

Speech By

Wendy Bourne

MEMBER FOR IPSWICH WEST

Record of Proceedings, 26 June 2026

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

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

Ms BOURNE (Ipswich West—ALP) (2.04 pm): Today I rise to speak on behalf of the people of Ipswich West following the handing down of the LNP's 2026 Queensland budget. I will begin by saying how very proud I am to represent the people of Ipswich West.

Every budget is a statement of priorities, and this government has its priorities wrong. Every budget reveals what a government values and what it is prepared to leave behind. Unfortunately for the people of my community, this budget delivers no hope. It is uninspiring. The Treasurer says he is proud there were no surprises in this budget. There were certainly no surprises for my community: Ipswich West was not even mentioned once by the Treasurer in his budget speech.

It was a surprise, however, to see Labor initiatives rebranded and retagged with LNP blue. The budget promises to strengthen the Warrego Highway Bremer River crossing—funded by Labor; the North Ipswich Reserve will receive a new grandstand—delivered by Labor; and the Ipswich Hospital will get 200 more beds and an expanded car park—this too announced and commenced by Labor. Labor works hard for Queensland and the LNP reap the rewards without lifting a finger. All they do is spend millions of dollars on advertising projects they have not even delivered. We need only look at 50-cent fares and $200 sports vouchers—proud Labor initiatives.

Ipswich West did receive at least some attention in this budget: the Rosewood substation is being rebuilt to improve network performance and the Marburg showgrounds are being upgraded to become an elite harness, training and racing facility. I am delighted by these announcements—they are very important to the Ipswich West community—but projects that would benefit the entire community have been unceremoniously abandoned.

While the government has found funding for a range of initiatives across Queensland, it has chosen to defer funding for the Mount Crosby interchange. I am bitterly disappointed in this short-sighted decision. David Crisafulli and Brent Mickelberg promised transport projects would be delivered on time and on budget. The Premier said that his word would mean something. I will leave it to the people of Ipswich West to decide if there is any meaning to that. For this government the Mount Crosby interchange may just sound like a line item in a budget paper, but for my community it is so very much more. It is the road parents travel every morning to take their children to school. It is the road local businesses rely on to move goods and services. It is the road emergency services use when every second matters. It is the road thousands of residents travel every day as our community continues to

grow. For years our community has argued for this project. I meet with the Karalee and Surrounding Communities Association regularly, and they have been tireless and relentless in their advocacy for this interchange.

The case for the upgrade of this interchange is based on safety, congestion, economic growth and future planning. That case has not changed. What has changed, however, is the government's plan to back this project. They should be ashamed of themselves. State Labor and federal Labor, through our federal member Shayne Neumann, have committed money to this project, and with the stroke of a pen this government has betrayed the people of Ipswich West. I use the Karalee exit as an example. This is a highly dangerous exit point off the Warrego Highway and this transport minister knows it. With the government pushing this project out things are only going to get worse at this exit, putting more pressure on the intersection which will put people's lives at risk. I have no doubt about that.

The people in and around Karalee have been patient—very patient. They have had to cope with the work on the Bremer River Bridge and the ridiculous continuation of reduced speed limits on the eastern side of the bridge—a project that is taking this government forever to finish—and the patience of the community is wearing thin. They had to cope with a truck smashing into the Mount Crosby overpass, causing significant delays at the Mount Crosby interchange, and now this government is putting them through the worst thing of all: deferring their funding for this desperately needed project.

The decision to defer this project sends a message to the people I represent. It says that their government does not care about them. It tells them that their concerns can wait. It tells them that the hours they spend sitting in traffic are acceptable. It tells them that the opportunities this project would create are not a priority. I reject the message this government is sending to my community. My community deserves so much better.

The people I represent work hard. They pay their taxes, like everyone in this chamber. They contribute to Queensland's economy. They are entitled to expect that critical infrastructure promised to them will be delivered. Instead, they have been told to wait. The reality is that infrastructure delays have real consequences. Every year a project is deferred, congestion worsens. Every year a project is delayed, businesses face higher costs. Every year a project is pushed back, population growth places further pressure on roads that are already struggling to cope. Every year we wait, the eventual cost of delivery increases.

This funding deferral is not the money-saving exercise it is made out to be. It is a completely senseless decision. I ask this House what the member for Moggill is going to say to the people of Karalee, Chuwar and Barellan Point if the planned state redistribution in those areas goes ahead: 'I'm your new member and tough bikkies about the Mount Crosby intersection. The money's not there anymore.'

Budgets are about choices and this government has made its choice: deferred funding for the Mount Crosby interchange; no money for the Amberley interchange; no additional funding for the Centenary Highway upgrade; no funding for the Ipswich to Springfield rail loop; and no funding for the second river crossing. Today I place on record my utter frustration that the people of Ipswich West have once again been asked to wait for infrastructure that our growing community urgently needs. What we are talking about here with this deferral of funding is intergenerational congestion. I will not stop advocating for this project. I will continue to fight for my community on this hugely important issue, and I will continue to remind this government that Queensland's future is not built by delaying essential infrastructure; it is built by delivering it.

Disappointingly, this budget also contains no funding commitment for the Amberley interchange—not a single cent committed in the budget for this project by this government. This is not some speculative project and this is not a proposal waiting for support. The federal government—thanks, again, to Shayne Neumann—has already committed $200 million towards the construction of a new grade-separated Amberley interchange. That is $200 million. The funding has been committed; the federal government has stepped up; the money is there. What is missing is the commitment from this LNP government.

As a result, one of the most important transport projects for our region remains stalled. Local residents know it and local businesses know it. Defence personnel travelling to and from the RAAF Base at Amberley know it. The Amberley RAAF Base is the largest operational military base in Australia, with some 8,000 personnel and contractors driving through the gates daily. That is 8,000 workers trying to cross a National Highway on one small exit lane. This government understands the pressure that population growth is placing not only on this dangerous intersection but on our whole road network, yet it has stalled.

The Amberley Consultative Working Group, run by the RAAF, hears submissions from residents in the area. When I attend those meetings, their main point of concern is the interchange, its lack of funding and the danger it poses to every one of their personnel who use it. Where is the member for

Scenic Rim's outrage that there is no funding? He said here in the House last night that I was chortling about this issue. Well, the member for Scenic Rim better get used to more chortling from me. He has billboards and he stood at the intersection calling for this to be upgraded many times. They have been hollow words and his electorate has heard him loud and clear.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): Order! The member is not taking interjections.

Ms BOURNE: These have been hollow words and his electorate has heard them loud and clear. This is also discussed with me regularly with the Willowbank Area Residents Group. They have championed this issue for many years. If only their elected official was in the party of government! What I do not understand is why a project with $200 million already committed by the federal government has been ignored in this state budget. This should have been an easy decision. Instead, this LNP government has chosen to leave federal funding sitting on the table while communities—

Mr Krause interjected.

Mr J KELLY: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I am sorry to interrupt, member for Ipswich West. Mr Deputy Speaker, you have asked the member for Scenic Rim to rein in the interjections but he is continuing to interject. I am having trouble hearing the member for Ipswich West and I am sitting right next to her.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Greenslopes, I will monitor the conduct of members in the House. I did not make a specific point to the member for Scenic Rim, as you suggest. It was to ask for interjections to cease so that the member for Ipswich West could be heard. I will hear her now.

Ms BOURNE: Instead, this LNP government has chosen to leave federal funding sitting on the table while communities like mine continue to deal with congestion and growing transport pressures. The message this sends is deeply disappointing: this government does not care about Ipswich West. Queensland's fastest growing communities cannot continue to be treated as an afterthought. If governments are serious about supporting growth, attracting investment, improving road safety and reducing congestion, they must invest in the infrastructure that makes those outcomes possible.

My community is not asking for special treatment. We are only asking for what is fair. We are asking for infrastructure that matches our growth. We are asking for the delivery of projects that have already been recognised as priorities. We want and expect this LNP government to match the federal government's commitment and finally deliver the Amberley interchange. The people I represent deserve nothing less.

Another of my disappointments in this budget is the lack of urgency when it comes to social and affordable housing for my community. Providing constituents with affordable housing should be a top priority of any budget, but yet again those on the waiting list have been left behind. Every single day, people walk through the doors of my electorate office seeking help with housing—every day. I have constituents waiting years and years for a property to become vacant because there simply are not enough homes available.

I meet people who have been on the social housing waiting list for years—people like Zelma. Zelma is 81. She lived in a private rental and could barely afford to buy food. The rent was taking up nearly all of her pension. She used to come into my office once a week just to check if we had heard anything. I would have a cuppa with her and we would chat about how hard things were for her. People who have done everything asked of them remain trapped in housing stress with no certainty for the future.

I meet older Queenslanders who are worried about where they will live in retirement. I meet single parents trying to keep a roof over their children's heads. When I volunteer at Rosies I meet people sleeping on couches, living in overcrowded homes or paying rents they simply cannot afford. I have met Alyssa, who lives in a swag in a local caravan park. Darren lived in his car for months before he found a caravan park to live in. He comes into my office looking for help to find a more stable living situation. For them, housing is not a policy debate; it is a daily struggle.

While the existing list continues to grow, the condition of some existing social housing stock in my electorate should concern every member of this House. Quite frankly, there are houses in my community that those opposite would not accept for their own family members. This is not a criticism of the tenants who live there. I meet with Robert quite often. He lives in one of those properties. He is a great bloke—a real gentleman who looks after the wellbeing of other residents. Robert pays his rent on time and is grateful to have a roof over his head. He does not want much; all he wants is for the property to be maintained adequately. It is an indictment of the underinvestment in maintaining and renewing public housing stock in my community.

The reality is simple: we are not building homes in my community fast enough. The demand is growing faster than the supply. That is why I acknowledge the work undertaken by the previous Labor government in partnership with Community Housing Queensland, which delivered 35 one-bedroom and eight two-bedroom apartments in Booval. These homes are making a real difference. If this government is serious about addressing housing affordability and reducing social housing waiting lists, it must step up to the plate and deliver more homes in communities like mine—not in five years and not in 10 years but now—because every family waiting for a home deserves more than promises.

When I look across this budget, I see a government that has lost sight of communities like Ipswich West—a community that sits in traffic because of critical road projects such as the Mount Crosby interchange being deferred; a community that watches $200 million in federal funding for the Amberley interchange sit on the table while the government refuses to act; a community where people like Zelma wait years for a place to call home; a community where people like Robert, Alyssa and Darren simply want to live in a place that is safe.

I will continue to stand up for Ipswich West and stand against a government full of broken promises. I will continue to fight for the Mount Crosby interchange. I will continue to fight for the Amberley interchange. I will continue to fight for more social and affordable housing in my community. I will continue to fight for the services that Ipswich West so desperately needs and I will continue to fight until the people of Ipswich West get the investment, the infrastructure and the respect that they deserve.