




Speech By
Hon. Ros Bates

MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA

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MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Crisafulli LNP Government, Achievements

 **Hon. RM BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training) (2.20 pm): The Crisafulli LNP government was elected to deliver a fresh start for Queensland, including returning respect for taxpayers' money. This government has already taken steps to do that. We scrapped Labor's Pioneer-Burdekin Pumped Hydro hoax, which had blown out by \$36 billion. We paused the Best Practice Industry Conditions, BPICs, on new government funded construction projects, with the CFMEU tax adding up to 30 per cent to the cost of major projects. We have implemented the Electricity Maintenance Guarantee through our government owned power generators to deliver affordable, reliable and sustainable electricity and lower prices for Queenslanders.

We have also had to uncover and reveal the true extent of the financial mismanagement and deception by the Labor lemons sitting opposite. Labor's last budget update showed Queensland what the member for Woodridge, the member for Murrumba and the member for Waterford really left behind: \$217.8 billion in debt by 2027-28, which is \$46 billion higher than the 2024-25 budget and \$39,082 in debt per Queenslanders—so we went from lower than New South Wales to higher than Victoria and the worst in the nation; record deficits totalling over \$30 billion forecast in the next four years—with a \$4.9 billion deficit in 2024-25 which is a \$2.3 billion blowout since the 2024-25 budget, a \$6.9 billion deficit in 2025-26 and \$9.2 billion deficits in 2026-27 and 2027-28—

Ms Grace: Table the briefing note.

Ms BATES: Here it is; it is Labor's last budget update. I do not have to table it. It is on the website. Go and look for it. This is the laziest opposition ever.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms BATES: I can hear the interjections from the former treasurer who was out of his depth in a bathtub. That is how bad the former treasurer for Queensland was—he was out of his depth in his own bathtub. I repeat: \$9.2 billion deficits in 2026-27 and 2027-28. Labor also left behind a \$22.6 billion blowout in the four-year capital program to \$129.9 billion. Labor cannot be trusted with Queensland's finances.

The member for Woodridge, the member for Murrumba and the member for Waterford deliberately hid their black holes and blowouts from Queenslanders. The member for Woodridge, the member for Murrumba and the member for Waterford knowingly left behind unfunded programs in critical frontline services. The member for Woodridge, the member for Murrumba and the member for Waterford failed to fund key projects and presided over cost blowouts for critical infrastructure.

Labor's budget black holes and blowouts include: a \$461 million funding black hole for child safety to provide our most vulnerable children with essential care and support; \$3.345 billion for the Olympic and Paralympic Games athletes villages; \$9 billion in the hospital capacity expansion program

and various hospital upgrades; \$6.5 billion for water security and dam projects across the state, including for the Paradise Dam rebuild; and an extra \$2.8 billion for CopperString. This does not even include Labor's billions in additional spending commitments during the election, such as state provided school lunches, state-run service stations, state-run GP clinics and another state owned electricity retailer.

In stark contrast, the Crisafulli LNP government will deliver a fresh start and respect taxpayers' money. We will take a calm and methodical approach to delivering budget improvements while delivering the essential public services and infrastructure that the Labor Party never did. As finance minister, I am working with ministers to set discipline across government for responsible expenditure, including through more efficient and effective procurement practices.

This was Labor's last budget update. We are working to bring the capital program back on track to ensure projects are delivered on time and on budget. We are working to make the most of our opportunities locally and we are welcoming investors partnering with us to grow our economy and deliver new opportunities for Queensland jobs and industry. The economic carnage left behind by the member for Woodridge, the member for Murrumba and the member for Waterford puts beyond any doubt that Labor has no credibility on budget matters.