




Speech By  
**Dr Christian Rowan**

**MEMBER FOR MOGGILL**

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

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (12.51 pm): I rise to address the cognate debate on the Appropriation (Supplementary 2024-2025) Bill and the Appropriation (Parliament) (Supplementary 2024-2025) Bill. These bills provide for the formal authorisation of expenditure beyond what was originally allocated and, as such, they are an important part of ensuring transparency and accountability with respect to the management of Queensland's finances. However, what sits behind these bills is a much broader and more concerning story about the state of Queensland's finances that was inherited by the Crisafulli Liberal National Party state government.

Whilst unforeseen expenditure can arise for legitimate reasons, such as responding to emerging pressures or changes in timing, that is not what has driven the outcomes being debated today. A significant driver of the unforeseen expenditure is the funding gaps left by the former Labor state government which the Crisafulli LNP state government has had to address and is continuing to resolve. Indeed, we know that over \$2 billion in additional funding was required for Queensland Health alone—a direct consequence of mismanagement by the former state Labor government. We know that Child Safety required hundreds of millions of additional dollars to address a funding cliff that Labor left behind. We also know that housing and homelessness services were underfunded at a critical time when Queenslanders needed support the most. We know that major infrastructure projects, including Cross River Rail, were subject to massive cost blowouts that were never honestly disclosed by Labor.

These are not optional areas of expenditure; they are core responsibilities of any state government and yet they were left in a position where additional funding had to be found to ensure services could continue and Queenslanders would be supported. What this reflects is a pattern of poor budgeting by the former Labor state government that deferred problems rather than dealt with them and which ultimately deferred the burden to subsequent governments.

What we also see through these bills is the real-world consequences of those decisions, because when a state government fails to properly fund core services it is not just a line in a budget paper; it has direct implications for Queenslanders. We have seen that in child safety where, without intervention, funding would have dissipated and frontline services supporting some of the most vulnerable children in our state would have been placed at risk. We have seen it in health, which I mentioned, where significant additional investment was required not only to address cost pressures but also to deal with years of underinvestment in maintenance, refurbishment and hospital infrastructure.

These are not abstract issues. These are the services Queenslanders rely on each and every day. The fact that additional funding had to be found to sustain them speaks volumes about the approach that was taken by those opposite. It also reinforces the importance of the work that this state government is now undertaking because, in stepping in to fund these services, we are not only addressing immediate pressures; we are also restoring certainty—certainty for frontline workers, certainty for service providers and, most importantly, certainty for Queenslanders who rely on these services.

There are also clear examples where these bills of the Crisafulli Liberal National Party state government are making deliberate choices to fund priorities that matter to Queenslanders, whether it is providing support for victims of crime, ensuring the continuation of cost-of-living measures like the Liberal National Party state government's permanent 50-cent fares or investing in health initiatives such as the Surgery Connect Surge program to stabilise elective surgery waitlists. These are targeted decisions that reflect our focus on delivery and, importantly, they are decisions that are being made transparently and funded properly.

I also note that the Appropriation (Parliament) (Supplementary 2024-2025) Bill seeks approval of unforeseen expenditure of just over \$5.4 million for the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service. This expenditure primarily reflects additional funding required to support the conduct of the 2024 state election, adjustments to member allowances as determined by the Queensland Independent Remuneration Tribunal, collective bargaining outcomes and the reimbursement of previously unbudgeted select committee and members' accommodation costs from the prior financial year. These are appropriate and necessary expenditures to ensure the effective functioning of the Queensland parliament and to support members in the discharge of their duties.

The task of the Crisafulli Liberal National Party state government has been to work through the pressures left behind in a considered and disciplined way while restoring integrity to the budget process and ensuring spending is aligned with the priorities that matter to Queenslanders. That work is already underway and is being done in a way that reflects careful financial management and a clear focus on delivery.

While these bills relate to the 2024-25 financial year, it is also important to recognise what has been achieved since then, particularly through the Crisafulli Liberal National Party government's first state budget. I am very pleased to say that every election commitment made by the Liberal National Party to residents of the electorate of Moggill has been fully funded and, importantly, planning delivery is actively progressing across our local communities. That is not just about allocating funding on paper. It is about ensuring projects move forward and communities see real outcomes.

Across the electorate of Moggill we are delivering real investments that strengthen local facilities, support community organisations and improve infrastructure. This includes \$150,000 for the Brookfield Show Society, \$110,000 for the Mount Crosby Bowls Club and \$50,000 investments across a range of local sporting organisations including the Moggill Football Club, Kenmore District Junior Australian Football Club, the Moggill Mustangs and our local horse and pony clubs across the electorate of Moggill, not to mention our local Girl Guides and Scout groups. We have also invested \$75,000 in key environmental organisations including the Moggill Creek Catchment Group, Pullen Pullen Catchments Group, the Kholo Creek Catchment Group, the Hut Environmental & Community Association and the Cubberla-Witton Catchments Network, supporting the vital work they do to preserve and enhance our local environment.

Alongside these important local investments there are also significant forward-looking projects that are being progressed. A \$3 million commitment to deliver a new innovative community and neighbourhood centre for the electorate is moving forward, providing an important collaborative hub for local residents. Work is progressing for the delivery of the integrated road and public transport plan for Brisbane's western suburbs which will play a critical role in improving connectivity, easing congestion and planning for future growth.

The upgrade of the Kenmore roundabout, ensuring safety improvements around Our Lady of the Rosary School, and planning works to Kilkivan Avenue is another key project that will deliver safer outcomes for local families. The delivery of a new footpath to the Moggill District Sports Park will ensure accessibility and support participation in local sport. Importantly, planning is also underway with funding committed to progress the business case for a new high school for the electorate of Moggill, ensuring that future education needs are properly considered. There is also a multimillion dollar investment for our local Kenmore State High School.

I have been actively engaging with ministers across many portfolios to ensure that these commitments and delivery continue to move forward in a timely and effective way. That is what strong local representation should look like: working constructively with government to deliver outcomes for the community.

I also want to address the issue of fuel security, because it speaks directly to economic stability and to broader economic and fiscal impacts. The Crisafulli LNP state government has taken a proactive approach in raising concerns about fuel security and calling for national leadership on this issue. Queensland was the first state to act. Our Premier continues to actively engage with the Prime Minister

and all state and territory leaders, including through National Cabinet. The Treasurer has advocated strongly to the federal minister seeking a coordinated national response, and our state government has engaged with the ACCC regarding concerns about potential anticompetitive conduct in fuel markets. We welcome that these matters are now being fully investigated.

Queensland is also playing its role through National Cabinet processes and through practical measures to ensure that information is shared, supply chains are understood and challenges on the ground are addressed. At the same time we are taking a longer term approach by supporting new opportunities for gas and petroleum exploration, recognising the importance of energy security for jobs, industry and economic stability.

However, fuel security ultimately requires national coordination and leadership, and it is clear that more needs to be done at the federal level to ensure Australia's supply is resilient and reliable. I certainly understand the sentinel importance of this issue to local residents, whether it be to household budgets, additional cost burdens to businesses or even the broader impacts to our local, state and national economy. With that, I commend the bills to the House.