

Speech By

Hon. Steven Miles

MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

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APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

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

Hon. SJ MILES (Murrumba—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.19 am): The Queensland I grew up in was the best place on Earth. The Sunshine State was a happy state, a proud state, a state built on hard work, entrepreneurialism, innovation, farming, footy, cricket, boardies and beaches, a state where everyone got a fair go, where a state school education gave children the start they needed in life, where if you wanted a trade qualification you could get one, and if you wanted a tradie, you could get one, too. People worked hard and they got ahead. Tradesmen, nurses and police could afford a home near where they worked. Children could dream of a future and go out and get it. Queenslanders were happy. That is the Queensland I love. That is the Queensland we all love.

That Queensland is slipping away under this LNP government. We believe good governments should aspire to make life better for the people we represent—better now and in the future. We believe budgets should be crafted to make life more affordable, services like health care more accessible and to leave our state in a better position for the future. This budget does none of those things. After nearly two years under this LNP government, Queenslanders are no better off. The big promises the LNP made before the election are not being matched by delivery. They are so focused on their daily announcements, on slick photo-ops and on watching their backs amidst internal division that they have lost touch with real life, with real Queenslanders, and this budget proves it.

Queensland is a strong state, but this government is squandering that strength. At a time when Queenslanders needed relief, this budget delivered excuses. When we could be building for the future, this government is delaying almost $5 billion in projects our growing state needs. Budgets should reflect the needs of Queenslanders now and demonstrate a strong plan for our future. Budgets should reflect the aspirations of Queenslanders. This is the test of any budget, and on that test this one fails.

Queensland's economy is strong because it has been built by Queensland workers—workers on the front line: workers like Thomas, an apprentice diesel mechanic whom I met in Mackay this month—he is proud to be working on some of the big projects building our regions; workers like Alicia, a cancer-care worker whom I met outside this parliament as they campaigned against a real pay decrease; or Friday, one of the dedicated midwives I stood with—

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The members for Woodridge, McConnel and Gaven are not in their seats and are not able to interject during this speech.

Mr SPEAKER: I will watch closely.

Mr BLEIJIE: The member for McConnel is saying, 'Shame,' and she is not in her seat.

Mr SPEAKER: Everybody knows the rules around interjecting. I will watch closely. I will look after the House.

Mr MILES:—or Friday, one of the dedicated midwives I stood with as we rallied in defence of women's reproductive rights; and workers like Chrissy from Brisbane and Alannah from Logan—teachers I met as we marched together for better pay, conditions and, importantly, respect. Both sweet potato farmer Dean and macadamia farmer Geoff rely on Paradise Dam for water security. Neither of them are any better off than they were 18 months ago.

Let's call it for what it is: this budget is a debacle. Half of it was leaked to the media before the budget was even handed down. The promise of no new taxes was shut down immediately as the LGAQ confirmed the bin tax will be passed on directly to ratepayers. In fact, the LNP's signature cost-of-living—

Mr POWELL: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I believe the Leader of the Opposition has deliberately misled the House. I will be writing to you accordingly.

Mr SPEAKER: That is your right.

Mr MILES: In fact, the LNP's signature cost-of-living relief measures all but vanished as soon as they were announced. The $150 Back to School Boost vouchers were the headliner, but data provided by the minister in April reveals that only a third of families had fully cashed them in—

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The Leader of the Opposition is being deliberately misleading. He has heard the responses to questions asked in question time. I will be writing to you about that matter.

Mr SPEAKER: You can do that.

Mr MILES:—with parents saying they cannot even put them towards uniforms or stationery, like the government promised. As it turns out, the promised lower energy bills will not be any lower when the bills hit the mailbox. Most embarrassingly, just as the water minister announced a freeze on bulk water charges she had to come out and defend water and sewerage price increases—increases that make the government's announced savings essentially moot. There is a wafer-thin surplus that is as delayed as the hospitals the LNP say they have rescued.

Ms LEAHY: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I did not say that. The Leader of the Opposition is being deliberately misleading, and I will be writing to you about that.

Mr SPEAKER: I will be getting lots of mail.

Mr MILES: There is a wafer-thin surplus that is as delayed as the hospitals the LNP say they have rescued. Queenslanders, who were looking to this budget for a lifeline, see that it does nothing for them. There is nothing to help Queenslanders as they stare at the rising costs of the bills on the kitchen table. There is nothing to help them with the rent that keeps rising, the power bill that has no relief or the grocery bill that keeps growing. That is what Queenslanders have to measure as they try to make ends meet every day.

By that test, the LNP are failing millions of Queenslanders, whom I speak for here today. Our tradies, nurses, teachers, police, miners, small businesses, farmers and tourism operators—the many public servants who teach our kids, staff our hospitals and deliver frontline services—are the Queenslanders who make this state so strong. Under the LNP, Queenslanders are not feeling that strength, and they certainly are not benefiting from it. That is the problem.

The numbers show us that Queensland has the fundamentals of a strong economy: demand is building, people are working, and public and private investment is driving growth. The Treasurer will rake in an extra $3.6 billion in royalties and gain a budget boost from land tax and stamp duty—profits made off the back of skyrocketing house prices year on year. The Treasurer promised discipline; instead, this budget is a black hole of broken promises and blowouts.

At the last budget, S&P Global warned that Queensland's credit rating was at risk because of the decisions of the LNP government and said that delivering on the government's promised savings on consultants was critical for our state's retaining its AA+ credit rating. This week S&P Global said that this budget still leaves us in a weak fiscal position. The LNP's $500 million savings plan will be built one highlighter at a time, but it is no highlight for Queenslanders, who will be left to foot the bill—the billion dollar bill—if this Treasurer fails to deliver.

At the same time, business confidence is in the toilet and fallen to a 20-year low. According to the Business Chamber, Queensland has recorded a third straight quarter slump. Businesses expect it to deteriorate even further, and the LNP has done nothing to help. Business Chamber Queensland's CEO, Heidi Cooper, said—

This is not a budget that backs business to thrive.

...

Queensland businesses are telling us they want real relief ...

...

This budget doesn't provide that relief.

Instead, they are sneakily cashing in on taxes, sneakily delaying infrastructure and sneakily hiding blowouts across the forwards. This goes to the heart of the problem with the Crisafulli LNP government: the Premier loves a media release and a photo shoot. While the LNP manage the message, Queenslanders are managing the consequences.

It is under the banner of 'discipline' that the LNP is trying to disguise what is really happening in this budget—projects have been pushed off and blown out. Before the election the Premier promised that projects would be delivered on time and on budget. He promised that generational infrastructure would be built—no ifs, buts or shortcuts. Instead, that generational infrastructure is stuck in the slow lane.

Delays are buried deep within the detail, but documents leaked to Channel 7 have laid bare billions in project deferrals and delays like future stages of the Coomera Connector which were promised to be delivered under the 2032 Delivery Plan. Instead, funding is deferred until beyond 2029. The M1 interchange at Coomera is delayed. The Biggera Waters light rail spur line was only announced this week, but documents show funding has already been deferred, and even more will be needed for interest repayments on private finance. On the north side, the Gympie Road tunnel will not be delivered until after 2032. That is despite the Premier saying that the tunnel 'has got to happen'—

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Ms Boyd: Pause the clock!

Dr ROWAN: I take the interjection from the member for Pine Rivers, who I believe is on a warning.

Mr MILES: She asked for the clock to be paused.

Mr SPEAKER: I think she asked for the clock to be paused.

Dr ROWAN: I thought she was on a warning.

Mr SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

Dr ROWAN: My point of order is that the Leader of the Opposition has a history of misleading. In question time today there was a response provided by the Minister for Transport and Main Roads in relation to some of the elements that are being discussed now. He is being deliberately misleading. I ask him to authenticate or verify these statements.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The Leader of the Opposition has a right to contribute to this debate and reply to the budget speech. These frivolous points of order are clearly designed to obstruct the member from exercising his rights. I would submit that some advice to the government to stop obstructing members in this debate would serve the House well.

Mr SPEAKER: I will take advice. Leader of the House, I already have three emails coming. That is your right. If something is not correct, you can write to me on a matter of privilege.

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, I asked for verification and authentication. That was my specific point of order.

Mr SPEAKER: Member, can you authenticate these statements?

Mr MILES: These documents were all tabled during question time.

Mr MICKELBERG: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The Leader of the Opposition has specifically referenced CBRC documents and he said they were tabled in question time. That is not the case. The opposition tabled screenshots from a news interview, not any document that they are using as the source document. I am sure all of us can table a photo of a TV story. The Leader of the Opposition is relying on documents that he has specifically referenced—

An opposition member interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member, sit down until I am finished this point of order.

Mr MICKELBERG: The Leader of the Opposition is relying on documents he has specifically referenced.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr MICKELBERG: I have not finished yet, Mr Speaker. I am happy to keep going.

Mr SPEAKER: No. I have had enough.

Mr MICKELBERG: But, Mr Speaker, I have not finished my point of order. The Leader of the Opposition is relying on documents he has specifically referenced in the form of CBRC documents. He has provided no authentication—no information to authenticate his position whatsoever—and, in order to be able to substantiate his position, he needs to.

Mr SPEAKER: I will take advice. To the point of order, if you consider that the member has said something misleading, you can write to me. Authentication is usually a matter for question time, petitions, motions—that sort of thing. If you take exception to anything in the member's speech, you can write to me. I call the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr MILES: Thank you, Mr Speaker. The Gympie Road tunnel on the north side will not be delivered until after 2032, despite the Premier saying that the tunnel 'has got to happen' and 'You can't have so many people at the mercy of one congested road.' To Brisbane's west, the Mount Crosby Road and Warrego Highway interchange upgrade was once considered urgent by the member for Moggill—so urgent that he said delays to the project were an insult to local motorists who rely on it. That project is also delayed.

Dr Rowan interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! You will be warned if you continue.

Mr MILES: These deferrals and delays are seemingly just to cover the cost of major blowouts to the LNP's transport election commitments. Leaked documents show that an extra $927 million was approved for these projects—projects that by their own costings document should have only cost about $460 million, and that is not even counting the Wave, which now likely totals over $12 billion for half a rail line and a busway. It might just be the Premier's biggest broken promise yet—to deliver projects on time, on budget and treat your money with respect. The Premier said he did not want to see projects put into the never-never. At this rate, Queenslanders will never, never see these major builds delivered.

It is not just capital works. What is most concerning is the creeping hollowing out of frontline services. We are seeing hiring freezes—dressed up as 'vacancy management'—and cuts delivered not openly but by attrition. The Public Service is crying out against these quiet cuts that are stretching the already busy workforce to breaking point. The *Brisbane Times* was told by Transport and Main Roads staff that 'morale's terrible' and 'work is quite quickly slowing down because there's just not enough people to do it'. We hear it is the same story at the Director of Child Protection Litigation, the Department of Education and even Indigenous housing.

The LNP point to headline FTE figures, but decreasing administrative and back-of-house roles there to support the front line will not reduce the amount of work that needs to be done. It just pushes the load on to those who already have a full workload. Even the front line is victim, as the Queensland police is about to be gutted of administrative and support personnel. It is understood as many as 400—

Mr PURDIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member is misleading the House. I would like him to validate his accusations. I will be writing to you about that, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: If you have an issue, Minister, you write to me.

Mr MILES: The Acting Police Commissioner confirmed these cuts himself. The fact is that not continuing to employ up to 400 police jobs will only increase the pressure and workload on frontline police. This overload will continue as crime prevention, intervention, rehabilitation and support services are wound back—

Mr SPEAKER: Hold on one second. I saw the minister about to rise. Minister, if you have an issue, you can write to me. Everybody has a chance to speak to this bill. You may take that opportunity perhaps to address that.

Mr MILES:—like the important work of Murri Watch, who offer youth cultural support services to those in watch houses. Their funding was cruelly cut by the government despite the risks it poses for young people in detention. Then there is MaraWay, who were brought on to deliver the LNP's rehabilitation election commitment only to find out in an email that they had their funding cut effective immediately. When speaking with the CEO, she told us that she was gutted by the news. In fact, they had four kids on camp and she did not know what the funding cut meant for them or their families.

Ms SIMPSON: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member is using unparliamentary language which has been ruled against previously. I draw your attention to that and ask for a withdrawal.

Mr SPEAKER: I ask you to withdraw that, please.

Mr MILES: I withdraw. Even our PCYCs are not safe from the slashing. The award-winning and hugely successful Project Booyah has reportedly been scrapped on Brisbane's south side. These were just some of the programs that were helping get vulnerable young people out of a cycle of—

Mr PURDIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member is again being misleading. I will be writing to you about this again. He is being deliberately misleading and he needs to verify what he is saying.

Mr SPEAKER: You can write to me.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The convention that was applied to the delivery of the budget speech by the Treasurer—

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr de BRENNI:—is that members refrained from interjecting. That was the standard that was applied. There were no points of order during the Treasurer's speech. All of these points of order you have addressed are frivolous and vexatious, seek to disrupt and are highly disorderly.

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. A longstanding convention of our parliamentary democracy is that we have accurate information provided, and when there are statements made in the House that are deliberately misleading, cannot be verified and are factually inaccurate, I as Leader of the House, ministers and members of this House will rise on points of order under the standing orders to ensure the integrity of this democratic and parliamentary institution. It is their right as members of this House to do that, whether at the time or in writing to you afterwards. That is what members are doing in exercising their rights with respect to these matters.

Mr SPEAKER: As you said, you can write. There are serious repercussions for making misleading statements in the House. Anyone who feels that has occurred can write to me. I am sure the Leader of the Opposition is very well aware of that.

Mr MILES: These are just some of the programs that were helping get vulnerable young people out of the cycle of crime. These programs were already in place and delivering outcomes. Now they are gone and Queenslanders will be less safe as a result. In Cairns, unlawful entry is up more than 27 per cent compared to last year and car theft is up 23 per cent—all because this government will not fund programs that give those kids something safe and healthy to do, like midnight basketball in Cairns.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I ask the member to validate those figures.

Mr SPEAKER: I have made a ruling on that. If you have an objection to something the member says, you can write to me.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I believe the member on his feet is deliberately misleading the House and I will be writing to you in that regard.

Mr SPEAKER: You can write to me.

Mr MILES: In Townsville, where the LNP has cut funding to the JT Academy, the latest data shows that robbery is up almost 60 per cent. As expert criminologist Dr Terry Goldsworthy said, the Queensland LNP government 'risks becoming a victim of its own hubris'. He also stated—

By constantly shifting between different metrics, the government makes it difficult for people to judge whether they're actually reducing crime.

These explosive statements followed the police minister grandstanding in parliament to boast that stolen car insurance claims were down before later having to admit that police data showed the stolen car rate had increased.

Mr PURDIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I am writing to you. I take personal offence. He is being deliberately misleading, trying to attribute financial year data from an independent report to one month's data.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, we are not going to debate now. You can write to me. There is a process.

Mr PURDIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. He referred to me personally, and I take personal offence and I ask that he withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: The member has taken personal offence and asks that you withdraw.

Mr MILES: I withdraw. It is unsurprising from a government that keeps getting caught cherrypicking data and manipulating statistics to try and trick Queenslanders into believing their plan is working. It is why the Police Service's own secret polling showed Queenslanders had lost faith in the data provided by police, because when they see the Premier congratulating himself for fixing crime they know better. They know what is really happening in their communities. They know the Premier has not fixed crime; he has just fixed the figures. This government's brazen misuse of police data for political benefit has left Queenslanders wondering what they can trust. We need a way to measure which measures are working and which are not and rebuild faith in the crime data provided to the public—rebuild trust and confidence so that when you say something it means something.

That is why today I announce Labor will establish an independent community safety statistics bureau accountable to the parliament. Modelled off the New South Wales Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, the independent office will facilitate the management and publication of crime statistics for Queenslanders free from political spin. It will also be a resource for media, members of parliament and the public and have its operating parameters, audit functions and accountability measures built into law. Queenslanders need to be safe and feel safe, which starts by having trust in the numbers used by their government.

These are not hollow words like the Premier's broken promise to hold his ministers to account or create a parliamentary budget office. The Queensland community safety statistics bureau will embed truth, transparency and real accountability in the discourse around crime. It will ensure the goalposts in legislation so leaders can be held accountable—unlike the Premier, who staked his job on driving down victim numbers only to walk it back the day before the election. The LNP promised more but are giving less. The LNP promised action, but all we get are slogans. The Premier promised transparency, but instead we get suppression. It is simple: police statistics without the politics. That is what Queenslanders want and what Labor will deliver.

Sadly, it is not just crime data they are misleading Queenslanders about. Their health data is pretty rubbery, too. They say that ramping is going down from the record levels overseen by this health minister, but somehow amidst that fall the time our ambulances are spending at the ramp as lost time is up—by a lot. They say the surgery waitlist is down, but the number of Queenslanders waiting to see a specialist has hit record highs. That waitlist for the waitlist is now longer than ever. Under the LNP, more than 68,800 extra Queenslanders are waiting for a specialist appointment. That takes it to a high of more than 362,000 who are waiting just to get diagnosed or see their specialist, and almost 50 per cent are waiting longer than clinically recommended for care.

This includes Queenslanders like Jeanne from Burpengary. Jeanne has extreme back pain that prevents her from moving or sleeping properly. She was classified as a category 2. After waiting the standard 60 days, Jeanne contacted the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital to find out why she had not heard about her appointment. Jeanne has now been told she will not get her appointment until after January 2027. Patricia from Ipswich West waited over 15 months for an orthopaedic appointment, just to be put on a waitlist for the waitlist for a hip replacement. These are real people in real pain. Jeff up in Gladstone waited over 547 days for a urology appointment. Khushbu waited over a year for her category 3 surgery, only to have it cancelled after she had already been admitted to hospital.

Those wait times are not something sick Queenslanders can afford, and this bad blue budget promises to make it even worse. It short-changes the health and hospital services and asks sick Queenslanders to wait even longer. The budget completely ignores the demand and growth in pressures on our hospital systems. It the assumes that demand for specialist outpatient—

Mr NICHOLLS: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member is misleading the House in relation to the budget outcomes, as have been explained to both him and his so-called shadow health minister on a number of occasions, and I will be writing to you to identify and reiterate those changes.

Mr SPEAKER: As is your right.

Mr MILES: It assumes that demand for specialist outpatient appointments will be lower than this year, down by approximately 3,710 weighted activity units.

Mr NICHOLLS: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The Leader of the Opposition is again misleading the House, misconstruing the budget papers and displaying his ignorance.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr J Kelly interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Greenslopes, you are warned. Minister, you will be writing to me?

Mr NICHOLLS: I will be writing to you to highlight those inaccuracies.

Mr MILES: And it assumes that demand for emergency departments will be down by 3,411 weighted activity units. Overall, the LNP have forecast that demand will only grow by one per cent. Compare that to the growth to date from the 2022 budget, which sits at almost nine per cent on average per year. Is it really the advice of Queensland Health that our growing and aging population will somehow rely on health services less over the next few years? No-one believes that demand for health care is going down. The only thing that is going backwards is the investment in direct service delivery.

Mr NICHOLLS: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Again, the Leader of the Opposition is obviously unable to read the budget papers, which show a 7.3 per cent increase in the health budget. I will be writing to you again in relation to his misleading of the House.

Mr SPEAKER: That is your right.

Mr MILES: It is no wonder the AMA Queensland president, Erica Gannon, said—

Doctors will be disappointed that the government's spend on health this year has not kept pace with either demand or inflation.

And—

... we need to increase public hospital capacity to deliver more timely treatment to Queenslanders no matter where they live.

Where is the state funded growth in direct public hospital service capacity? While we welcome the government getting behind Labor's calls to increase the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme, the 11 cent increase is tokenistic at best and falls far short of what we were advocating for. It was Labor that invested an extra $70 million in the patient travel subsidy in the 2024 budget. It was Labor that increased the accommodation and fuel payments and removed red tape rules to access the scheme. That is what real investment looks like. Instead, regional Queenslanders will continue to choose between care and what they can afford. That is why it is critical that the largest hospital building program—especially in regional, rural and remote Queensland—is delivered, with new hospitals, expanded hospitals, more beds, more theatres, more capacity. On this side of the House we know that you cannot treat tomorrow's patients with yesterday's infrastructure.

Since coming to office, this LNP government has delayed, reviewed and slowed the very projects that communities were relying on. That is an age-old trick in the classic LNP playbook: commission a review, ask for a series of excuses to cut projects you promised to build, and make the cuts you wanted to do in the first place. This health minister has form for that. He was the Treasurer who orchestrated and oversaw—

Mr NICHOLLS: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at the comments made by the Leader of the Opposition and I ask that he withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: The member has taken personal offence and asked that you withdraw.

Mr MILES: I withdraw. Under Newman, the member for Clayfield justified the cuts he made by saying—

Mr NICHOLLS: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at the comments made by the Leader of the Opposition and I ask that he withdraw.

Ms Mullen interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Jordan, I am taking a point of order. The minister has taken personal offence and asked that you withdraw.

Mr MILES: I withdraw. He said he had to do it because the independent review that Peter Costello prepared for him said he had to. It is the same with the Sangster review, and they all think they got away with it. Queenslanders are paying the price for their delays hidden behind that sham review. At so many of our busy hospitals, expansion work had already begun: contracts awarded, concrete poured, lift shafts built. This could be the first government ever to demolish brand new hospitals that were under construction. Instead of delivering, this government has chosen delays and chosen to hide how much the hospital builds will really cost.

Queenslanders were promised action: bigger, better hospitals; expanded services; real improvements. Instead, they have been given more reviews, explanations and excuses. Every delay has consequences. Every delayed hospital means fewer beds delivered on time. Every slowed project means longer waits. Every day lost increases the pressure on frontline staff. Health infrastructure is not optional; it is essential. When governments fail to build for the future, patients pay the price. Right now, they are paying for decisions that have left critical projects in limbo with no clear timeframe for delivery. The people who suffer are not politicians; they are the patients waiting in pain for surgery, they are the families sitting in a crowded emergency department, they are the nurses working another double shift and the paramedics waiting outside a hospital for a bed to become available. As it stands, there are no

timeframes and no clear budgets for hospital expansions in Townsville, in Mackay, at the Prince Charles and at the Queensland Cancer Centre: hundreds of beds and we have no idea when the first Queenslander will receive treatment in them. These are builds that were in the pipeline and are now a pipedream.

Queenslanders deserve a government that plans ahead, a government that builds, a government that understands that growing communities need growing hospitals. Instead, they have a government that has slowed the delivery of critical health infrastructure at the exact moment Queensland needs it most. Meanwhile, this health minister has cut public care for young transgender Queenslanders looking to access care—Queenslanders who were working with their doctors, with experts, on the best pathway of care. That is what it should be: led by patients, not politics.

In a cruel blow, the LNP has also cut IVF care for women with cancer. Women who are going through one of the toughest times of their life—

Mr NICHOLLS: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Again, the Leader of the Opposition is misleading the House in respect of that claim, and I will be writing to you in respect of those misleading statements.

Mr SPEAKER: You have that right.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I wish to draw to your attention a repeated pattern of contempt. I want to point out three things to you: the continued frivolous points of order that you have instructed to cease; the disorderly interjections; and the instructions being issued by the government whip for members of the government to walk past the television cameras to interrupt their view. This has happened multiple times, and I draw your attention to it because it is a desperate and disgusting abuse of this House.

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, in relation to the Manager of Opposition Business's first point of order—in relation to impugning the rights of members to be able to rise to bring to your attention statements that are made in the House which are deliberately misleading, unable to be verified and false—it is their right to be able to rise under the standing orders in this House and bring that to your attention and either have those matters dealt with contemporaneously or alternatively write to you about those. I submit to you that the Manager of Opposition Business should consider that matter with respect to the issues that he raised. In relation to the second part of his point of order, I am unaware of any matters associated with that.

Mr SPEAKER: I will take advice. We have a few things here. I remind everybody to duck underneath the camera when you are walking near it so it gets a clean shot. It is anybody's right to rise on a matter of privilege. Unfortunately, during the Treasurer's address he was constantly interjected on. That convention was breached the other day and it is happening again today. It has happened on both sides of the House. Both sides of the House are guilty of this. Member, you have the call.

Mr MILES: Women who are going through one of the toughest times of their life only to have a politician pull the plug on their hope of one day being a mother—

Mr NICHOLLS: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Again the Leader of the Opposition is misleading the House and is deliberately mistruthful. I will be writing to you in respect of that matter.

Mr MILES: Labor believes that public fertility services should be expanded for Queensland women, not cut. These are the choices made by the LNP that punished frontline workers, punished vulnerable Queenslanders and cut the services people rely on most. The Premier said he would clear waiting lists, but in government he has let the specialist waitlist explode. The Premier said he would listen to doctors, nurses and paramedics. Instead, he is ignoring expert advice in favour of ideology. The Premier said he would get ambulances back on the road, but they tell us they are spending longer on the ramp while the data changes to avoid scrutiny. The Premier promised to deliver more doctors and nurses, yet after 18 months incentives to attract frontline health workers to the regions have been cut and Queensland is stuck on the waitlist for a workforce plan. This is not health care that is there when you need it; it is the LNP taking Queensland Health backwards while Queenslanders are left worse off. Let me be very clear: billboards do not build hospital beds. Good people and good policy on the front line do. That is exactly what we are working on. It starts by listening to the experts, to give our health heroes what they need to heal.

I have said time and again that housing affordability and accessibility could be the greatest challenge of this generation. We are in the grip of a growing affordability crisis and it has only gotten worse under this LNP government. For too many Queenslanders, the basics are slipping out of reach. Rents are rising, mortgage stress is deepening and saving for a home is taking longer than ever. Young people are staying at home because they have no real alternative. Families are being pushed further from jobs, schools and services. Even frontline workers are being priced out of the communities they

serve. This is no longer simply a housing challenge; it is a cost-of-living crisis and it has worsened on this government's watch because housing underpins everything. It is the foundation of stability, of opportunity, of a decent life. When it becomes unaffordable, the consequences spread through the workforce, through the Public Service and through the strength of our communities. This is the defining pressure of this generation. It requires leadership, serious investment, clear planning and decisive action. Instead, we are seeing this government actively make it worse. Queensland Council of Social Service CEO, Aimee McVeigh went so far as to say—

There isn't a cost of living or housing package that will make a difference to families now.

The LNP have clearly failed to deliver.

State governments control some of the biggest levers that shape housing affordability: planning, social housing investment, tenancy law, infrastructure phasing, first home buyer incentives, workforce and disaster recovery. By that measure, the Crisafulli government is directly responsible for setting the policy levers that determine whether and how quickly conditions improve. Instead, their decisions are making the deepening affordability crisis harder to solve. Under the Deputy Premier and his ideological opposition to affordability, the LNP have removed affordable housing targets for significant new developments. This has come at the worst possible time.

More than 10,000 social and affordable homes were in the pipeline, the majority of which were set to be in reach of working people—working couples who are doing their best just to get ahead. They were to be in places like South Brisbane, Toowoomba, Robina and Woolloongabba where these builds would be connected to public transport, healthcare hubs and communities. This month Labor revealed that the Deputy Premier used his extraordinary power not for good but, instead, to direct developers building affordable housing to stop. Instead, these developers will be required to sell or rent those homes at market value—36 at Lutwyche on Brisbane's north side and 550 at Lakeview, Robina on the Gold Coast. That developer on the Gold Coast promoted the project as specifically delivering housing that was affordable for the teachers, nurses and retail workers who serve the community. With this abuse of power by the Deputy Premier, there is now less affordable housing in the pipeline while social housing stock ages and waitlists blow out. It corrects the record on the Deputy Premier's claim that making housing affordable means it will not be built. These were developers ready to build affordable homes who were told by the Deputy Premier they would not be permitted to. The signal that sends to other developers will see fewer proposals for homes that working Queenslanders can afford.

Despite the promises, they have not fixed the planning bottleneck facing our state and have not properly sequenced the big builds on the horizon. Because of that, renters are carrying the heaviest load; affordability has fallen to record lows, particularly in regional Queensland; and for those hoping to buy the pathway is narrowing. Prices have surged—sometimes double-digit growth in a single year—pushing home ownership further out of reach. Last year prices in Brisbane increased by more than double a teacher's annual salary—in a single year.

For many Queenslanders, saving a deposit is no longer a question of skipping avocado toast; it is a question of whether it is possible at all. That is not the opportunity they were promised and it is not a situation this government is doing enough to turn around. It means the dream of owning a home is becoming less about hard work and more about whether your parents can lend you a helping hand. It will force the government to choose between hospitals and housing or stadiums and swimming pools as they compete for the same workers, materials and contractors.

For Queensland renters on the edge, there is nothing in this budget that strengthens their position—not a single meaningful reform to rental security despite the growing reality that more Queenslanders will rent for life. Without stronger protections, those renters face a cycle of instability, frequent moves, rising rents and little certainty that they can stay in the place they call home. When we look at other states, the contrast is clear. In New South Wales, the government are using their powers to upzone land near transport nodes and they have released a book of preapproved plans for low-rise homes for a dollar, paired with a 10-day fast-tracked approval timeline. They are also expanding their presale finance guarantee that backs apartment and affordable housing presales. In the ACT, the government has acted to cap rents and put a stop to no-grounds evictions to give renters security. In South Australia, affordable housing is mandated in land release and on significant developments and they also offer affordable housing land tax concessions. South Australia has also just abolished stamp duty for eligible downsizers. This is what is possible when governments are willing to act—to set rules to back renters to drive supply—but that requires leadership, and right now that is what is missing.

My team and I have travelled around the state listening directly to Queenslanders, and one issue that keeps coming up is affordability. Queenslanders are feeling it in their everyday lives—at the supermarket, at the petrol bowser or when the power, water or rates bill arrives. These are the routines of daily life and they are becoming harder to keep up with.

At the same time, pressure on the system is growing. There are almost 9,000 more people on the social housing waitlist and they are waiting longer for a place to call home because of the LNP. The eligibility criteria for that waitlist remains unchanged, despite the case for a modern income threshold that reflects current costs and income levels. It is not fair that the LNP are removing people from the list—some of them might be on support payments—just because the income from those support payments now exceeds the 20-year-old income test. It is not fair and it does not reflect the reality of the current housing market or its modern pressures.

It is why today I release Queensland's Labor's paper *The housing affordability crisis in Queensland*. This is our issues analysis of the unrelenting housing affordability pressures facing everyday Queenslanders. It is what industry and stakeholders tell us is wrong and it summarises their suggestions to fix it. It is a paper we will be taking around the state to capture the priorities of renters, first home buyers and home owners as we chart a pathway through the housing crisis. We want Queenslanders' voices to be elevated, to have their say on the solutions that build and plan—solutions that back renters, first home buyers, essential workers and vulnerable Queenslanders.

There have already been some good suggestions from industry. The Housing Industry Association calls for infill subdivisions to be unlocked. This could include allowing more townhouses and duplexes to be built near transport hubs. Master Builders Queensland used its budget submission to seek an expansion of the small business apprenticeship pilot that recently closed. That is a good idea and I am glad the government listened. We welcome the inclusion of further funding in this budget. The Property Council of Australia has called for tax reform to encourage investment. The Queensland Council of Social Service has called for more diverse social and affordable housing, a review of social housing eligibility and completion of the stage 2 rental reforms that started under Labor. That includes a portable bond scheme. The McKell Institute has backed that portable bond scheme and is calling for the interest on the bonds held by the state to be given back to renters.

Rental bonds are the hard-earned savings of renters. It is their money. They should get the interest on it and they should be able to transfer it between properties. I think that is only fair. It means when you go from renting to putting a deposit on your own home your bond can form a bigger part of the deposit, or if you go to upgrade to a bigger rental your bond might already be enough for the new place. That is why a future Labor government will create a seamless bond transfer scheme and pay interest on rental bonds. These are the types of proposals we will be talking to Queenslanders about and building on in coming years. They are the kinds of solutions that will be the bedrock of our housing affordability plan for Queensland.

Central to housing affordability is accessibility. It is no secret that we need to build, and build quickly, to keep pace with growth. To do that while we also build the roads, rail, Olympic and Paralympic infrastructure promised, we need the workforce—a skilled workforce. We need more apprentices and trainees on the big jobs. The Deputy Premier might be happy to beg, borrow and steal workers from other places, but I want Queensland tradies building Queensland homes. People do not take up a trade by accident and it does not happen overnight. We need an army of Queenslanders to build the homes of tomorrow, yet under the LNP the latest data shows that trade apprentices and trainees in training in Queensland is down about five per cent compared to 2024. We need to reverse this trend if we are going to fill the projected construction worker shortfall before the Olympic and Paralympic Games. It starts by reversing the LNP's short-sighted end to the successful $1,000 cashback for first-year apprentices in the housing construction sector next year. The training minister knew that free tools for tradies funding was due for renewal. She could have pushed for this program to be locked in over the full forwards. Instead, it wraps up next year which, by the LNP's own measure, is a cut.

Queensland apprentices are already facing cost barriers to apprenticeships amidst this affordability crisis. With this funding not being locked in over the forwards, the LNP is making it even harder for Queenslanders to get into a trade. Without this measure and as cost-of-living pressures bite, fewer people are picking up the tools in favour of other industries where starting salaries are higher. We need to give young people—

Ms BATES: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The Leader of the Opposition is deliberately misleading the House. The number of apprentices in a year was over 13,000 already qualified—

Mr SPEAKER: No, we are not debating anything.

Ms BATES:—and I will be writing to you—

Mr SPEAKER: If you have a point of order, you tell me what the point of order—

Ms BATES: My point of order is that I will be writing to you. A number of comments that he has made are misleading the House.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I had waited until the member had moved on to another subject matter, but the member reflected on me earlier by saying I had an ideological position on affordability. I take personal offence at that and I ask the member to withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: The member has taken personal offence. I ask that you withdraw.

Mr MILES: I withdraw. We need to give young people more reasons to choose a trade. It is why a future Labor government will waive rego fees for priority trade apprentices for the length of their training and, to encourage more small and family businesses to take on an apprentice, we will waive rego for their workplace supervisor too. It represents a saving of up to $590 a year, which is massive for an apprentice whose weekly wage can start from as little as $640 a week. It is just one thing we can do to get more Queenslanders on the tools on Queensland job sites, backing Queensland tradies to build Queensland. That means free rego for chippies, sparkies, roofers, painters and plumbers and their apprentices, putting money back in their pockets to boost skilled workers in our economy to ease the pressure while they build the houses Queensland needs.

Tradies do not get to benefit from 50-cent fares when they have a tray full of tools or a trailer load to pick up between jobs. They do not get to work their hours around the bus or train timetable, and you are more reliant on your own car when you live or train in a regional community. It is part of our plan to build Queensland for the future. It is in Labor's DNA—at the core of what we believe—to listen and build good policy that helps people, good policy that rewards hard work, that backs skills and ensures Queensland has the workforce to build the homes of the future. Only Labor will deliver the homes, the security, the tradies and the apprentices that our state needs to drive down the rising cost of living and build a future every Queenslander can be proud of.

Despite the government branding this budget as a cost-of-living budget, if you do not have a primary school aged child or a concession card this budget does nothing to address relentless affordability pressures now or into the future. Even its signature cost-of-living Back to School Boost program has been a bust, with less than half of the vouchers being taken up by families in need as at 24 April, and the mismanagement of the scheme has left parents baffled as to how to even redeem them. A family in Moreton Bay has told us that because their uniform shop is run by the P&C they cannot redeem the voucher on uniforms. Another parent from Far North Queensland told us the same thing, and at the same time their child's school raised the student resource scheme to $100, meaning the voucher was eaten up by fees straightaway.

Labor will always be a strong voice for financial security and will always prioritise delivering the cost-of-living relief that Queenslanders need. The Premier, despite promising to lend support to Queenslanders when they need it, has left them high and dry in this budget. It is why Labor says something must be done on housing, on energy, on the cost to fill up your car. RACQ's analysis shows the record high for petrol was set at almost $2.60 a litre in March and for diesel a high of $3.27 per litre was set in April. That makes Brisbane the second most expensive city for petrol and the most expensive for diesel, and it is not too much cheaper in the regions. Queenslanders fuelling up need a break from being smashed at the bowser. It directly affects parents getting the kids to school and those paying more just to get to work.

Across the board Queenslanders are watching more and more of their household budget chewed up by their fuel tank. Even before the global fuel crisis, Brisbane had the most expensive unleaded petrol price of any capital city in Australia. It cannot be explained away by global oil prices. Families are paying more than they should while fuel companies continue to impose massive overnight price hikes with little warning. Queensland Labor has a plan to change that. Our cheaper fuel plan will cap daily fuel price increases at five cents per litre and we will introduce stronger reporting requirements so Queenslanders know what the price will be the next day.

Mr MICKELBERG: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I just seek your guidance whether the Leader of the Opposition is anticipating debate in relation to a private member's bill before the House.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Mr SPEAKER: You have a point of order?

Mr de BRENNI: I do have a point of order, Mr Speaker. It is for the chair to exercise that discretion, but both matters before the House are bills—both superior proceedings. A reference to a topic addressed in one bill, I submit, does not of itself enliven the anticipation rule and therefore there is no point of order.

Mr SPEAKER: There is a bit of discretion with regard to private member's bills, and I think a similar issue was raised last night. You are aware of the process, Leader of the Opposition, so I give you the call.

Mr MILES: It is a practical reform designed to give motorists more certainty, more transparency and more money in their pockets, and now we know exactly what those savings could look like. RACQ modelling shows motorists could save up to 23 cents per litre under Labor's proposed laws.

For a family filling up two cars with 50-litre tanks every week, it could mean savings of up to $1,200 a year. That is money that could go towards groceries or help cover mortgage repayments or rent—money that could pay school expenses, electricity bills or insurance premiums. When Queensland families are under enormous cost-of-living pressure, those savings matter. RACQ's modelling confirms what we on this side of the House have been saying all along: there is a better way to manage fuel prices. The experts have done the work, the evidence is there, the savings are real and other states have already acted.

All that is standing in the way is the Crisafulli LNP government, just as they are on renewable energy projects. In fact, the LNP are not just standing in the way; they are actively opposing them. That is despite the Australian Energy Regulator highlighting that wind projects and battery storage have directly driven down the cost of energy bills. The problem is: in Queensland this will not continue. Clean Energy Regulator data shows that, as at May 2026, only one renewable energy generation project has reached a financial investment decision since the start of 2025. Even the one renewable energy project the LNP did commit to—Borumba pumped hydro—has been delayed and its funding evaporated. It is clear that the pipeline of new builds that has driven down bills is drying up and generation potential is stalling as investors look interstate and overseas, where governments are more supportive. As the projects commenced under Labor finish and are not replaced with new builds in sequence, Queenslanders risk missing out on further energy bill decreases.

The LNP's ideological opposition to renewable energy generation and storage will instead drive up costs for every Queensland household and put Queenslanders out of work as jobs are lost from the regions, making it harder to keep the lights on for working families. It is why Labor is calling on the Premier to use the extra billions in royalty windfalls juicing up his budget as the initial injection into a dedicated cost-of-living fund. It is a budget boost delivered directly from the pockets of Queensland drivers and it should go back to those Queenslanders most impacted. A cost-of-living fund could be used to help those struggling right now. We used royalties to give back to those who needed it through energy rebates, 50-cent fares and rego discounts. Before the election the Premier said that he would do the same—deliver cost-of-living relief when it was needed. Again, he said one thing and did another.

Following through on his promises is something the Premier could do today to make the lives of Queenslanders just a bit easier. After all, that is what politics is all about—at least it is for me. It is the reason I joined the Labor Party and got into politics in the first place: to stand up—not just for some and not for the powerful but for everyone; to stand up for the belief that, no matter your postcode, your surname or your bank balance, you deserve a fair go and a good start in life, a good education, a secure job and a crack at owning a home.

I believe in the opportunity to build a good life right here in Queensland. That is what Labor stands for. Right now, many people do not believe they have that opportunity, no matter how hard they work. They do not feel like they are being heard or represented by this government. How could they, when this LNP government uses our parliament for grandstanding, self-promotion and Trump style politics? This is a government more concerned with ruining your favourite streaming show or podcast with their blatant political ads and propaganda than actually doing something that might help Queenslanders. There is no corner of Queensland that is safe. That is Queenslanders' money used to peddle party political colouring and slick slogans—at what cost?

Labor will always stand up for a fair go. That is what Labor has always done and what drives me today. Leadership should not be about titles, ego or headlines. To me, it is about service. It is about showing up every single day and listening. Leadership is about understanding the pressures that hardworking Queenslanders are under and doing everything you can to help. The best leaders are the ones who never forget who they are here to represent: the nurse finishing a night shift; the apprentice trying to get ahead; the family worried about the mortgage; the pensioner choosing between food, fuel and seeing the doctor; and the small business owner working every hour they can to stay afloat. They are the Queenslanders I stand up for—even if that nurse was born in India; the apprentice is the son of a migrant; the family worried about their mortgage is from New Zealand and just became citizens; or the pensioner escaped Europe during World War II. Those Queenslanders are not to blame for the affordability crisis, but now One Nation and the federal LNP are using them as scapegoats—and the silence from the state LNP in standing up to Pauline Hanson or their federal party lets down every single one of those proud Queenslanders who have moved here, or whose parents or grandparents did.

It is about time someone in our state called out the shameful, race fuelled hatred that has invaded our political discourse. These people aspire to divide our community and the Premier says nothing. They are inciting abuse and violence against hardworking Queenslanders for nothing but their own political advantage, and still the Premier says nothing. Labor will always stand against racism, hatred and blame, and we will support the communities whose cultures contribute to our great state.

A future Labor government will double the funding for multicultural community celebrations and festivals, bringing the funding pool to $2 million in grants available, and will more than double the funding available for multicultural projects that build an inclusive and united Queensland, boosting the funding from $1.8 million to $4 million in grants per year—to provide more opportunities for all of us to experience the many cultures that make up our state and to build unity and harmony over the hatred and division peddled by so many right now. For First Nations Queenslanders, Labor will double the funding provided for NAIDOC and Reconciliation Week community celebrations and events, after it was reduced by those opposite, because our shared history cannot be silenced or rewritten. First Nations Queenslanders should not be invisible. The LNP's quiet purge of Indigenous people, positions, policies, flags and acknowledgements sends a message to Indigenous Queenslanders that their government does not want to see them. Labor believes that every Queenslander should feel recognised and celebrated by their government. They are why I am here and who I think about every day.

Labor delivers because we are focused on people, not politics—on solutions, not a blame game. We are focused on building a better, stronger, more united future for Queensland, not just winning the argument of the day. Labor is focused on what matters. I have always been optimistic about Queensland's future, not because our challenges are small but because Queenslanders are resilient, ambitious and have the tenacity to get the job done. I know what we are capable of when we work together. We have a responsibility to leave Queensland better off—that is what Labor believes. We have a belief that progress is possible when governments are a force for good and when they fight for people—to back every Queenslander regardless of their job, faith, culture or background—and put real money on the table that is not just talk; it is action on the ground in our communities.

At the end of the day, my Labor team and I are focused on one thing—Queenslanders—and that focus will never change. To create intergenerational opportunity, security and fairness is what motivates me and drives our movement. It is what will always guide me as Queensland's Labor leader, and it is what is sadly lacking from this LNP government. Trust, truth and transparency were the central pillars of the Premier's promise. Queenslanders have instead seen the LNP's chaos and secrecy and a cabinet consumed by its own problems. In just 18 months, a minister has stood aside after a referral to the Australian Federal Police and the Premier is under pressure to explain why Queenslanders should trust the decisions being made around his cabinet table. At the same time, we have seen reports of deep divisions brewing within the LNP government. Underperforming ministers are scrambling and there is a reshuffle looming over the cabinet. We have a Premier trying to hold together a team that is already coming apart.

While those opposite are focused on themselves, Queenslanders are focused on their families. They are worried about rent, they are worried about mortgages, they are worried about hospital waitlists, youth crime, fuel prices and whether their kids will get the same opportunities they had. That is the real failure here. The LNP promised a fresh start, but this looks a lot like the same old LNP: jobs for mates, decisions made in the dark, cuts to services and when questions are asked Queenslanders get spin instead of substance—lots of talk, but no action. Queenslanders deserve better than a government paralysed by scandal and division.

Labor will keep holding this government to account because integrity matters, trust matters. Queenslanders should never have to wonder whether their government is serving them or just serving itself. I have made it clear that my team and I entered this term with a clean slate. Opposition provides time to reflect and to reconnect, to listen and to act. We are doing that. It is our time to develop meaningful and accessible policy that reflects our values and reflects what Queenslanders need: policy that is representative of the Labor government I will lead and the Labor government we want to be. That starts by acknowledging where we went wrong—something I have been upfront with Queenslanders about; to hear the message they sent to do better and to be better.

After more than 18 months of this LNP government, the gap between promise and performance is impossible to ignore. The Premier promised to ease cost-of-living pressures, instead Queensland families are being hammered at the auction and the bowser while this government sits on its hands. He promised stronger health services, instead new and expanded hospitals have been delayed, projects have been thrown into limbo and waiting lists continue to grow. He promised to cut waste and restore discipline to the state's finances, instead consultant spending remains sky-high, debt continues to climb

and the Treasurer has delivered a budget that asks Queenslanders to pay more while getting less. Time and time again Queenslanders have been promised action and handed excuses. That has become the defining feature of this LNP government.

Queensland has enormous opportunity, but this government has refused to make the most of it. Under the LNP, delay has replaced delivery, excuses have replaced action and political spin has replaced practical solutions. Queenslanders deserve better than that, better than a Premier who broke his vows to Queensland and better than a Premier who is all spin, slogans and suppression. They know their rent has gone up and their mortgage has not gotten any easier to afford. They know their grocery bill is climbing, as is the cost just to fill up their tank, and they know the services they rely on are under pressure. They know this Premier and this Treasurer are more interested in headlines than lending a helping hand. What Queenslanders tell me is that they want a government they can believe in and a government that backs its people. That means investing in housing, it means delivering infrastructure and supporting frontline services, it means real cost-of-living relief that is there for people doing it tough, it means using the strength of our economy to build opportunities not excuses, it means housing affordability, health care, cost of living, jobs and our economy—those are my focus now and for our future.

Our state's story should not be one of wasted potential, it should be a story of growth that people can feel, where young people get a start, families get ahead, regions get their fair share and workers are respected. With a strong economy comes stronger communities. That is why Labor will continue to fight. We will fight for cheaper fuel, affordable housing and stronger health services. We will fight for real cost-of-living relief. We will continue to stand up for the Queenslanders who work hard, play by the rules and expect their government to do the same. Labor believes Queensland's best days are still ahead of us. We believe in making life more affordable. We believe that the wealth generated by Queensland workers and Queensland resources should help Queensland families. We believe governments should be judged not by what they promise but by what they deliver.

Over the next two years Queenslanders will have a clear choice: a government that promised everything but is delivering disappointment or a Labor team with a plan to tackle the challenges facing our state and the determination to get on with the job. This budget is not a plan for Queensland's future, it is a budget of broken promises and blowouts, a budget that settles for less when Queenslanders can achieve so much more.