

Speech By

Hon. Amanda Camm

MEMBER FOR WHITSUNDAY

Record of Proceedings, 25 June 2026

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

REVENUE (COST OF LIVING RELIEF LOCKED-IN LAW) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Hon. AJ CAMM (Whitsunday—LNP) (Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (11.09 pm): The Crisafulli government's budget is about strengthening the foundations for the fresh start that we are delivering and building upon that after a decade of decline under the Labor government. We are strengthening community safety, restoring confidence and building frontline services, unlike those opposite who have failed to pick up the phone to their Canberra mates to discuss issues like NDIS reform and the cost shifting. We have just heard from the shadow minister who wants to lay the blame for the failure in disability policy on our government instead of on her colleagues in the federal parliament.

Despite international uncertainty and Canberra chaos, we have delivered no increased taxes, unlike those in Canberra. We are not walking away from disaster funding, unlike those in Canberra, their Labor comrades, who will not deliver the fair share for our state when it comes to disaster recovery.

Mr Lister: What about TAFE?

Ms CAMM: I will take that interjection—and stripping funding from TAFE as well. Our Back to School Boost, Play On! sports vouchers and permanent 50-cent fares are all locked in, just like we promised, unlike those opposite. The Healthy Kindy Kids program is extended statewide.

When it comes to upgrading services in my local electorate of Mackay and the Whitsundays, I am pleased to see a continuation of upgrading the Mackay courthouse to better support particularly victims of domestic violence. We are delivering a new police station in Proserpine in my local community, as well as in health an additional 128 new overnight beds and an additional multistorey parking facility. Unlike those opposite who like to just drive around the car park and where they delivered zero for the Mackay people, we are getting on with the job. We are also reopening the helipad that Labor shut down, putting lives at risk in Mackay and the Whitsundays.

I want to thank particularly the health minister for his work in increasing the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme which will see faster payments and a nation-leading 45 cents per kilometre fuel subsidy for patients travelling to specialist medical services. I know that will help people right across my community, including for those travelling the Bruce Highway where we have seen an increase in funding with detailed design underway for Goorganga Plains and flood-proofing mitigation work on Lethebrook with access to the Proserpine community as well as to the Whitsunday Coast Airport. Why is that important? The Whitsundays are hosting the 2032 sailing events for the Olympics and Paralympics. Those opposite are the only ones who do not think the Whitsundays and Townsville are the best places in Queensland to host the Olympic and Paralympic sailing events.

I am looking forward to the Hamilton Island Race Week. Planning for the Whitsunday Race Week is underway. That event is attracting for the first time multiple international entities to the Whitsundays because they know the incredible attractions we will showcase when we host the Olympic and Paralympic events, including the Whitsunday Skyway project which we have now prescribed as a coordinated project under the Coordinator-General. I want to thank the Deputy Premier and the tourism minister for their continued collaboration.

Across the region we have increased commitments around road upgrades, including the Mackay-Bucasia Road, and an additional $20 million that will deliver the Golf Links Road roundabout upgrades to combat the significant congestion we have seen which was ignored by those opposite for over a decade.

Additionally, I want to thank the fishing community right across the Whitsundays for their patience as the design stage of the Shute Harbour boat ramp gets underway. We have been trying to get this project right. Detailed design plans are underway, and I want to thank the Minister for Transport for his support. We look forward to consulting further with the community on that incredible infrastructure.

I cannot leave unaddressed some of the comments made by those opposite. To the shadow ministers who hold portfolios where they have direct links to the Labor federal government, contact them instead of coming into this House and criticising ministers on this side who are standing up for the constituents of Queensland, including those with disabilities, those impacted by disasters and those doing all the work when it comes to closing the gap. Minister Simpson, myself and the Attorney-General are carefully considering the commission of inquiry findings. When we talk about closing the gap, those opposite should be ashamed of their record when it comes to the number of children left in child safety services and the over-representation of Indigenous children.

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

The speech read as follows—

Mr Speaker,

As Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, I am proud that this Budget invests in Queensland's most vulnerable people.

We're doing what we said would for those forgotten by Labor, including vulnerable children, victims of crime and frontline staff.

For too long, vulnerable children were neglected by a Child Safety system that drifted far away from its original purpose.

The independent Commission of Inquiry has confirmed the scale of the crisis inherited by the Crisafulli Government, including the billion-dollar residential care sector that allowed unscrupulous operators to line their pockets off the backs of vulnerable children.

The Commission of Inquiry speaks to the culture of secrecy and complacency within the Department of Child Safety, which was left broken by five failed former Labor Ministers.

The Inquiry found approximately 67 per cent of reported incidents of sexual abuse of children in care involved children placed in residential care.

It found the number of children in residential care increased by 229 per cent over the past decade.

It found Queensland now has almost as many children living in residential care as the rest of Australia combined.

And it found costs continued to rise while outcomes for vulnerable children continued to deteriorate as reform was put in the too hard basket.

Those findings should concern every member of this House.

But under the Crisafulli government, although change will take time, cycles of crime and abuse will not the end of the story for these vulnerable children.

We will continue to take the steps those opposite were afraid to take, and deliver action to fix Labor's broken child-safety system and rebuild it with protections that put our vulnerable Queensland kids first.

That is why this Budget commits $200 million to commence the response to the Commission of Inquiry and begin the task of rebuilding Queensland's child safety system.

As per the Commissioner's recommendations, we have established a Cabinet Sub-Committee to oversee the strategic consideration and implementation of the report.

This Budget invests in SecureCare, a Queensland-first model that, unlike residential care, will provide intensive support for young people who pose a serious risk to themselves and others.

We are expanding the Professional Foster Care pilot to additional regions because children deserve stable family-based care wherever possible.

We are boosting extracurricular support for children in care with an additional $1,500 so they can participate in sport, cultural activities, music and other opportunities that help them develop confidence and connection.

We are continuing work on a dual-carer model in residential care settings and progressing the conversion of residential care providers from IPS to OSD arrangements.

We are on track when it comes to increasing child safety officers frontline by 20 per cent, and we have already saved the 91 frontline jobs those opposite intended to cut.

We are restoring respect to foster and kinship carers after years of neglect.

And we are changing a culture of secrecy that took hold under Labor and instilling accountability and transparency so families can have faith in the system.

Mr Speaker,

This Budget also continues the Crisafulli Government's commitment to putting victims first and holding perpetrators to account in the fight against domestic and family violence.

We are investing in HOPE Hubs in 2026-27 to ensure victim-survivors can access coordinated support in one location.

We are delivering a Townsville-based domestic and family violence crisis service to double the capacity of the State's 24/7 domestic and family violence crisis response.

We are continuing to pilot the option for courts to impose Electronic Monitoring devices for High Risk DFV Perpetrators.

And we are investing in embedded domestic and family violence workers across Queensland through to 2030.

When it comes to domestic and family violence, Queenslanders deserve a government that puts victims first and holds perpetrators to account.

This Budget also supports the vital community organisations making a difference every day.

Organisations such as DV Safe Phone, Miracle Mums and Baby Give Back continue to provide practical support for Queenslanders experiencing hardship and crisis.

Mr Speaker, those who know me know I am a passionate advocate for social infrastructure, alongside the new homes I know the Deputy Premier and Minister for housing are delivering.

Social infrastructure are the organisations that make a collection of houses a community.

We have fully funded the capital works required for neighbourhood centres across the state after Labor failed to allocate enough funding to deliver them.

These centres are often the first place people turn when they need help.

They provide practical assistance and support during difficult times.

This Budget also delivers a cost-of-living package that provides certainty into the forward estimates for food security initiatives, financial counselling and resilience services and emergency relief funding.

I am proud to be delivering these investments that provide practical support for Queenslanders doing it tough.

Mr Speaker,

Queensland seniors built the communities we enjoy today, and they deserve support, respect and opportunities to remain connected.

This Budget continues that commitment.

We are doing what we said we would for growing U3As in Queensland, including U3A Bribie Island secure a new home, U3A Redlands to complete building works at The Cottage and a new premises for U3A Gold Coast.

We are continuing Seniors Expos and Seniors Savings Pop-Ups across Queensland and helping older Queenslanders navigate life's difficult moments from mental health to reading the fine print.

And we continue to carefully consider the recommendations of the Parliamentary Inquiry into Elder Abuse as we work to strengthen protections for older Queenslanders.

Mr Speaker,

This Government is also standing up for Queenslanders with disability and their families.

We support a strong and sustainable National Disability Insurance Scheme.

But sustainability cannot come at the expense of Queenslanders who rely on these services every day.

The Commonwealth should be focused on removing fraud, waste and shonky operators from the NDIS, not shifting costs onto states and territories through decisions made without proper consultation.

Queensland will continue holding the Federal Government accountable for its responsibilities under the NDIS.

We will always advocate for Queenslanders with disability and ensure their voices are heard in national reform discussions.