




Speech By  
**Hon. Tim Mander**

**MEMBER FOR EVERTON**

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Record of Proceedings, 26 June 2025

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

 **Hon. TL MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (3.44 pm): I am constantly astonished when I listen to those opposite how things have deteriorated so badly in eight months since the election, yet they had 10 years to respond or to make improvements.

**Mr Minnikin:** Remedy.

**Mr MANDER:** Remedy: I take that interjection from my good friend from the south side. A classic example—and I mentioned this earlier in the parliament—is that the member for Pine Rivers wrote to me about a clubhouse that is suddenly so bad that it is unfit for purpose. It is dilapidated. It is falling down around them. All of that happened in five months! It is astonishing that it happened within five months of being elected.

I cannot help but comment about the member for Bancroft, who talked about scaring social housing tenants. They were scared by the misinformation from the opposition leader, who totally gave the wrong information about their eligibility. Let's put it on the record. I am sure my good friend the housing minister will say this later: nothing has changed. Nothing has changed with regard to eligibility.

**Mr O'Connor:** Just confirming it.

**Mr MANDER:** That is exactly right. We are just confirming it. The hypocrisy that comes from those on the other side is absolutely astonishing.

This budget truly does lay the foundation for a fresh start, not just for our great state of Queensland but crucially for my beloved electorate of Everton. The Crisafulli government has delivered a budget focused on the issues that matter most to you and your families. We are taking decisive action on youth crime; investing in our health system; addressing the critical need for housing; providing relief from the cost of living; and, close to my heart, boosting participation in sport and investing in our vital grassroots clubs.

I am absolutely thrilled to confirm that all of our Games On! commitments are now fully funded within the Queensland budget. This means a bright future for our cherished local sporting institutions, including the Mitchelton Football Club, the Mitchelton Youth Club and the Everton Park Roosters with improvements to their clubhouse. These are the places where our future champions are forged and where our community spirit thrives. I only wish I had as many Games On! commitments as the member for Pine Rivers is going to get. I wish I had more but I do not.

It does not stop there. Our brand new \$200 Play On! sports vouchers will empower more kids across Everton than ever before to get active, embrace healthy lifestyles and discover the joy of sport. I have been involved in this fantastic area my entire life, so they know my commitment to our community. They know that it runs deep. I will continue to tirelessly advocate on their behalf. That advocacy has truly paid off in this budget. I want to share with the House some of the key transformative investments specifically earmarked for Everton that I am incredibly excited about.

There is the major upgrade of the Stafford Road-South Pine Road intersection at Everton Park. This has been a choke point for so long. This critical project will significantly improve safety and reduce that frustrating peak-hour congestion. There is \$1.5 million for the Mitchelton Football Club—I mentioned that; \$750,000 for the Everton Park Roosters clubhouse; \$3.1 million to build new facilities for the Dickson Community Men's Shed and Stationery Aid—a fantastic not-for-profit that helps our schoolkids. There are improvements to the drop-off and pick-up areas and car park at Eatons Hill State School and at McDowall State School. There is \$500,000 to deliver CCTV upgrades across Mitchelton, Keperra and Alderley. There are wildlife protection measures along Albany Creek Road.

Beyond these direct investments in Everton, this state budget tackles the challenges left behind by the former Labor government with comprehensive, north Brisbane measures that will benefit our community including upgrades to the Ferny Grove police facility and upgrading the intersection of Gympie Arterial Road and Beams Road at Carseldine. The Prince Charles Hospital will receive 93 new beds, along with funding for facilities and maintenance upgrades as well as more health works in Brisbane north. These are just some of the significant benefits coming to our community and our state. I look forward to sharing more details of these initiatives in the near future.

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

*The speech read as follows—*

- Mr Speaker I would now like to pivot to my role as Minister.
- I'm pleased to announce the \$395.4 million Budget for the Department of Sport, Racing and Olympic and Paralympic Games.
- There is a further \$369.2 million—to be administered by the Department on behalf of the state—for Stadiums Queensland, Racing Queensland, and the Queensland Academy of Sport.
- That's \$764.6 million to lay the foundations for a new era of Sport and Racing in Queensland.
- The Crisafulli Government is delivering for a fresh start for Queensland.
- We are making children's sport more affordable for Queensland families and improving sport and recreation facilities across the state, in the 2025-26 Budget.
- We are ensuring grassroots facilities as well as state owned venues are improved in towns and cities throughout Queensland, to encourage Queenslanders to be active.

**Play On!**

- Our Play On! vouchers announced in this year's Budget will boost participation and deliver much needed cost-of-living relief for Queensland.
- Our vouchers are funded across the forward estimates.
- Each year, Queensland families will be able to claim a \$200 Play On! Sport Voucher per child aged between five and 17, with a dedicated allocation for children living with a disability, and for kids living in regional and remote areas to even the playing field across winter or summer sport.
- Kids right across the state will now have the chance to get in the game regardless of where they live and regardless of their ability.
- Play On! is helping to plant the seed for a lifetime of activity—and wouldn't it be fitting if a young person, provided an opportunity through Play On!, ends up back here, representing Australia at the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

**Games On!**

- Our \$250 million Games On! Grassroots Infrastructure Program will ensure there is a grassroots community sporting legacy in the lead up to the 2032 Games that benefits all Queenslanders.
- We are delivering a Games for all of Queensland, and we want to see Olympic and Paralympic legacy right across the state.
- They'll deliver new and upgraded fields and courts, clubhouses, changerooms and lighting—whatever is needed for those sport and active recreation organisations to boost their capacity and get more Queenslanders participating in sport.
- From the Longreach showgrounds receiving new dressing rooms to upgrades to the Gin Gin Branch Little Athletics Centre. Brothers Leagues Club in Cairns for changerooms and lights to the Tugun Surf Life Saving Club with disability upgrades.
- We're also providing \$42 million in the Games On! Program, in addition to \$5 million of existing funding, for Stage 1 of the Rockhampton Sports Precinct.
- The Sports Precinct is an important new facility that will deliver a new home for Rockhampton Netball and further drive participation in sport for Central Queenslanders.
- Games On! is the perfect partner to Play On!—we're getting grassroots facilities up to scratch and ready to welcome more kids, with new opportunities to be involved in sport and active recreation.
- We want to make it clear that Queensland is the powerhouse of Australian sport and that starts at our community clubs.

**Sport and Recreation Venues**

- State owned and operated Sport and Recreation Venues in Townsville, Toowoomba, Sunshine Coast and Gold Coast will also see important upgrades and improved infrastructure. These upgrades are desperately needed after a decade of neglect from those opposite. The improvements will encourage greater active participation as well as better support for athletes on the performance pathway through to elite in those regions.

- That includes \$20 million for the Gold Coast Performance Centre, which will see the construction of athlete and student accommodation as well as new performance facilities.
- The Townsville Sport Precinct will receive \$4 million for a cooling system for the multipurpose courts to host parasport events, and upgraded field lighting.
- The regionally significant sporting hub, the Toowoomba Sports Ground, will receive \$3.6 million for a new scoreboard, and enhancements for better spectator experiences and site accessibility.
- The Sunshine Coast Recreation Precinct has been allocated \$2.4 million for field lights and more car parking.
- While the Gold Coast Recreation Precinct will receive \$2 million for better field lighting and upgrading the sports field to premier standard.
- A further \$20 million over four years has been allocated towards ongoing capital maintenance across all Sport and Recreation Venues and \$12.2 million over five years for operational support.
- All of these improvements are necessary to ensure they can play a pivotal role in the lead-up to Brisbane 2032.
- They will also be important training and development bases for our home-grown athletes leading into both Los Angeles 2028 and Brisbane 2032.

#### Browne Park

- The Budget also supports capital works—with an additional \$3.5 million to ensure that at the completion of the Stage 1 redevelopment, Browne Park in Rockhampton is truly first-class and ready to host professional sport as soon as the gates re-open next year.
- Rockhampton have been waiting for this for long time and they were left waiting by those opposite.
- In 2020 Labor made a \$25 million dollar election commitment to undertake these upgrades.
- By 2024, under Labor, that figure had blown out to \$56.26 million, the timeline for completion was pushed out until next year and Labor's funding wasn't even enough for the grass on the field and light up the grounds.
- Under the Crisafulli Government stage one of the Browne Park redevelopment will be delivered.
- This is exactly what the people of Rockhampton and Central Queensland deserve.
- This additional funding takes the total budget for the project to \$62.8 million.
- Once complete, it will deliver an extraordinary new 3200 seat grandstand with contemporary player, official, and spectator facilities.
- This \$3.5 million addition provides a premier field and TV broadcast standard lighting.
- In terms of 2032, high-quality regional venues such as Browne Park will become essential for training camps for visiting international teams and squads.
- It will also be vital to cater for professional codes without a home, we will ensure the project is delivered and that is show in the Budget.

#### Queensland Academy of Sport

- The Budget is making the Queensland Academy of Sport's transition to a statutory body as smooth as possible.
- The transition takes place on the 1st of July, allowing QAS to function even more efficiently and flexibly through greater autonomy.
- This transition is happening 12 months years ahead of the former Labor government's plan.
- Unlike the neglect shown by those opposite, this government is committed to making sure this transition occurs well and in a timely manner, working in with Olympic and Paralympic cycles so the work of our athletes and committed staff isn't disrupted.
- The QAS looks after the best of the best Queensland has to offer. Athletes have enough variables to deal with, without having two years of Labor government imposed front office uncertainty, thrust upon them.
- As a statutory body, QAS can help our athletes achieve even better results in the lead up to and during Los Angeles 2028 and Brisbane 2032.
- But the transition also means many administrative tasks currently undertaken by the Department, will now be the responsibility of QAS.
- It will have sole responsibility for financial statements, annual reporting and governance frameworks, professional services, payroll, and IT ... among others.
- This is why the Queensland Government is allocating almost \$27.7 million through the State Budget, to assist with the transition and operational costs over the next five years.
- Of the 53 Olympic medals Australia took home from Paris last year, more than half were claimed by Queenslanders and QAS supported athletes.
- With 9 Gold, 12 Silver and 7 Bronze, Queensland finished better placed than Canada, Spain, Brazil and Sweden.
- In the Paralympic Games, Queensland athletes won 28 of Australia's 63 medals, with 7 gold, 5 silver and 16 bronze.
- We know those numbers will have a better chance of increasing with a stronger QAS and with the Academy guiding the new Para Sport Unit, we will see more outstanding results, and more Queensland kids given opportunities to reach their sporting potential.
- This Budget delivers for the QAS, for the staff, for the athletes ... and for a successful Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2032.

#### Racing Review

- Earlier this year, I launched the Queensland Government's Racing Review which focuses on ensuring a sustainable and vibrant future for this important industry. Covering all three codes—thoroughbred, harness and greyhound—it is the most substantial review of the state's racing sector for more than 25 years.
- The Racing industry now contributes close to \$2.5 billion per year to the Queensland economy and is responsible for around 14,500 full time jobs for Queenslanders.
- More than half the economic benefits from Racing go to regional communities.
- That's why it's vital we get this right.
- The Crisafulli Government is providing additional funding of \$1 million over 2 years to continue the Review's important work, to:
- Ensure the financial sustainability and long-term viability of all three racing codes
- Strengthen the integrity of Queensland's racing industry
- Deliver modern and fit for purpose racing infrastructure
- Safeguard the ongoing success and viability of country racing
- And prioritise the care and welfare of racing animals

#### PCYCs

- Our state's PCYCs offer a safe space for young people to engage in programs that help keep them off the streets and on the right track.
- Many of these programs use the positive power of sport to support youth development, prevent crime and provide avenues for young people to engage with their community.
- The Crisafulli Government will provide additional funding of \$7.1 million over 3 years to contribute to the construction of a new PCYC at Pimpama, as well as upgrades to Pine Rivers PCYC north of Brisbane.
- In addition to youth development programs, these PCYCs will be an important resource for the whole community, offering sport and recreation activities and a place to connect.

#### Closing Remarks

- This is a budget presents a fresh start for Queensland.
- I have been travelling around the state listening to Queenslanders as a part of the consultation for our sports strategy and I want to assure them we are listening and I look forward to saying more on this in the second half of the year.
- The Crisafulli Government is delivering cost-of-living relief and taking measures to boost participation in grassroots sport while supporting pathways to elite sport.
- We are ensuring Queensland have the chance to experience the benefits that come with participating in sport and an active lifestyle while delivering the Games Queenslanders deserve.
- We're investing in new infrastructure, to ensure we have the facilities to support them when they do.
- We're delivering for the Games and working towards an event all Queenslanders can be proud of.
- We're backing our elite athletes, helping them to achieve greatness on the world stage.
- We're making deliberate investments that ensure long-term benefits.
- And above all, we're recognising that every Queenslander deserves the opportunity to lead an active, healthy life.