of people sleeping rough has gone up and the pipeline of new homes under the former government remained frozen. The truth is: under Labor, Queensland's housing budget barely moved—no meaningful increases, no urgency and no leadership.

This budget begins to turn that around. We are delivering real housing outcomes for the people of Southport. The investment into West Tower is a clear example of that. This project will deliver 200 new units of supportive accommodation right in the heart of our community. I want to be clear: this is not just another apartment building; it is a proven model—one that combines stable housing with wraparound services like mental health support, drug and alcohol treatment, and employment pathways. This is part of 53,500 social and community homes that we will deliver by 2044. For people who have been trapped in the revolving door between homelessness, crisis care and the justice system, this is a pathway out. This is what real progress looks like. Housing is not just about bricks and mortar; it is about restoring dignity. It is about ensuring that everyone in our community has a safe place to sleep, a roof over their head and the support they need to rebuild their lives. That is what this budget delivers.

We are also investing in the services that keep our communities together. This year's budget includes \$2 million for the Gold Coast Community Legal Centre in Southport. This was one of our election commitments, and I am proud to say that we are delivering. For years this centre has done incredible work on a shoestring budget and operating from a former kindy—poorly maintained and poorly located. They help people who cannot afford a lawyer—people facing eviction, survivors of

domestic violence, young people in legal trouble and seniors dealing with financial abuse. Tanya Diessel, CEO of Gold Coast Community Legal Centre, told me that their current facility is falling apart. This funding will allow them to move into a more appropriate and secure premises. They will be able to expand, reduce waitlists and make sure no Queenslander falls through the cracks.

This budget also delivers \$2 million for U3A Southport—another promise we made and another promise we have kept. For years the U3A have operated out of borrowed rooms and hired halls. Despite those challenges, they have continued to grow. They have delivered outstanding programs for lifelong learning, social connection and community engagement for seniors. Now they will finally have a permanent home. Former president of the U3A Southport, Lou Stevens, has been a tireless advocate for expansion and a place to call home. I am looking forward to working with the current president, Trish Darnedde and committee member Kim Carter to find a bigger, better home for U3A Southport. Social isolation and loneliness impact many in our community. This is more than just a building; it is about investing in our seniors. It is about respect for our volunteers and the quiet community leaders who make Southport such a special place to live.

More than a decade ago, Marco Renai started mentoring a few young men at his gym in Upton Street, Bundall. From these small beginnings, the Men of Business Academy was created through hard work and passion. Today, he and his wife, Amber, head up a huge team of volunteers, staff and supporters to teach, mentor and train hundreds of young men from rented buildings in the heart of Southport. This budget delivers \$10 million in funding to support the incredible work they do in early intervention.

The MoB Academy takes young men who have fallen out of the traditional education system and gives them structure, purpose and belief in themselves. These are kids who have faced real adversity, come from broken homes, disengaged and experienced trauma, and what they find at MoB is not just an education but a second chance, a place to call home. The results speak for themselves. MoB graduates are finding jobs, starting apprenticeships and giving back to their communities. This is Gold Standard Early Intervention done properly, and this investment will help them expand, reach more young men and keep changing lives.

Our government has secured additional specialist spaces for Keebra Park State High School. This will not just be for those students; it will also be for students across the electorate who will have access to the facility.

We have delivered a \$33.1 billion record investment into health. For years, Southport residents have been told that better health services are on the way, that upgrades are coming and that expansions are coming. Under the previous government, we saw delay after delay, budget blowouts and missed targets. Labor dragged their feet on the refurbishment of the Southport Ambulance Station. I can confirm that our government has provided \$14 million for this long overdue refurbishment, and it is all part of how we are providing a fresh start for Queensland.

I am pleased that this budget finally makes the investments we have needed for so long. We know that health is not just about hospitals; it is about access and it is about ensuring that people can get the care they need when they need it. This budget lays the groundwork for that.

This budget is not just about fixing problems; it is about building trust. For too long Queenslanders have felt like government was not working for them, that the promises did not match the outcomes and that the announcements were made and then quietly forgotten. We have changed that. This is a budget built on discipline. It is focused on delivery, not spin, and on outcomes, not slogans. As a government, we are only just getting started. We have backed our election commitments. We have funded the front line. We have shown Queenslanders what responsible, compassionate government looks like. Our budget will include \$147.9 million in new money to better equip our police with things like the latest tasers and tyre deflation devices. This is an example of how tough we will be on crime. This is a budget for Southport—a budget that delivers for the people who make our community strong.

The Speaker has reviewed and approved the remainder of my speech on the budget for incorporation. As such, I ask that the remainder of my speech be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*.

*The speech read as follows—*

This Budget also restores the kind of discipline and planning that Queensland hasn't seen in a decade. For too long, our state was defined by short-term announcements, debt blowouts, and wasted opportunity. This Budget takes a different path—one that delivers, one that listens, and one that lays the groundwork for generational change.

The figures speak for themselves.

We're investing \$5.75 billion in delivering Faster Rail between Logan and the Gold Coast. It's a transformational project that will cut travel times, reduce pressure on the M1, and support job creation both during and after construction. This kind of long-range infrastructure is exactly what's needed for a city like the Gold Coast, one of the fastest growing regions in the country.

We've also committed to 15 new schools across Queensland—including six new special schools—to help our kids catch up, keep up, and stay in school. That's on top of \$300 in vouchers for education essentials and kids' sport, giving every family a bit of extra breathing room at a time when cost-of-living pressures remain high.

When it comes to health, this Budget goes further than any before it.

Queenslanders have waited too long for elective surgery, too long in ambulances, and too long in emergency departments. We are investing \$1.7 billion to reduce ambulance ramping and \$1.8 billion to stabilise surgery waitlists. That includes expanding the Surgery Connect program to make use of private hospital capacity and speed up access to treatment.

This government is also delivering more free healthcare than ever before under the Easier Access to Health Services Plan. Nine new CT scanners and six new MRI machines will be deployed to regional centres and satellite health hubs, ensuring that Queenslanders outside the southeast corner can get the diagnostics they need, closer to home.

And we are backing that up with a \$50 million investment in a new Victims Advocate Service, an initiative that will provide practical support, guidance and representation to victims of crime. This is something that has long been needed in Queensland, and I'm proud to support a government that is making it happen.

We're also boosting frontline capacity, with over 4,500 new health workers to be recruited over the next year. This isn't just about numbers on a page, it's about real people delivering real care where it's needed most.

New early intervention and rehabilitation programs are being funded to help young people make better choices, to stay out of the justice system, and to find the support they need before things go too far.

There's also a renewed focus on connecting communities.

We've committed \$100 million through the Country Roads Connect program to improve road safety and flood resilience across regional Queensland. That funding will go to the places that need it most—places that were too often overlooked under the last government.

We're also investing in grassroots sport with the Games On! Program, upgrading facilities from Cairns to Currumbin and from Longreach to Logan. This isn't just about elite athletes, it's about participation, community pride, and giving kids everywhere the chance to get involved.

There's a broader economic story underpinning all of this.

Labor's budgets were propped up by coal royalties, but the underlying weaknesses in the state's finances went unaddressed. This Budget marks the start of a responsible rebuild.

We've inherited record debt and bloated spending. Now, we're setting a new course. The Crisafulli Government is focused on results, not just receipts.

We've introduced a new nation-leading home ownership scheme, Boost to Buy, to help reduce the deposit gap and get more Queenslanders into home ownership sooner. It's a practical solution for a generation that's struggled to get a foothold.

We've abolished stamp duty for new homes purchased by first-time buyers and scrapped Labor's Patients' Tax, which penalised Queenslanders for going to the doctor.

Public transport fares have been slashed to just 50 cents, making Queensland's transport network the most affordable in the country. This will ease congestion, reduce household costs, and get more people back onto trains, buses, and trams.

And for those in the middle, the everyday Queenslanders who just want a safer street, a better hospital, and a more affordable home. We're delivering the kind of government they've been asking for all along.

Mr Speaker, this is just the beginning.

We're not pretending that the problems Labor left behind can be fixed overnight. We know that rebuilding trust, repairing systems, and restoring services takes time. But this Budget is a strong first step.

We've delivered on our election commitments. We've made smart investments that will stand the test of time. And we've shown Queenslanders that they can have a government that is capable, compassionate, and competent.

That's what this Budget delivers. And I commend it to the House.