




Speech By  
**Sean Dillon**

**MEMBER FOR GREGORY**

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Record of Proceedings, 27 June 2025

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

 **Mr DILLON** (Gregory—LNP) (12.53 pm): Today I rise with pride and purpose to respond to the inaugural Crisafulli LNP government budget for the fiscal year 2025-26. For my electorate of Gregory, the message is clear: the Crisafulli LNP government is delivering in full on its election promises to invest in the people and places that power this state. The Crisafulli LNP government's budget delivers targeted investment in services, infrastructure and industry whilst recognising the true value of the bush as the heartbeat of this state's prosperity and identity. Regional Queensland was overlooked for far too long under those opposite and this budget is a clear signal that the Crisafulli LNP government sees the Gregory electorate not as a problem to forget but as a region to back.

Queensland does not run on headlines, sound bites or interjections. It runs on freight and fuel; on cattle, coal and crops; on education, health, minerals and family businesses—significant numbers of which originate from outside the south-east corner. The people of Gregory do not ask for special treatment, just fair treatment. In this budget, the fairness is finally flowing west of the great divide and it reflects the LNP government's deep understanding that true investment is not just what you build; it is who you build it for.

I begin with an announcement that speaks to heritage, jobs and regional identity: the revitalisation of the Blackall Woolscour. This is not just a restoration project; it is an economic engine in the making. The funding commitment ensures that Blackall and Western Queensland as a whole will once again have the opportunity to process wool, returning skilled employment and value-adding to the region. It is a bold and visionary but necessary move to reconnect our past with our future, enabling local employment, tourism and primary production to work hand in glove. More than that, it is a clear example of what is possible when you invest in regional processing instead of exporting raw commodities and jobs overseas. It is also a clear example of what happens when you have a minister who understands that agriculture is a multilayered beast. Thank you, Minister Perrett, for your understanding and support.

Minister Perrett has not only delivered on funding for the development of sheep and wool; he has also made a massive investment in cropping with a \$3.5 million commitment for the Central Queensland Smart Cropping Centre at Emerald. Labor tried to sell off that site after closing the former agriculture college. Yes, you heard that correctly: they tried to sell off another government asset. This announcement in our first budget sends the opposite signal to our vital agriculture centre: we are here to support and value you as well as aid in your growth to restore productivity and profitability, enlivened with the government's commitment to grow the value of agriculture products to \$30 billion by 2030. The master plan will do the design work and fund the upgrade for infrastructure to support current and future research development and extension work, assisting the broadacre cropping sectors of cotton, grains and pulses, which in 2025 are worth an estimated \$446 million to the Central Queensland region and over \$1.15 billion across the state. That is real support for primary industries, delivered by a government that supports all of Queensland industry.


As I have said before in this place, access to health care should not depend on your postcode. The Crisafulli LNP government's budget backs that principle with action in the Gregory electorate. Installing renal dialysis equipment in Emerald, along with necessary support, will mean that patients suffering from chronic kidney disease will no longer have to travel to Rockhampton, Mackay or even Brisbane to receive life-preserving treatment. That means families can stay together and patients can remain embedded in their communities. It will lessen the financial and emotional burden that rural patients have borne for far too long when they have had to choose between their communities and their families, all in the name of survival.

It is not just the patients who will benefit; clinicians will benefit too. This equipment and support will support local nursing and allied health jobs, building on clinical capacity and capability in the bush. This is what decentralised health care looks like. This is what respect for regional patients look like. Minister Nicholls, the people of Gregory thank you for your understanding and for the delivery of a service that has long been called for in the Central Highlands.

I now turn to something equally vital to our rural communities—sport. This budget has allocated \$75,000 to the Emerald All Sports Facilities Foundation to develop a business case and concept plan for a multiuser sporting precinct in Emerald. Let me be clear: this is not just a sporting complex; it is an investment in physical and mental health, in youth development and in social cohesion. In towns throughout Gregory such as Emerald, sport is more than just weekend fun; it is public health intervention, a youth engagement strategy and the backbone of all our communities' identity. With funding from this budget for proper planning and infrastructure, we are setting up a facility that will attract regional carnivals, nurture emerging talent and provide a home for everything from athletics and Rugby League to netball and cricket. This is about building strong bodies, strong minds and strong communities. This is grassroots investment in health, resilience and community cohesion—three things that regional Queensland does best.

As we chart the course of this budget's impact across the Gregory electorate, I want to draw particular attention to an initiative that captures the very spirit of the LNP government's commitment to regional fairness, youth empowerment and community wellbeing.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.

 **Mr DILLON:** I want to draw particular attention to an initiative that captures the very spirit of the Crisafulli LNP government's commitment to regional fairness, youth empowerment and community wellbeing. I speak of the Play On! sport and recreation voucher program, a \$250.5 million commitment of \$62½ million per year over the next four years, that will provide \$200 vouchers to Queensland children aged five to 17 to help cover the cost of joining sporting clubs and active recreation groups across the state. This may seem like a small line item in a budget of billions, but for families in Springsure, Winton, Aramac, Capella and Blackwater, and those of our wonderful students in the gallery, where sport is not just weekend fun but the very glue of community life, these vouchers are nothing short of transformative. In contrast, the last budget papers of those opposite show that funding for these sport vouchers was allocated for only one year, in 2024-25, highlighting the fact it was never part of their plan to continue. This scheme, started under a previous LNP government, has now been expanded and made permanent, thanks in no small part to the efforts of an excellent Minister for Sport, Minister Mander. This is not just about affordability; it is about access and about recognising that children in rural and remote Queensland deserve the same opportunities as those in the south-east corner, and for sport in either summer or winter.

If Queensland is the beef state then Gregory is the heartbeat of beef production in Queensland. The Queensland beef corridors initiative is not just a roads program; it is sound economic policy. It is about delivering supply chain efficiency for our graziers, feedlots and processors, who currently move world-class beef on 19th century roads. Through the Queensland beef corridors initiative we will be delivering critical upgrades that remove bottlenecks, reduce freight costs and support the entire beef supply chain, from paddock to plate. In this budget we will see the commencement of early works under this initiative, with substantial sealing works on the Alpha-Clermont road, the Alpha Tambo Road and the Fitzroy Developmental Road between Bauhinia and Duaringa.

An additional infrastructure initiative of the Crisafulli LNP government is the newly announced Country Roads Connect Program, yet another clear indicator of this government's regional economic commitment. This \$100 million program is directly investing in further sealing and strengthening our critical rural access roads, the very arteries that allow ambulances, school buses, freight trucks and tourists with caravans to function after every weather event. In Gregory we have already seen eligible councils prepare nominations from east to west to seal roads that have been impassable or dangerous too often for too long. This program helps prevent isolation, boosts economic continuity and protects

our lifelines in the face of disaster. It is great to finally have a Minister for Transport and Main Roads in Minister Mickelberg who truly comprehends his portfolio and the imperatives for all of Queensland across a multiple of platforms.

**Mr Bailey:** That's not what you used to say to me!

**Mr DILLON:** It is about resilience and regional confidence—something the member for Miller has never emboldened! These projects are not just about roads; they are also about jobs, about access and about recognising that every Queenslanders, regardless of where they live, deserves the same standard of infrastructure. These are not promises; these are funded, scheduled projects delivered not through guesswork but through the commitment of this LNP government to regional Queenslanders.

Every dollar in this budget reinforces one simple truth: the LNP Crisafulli government is delivering on its election promise to invest in regional and remote Queensland. It proves that we are keeping our promises: to restore pride in our regions, to create opportunity for our youth and to ensure no Queenslanders is left behind because of their postcode. In Gregory, we do not and did not ask for favours. We asked for fairness, and in this budget we are receiving it.

This budget is also testament to the quality of the advocacy of those who have served before me. Both Lachlan and Vaughan long championed projects we have now announced. I have mentioned some of the ministers who have worked hard to ensure not only that election commitments are being delivered in this budget, honouring our word, but also the commencement of the structural repair needed to repair the budget crisis. I need to place on record my genuine appreciation for the work put into this budget by Treasurer Janetzki. Finally, Queensland has a treasurer who understands finance and can address both expenditure and revenue, balancing the needs of our communities within the headwinds of restricted future revenue and that which has been wasted historically by Labor.

As the member for Gregory, I am proud to stand in this House and say that our government is delivering—not just for Emerald, Blackall, Muttaborra, Blackwater or Jundah but for every road, every paddock, every business and every person who calls this great part of Queensland home. I enthusiastically support the budget and register my support on behalf of Gregory residents for the appropriation bills.