




Speech By
Bryson Head

MEMBER FOR CALLIDE

Record of Proceedings, 26 March 2026

**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) (SUPPLEMENTARY 2024-2025) BILL;
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 **Mr HEAD** (Callide—LNP) (8.22 pm): This is yet another Labor budget debacle in this state. It is debacle after debacle when it comes to the former Palaszczuk-Miles Labor government and, in particular, former treasurer Cameron Dick. He is someone who apparently struggles with economics based on some of the fuel arguments he has been making this week. His record as treasurer in Queensland is blowout after blowout and unforeseen expenditures after unforeseen expenditures coming back to this parliament in the form of supplementary appropriations. I suspect they were not so unforeseen, but maybe they just wanted them to be unseen by Queenslanders. If they had enabled the truth in the budget year on year, and in the first appropriation bill when they released it year on year, then Queenslanders would have been able to see in one plain line the legacy of failures of those opposite.

Many Queenslanders do not know what we have inherited. A lot of Queenslanders might not realise there is a bit of a problem with Labor's budget bucket. It has a big hole in the bottom of it. That is what we inherited. I thought I would put it on display so my constituents can see what we are dealing with when we are trying to fix the financial situation here in Queensland. I will not trouble the Table Office with that. Maybe it can be saved for another day. Hopefully it does not get to see the light of the Treasury coffers for a very long time because there are many things across my electorate I would love to see properly funded. That is challenging for us all, because we are a government of financial responsibility.

One thing that gets lost is that every dollar we spend, like the \$5.7 billion in this appropriation, is money we have borrowed from the next generation. I am the youngest regional MP. I am not the youngest MP; the member for Pumicestone now has that title. I am the youngest regional MP and it concerns me that those opposite have a legacy of budget overruns and borrowing more from the next generation. In his tenure, former treasurer Cameron Dick received \$70 billion more in revenue than was originally forecast and we do not have a single thing to show for it. What across Callide exists because of that \$70 billion? A lot of that \$70 billion came from royalties and the boom we had on the back of COVID in the energy space. We have no legacy infrastructure to show for it. That is a travesty for our state.

We now have a government that has the right focus and through the right discipline we can build legacy and get Queensland back on track. Some of those legacies that we are trying to rebuild are simple things like maternity services in rural communities. I have spoken regularly about the need to return maternity services across my electorate. We have a commitment and we will be returning maternity services to Biloela. I keep ensuring that Chinchilla is on the agenda, as well as other rural communities that have missed out for a very long time. I see those opposite come in here and ask questions about the delivery of care. I can reassure the Biloela community that I have been working with CQHHS and I have been clear that the consumers of the Biloela community have to be part of that

journey and they have to be comfortable with the models of care that we provide and they have to be safe. I am happy to put that on the record because I know that is the expectation of the minister and Queensland Health. What we get is fearmongering from those opposite who thought that it was completely okay to see women give birth on the side of the highway because they could not deliver maternity services in rural Queensland.

It was great last year to finally see the start of construction of the Moura aged-care expansion. This is a project that had sat in limbo for many years because those opposite once again, even though they had an extra \$70 billion over many years to get some legacy projects going, did not get projects like the Moura aged-care expansion going. Through the Crisafulli LNP government we did. I called in there the other day. We now have a structure up and a lot of work happening to ensure that facility is fitted out and can be utilised by the Moura community.

The legacy of a lack of maintenance by those opposite is something else that we have inherited. It is not only the extra money they spent that we now no longer have, that we borrowed from the next generation, but the money they should have spent but did not which is now our mess to clean up. I spoke a couple of years ago in this House—and there was some media around it—about one of my schools at Monto with the paint flaking off the walls because those opposite could not even get a building painted at a school. I have been talking with the education team about the significant maintenance backlog at my local schools. It is simply atrocious to have that problem in rural communities. As the member who has the most schools of any MP, I think we need to ensure that we fund maintenance programs properly. That will be more challenging because of the fact that those opposite never did. I walk around my schools and many of them need a lot of work to get them up to current standards. That is more money that should have been spent that was not that we are now going to have to find.

Until we get the budget back to surplus that is money we are borrowing from the next generation, something that gets forgotten by those opposite when they come in here and splash cash around. Their solution is always to splash cash around. The real solution is to not splash cash around; it is fixing the legacy problems of the state and getting industry going, like an oil industry on the Western Downs by advancing the Taroom Trough development. Last night I mentioned how great a refinery would be on the Western Downs. I would love to see that get legs. I have had conversations this week, and I will certainly continue to have conversations, to encourage that. I know there is private industry that is eager to continue those conversations. I will certainly be pursuing them.

We know that the frustrating fuel situation is because of the inaction of the federal government, especially when we consider their political agenda. Last year, rather than securing fuel supply, Chris Bowen was running around trying to become president of COP31, because apparently you deliver fuel security to a nation by becoming president of an international body on climate change. I do not quite understand how that would help Australia's fuel security.

Across the electorate, the housing shortage is a big problem that faces not only our departments but also our health services, schools and private business. It was incredible to learn in meetings this week that, under Labor's housing plan, each house they were planning to build would have cost about \$2.4 million. I know a lot of local builders who could build a lot of houses for a lot less than that.

A government member: 'Gavenomics'.

Mr HEAD: 'Gavenomics'; I take the interjection. We know that those opposite do not quite understand economics—maybe even year 8 economics. Maybe 'Gavenomics' is about their level of economic knowledge. That might be fitting for the Labor Party. Nonetheless, the \$5.7 billion in this appropriation as well as the \$9 billion from the previous financial year is a lot of money that we will never get to spend on local facilities because those opposite blew it.

Throughout the debate we have heard about some of the programs that we were bewildered were not funded, including some very important child safety programs that the Labor Party forgot about. They funded them through to the election and then that was the end of it. Many of their commitments and other things that they championed were never funded into the forwards. They have been talking about energy rebates and 50-cent fares et cetera. Once again, we came to government and found there was no funding to carry any of those initiatives forward. For us to do things means we have to find more money. With the situation we inherited, the money that we have had to find has had to be borrowed from the next generation.