




Speech By
Hon. Ros Bates

MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA

Record of Proceedings, 26 August 2025

**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL;
GOVERNANCE, ENERGY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE, REPORT**

 **Hon. RM BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training) (3.07 pm): I rise in relation to the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee's *2025-26 Budget estimates—Appropriation Bill 2025* report. At the outset, I wish to thank the government members of the committee for their considered report, the Speaker for chairing the process, as well as the committee secretariat for their assistance throughout the estimates process. I would also like to once again acknowledge the hardworking public servants within each of my portfolios and thank them for their significant efforts to prepare for and participate in the estimates process.

The estimates process reaffirmed that the Crisafulli LNP government is well and truly delivering for Queensland. I was pleased to have the opportunity to discuss our government's work within the portfolios of finance, trade and employment and training. It is clear that after 10 years of decline at the hands of the former Labor government, we have gone straight to work delivering for Queensland over the last 10 months. After a decade of decline, the Labor opposition were left scraping the bottom of the barrel for criticisms in their statement of reservation. Across our energy, ports, water and finance government owned corporations, I have been working with my fellow shareholding ministers to enhance the performance of these corporations to deliver the best services and value for Queenslanders.

In my role as finance minister I am proud to work alongside the Premier, the Deputy Premier and the Treasurer through the Cabinet Budget Review Committee to ensure that spending proposals are efficient and effective at delivering outcomes for our state. I am also pleased to be part of the economic security team with both the Treasurer and the Minister for Women.

Within their statement of reservation, those opposite also returned to their typical scare campaigns in relation to CS Energy, seeking to deflect from their many failures whilst in government. Who could forget that those opposite performed so poorly whilst in government that Labor's own Mining and Energy Union publicly confirmed that Queensland's state owned power stations were 'being dangerously run into the ground under Labor's watch'. Unlike those opposite, the Crisafulli LNP government is focused on transparency and delivering a fresh start for Queenslanders.

Within the trade space, the Labor opposition does not appear to be enjoying this government's highlighting their many failures within this portfolio. They complain under the guise of so-called concern for apparent inflammatory language and political posturing by myself. I say to the member for McConnel that if it is political posturing to call out the many failures of the former Labor government within this portfolio, the member may wish to brace herself for much, much more. We will not apologise for highlighting missed opportunities or damaged trade relationships under the stewardship of the previous government, no matter how uncomfortable it may make the member for McConnel or her colleagues.

Within just 10 months we have already positioned Queensland as a stable investment destination in the face of uncertain global conditions. We have backed trade and investment with an additional \$5 million this financial year, part of an additional \$18 million over the next four years, to help

Queensland businesses expand into new international markets, and we are supporting Queensland exporters, particularly small businesses, to break into new markets and increase local job opportunities. We are making it clear to our international partners that under the Crisafulli LNP government Queensland is open for business.

Finally, within my portfolio of employment and training, those opposite continued an altogether underwhelming estimates performance by attempting to cast aspersions on qualified board members. Those opposite highlighted their altogether poor preparation for estimates, particularly in relation to questions surrounding funding arrangements for the Back to Work program. Only Labor would complain about fee-free TAFE arrangements after a decade of mismanaging Queensland's training system and leaving Queenslanders behind.

Perhaps the most concerning aspects of the Labor opposition's statement of reservation was its attempt to rewrite history. It is simply incorrect for those opposite to claim that there was no funding in the 2025-26 budget for the Back to Work program or that the program was not continuing. As those opposite, including the member for Cairns, well know, this program was always continuing through the department. He received communication about this very matter on 2 July 2025, though I note he did not table this document during the estimates process. I table this document now for the benefit of the member and the House.

Tabled paper. Email, dated 2 July 2025, from the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training, to the member for Cairns, Mr Michael Healy MP, enclosing a letter from the Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training, Hon. Ros Bates [1106](#).

The director-general of DTET gave a very fulsome explanation in relation to the Back to Work program—

Mr Healy: He didn't answer the question.

Ms BATES:—the member for Cairns should have been listening—and those opposite completely ignored the responses in preparing their statement of reservation.

I could easily continue to detail the many failures of the former Labor government, but, noting time constraints, I will conclude my contribution by noting that the Crisafulli LNP government is delivering for Queensland. I am pleased to have the opportunity to share our work to deliver a fresh start for Queensland within my portfolios.