

***DELIVERING***  
**FOR QUEENSLAND**

**Queensland Budget 2025–26**

# BUDGET SPEECH



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## Budget Speech Budget Paper No. 1

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**APPROPRIATION BILL 2025–26**  
**THE HONOURABLE DAVID JANETZKI MP**  
**TREASURER**  
**MINISTER FOR ENERGY AND MINISTER FOR HOME OWNERSHIP**

Mr Speaker,

When the people of Queensland changed the government last October, they voted for a fresh start.

They voted for a fresh start in the way in which its government approaches the Budget.

They wanted a government that understood the daily challenges they faced and could deliver a plan to deal with them.

Respect for taxpayers' money.

Respect for our public servants who work to heal the sick, teach and care for our young and protect our citizens.

Respect for the industries that underpin our prosperity.

And respect for hard working Queenslanders who deserve better than what a decade of Labor government gave them.

This Budget lays the foundation for a fresh start.

When the true state of the books was revealed in January, it seemed the task was impossible. But the work we have done since coming to government is reflected today in the Budget I deliver.

It delivers for the Queensland people and keeps faith with their election of a new government.

It honours our election commitments.

It delivers cost of living relief that is responsible and recurrent, targeted and timely.

It funds services that would have ceased and jobs that would have ended.

It saves infrastructure and projects that would have never been built.

It makes investments in a stronger, more productive economy, which will build a better lifestyle for all Queenslanders.

And it lays the foundation for long-term budget repair.

### **Labor's Legacy**

Labor's last budget update revealed the depths of their debt, deficit and deception.

Debt was projected to reach \$217.8 billion in 2027–28.

Debt per capita was forecast to reach almost \$40,000 per person – the highest in the nation.

A 4-year capital program that was ungoverned and undeliverable.

Project overruns everywhere. Poorly scoped, badly managed and significantly underfunded.

CopperString. Pioneer-Burdekin. Borumba. Cross River Rail. The Health Capacity Expansion program. The list was long.

Labor's announced but unfunded service delivery commitments were forecast to drive deficits across the forward estimates of more than \$30 billion. A consistent worsening trend with a forecast operating deficit of \$9.2 billion in 2027–28.

Queensland's Budget papers cheapened into advertising hoarding.

And who can forget the election campaign. State-owned service stations. State-owned GP practices. Another state-owned energy retailer. And state-sliced school lunches.

All announced in a desperate attempt to secure political survival.

That was Labor's legacy, and that is what we inherited.

### **Delivering Improved Fiscal Results**

We promised that we would adopt a calm and methodical approach to the Budget.

We promised that we would target budget improvements, and in doing so, develop a plan to improve the lives of Queenslanders.

We promised we would do so carefully.

We promised that debt would be lower under a Crisafulli Government.

And today we are delivering on that promise.

Today I can advise the House that total state debt is now forecast to reach \$205.7 billion at the end of the forward estimates in 2028–29.

Under Labor, debt was forecast to reach \$217.8 billion in 2027–28 and was on a trajectory to balloon further to \$252 billion in 2028–29.

Similarly, interest costs across the forwards are now forecast to be \$2.3 billion lower than they would have been under Labor, which leaves more to be paid to our frontline workers rather than our lenders.

Our 4-year capital program is \$116.8 billion. This demonstrates our determination to lay the foundation for the future and to deliver a better lifestyle for Queenslanders.

I have repeatedly warned it would be a serious challenge to return the Budget to surplus.

And it is.

The operating deficit forecast for 2025–26 is \$8.6 billion.

Labor's consistent worsening deficits, including the \$9.2 billion deficit in 2027–28, are reversed across the forward estimates as we deliver consistent budget improvements, reducing the operating deficit to \$1.1 billion in 2028–29.

This deficit is driven by a sharp drop in forecast GST revenue and the duty to deliver the jobs and services Queenslanders were promised.

Mr Speaker, we face significant revenue headwinds.

Firstly, declining coal royalties.

The former government collected more in coal royalties in 2 years than what will be collected in the next 4. They promised progressive coal royalties would fund all their unfunded promises, but Mr Speaker, the revenue those opposite claimed to have banked is gone.

Secondly, Queensland's unprecedented GST reduction of \$2.3 billion between last year and our first Budget has punched a hole in revenue forecasts.

This redistributive loss comprises more than 25 per cent of this year's operating deficit and strips \$5 billion from revenue over the next 3 years. It's the biggest redistribution of GST revenue in Australian history.

Queensland is providing national leadership in developing our natural resources and improving productivity. We shouldn't be penalised for doing the right thing and our efforts must be acknowledged with a coherent, consistent and fair GST deal. If not, where is the incentive to grow our state's economy – and therefore the nation's wealth.

Notwithstanding these challenges, the long-term debt trajectory is slowing, and the deficits will lessen over the forward estimates as revenues improve and expenses are carefully managed – as we promised.

That's less debt and smaller operating deficits than our predecessors – but with more to show for it.

The former government promised 26 times there would be no new or increased taxes and they broke that promise.

They damaged confidence. They damaged our reputation. They damaged our state's interests.

In contrast, we are delivering what we promised.

This is a Budget with no new or increased taxes because it is beyond time that we restored taxation and regulatory certainty and stability.

We are actually doing what matters for Queenslanders.

Our fiscal position is stabilising – but the serious challenges we face will not be overcome in a single Budget.

It will take time. This term of government and the next.

Today, we're laying the foundation of a pathway to surplus.

### **Delivering Fiscal Action**

To deliver on this, we are making changes to our state's fiscal principles.

We will now seek to stabilise the Non-Financial Public Sector debt to revenue ratio and General Government Sector net debt to revenue ratio at sustainable levels in the medium term, and we are targeting reductions in the debt to revenue ratio in the long term.

The new approach concentrates on the debt that the state needs to service, and closely aligns with credit rating agency measures of debt burden.

In a Queensland first, we are adding a productivity focused fiscal principle which is targeting productivity improvements across the public and private sectors.

Our re-established Queensland Productivity Commission will lead forward-leaning debate, analysing what the state can do to support the Commonwealth's efforts in driving productivity and deliver sustained improvement in living standards.

We will also cap the number of non-frontline senior executives at current levels until 2028. This will be managed by the Public Sector Commissioner in consultation with departments.

We're realising stronger debt and portfolio management outcomes by using the Debt Retirement Fund for its established purpose. Annual repayments of debt from investment returns, including through the transferring of \$3 billion of surplus defined benefit assets, will lower debt by \$4.8 billion by 30 June 2029.

## **Economic Outlook**

Queensland is not immune to challenges facing other states and countries.

Uncertainty in the global economy has grown in recent years, even weeks, exacerbated by trade volatility and wars in Europe and the Middle East that disrupt established trade balances.

Despite these challenges, Queensland's economic growth is forecast to strengthen and remain robust in the forward estimates.

Treasury is forecasting gross state product growth of 2 ¾ per cent in 2025–26.

It's an early signal that our open for business approach is being noted.

Labour market conditions are expected to remain strong.

And the unemployment rate is expected to stay lower for longer and remain beneath the long-run average across the forecast period.

Wages too are forecast to grow 3 ½ per cent in 2025–26, representing real wage growth.

These figures paint a picture of an economy that is ready for improvement as we work to build a better lifestyle through a stronger economy.

Laying the foundation to overcome the budget challenges we inherited, means we can find a way to meet the big issues Queenslanders face and deliver the fresh start they voted for.

## **Cost of Living Relief**

Household budgets continue to come under pressure.

We promised to deliver targeted, responsible and comprehensive relief to those who need it most, coupled with investments into long-term structural reform to put downward pressure on the cost of living.

Long-term structural reform is fundamental to improving living standards. Delivering safety where you live puts downward pressure on insurance premiums.

We're increasing our Electricity Maintenance Guarantee to \$1.6 billion - building on the \$450 million already invested in 2024–25 - to properly maintain our generation assets and put downward pressure on power bills.

Since forming government, we've taken decisive and immediate action on cost of living relief, which this Budget consolidates.

We're providing \$37.5 million for free health checks for kids in kindy, and we've abolished the patients' tax, which lowers the cost to see the doctor. Doctors are healers, not bookkeepers and we want doctors to be with patients, not lawyers and accountants.

We have abolished stamp duty for first home buyers purchasing a new home.

And we have extended the boosted First Home Owner Grant to \$30,000 for 12 months, incentivising young people to get into the market in a new house, thereby encouraging supply through new-build construction.

This Budget also locks-in the Crisafulli Government's permanent 50 cent fares.

We're investing \$26.3 million for our Supercharged Solar for Renters program that will reduce power bills for renters.

Building on a former Liberal National government vision to support families aspiring to see their kids play sport, we have provided long-term funding for the *Play On!* program that would have otherwise stopped next week under those opposite.

Nearly \$8.5 billion in ongoing concessions are forecast to be provided to Queenslanders in 2025–26.

And today I announce that we are restoring indexation to the Electricity Rebate Scheme for vulnerable households – providing an uplift in support that more than 600,000 Queensland households will receive.

This is a 3.8 per cent increase that will reduce the average power bill for vulnerable households by \$386 in 2025–26. This modest cost of living relief, frozen by the former government in 2022, will be indexed every year under the Crisafulli Government.

### **Making Queensland Safer**

After a decade of weakened youth crime laws, Queenslanders are grappling with a long-term crime crisis that has threatened their safety and the sanctuary of their homes and businesses and exacerbated cost of living pressures.

The Crisafulli Government is delivering stronger laws and consequences for actions, more police and a clear focus on rehabilitation and early intervention.



This Budget invests \$347.7 million to deliver our Making Queensland Safer Laws. These are investments in the frontline. In our people. In our facilities. In our system.

Investments that are making our community safer.

In our first 200 days of government, we delivered net 240 new police officers, considerably more than the net 174 our predecessors delivered in the past 4 years.

We're fulfilling our commitment to bolster our frontline with 1,600 new recruits across the term.

And those officers are being properly resourced to make our community safer, with \$147.9 million in this budget for new tasers, vests, body-worn cameras and safety equipment.

We're delivering \$290.3 million to build new and upgraded police stations, facilities and beats at Burleigh, Nambour, Logan Central, Mount Gravatt, Boondall, Ferny Grove, Redcliffe, Edmonton, Palm Island and Goodna, giving our officers the facilities and resources they need to tackle crime.

We're setting aside funds to buy land for proposed new police stations at Yarrabilba, Rainbow Beach and Caboolture West.

And to reduce attrition and boost morale, a new \$13.5 million mental health support framework will be implemented for current and former officers.

This Budget provides more than \$38.8 million for intensive case management and \$75 million to the youth co-response models - intervening early and responding fast, wherever needed.

We're investing \$24.4 million in bail programs, and we're breaking the cycle of reoffending with our Staying on Track program, which provides intensive 12-month rehabilitation support.

We're sending a clear message that victims will not be forgotten – or left alone.

This Budget is delivering an additional \$275 million in financial assistance to provide payments to victims of crime, a bolstered \$11.6 million Victim Liaison Service to help navigate the court process, and permanent funding of \$10 million per year for a new Victims Advocate Service.

Our government has inherited a legal and prison system in disarray.

Backlogs of cases before the courts. Failing infrastructure. Unfunded community legal services.

We are laying the foundations for a safer Queensland by investing \$2.4 billion to deliver new facilities for additional prisoner capacity across Townsville and Brisbane.

Over 5 years we will inject \$76.3 million into developing new courthouse infrastructure, including improved facilities for victims of domestic and family violence.

We have provided certainty for our community legal sector, unlocking almost \$1 billion in joint Commonwealth-State funding.

We're investing an additional \$73.5 million in repairing the serious issues plaguing our state's forensics system, working through the backlog and conducting historical case reviews as an interim step while we await the findings of the independent review.

### **Delivering a Better Education**

A strong start in life is key to a better future and we want no young Queenslander to miss out on the opportunities and experiences that can help them grow.

Alarming, NAPLAN results show the state's outcomes for reading and spelling went backwards across every year level in 2024.

Only a world-class education system can unlock world-class skills and knowledge that can power world-class productivity.

That's why the Crisafulli Government is delivering the single largest investment into Queensland's public schools in our state's history.

That includes new primary schools in Caloundra South and Ripley Valley, as well as six new special schools and campuses in Berrinba, Coomera, Springfield/Redbank, Beenleigh, Ipswich West and Moreton Bay South in an \$814.8 million investment over 4 years.

Over the next 10 years the government will inject more than \$9.4 billion into our state's public school system, unlocking new funding as part of our historic deal with the Commonwealth.

On top of that, we will provide an additional \$222 million to deliver on our commitment to slash red tape and provide 550 more teacher aides and support teachers.

We're also targeting bullying in our state schools with a range of new anti-bullying initiatives and the innovative new Rapid Support Squads to provide on-the-ground expertise to respond to bullying incidents.

Mr Speaker, in recognition of the support our young and their families need, today I announce that we will couple these record-breaking investments with a \$100 Back to School Boost, starting from 1 January, for every primary school student in Queensland.

This is a new initiative that will support families with the cost of excursions, schoolbooks, uniforms – whatever they need to give their kids the best start to the school year.

It applies across Queensland no matter where you go to school.

State, Catholic, independent, big or small, urban, country or remote. Wherever you may go.

Acland State School, Canossa Catholic Primary School in Trebonne, Caloundra State School – or even Guluguba State School.

We're investing in this targeted program across the forwards to support Queensland families as part of a responsible and comprehensive cost of living package.

### **Delivering A Place to Call Home**

Mr Speaker, Queensland needs more homes.

More homes in the regions. More homes in the South East. More homes for families. More homes for singles. More homes for renters. More homes for those living with a disability. More homes near public transport hubs.

We know the challenges.

Rising rents. Struggling mortgage holders. Generations of Queenslanders losing hope of ever buying.

A record 52,000 Queenslanders languishing on social housing waiting lists. A community housing sector held back for too long.

This Budget lays the foundation for our government's plan to deliver 2,000 new social and community homes a year by 2028, 4 times the rate of the former government, as we strive to meet a target of 53,500 new social homes by 2044.

This Budget includes a record \$5.6 billion investment in new social and community housing initiatives.

And to support our most vulnerable Queenslanders, we're delivering a \$366 million boost to crisis and temporary accommodation, complemented by a 20 per cent uplift for specialist homelessness service providers over the next 4 years.

Under the former government, new home approvals fell, investors were demonised, and productivity on construction sites stagnated.

We will deliver 1 million new homes across the state by 2044 by making it easier for the private sector to get to work and build the communities of the future.

Today I announce the first \$1 billion of the cornerstone \$2 billion Residential Activation Fund will be allocated by 30 June 2026.

This key pillar of the Crisafulli Government's housing plan is breaking down the barriers for infill and greenfield developments.

The fund will support local councils and developers to fast-track critical infrastructure works like water, power and transport to get land ready to build more homes sooner.

Half of this fund will be invested in regional, rural and remote Queensland, ensuring the benefits are spread across our state.

Already we've seen \$1.8 billion in applications received, with a potential 158,000 homes to be unlocked.

I know the Deputy Premier will be very busy naming successful applicants soon.

### **Delivering More Home Ownership**

As Queensland's first Home Ownership Minister, I have been tasked with taking Queensland from the bottom of the national home ownership ladder to the top in the next decade.

We have a generation despairing as their home ownership dream fades from view. Simply accumulating a deposit has put home ownership beyond the great majority who cannot turn to their parents for a contribution.

Today I announce that from 1 July people will be able to register their interest in our Boost to Buy program, a nation leading home ownership scheme that will reduce the deposit gap for First Home Buyers.

With up to 1,000 dreams realised over the next 2 years, this nation-leading program, supported by an investment of \$165 million, will see the government take an equity stake in new and existing dwellings to help more people get into the housing market with a smaller mortgage and a lower deposit, as low as 2 per cent.

This program has the highest income thresholds of any related scheme in the country, with the government investing up to 30 per cent equity for new builds and 25 per cent of existing homes, up to a home value of \$1 million.

This important step, together with our whole of government focus on delivering supply, the abolition of stamp duty for first home buyers purchasing a new home, and extending the boosted \$30,000 First Home Owner Grant for 12 months, will all work together to unlock home ownership for more Queenslanders.

The government alone, cannot solve the housing crisis. We need collaboration and coordination across all levels of government, the community housing sector and the private sector.

To facilitate the free flow of capital, I announce today that the government is reviewing how applications for ex gratia relief from foreign surcharges are assessed, to support the timely, expedited flow of capital to deliver housing, industrial and agricultural investment.

The Property Consultative Committee which we recently re-established after a 6-year abeyance will work with the government to complete updated guidelines by MYFER in December.

### **Delivering Health Services where you need them**

Mr Speaker, for too long, Queenslanders have endured an ailing health system with 45 per cent ambulance ramping, ballooning elective surgery waitlists and deteriorating infrastructure.

When Queenslanders voted for a fresh start, they voted for easier access to health services where and when they need them. That is what we are delivering.

In 2025–26, the Health Budget will reach a record \$29.4 billion, a 10.2 per cent increase.

More than \$6.5 billion over the next 4 years will ensure we can stabilise bed and system capacity across Queensland, add 30,000 additional elective surgeries in 2025–26 through the Surgery Connect program, and provide funding to open Stage 2 of the Mater Springfield project.

This also includes investment of \$20.4 million over 4 years to establish Women's and Girls' Health Hubs.

We are also making a capital investment of \$18.5 billion over the 5 years from 2024–25 into the Hospital Rescue Plan - the biggest investment in health infrastructure in Queensland's history.

We are investing in a new Queensland Cancer Centre, and new CT scanners and MRI machines in satellite health centres and regional hospitals.

With new hospitals to be built at Toowoomba, Coomera and Bundaberg, and expansions for 10 existing hospitals, it will deliver more than 2,600 hospital beds across the state.

We're boosting our frontline health workforce with more than 4,500 additional health workers in 2025–26, including doctors, nurses and paramedics.

And we're investing \$38.5 million over 3 years for our Step-Up, Step-Down program, delivering two 24/7 youth mental health facilities.

### **Delivering a Stronger Public Service**

Mr Speaker, the long-term driver of our productivity is our people. Their skills, their hard work, their creativity.

Our public service should be empowered and respected.

Let's not forget the baseless scare campaign of those opposite.

Today the misinformation and deception ends. Because this Budget confirms we're doing what the Premier said we would do by delivering a stronger public service, which will grow in 2025–26 to 277,352.

We're empowering the public service after the Coaldrake Report exposed the former government's culture of fear and intimidation.

It warned that the capacity of the public service was being hollowed out by a cumulative loss of expertise because of the former government's over-reliance on external consultants and contractors.

Labor oversaw exponential billion-dollar spending growth in consultants and contractors despite promising to trim billions from the existing spend.

We committed before the election to slow this exponential growth by building capacity in the public service, as recommended by Coaldrake.

From 1 July, the freshly established Queensland Government Consulting Services will continue our work of rebuilding the capability of the public service and equipping it with the tools to competently address a range of complex challenges.

It will be seeded with an initial \$15 million investment over 2 years and will sit as a new business unit within Queensland Treasury Corporation.

Upon taking government, Treasury communicated clear expectations to departments demanding greater scrutiny when engaging contractors and consultants.

As reported by the Queensland Audit Office, spending on external consultants and contractors increased from approximately \$2.1 billion in 2020–21 to \$3.7 billion in 2023–24, a compound annual growth rate of over 20 per cent. On this trajectory, total spending on consultants and contractors could have reached \$4.5 billion by 2024–25. Based on analysis of spending to March 2025, and pro-rated for the full year, the estimated consultant and contractor spend is \$4 billion.

Together with budgeted savings from reduced QGCS start-up costs and additional savings from consultants and contractors associated with the Borumba pumped hydro energy storage project, the total forecast savings on contractors and consultants for 2024–25 totals \$681.5 million.

But Mr Speaker, the work has just begun as we deliver on this necessary election commitment to restore the Queensland public service.

### **Delivering the Energy Roadmap**

Mr Speaker, work continues on our Energy Roadmap that will be completed by the end of this year.

This year the Budget includes a \$2.4 billion investment in CopperString. Real money to build the transmission line and real investment in the economic growth of our state, including our mineral and renewable-rich North West.

It means real on-the-ground work in the upcoming financial year as work progresses to connect the Hughenden Hub to future renewable energy and wind projects in Flinders Shire to the National Electricity Market, pending approvals.

In 2025–26, Stanwell will continue to work with Quinbrook on the proposed 114-megawatt Lockyer Energy Project near Gatton, while CleanCo will investigate a new gas turbine at Swanbank.

This Budget also invests \$479.2 million in 2025–26 into the development of the 400-megawatt Brigalow Gas Peaker Project at Kogan Creek.

We promised to fund smaller, more manageable pumped hydro projects and we are delivering on that promise.

We're investing \$79 million to progress ongoing development of CleanCo's Mt Rawdon and Stanwell's Big T pumped hydro projects, and CS Energy continues investigative works on the Capricornia project - all being progressed in partnership with the private sector.

As QIC progresses a proper commercial assessment of delivery options, our Budget allocates \$355 million towards early works on the Borumba pumped hydro project.

### **Delivering for Skills and Training to Drive Productivity**

Queensland's future workforce and productivity depends on the right investment in the right training and skills.

We've inherited a skills shortage that has been a handbrake on productivity and the economy and applied significant pressure to industries, small businesses and households.

This Budget lays the foundation for a new direction for training and workforce development to meet the demands of a modern Queensland and invest in productivity.

We are investing \$201.1 million to establish 4 new TAFE Centres of Excellence in Rockhampton, Moreton Bay, Caloundra and the Southern Moreton Bay Islands.

To help secure a pipeline of skilled workers, these centres will deliver cutting-edge training in priority industries.

To support this, we will extend the 50 per cent Apprentice Payroll Tax Rebate for a further 12 months.

Through the Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative, we are investing \$80 million annually to support up to 15,000 people into jobs.

We're also reforming key institutions, such as Manufacturing Skills Queensland, to better align with industry needs and improve access to practical, work-ready skills.

Quality investments driving the Queensland economy combined with the capabilities of the Queensland people, is what will deliver a better future for this state.

A future where Queensland will be ready to stand proud on the world stage.

### **Games Delivery Plan and Sport Investment**

This Budget is delivering on our plan for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The Games will deliver the largest infrastructure investment in Queensland's history.

It's a once-in-a-generation opportunity for generational infrastructure, to drive tourism and support our grassroots sporting clubs throughout the state.

After the long runway had been squandered, the Crisafulli Government has a plan to deliver the 2032 Games.

Together with the Commonwealth we will invest \$7.1 billion for Games venues, including a new 63,000 seat stadium at Victoria Park, new National Aquatic Centre in Spring Hill, mountain biking on the Sunshine Coast, archery facilities for Maryborough and the upgraded Toowoomba Equestrian Centre.

The first funding of the 2032 Delivery Plan includes \$950 million over the next 4 years as an initial provision for the Athletes' Villages and \$832 million to begin procurement and delivery of Games venues.

Our investment in community sport spans not only our *Play On!* sports voucher program but also *Games On!*, our \$250 million program to take sporting opportunities across the state.



From lighting ovals in Ferny Hills, to funding feasibility studies in Sarina, changeroom renovations for the Hervey Bay Hockey Association and Longreach Showgrounds, clubhouse upgrades for the Whitsunday Brahmans Rugby League Club, to upgrades at the Rosewood Showgrounds and the Cornubia Park Precinct, this Budget is delivering for every corner of Queensland.

### **Delivering Transport and Roads**

Fundamental to the Crisafulli Government's vision for the Games is the opportunity to leverage this global sporting event to deliver legacy transport infrastructure for our growing state.

It's about delivering a plan to get Queenslanders home sooner, to enjoy the things that really matter.

There is no road in the state as integral to our economy and prosperity as the Bruce Highway.

Along with the Commonwealth, the Crisafulli Government is investing \$9 billion in the Bruce Highway to deliver long overdue safety upgrades.

We're delivering seamless public transport all the way from Brisbane to the Sunshine Coast Airport with The Wave.

Our \$41.7 billion Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program includes funding to deliver the Barron River Bridge, Caloundra Congestion Busting Plan, Logan and Gold Coast Faster Rail and Mooloolah River Interchange.

And there's the \$100 million Country Roads Connect program to boost the safety of regional roads.

### **Delivering for Women**

Mr Speaker, this is a Budget that delivers for women. Delivers for their health and wellbeing. Delivers for their economic security. And most importantly, delivers action with real outcomes.

Breaking down barriers to women's economic participation and investing in women's economic security is not just about gender equality. It's about a stronger, more productive economy that delivers for every Queenslanders.

A new 4-year \$20 million Returning to Work Package will offer practical assistance to women seeking to transition back into the workforce after having children, caring for family or illness.

We are enabling Queensland women to scale up their businesses, investing in a new program designed to break down barriers for female entrepreneurs under the \$400,000 Female Founders Investment Readiness Program.

We want a fairer system for women taking time away from work to raise a family, which is why we are also providing superannuation payments for the 52-week period of parental leave for Queensland public sector employees.

By empowering women in the workplace, we're building a stronger, fairer and more prosperous Queensland.

### **Supporting Family and Domestic Violence Prevention**

Mr Speaker, domestic and family violence is a crisis that survives and thrives in darkness.

But we are putting a spotlight on it and taking action.

We're committed to prevention, better protections, holding perpetrators to account and getting better outcomes for victims.

We are injecting \$209.7 million into crisis accommodation across Queensland, \$37 million to enhance the police response to domestic and family violence, \$25 million over 5 years to pilot a new electronic monitoring program for high-risk DV offenders, \$3.5 million for the expansion of Hope Hub recovery centres, \$18.8 million to upgrade safe spaces in court houses, and \$31.3 million to double the state's 24/7 domestic and family violence crisis response capacity.

Our commitment to stamping out domestic and family violence will never waver. We will do whatever it takes, for as long as it takes.

### **Delivering Child Safety**

At the heart of laying a foundation for a fresh start is the vision for a safer future for our youngest and most vulnerable Queenslanders.

Since coming to government, we have exposed a range of critical failures and pressures and have recently announced a Commission of Inquiry into Queensland's child safety system.

The Budget includes more than \$50 million for a Queensland-first SecureCare residential child safety facility to protect young people who are a danger to themselves and others.

We're investing \$11 million over 4 years in the establishment of a dual-carer supervision model in residential care to enhance safety and oversight.

\$28.8 million has also been allocated to pilot a new professional foster care program for children with disabilities and complex needs.

A \$1,500 boost will also be provided to carers and guardians for young people in care to support participation in extracurricular activities.

And we've provided \$10 million to establish Daniel's Law, with a new 3-tiered Public Child Sex Offender Register.

### **Delivering for Our Resources Sector**

Building a stronger economy requires a government that is supportive of the resources sector and creates economic settings that signal the state is open for business. And there is no doubt, we are open for business!

We're laying out an ambitious agenda for new and expanded mining opportunities across the State.

We have made available for tender 9 new areas across the Cooper, Eromanga, Bowen and Surat basins that are open to gas opportunities.

We're investing in the future workforce through the expansion of the Queensland Minerals and Energy Academy to 50 more schools.

This Budget invests more than \$13 million in new mineral exploration, including in our critical mineral zones and the operations of the Queensland Resources Common User Facility.

From Moranbah to Mount Isa, from the bush to the boardroom and classroom, we are delivering for our resources sector.

### **Delivering More Manufacturing**

It goes on. We are investing \$79.1 million over 3 years in our Transforming Queensland Manufacturing program, unlocking existing funds and unlocking new ones to ensure that Queensland is not just making things here - but making them better and smarter.

The Queensland Train Manufacturing Program, supported in this budget with \$950 million, will drive a generation of jobs in Maryborough.

And we are delivering \$10 million for 2 new manufacturing hubs in Toowoomba and the Sunshine Coast, fostering next-generation jobs and supply chain resilience in regional Queensland.

## **Closing the Gap for Indigenous Queenslanders**

Mr Speaker, this Budget lays the foundations for a better future for Indigenous Queenslanders.

We are delivering the \$108 million Closing the Gap Priorities Fund, to invest in projects in housing, education, and employment in communities across Queensland, including \$19 million towards health and education infrastructure projects in Aurukun, Kowanyama, and Cherbourg.

Our plan for a better future with better living standards for Indigenous people is built on empowerment.

That's why we're supporting home ownership for Indigenous Queenslanders – introducing a historic rent-to-buy scheme on Palm Island with a 99-year lease agreement.

And we know that the mentorship of touchable heroes and real-life role models can help build aspiration for young Indigenous Queenslanders which is why we will extend the Former Origin Greats program, supporting attendance in up to 20 state primary schools.

## **Delivering a \$30 billion Agriculture Industry by 2030**

Queensland's farmers are the lifeblood of our regions and our diversified economy.

That is why our government has promised to deliver a \$30 billion primary industries sector by 2030.

Towards that ambition, this Budget invests \$30 million in the Sowing the Seeds fund - supporting Queensland-first innovation and investment.

We're investing \$37.7 million to increase water storage and capacity to protect agriculture and deliver water security, with 5 new weirs along the Thomson River in Longreach, delivering the Barlil and Cooranga Weirs, improving water supply reliability along the Burnett's Boyne River and Barambah Creek, and advancing the business case for the Water for Warrill Irrigation project.

This is in addition to a \$346.2 million investment to ensure state-owned dams meet modern engineering standards and continue to operate safely during extreme weather events.

We're protecting industry and our farmers with \$51.9 million for key drought resilience initiatives and a new investment of \$60.9 million to boost regional biosecurity and deliver new frontline biosecurity officers.

Fire ants pose a greater than \$1 billion a year threat to our agricultural sector. It's why our \$24 million boost to Queensland's Fire Ant Suppression Taskforce – taking total funding to \$61 million – is vital.

In a year in which our regions have borne the brunt of record floods, this Budget will lay the foundations for future resilience from natural disasters with an investment of \$450 million over the next 5 years - as part of the Queensland Resilience and Risk Reduction Program, jointly funded by the Commonwealth.

### **Delivering for the Environment**

This Budget ensures Queensland's environment is protected, restored and shared with the world. We are protecting more of what makes our state special – our priceless habitats and native wildlife.

We will deliver more protected areas in one term than the former government did in a decade and this Budget contains \$39.6 million in 2025–26 to work towards that pledge.

Since coming to government, we've added nearly 9,000 hectares to our list of National Parks and nature refuges. This is equivalent to 9,000 Suncorp Stadiums providing more protected areas for the state's endangered species, ecosystems, biodiversity and threatened flora.

This Budget will also add \$117.8 million to support natural resource management groups for habitat restoration and conservation projects.

We are also investing in 150 additional rangers, including national park, indigenous and fire rangers.

### **Delivering Visitor Experiences**

We want to share Queensland's stunning natural landscapes with the world, along with our vibrant entertainment and restaurant scene, thrilling sporting fixtures and world-class tourism offerings.

As we prepare to showcase Queensland to the world, we are providing \$446 million over 4 years towards delivering our Destination 2045 tourism plan, which will position the state's tourism sector for long-term growth leading into the 2032 Games and beyond.

This takes our total investment into tourism to more than \$1 billion over 4 years.

We are establishing new programs to create direct connections to target markets, attracting new aviation providers to improve connections to regional Queensland and the world.

Our Destination 2045 plan will facilitate 45 new ecotourism experiences by 2045, ensuring Queenslanders and visitors from interstate and overseas share in our beautiful natural landscape.

And we want all of Queensland to share in the benefits. We will deliver projects across our state – like in North West Queensland, where we will revitalise the Boodjamulla-Lawn Hill Gorge, the Whitsundays, where we will deliver a new Ngaro Track, or in the Far North, where we will deliver the Wangetti Trail.

### **Supporting the Arts**

The arts stamp Queensland's identity into Australian culture and society.

In the lead up to 2032, we will deliver a cultural program worthy of the national and international stage.

We're investing \$75.8 million in the arts in this Budget, including \$9.4 million for local festivals and events in the regions.

Our investment includes \$42 million in our state's screen industry, with new funding for key incentives that will protect jobs and promote a sector crucial to our state's economic story and ensure local stories are told.

And a further \$10 million will fund improvements and upgrades across Queensland's Cultural Centre.

### **Delivering New Industries**

Mr Speaker, the Crisafulli Government is investing in new industries central to our economic security.

Our new \$180.6 million Sovereign Industry Development fund will develop our national capability, leveraging industry strength, and growing our regions.

Across biomedicine, defence, biofuels and the tech sector – we will back new innovation and new jobs across Queensland.

### **Delivering for Multicultural Communities**

Our vibrant multicultural communities are part of what makes this state so great to live in – and we will continue to promote their story to all.

We are injecting \$5 million into the Multicultural Connect grants program to deliver upgrades for community group facilities.

We are providing a further \$1.5 million to support the Ethnic Communities Council of Queensland.

And we're working hard to establish and improve relationships abroad as the Trade Minister rebuilds bridges and confidence that will return investment to Queensland.

### **Backing Local Government and Water Infrastructure**

Delivering the best for Queensland requires a strong relationship between state and local governments.

To enhance that relationship, we've signed a new Equal Partners in Government agreement that recognises the valuable role local councils play in local communities.

And we've made the Works for Queensland program permanent, as well as putting \$130 million towards a Resource Recovery Boost Fund to support local government recycling initiatives.

### **Delivering for Small and Family Business and Open Data Investment**

Mr Speaker, the Crisafulli Government is backing Queensland small and family businesses to boost efficiency and productivity.

We understand the unique role small and family businesses play in Queensland's economy and communities.

We are reducing red tape and streamlining services for small business, with greater procurement opportunities as part of our \$130 million Small and Family Business First Action Statement.

This includes \$16.8 million over 3 years to empower small business through the Small Business Support Network with financial counselling and coaching.

We are committed to being an open and transparent government through more accessible public data and information. And we're committed to ensuring that information and our systems are protected by the best cybersecurity measures.

In this Budget we are establishing a \$1 billion Queensland Government Digital Fund which will help streamline access to government services and repair the IT systems that Labor failed to maintain.

\$25.1 million will be invested to improve the online experience for Queenslanders accessing government services.

Our government is one that works for the Queensland people, that is easy to interact with and is forward-thinking. That is what this fund delivers.

### **Delivering Social Impact**

Laying the foundation for a better society was behind our establishment of Queensland's first Office of Social Impact.

Sitting within Treasury, the OSI is working to identify impact investment opportunities and manages the Social Entrepreneurs Fund, planted with \$20 million a year across the forwards.

In a world of infinite need limited by scarce resources, the potential for collaboration between government, socially minded investors and the impacting business community to identify opportunities to access finance is vast. Already, with our clear "open for business" message we have seen the philanthropic sector commit match funding as the work on our roadmap continues.

Queenslanders are looking for new solutions that can move the dial on societal challenges and a fully realised social impact sector can help deliver change.

### **Conclusion**

Mr Speaker, we promised a calm and methodical approach to the Budget. Serious and sober. Mature and responsible.

Respect for taxpayers' money.

Delivering our election commitments.

Targeted and responsible cost of living measures to support pressured households.

Investing in services.

Finding a way to save, build and deliver infrastructure and projects.

And beginning the work of long-term budget repair.

We know this is the start of a long journey and it will take more than one Budget – and one term - to turn around.

This Budget marks an important first step.

This Budget is delivering for Queenslanders.

Mr Speaker, this Budget lays the foundation for a fresh start for Queensland.







Queensland Budget 2025–26  
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