




Speech By  
**Adam Baillie**

**MEMBER FOR TOWNSVILLE**

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## **APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) (SUPPLEMENTARY 2024-2025) BILL; APPROPRIATION (SUPPLEMENTARY 2024-2025) BILL**

 **Mr BAILLIE** (Townsville—LNP) (8.42 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the supplementary appropriation bills cognate debate this evening. This bill is the latest sorry chapter in the story of Labor's fiscal deception and mismanagement. Of course, it rounds out the 2024-25 budget. What we have seen across the 17 departments, the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service is supplementary appropriations close to \$6 billion. It is significantly less than the \$9 billion of Labor's last supplementary bill, but it is still a significant amount. That amount comes about because there were a lot of black holes left in the budget by Labor.

One of the things that I heard a lot in the election leading up to being elected as the member for Townsville from my community was an acceptance that when they think about government, there is a lot of spending, but it does not necessarily result in delivery. In addition to that, when that spending was occurring, it was not occurring in the regions.

One of the hallmarks we have seen so far under the Crisafulli-led government is I am getting a lot of feedback—very positive feedback—on the investment we are making in the regions. I would like to thank the Premier, the Deputy Premier and the Treasurer for their focus on that. In addition, all of our ministers are so accommodating with requests from the region. They come up to visit us regularly and that really does make a difference. Every time they come up, they have an announcement to invest in regional Queensland, and that is a big signal to regional Queensland not just, 'Your government cares for you, your government is investing in you,' but it also drives private investment, and we are seeing that now in Townsville. We are seeing projects and buildings that have sat idle for years now all of a sudden showing stirrings of life. There are investors investing money and that development is beginning to happen. It is a very exciting time in Townsville at the moment to see that.

I am reminded that earlier the member for Logan in his contribution spoke about seeing the 'Delivering for Queensland' bunting everywhere. That is a good thing. That means we are not just, as a government, making an announcement and getting a headline; that means we are actually delivering for Queensland. That announcement has turned into action which is turning into delivery which is what Queenslanders want to see. It builds confidence, like I said, not just from the public in their elected members but also it is a signal to the private sector that there is investment happening, and particularly in regional areas, and they gain the confidence to invest their money after seeing those signals themselves.

If we look at housing, for example, and the efforts we are making to make up the shortfall in housing that we have seen over these many years, the Residential Activation Fund is a \$2 billion program with at least half of that money—\$1 billion—to be invested in the regions. That is transformational for so many of our regional areas across Queensland.

In the northern suburbs of Townsville alone, \$44.2 million has been invested into two intersections to unlock traffic bottlenecks that were limiting the developments and the unlocking of land. One development in particular in Cosgrove needs a signalised intersection. That development was maxed out. They were not allowed to release any more lots based on the traffic implications and the flow that would add. By investing in this intersection, it means over 1,000 new blocks are unlocked and available to be released to the public. We are looking forward, in the very near future, to making more exciting announcements in the region, and I know the council and other landholders are looking forward to applying to see more housing delivered in regional Queensland.

Looking to more investments we are making in regional Queensland and how we are trying to address community safety, there will be more police, boots on the ground, but in particular the Flying Squad. The Flying Squad is a permanent resource that we can utilise to surge resources to where and when they are needed. That resource has been readily received by our local law enforcement officers, but the community sees it as well. Getting more boots on the ground and having a team that can fly in to hotspots as required and carry out specialist operations is a tremendous step forward in our law enforcement capability. We are also giving police the resources they need, such as an extra Polair helicopter in Townsville, to ensure we can have 24/7 coverage, and also the simple things that help protect our brave frontline officers like tasers and a whole lot of other tools they require for their safety.

It is this investment that we are making not just in the regions on infrastructure but into our people and frontline service officers which really sends a signal. Again, I will say it sends a signal to our community that we care about them, we care about our frontline workers and we care about their safety. When we are talking about early intervention and rehabilitation, I know Minister Gerber is investing an enormous amount in those programs to ensure we do not see the reoffending. The reoffending costs more than just money; it costs people the feeling of freedom of safety, the freedom of safety in their homes. I do not know that you can put a dollar figure on that, but investment in early intervention and rehabilitation is cutting down on that offending. When you have reoffending rates of over 90 per cent in the youth justice system, you know something is not right and you know we need more resources and more training in that space. That is what we are doing: we are investing in those resources, we are investing in our young people, even if they have had a troubled background and made the wrong choices—

**Mrs Gerber:** Crime prevention school.

**Mr BAILLIE:** I take that interjection from Minister Gerber; we are hoping to announce the crime prevention school in Townsville in the very near future. It is about these kids turning their lives around, making better choices and not disrupting law-abiding citizens or making them feel unsafe in their homes. They have to go through the challenges that we all face. We talk about losing a car. It is more than losing the vehicle and having to search for a replacement; it is a disruption to life, to getting to work and to getting kids to school. These investments do pay off in the long run, and it is important that we do make them.

I turn now to the cost of living. The cost of living, as I said earlier today, is a big discussion point around the dining room table at the moment. We have done a body of work to ensure families are getting that cost-of-living relief through our Back to School Boost and Play On! vouchers. These will help to keep kids active and provide some relief for parents when sending their kids to school. We are giving them that support. We know that if kids stay in school they will stay engaged and, ultimately, are more likely to stay out of trouble.

We talk about respect for taxpayers' money. We have been able to secure an 80-20 deal with the federal government for the Bruce Highway. In the last school holidays I drove the Bruce Highway from Townsville to Brisbane with the family. It was obvious how much work was being undertaken on the Bruce Highway, particularly the northern section of the Bruce Highway. That is where I saw the biggest stretches of recently sealed road, and line marking was still underway. That new investment is only occurring because we could secure that deal, and we secured that deal because the federal government had confidence in the Crisafulli government to deliver these projects on time and on budget. That is what we are about as a government: delivering projects on time and on budget and ensuring we are delivering for our community.

In Townsville, like I said earlier, people are noticing that we are delivering. I even saw a recent Facebook post from the member for Cairns, a fellow regional member—he spends a lot of time on Facebook—which mentioned that Townsville has received millions of dollars for new concerts and events, along with new infrastructure. I thank the member for Cairns for that acknowledgement. Yes, we have. We have been successful in getting that investment. We will continue to fight for our community to ensure those of us in the regional areas get the fair share we deserve after years of neglect under Labor.