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SUBJECT: (no subject found)

MEMBER: Mr KING



Mr KING (Kurwongbah—ALP) (8.46 pm): I rise to also speak on the 2026 appropriation bills. I will point out that this is the LNP's second state budget, being delivered after they have had over 600 days on the job. That is almost two full years. I mention that because the LNP government likes to spam us with ads all over the place: on billboards, on buses, on bathroom doors, on YouTube, on free-to-air TV and on our online news platforms. We see big blue ads telling us what the new Queensland government is doing. I would like to know where the new government is. I wish we had a new government, because I must say this one is looking a bit stale. It must be because they forgot to build those foundations for a fresh start before they promised it. You cannot strengthen something that does not exist; I am just saying.

I have not found the Liberal blue advertising bucket in the budget yet, but I reckon there will be more money in that bucket than the combined tax refunds of all of my constituents. In fact, if there are roughly 2.2 million private homes in Queensland, which is what Google tells me, and a postage stamp costs \$1.70, then it would cost the LNP close to four million taxpayer dollars to post us all a letter. It says a lot to me, too, that the LNP chose to spend a big chunk of change before they brought down the budget. Why not wait to educate voters on what they are delivering? Perhaps it is because the LNP is now admitting through this budget that they cannot deliver on all the promises they said were fully costed and fully funded before the 2024 election.

Perhaps the Premier has forgotten he told Queenslanders that when he says something it means something, because the evidence to the contrary is piling up. I speak of evidence like swapping out the commitment to build a railway line to the Sunshine Coast, half of which is now going to be serviced by buses; cost blowouts and delays on pumped hydro; cost blowouts and delays on Cross River Rail; delaying the Gympie Road bypass tunnel, if it is even going to go ahead; and not investing another dollar to plan or build the Bruce Highway western alternative. I picked that one a while ago when the member for Glass House told us on his social media it was at least a decade and maybe two away from delivery. I do know the Moreton Bay mayor will not be happy to hear that news. Contrast that with two—yes, two—highway interchanges delivered in my electorate under our government—and, Mr Deputy Speaker, in your electorate as well. They at least were fully costed, fully built and fully delivered. They were congestion-busting projects that were delivered, not just promised. In fact, the Deception Bay and New Settlement Road interchange was removed from QTRIP under the LNP last time, under Newman, and it took Labor to put it back in and build it.

The LNP broke its 'no new stadium' promise. I can tell members that I have received a lot of emails from constituents angry that so much money is being spent on that project in a cost-of-living and housing crisis, and wait for the blowouts on that one to come. The LNP promised no public servants would lose their jobs, but now we are seeing cut contracts and reduced hours. The LNP promised integrity and transparency, but I have seen little of that. The LNP promised to stop crime, yet in my community I am hearing the opposite. One only has to look at our neighbourhood Facebook pages to see that wayward kids are not deterred by Adult Crime, Adult Time. They are out there casing homes and stealing cars, and what are we up to now—tranche 3 of the LNP's amendments to its signature laws? At this rate we will be at tranche 6 or 7 by the next election.

The LNP promised to help with the cost of living, but it scrapped our energy rebates and stopped the discount on car rego, and now we are getting a contribution to water bills that may just cover the upcoming price rise. If those opposite were not so busy waging war on workers—from teachers to train drivers and now public servants, and of course any worker who has ever been a member of a trade union—if they were not so fixated on that, they might come up with some new ideas to benefit Queensland taxpayers. Luckily, they have ours—50-cent fares and \$200 kids sports vouchers. Those strong Labor legacies are very welcome in this budget. Luckily, federal Labor has some good ideas too, backed up with Commonwealth funding, and the LNP is claiming those Labor achievements too—achievements like lower energy prices, lower taxes for Queenslanders, no-interest loans in the Infrastructure Activation Fund and the Bruce Highway upgrades committed to before the 2025 election.

I am pleased that some works are underway and others are coming soon along the edges of my electorate from Pine Rivers to Uhlmann Road. Federal Labor is also helping to fund new TAFEs, including a TAFE centre of excellence in my electorate next door to the University of the Sunshine Coast at Petrie. The LNP is taking a strange approach to this joint project. First, the Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training came into this House and complained that the federal training minister as well as the local federal member, Ali France, took all of the credit for funding these TAFEs in a social media post. She took offence to this because—

This \$73.8 million is a joint commitment from Queensland and the Commonwealth, putting in \$36.9 million each ...

Then on Wednesday this week Minister Bates got up in here and complained about a post on my Facebook page that pointed out the joint funding, saying—

I need to let you know that there is no funding from the federal government for the four TAFE centres of excellence.

I do not know: maybe the member for Mudgeeraba is actually the 'minister for Facebook' and not finance because that does not really add up and it changed pretty quickly. Maybe that is why the LNP budget puts Queensland into deficit again—spending more money than we are bringing in. From my memory, in three of the last four state Labor budgets we achieved a surplus. The Crisafulli LNP is not contemplating a surplus until the last year of the forward estimates. For anyone who is not familiar with the forwards, it is the 2029-30 financial year that the LNP is talking about. We have a state election before that. Interestingly, the year of the forwards—2029-30—seems to be the next time the LNP puts money into social housing capital works beyond this year. There does not seem to be any money in there for the next financial year or the year of the state election. I guess it is lucky for the LNP that it has a heap of Labor-funded social housing builds to claim instead. In fact, I think there is a big one in Deception Bay due to open soon. Mr Deputy Speaker Whiting, you will know about that. I hope you will get an invite considering that these units are another Labor legacy. I visited a new social housing building in my electorate last week. I was not invited to the opening even though it was funded by Labor and building began under Labor, but I am sure it will go on the LNP's tally of delivery.

Let me run through some other wins for the Kurwongbah community that the LNP can keep its hands off. The first is the Narangba train station car park expansion, which is well and truly underway now after I got funding locked in. I know that locals are looking forward to trying it out. We began the North Pine Dam upgrade. Let's hope the LNP does not botch that one the way it botched Paradise Dam. We have delivered the resurfacing of Dayboro Road between Whiteside and Kurwongbah—around \$5 million worth.

Government members interjected.

Mr KING: Mr Deputy Speaker, I am not taking their interjections, but I will point out the irony that in *The Muppet Show*—and some in here will remember that—the muppets got to sit up high; these ones have to sit down low. It is a bit of a pity for them. The Caboolture Hospital redevelopment was just about finished under Labor, and I know the member for Morayfield—another one of my neighbours—was shocked to find out the other day that a new ward has been sitting empty under the LNP—absolutely appalling! The Moreton Bay Indoor Sports Centre, to be built in Petrie in my electorate, was a Labor commitment at both the state and federal levels to be delivered in partnership with the City of Moreton Bay. I am pleased to see the LNP honouring our commitment and I look forward to seeing the final design. I am keen—and I am sure federal Labor is keen—to ensure it is still exactly what was promised.

I wrote to the Premier earlier this year passing on some other wish list items for my electorate of Kurwongbah. Here are a few examples. I asked for funding to tweak school bus services for Narangba Valley State High School on Wednesday afternoons when almost 2,000 students get out early. I have lost count of how many times I have asked for this change—a change that is worth pocket money to the government but with benefits that extend beyond student safety, could prevent opportunities for youth crime and protect our community from intimidation. I asked for the fence to be finished at Narangba State School to keep students safe and protect the school from ongoing vandalism and theft. I asked for funding to help the City of Moreton Bay find solutions for traffic congestion at level crossings in Narangba and Burpengary and for a multistorey car park at Burpengary station to cater for the ever-growing population.

I asked for bigger homes for the Narangba Crows and the Narangba Rangers and a shade sail for the Narangba Bowls Club to protect our seniors from skin cancer and heat stroke. I asked for more bus services to be funded, including between new estates and local train stations. I asked for the remainder of Morayfield Road to be widened to ease congestion between Burpengary and Morayfield and the Bruce Highway connections nearby, which was in QTRIP under us but seems to have

disappeared. I have not heard back from the Premier yet and I have not found any of this in the budget papers, but rest assured I will keep looking.

I turn now to the budget measures Labor would bring in if we are returned to government in Queensland. There is our help for construction trade apprentices in the form of free registration, giving young people more reasons to choose a trade. As a tradie myself—a sparkie for anyone in this place who is unaware—I know how much this saving will mean to someone on an apprentice wage.

Mr Stevens: ETU!

Mr KING: Mighty ETU. I take that interjection, but it was said wrong: it is the mighty ETU. We will waive car registration for the workplace supervisors of apprentices, giving businesses more reasons to train up our future tradies. Labor would legislate caps on fuel price increases to give commuters certainty and encourage competition in the market. We will reinvigorate the renewable energy landscape, because we know that this is the ticket to cheaper energy bills for households and businesses. We have already seen a foreshadowed drop in the default market prices of electricity retailers as renewable energy now makes up almost half of the National Electricity Market thanks to federal Labor's investment into renewables—not the LNP's Energy Roadmap as it has tried to claim, a claim that might backfire on it yet as some retailers try out sneaky ways to keep cost savings to themselves. I will bet the House that the LNP will hand its false claim back to federal Labor if that happens.

Labor will support a portable bond scheme for Queensland renters and give the interest earned on holding bonds back to the tenants who pay them. We will put out a housing issues paper to help inform government solutions to the housing crisis. We will double the funding for First Nations and multicultural community projects and events because, unlike One Nation and the LNP—at least on the federal stage—we embrace our multicultural make-up here in Queensland. Finally, Labor will set up a Queensland Community Safety Statistics Bureau like they have in New South Wales to provide Queenslanders with independently verified community safety information and statistics.

The LNP likes to fix the figures while we believe that you cannot fix the issues if you do not honestly know what they are. This is a budget of bad news and blowouts. It does not make life easier for Queensland families hoping for help with housing, hoping for help as the cost of living bites. The LNP said it would deliver generational infrastructure, but it is taking things out of QTRIP instead. The LNP has delayed and downgraded road, rail and hospital builds across the state. The LNP said it would deliver projects on time and on budget on the commitment to matching Labor projects before the election. It said that it had done its own costings and the projects were fully funded, but as costs blow out and the LNP cannot get the work done it says it is Labor's fault. I say to the Premier and the LNP: you will not be able to go to the next election saying that you are a new government. At some point you will have to take accountability for your actions—or lack of action. It says it all that the LNP's catchphrase for this budget is 'strengthening our foundations for a fresh start', because the cracks are already there two years in. Blue billboards and glossy flyers are not respecting taxpayers' money and will not disguise the fact that the LNP's budget is costing Queenslanders more but giving them less.