




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR IPSWICH WEST

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

 **Ms BOURNE** (Ipswich West—ALP) (10.18 pm): I rise to speak today on the LNP's 2025-26 state budget, what it means for Queenslanders and what it means for the people of Ipswich West. This is a budget that fails to deliver the cost-of-living support that millions of Queenslanders were promised, a budget that cuts billions from congestion-busting projects, a budget that does nothing to solve the shortage of social and affordable housing. It is a budget that will make it harder for Queenslanders to get around.

I want to acknowledge the amazing people who live, work and play in the seat of Ipswich West—the very people who will be let down by this budget. An example of this is the second river crossing. In May this year a local newspaper ran an article under the headline 'Minister: council must start bridge project plan'. The article reported on comments I had made earlier that month in which I expressed concern that the Minister for Transport had taken his eye off the road when it came to progressing two critical infrastructure projects—the Ipswich second river crossing and the Mount Crosby Road interchange. In response, the minister informed the press that the Crisafulli government's allocation of \$4 million for the business case was in the hands of the Ipswich City Council for it to develop a preferred option for the crossing. So imagine my interest when I read the Ipswich City Council's recent budget submission to the state government. In it, the council called on the state to urgently commence the detailed business case for the second river crossing. Who has the money? That seems to be the question.

Yesterday in question time when I raised the issue of this funding not being delivered, the Treasurer chose to use a full two minutes and 40 seconds to deliver a rant—one that did not clarify anything but instead accused this side of the House of confusion. The confusion lies not here but between the Treasurer, the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, and the Mayor of Ipswich City Council. Here is what we know: the Mayor of Ipswich wants the \$4 million to progress the business case, the Minister for Transport insists that the council already has it, the Treasurer says it is in the budget, and QTRIP shows that only \$500,000 is allocated to 2025-26 with the remaining \$3.5 million scheduled post 2025-26. So who is correct, where is the money and, more importantly, when will this crucial project finally move forward? This comes from a Premier who promised to govern with openness and transparency.

I move on to address the lack of progress on infrastructure across Ipswich West. I am deeply frustrated—bewildered, in fact—by the repeat disregard this government is showing to the people of Ipswich West. Despite countless emails to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, despite raising the matter in this very chamber time and time again, despite the clear and growing urgency of the situation, the 2025-26 LNP budget papers show nothing but ignorance towards critical infrastructure priorities in my electorate, including the Mount Crosby Road interchange and the Bremer River Bridge.

Let me be clear: these are not abstract line items. These are vital projects that directly impact the safety, connectivity and future growth of our region. The previous government had allocated funding for both. In fact the 2024-25 budget papers clearly outlined financial commitments. Just last month, QTRIP reaffirmed those commitments. The Mount Crosby Road interchange and the Bremer River Bridge were both listed and both funded, but now QTRIP has been changed. The funding details for the Mount Crosby Road interchange have disappeared. The construction start date has been pushed to 2027-28 and the project is now suddenly subject to further project development, site investigations and consideration. The Minister for Transport and Main Roads recently replied to a question on notice by saying, 'The Crisafulli Government remains committed to delivering the Mount Crosby Road interchange.' Well, actions speak louder than words and the actions in these budget papers tell a different story.

The opposition leader spoke today in his budget reply speech about the importance of cost of living and the lack of commitments included in this budget. This LNP budget unfortunately blows away cost-of-living support for millions of Queenslanders. Whilst this budget includes the introduction of the \$100 Back to School Boost voucher for primary school students—which is delivered via schools to eligible enrolled students in Ipswich West—it is clear that this measure, though helpful, does not go far enough. It is suggested that the vouchers can assist with costs like books, stationery, uniforms, devices and extracurricular activities such as sport and the arts. However, I question when those in the LNP government last truly listened to families struggling with the real costs of sending their kids to school.

The support, while welcome, is limited to primary school students and will not be paid directly to parents and does not start until 2026. It does little to offset the broader financial pressures families face—pressures only made worse by rising power bills and increases to vehicle registration due to not continuing previous assistance that this side of the House provided. I appreciate that the government listened to those of us on this side of the House in relation to keeping our 50-cent fares and the FairPlay sporting vouchers, which have been beneficial to many within my electorate.

I have 23 amazing schools in my electorate. The Eat Right, Play Right, Learn Well program, launched in 2022, has delivered real benefits to schools across my electorate. Thanks to \$101 million allocated in the 2023-24 budget, 277 schools received vital funding for upgrades to playgrounds and tuckshops. This investment continues to make a tangible difference to the daily experiences of students, helping them stay active, eat well and thrive in their learning environments.

As of 1 May this year, in response to a question on notice, the minister confirmed that playground upgrades are currently underway at Ashwell State School, the school my son attended, and Ipswich North State School, with Amberley District State School's upgrade in the planning phase. Rosewood State High School is also planning tuckshop improvements, further supporting student health and wellbeing. I note that the Ipswich North State School playground upgrades and new shade sails have been included in this year's budget. I am pleased to see Haigslea State School receiving a new multipurpose school and community hall, and Ipswich State High School receiving \$100,000 for new grandstands. The Ipswich West Special School campus at Leichhardt State School, announced in the budget, is well and truly underway. This facility will fill a huge gap in our community.

I note also in the budget that Marburg SES is set to receive upgrades to their kitchen, bathroom and laundry. This is welcome news and I congratulate the Marburg SES for their continued service to our community. They are an amazing group of volunteers who do so much more across our community.

In my electorate of Ipswich West, hooning continues to be a growing concern for local residents. I therefore welcome the \$16.8 million for CCTV, police presence and anti-hooning measures, and trust that we will be able to readily access that, as our community deserves its fair share of these resources.

The budget also references new crime prevention schools for at-risk youth. The detail on this is vague. Where in Ipswich will this school be? How will it operate? When will the tender actually begin? How are you advertising this tender process? This government needs to provide clarity, not headlines. Our communities need real support, not just announcements. In 2024, along with the then premier Steven Miles and the member for Morayfield, I was proud to announce 40 more police officers, two mobile police beats and 10 police vehicles for Ipswich, plus the opening of a new police station at Rosewood. There is, unfortunately, nothing new in the budget for policing across Ipswich West.

Homelessness is an issue that touches communities right across Australia, and Ipswich is no exception. I have seen this reality firsthand through my volunteer work with Rosies and more recently during my visit to the Ipswich Housing Service Centre in May. What I witnessed there was nothing short of remarkable. The centre brings together a committed team of housing officers, occupational therapists, and domestic and family violence specialists, all working collaboratively to secure the best possible outcomes for those in crisis.

The dedication, compassion and professionalism of the first responder unit, in particular, left a lasting impression on me. They go out daily to visit rough sleepers, offering not just services but dignity and hope. That is why I was deeply concerned to see that in Budget Paper No. 3 only \$7.069 million has been allocated for capital grants to housing and homelessness services in Ipswich. This is different from the \$8.665 million committed by the previous government for the 2024-25 financial year under the same line item. At a time when the need is rising, this government is asking frontline services to do more with less. This is not just disappointing; it is dangerous. Our communities deserve better. The hardworking professionals on the ground need the resources to match the scale of the challenge.

My electorate is proud of its strong sporting culture, so it is no surprise that the LNP budget has decided to adopt the FairPlay vouchers, an initiative that has proven invaluable to families over the years. If it looks like a FairPlay voucher and it acts like a FairPlay voucher, then make no mistake, it is exactly that, no matter how they try to spin it. I thank the government for finally listening to the voices on this side of the House and our communities for continuing this important support for grassroots sport.

Sport plays a vital role in our community and I welcome the funding commitments in the budget for: grandstand upgrades at the Ipswich Musketeers Baseball Club; lighting improvements at the Rosewood Showgrounds; and upgrades for the Norths Tigers Rugby League clubs. These commitments were first promised back in October 2024, over eight months ago. Since then, I have been working very hard to find out from the government exactly when these funds will be delivered. Our local clubs and community deserve clarity on this issue. I will be holding a stall at the Rosewood Showgrounds this weekend, and it is disappointing that this funding did not arrive in time to support this year's show with the much needed lights. I urge the government to ensure these funds are delivered promptly, ideally before the next show circuit begins. While we are at it, I have asked the minister if the Marburg Showground can get funding for lights as well.

Ipswich has experienced significant population and economic growth, with some sources indicating it has the fastest growth rate in Queensland. Ipswich remains one of Australia's fastest growing and most livable cities, with 2,733 more people calling it home over the December 2024 quarter as the city surpassed 260,000 residents. This is why this budget is so very disappointing for Ipswich.

As I said in my speech last night, we have been overlooked by this government for any significant Olympic opportunities. In an article in the *Ipswich West Moreton Today* entitled 'Ipswich forgotten again', it talks about consultation sessions regarding the run-up to the Olympic Games being held in Brisbane, Roma, Emerald, Cairns, Mackay, Sunshine Coast, Gold Coast and Toowoomba. However, there was no mention of Ipswich at all. The Ipswich City Council received no new infrastructure as part of the 100-day Olympic review. I say to this government, 'Shame!' Ipswich is growing exponentially and we have been left behind. Ipswich has a proud sporting history and this is how we have been repaid.

I will finish where I started by saying that this is a budget that lets down the people of Queensland and lets down the people of Ipswich West. My promise to my electorate is I am going to continue to tailgate this government until Ipswich gets what it rightly deserves. They would expect nothing less of me.