




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR KURWONGBAH

Record of Proceedings, 26 June 2025

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

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (4.09 pm): I rise to speak on the appropriation bills. Sadly, this is the first time since my election to the Queensland parliament that I am not standing here to speak in support of a good, strong state Labor budget. What else is sad is that this is a budget that cuts billions from congestion-busting projects and blows away cost-of-living support measures like energy rebates and a break on rego. It is a budget that will not solve the shortage of social and affordable housing—because it is spending up to four times more to help people buy new homes than the support committed for people sleeping rough or families living in cars. It is a budget that does not plan for frontline growth, with a billion dollar black hole when it comes to well-deserved wage increases for our Police Service, nurses and teachers—professions vital to the good health and order of our state.

Sadly, this LNP budget will make it harder for Queenslanders to get around and get ahead. I have so many questions about this budget. Firstly, why have the LNP really removed dollar figures and timeframes in their new version of QTRIP? That is certainly a way to avoid a comparison with what we did in government, and what a great way to avoid showing budget blowouts or time delays. Every project can appear on time and on budget when there is no scrutiny.

My next question is: who signed off on the advertising budget? That is right—advertising. That was a dirty word before the election, but who signed off on the government funds to turn Queensland blue and trumpet LNP messages in every major news outlet and TV station in Queensland? I wonder if the same person approved the money for the Hospital Rescue Plan ads that I have seen and how much the LNP spent handing in our homework again and branding it as theirs. They stopped work on hospital projects right across the state then restarted them—minus any union workers, of course—under a ‘rescue plan’. What a disingenuous ploy from this new LNP government.

This is just another example of the hypocrisy and complete lack of transparency becoming the trademark of those opposite. We have seen it in the planning bill this week and it is evident in the budget. I wonder if that is why we did not debate the education bill on the *Notice Paper* before the rushed planning bill, because it would be a bit rich for the government to stand in here and claim to be heroes for our state schools when our hardworking Queensland teachers—the real school heroes—cannot get the pay rise they deserve.

The hypocrisy on housing is deplorable. Since they took government, we have heard so much from the LNP about how they will solve the housing crisis. There has been no recognition of national and global factors—cost increases, labour shortages, supply chain blockages and higher migration to Queensland—contributing to a housing crisis. There has been no acknowledgement that not only Rome was not built in a day but neither are most houses. Yet in the 7,305 days between now and their 2044 deadline to see a million new homes built, the LNP are somehow going to ensure an average of 137 homes are built per day. The way they have kicked things off in this budget—the way they plan to solve the housing crisis—is by spending up to \$300 million helping up to 1,000 homebuyers get a house worth up to \$1 million each, versus an investment in social housing.

Across my region of Moreton Bay, there has been an investment in social housing of—wait for it—\$70 million. That investment will deliver or get underway 256 social homes. If all those 256 homes are built by mid next year—and if they are not the same ones that Labor got underway already when we were in government—then that is still only one home for every 2,000 people who live in Moreton Bay. I reckon more than that are doing it tough, and I reckon the mayor of Moreton Bay has probably told the government that as well.

I am all for giving first home buyers a leg-up. I think first home owner grants are great—that is why Labor increased Queensland's grant to be the equal largest in the nation—so I am pleased the LNP kept our higher grant, but I question the humanity of spending four times more on making property millionaires than support for our vulnerable, and that is without examining the value of stamp duty tax breaks without any income thresholds at all.

I go back to QTRIP. We know the LNP like to take things out of QTRIP. Not only are the plans Labor had for the Bruce Highway now completely ambiguous—including whether an upgrade of Morayfield and Uhlmann roads out my way will still go ahead—there are local projects in my electorate that seem to have disappeared altogether.

Ms Boyd interjected.

Mr KING: I will take that interjection from the member for Pine Rivers. I remember last time the LNP were in government they removed the New Settlement Road-Deception Bay Road interchange, which we managed to build when we were back in government. Thank goodness we did that, but I wonder about these other roads that we really need. What about the funding for more car parks at the Narangba train station? In the last Labor state budget, we had \$6 million for this included in a line item for park-and-rides. In his answer to my question on notice on 18 February this year, the transport minister said—

The Crisafulli Government is committed to delivering the park 'n' ride expansion at Narangba train station. This commitment is on display via the commitment to provide an additional \$6 million on top of existing planning funding x...

I say to the transport minister: show me the money. Where is it? I cannot find it. It had better happen, because it was an election commitment from the LNP and it was \$6 million that I already had.

Labor had also committed funds for a business case on parking at Burpengary train station—an issue that I know is very close to the heart of not only many members in my community in Burpengary but also the member for Glass House and his family. If this money has been spent as intended, what is the outcome? Burpengary station is closest to the huge new development in Kinma Valley and so many people will be wanting to use that station. We will only get one go at shaping local commuter behaviour. The 50-cent fares are brilliant—that is why we introduced them—but they become irrelevant if you cannot get a park at the station.

I am pleased to see Burpengary Jets Rugby League benefit from the grassroots sports infrastructure program. They are a great local club. However, I am disappointed there is no funding to upgrade the Harris Avenue sports precinct in Narangba which would have benefited both Narangba Eagles Football Club and the Narangba Demons Baseball Club. Even the federal LNP member recognised the benefit of this project and matched state Labor's commitment at his election in May. Hopefully, this upgrade, to be delivered in partnership with council, can be considered in the next round of sports club funding, along with an upgrade of the Findlay Street sports fields in Burpengary, which is home to the mighty Narangba Crows AFL Club, cricket and netball teams and used as an overflow space for the Burpengary Jets Rugby League. The cynic in me thinks the 'new' Games On! infrastructure funding is just a cover for LNP election commitments, but hopefully I will be proved wrong.

I also noticed the claim of building a new Petrie substation in the Moreton Bay highlights. This is not new; it has been there for awhile. This is the government handing in our homework once again. I note the member for Pine Rivers in her contribution spoke about a new special school for Moreton Bay South, and I echo her sentiments. I am wondering where it is meant to be, because the dot on the map is right where the existing special school is. You cannot build it on top of it. I am sure the member for Pine Rivers could find another spot because we would really appreciate another special school, but do not knock down the one that is there.

Mr Lee: You had 10 years and you did nothing.

Mr KING: Yes, 10 years. That school has had work done every year, but putting a school on top of an existing one is not very smart—I say that to whomever the member over there is. You show me how it can be done and I will congratulate you. That school does a fantastic job for families in our region and we really appreciate it, but we do not want it knocked down.

I am looking forward to chatting with my local schools to see what is in the budget for them because it does not seem to be transparent in the budget papers. I hope the education minister has listened to the concerns of the Narangba State School community about student safety and funded the

rest of the security fence that Labor started. I note the minister visited the school recently to open a building we funded and built. I would have liked to have joined him there to celebrate the new building and talk about the fencing, but my invitation must have got lost in the mail. I did not seem to get it.

Finally, I look forward to finding out whether bus services have been funded through the School Transport Infrastructure Program to get Narangba Valley State High School students home on Wednesday afternoons. There is a petition to secure these services on my website—at shaneking.net.au—and I want to thank all locals who have signed it so far, as well as the high school community for their continued advocacy and Kangaroo Bus Lines for coming up with plan after plan to effect the new services at minimal cost to the budget. I am sure the transport minister is sick of me writing to him about this issue so hopefully it is resolved in this budget. This government got elected talking about youth crime and how bad it is—and it is. We have 2,000 kids who descend on a shopping centre every Wednesday afternoon because there is no bus to take them home so we need the buses there earlier; that is what we need. These kids are good kids, but when you have that many kids together it causes trouble. We will end up with some youth criminals.

Mr Lee interjected.

Mr KING: This started about a year ago, I say to whomever that person is opposite—I will not say ‘clown’—who does not know about it. Hopefully, it is resolved in this budget. We would all be very happy then, including the 2,000 kids and the Narangba community.

Sadly, it seems this first LNP state budget is built on many broken promises, endorsed by an LNP Premier who said, ‘When I say something, it means something’; the same LNP Premier who said energy bills would be cheaper, debt would be lower, there would be no new stadiums, heavy rail would be delivered all the way to Maroochydore by 2032—no ifs, no buts or shortcuts. Queenslanders were promised a government with integrity, a government that would be open and transparent. Instead, we have a government whose highest priority is turning the maroon state blue. I really hope the Deputy Premier’s love of the monarchy and all things royal and regal is stronger than the LNP’s love of political stunts, as we have a red chamber next door and I would hate to come here one day and find out that that has turned blue as well. I would not be surprised, though.

Mr O’Connor: He loves the King.

Mr KING: I love the King! This is a government whose budget backs away from pay rises for our frontline heroes who held the line so bravely for us during the pandemic—our teachers and nurses. Now they are ignored. They are backing away from families who need social housing, backing away from project timeframes and transparency in the budget papers and backing away from cost-of-living relief. Well, it would not surprise me if there were people this week backing away from the LNP and wishing they could literally get their money back. The fresh start promised by this government is already looking stale.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): Member, you used some unparliamentary language.

Mr KING: I withdraw.