



Queensland
Government

The opening
of the
first session
of the
fifty-eighth Parliament

Governor's speech

27 November 2024

Governor's Opening Speech – 58th Parliament Wednesday, 27 November 2024

Introduction

I begin by acknowledging the Traditional Owners of the land upon which we meet, and the lands of Queensland generally, and I pay my respects to Elders past and present.

Honourable Members, I congratulate all of you on being elected to represent the people of Queensland, in your respective electorates, in this the 58th Parliament of Queensland.

Following the state election held on Saturday the 26th of October 2024, I invited David Crisafulli to form government.

On the 28th of October, Mr Crisafulli was sworn in as the Premier and Jarrod Bleijie as the Deputy Premier, and they formed an interim Cabinet until the full Cabinet was sworn in on the 1st of November.

This Parliament

Honourable Members, on this significant occasion, I welcome back the 69 of you who have been returned to the Parliament, 22 Members who have been elected for the first time and the two Members returned to the Parliament after a hiatus.

I would especially like to welcome the newly elected Members for:

- Barron River
- Burleigh
- Caloundra
- Capalaba
- Gregory
- Hervey Bay
- Ipswich West
- Keppel
- Mackay
- Maryborough
- Mirani
- Mulgrave
- Mundingburra
- Oodgeroo
- Pumicestone
- Redcliffe
- Redlands
- Rockhampton
- Sandgate
- South Brisbane
- Thuringowa, and
- Townsville.

Whether you are an experienced Member of Parliament or are new to the role, I encourage all Members to take a moment to reflect on the magnitude of what you have achieved and what lies ahead as you serve your community and the state.

It is a great honour and privilege to serve the people of Queensland.

A great trust has been placed in you to consider the matters which will affect the present and future wellbeing of all Queenslanders.

Debates in the Parliament will at times be vigorous, with opposing views passionately held – that is the nature of democracy.

But we must always ensure dignity and respect is at the heart of what we do here.

With public office comes honour, and great responsibility.

Honourable Members, your responsibility is to ensure everything you do in this Parliament, and in your role as a Member of this Parliament, is in service of the people of Queensland.

Queensland Government priorities

My Government will be a fresh start for Queensland.

It will be a government of accountability, focussed every day on the issues that matter to Queenslanders:

- safety where you live
- health services when you need them
- respect for your money
- a place to call home; and
- a government that works for you.

Community safety

My Government will restore safety to our neighbourhoods and communities.

My Government will protect the community by addressing youth crime, diverting young lives from crime, intervening when children offend, and rehabilitating young offenders to give them hope and purpose for a better future.

My Government will strengthen the rights of victims and ensure accountability in the justice system. As promised, the Making Queensland Safer Laws will be laws by Christmas.

The Making Queensland Safer Bill will provide clearer consequences for serious offences and address community concerns about youth crime.

These laws will ensure penalties for young offenders involved in serious offences such as murder, manslaughter, robbery, and violent vehicle offences match the crime.

My Government's laws will also properly remove 'detention as a last resort' and shift the focus to the impact of the crime on victims as a primary consideration in sentencing for youth offenders.

To prevent crime, my Government will re-engage young people in education and employment to help them stay on the straight and narrow and away from crime.

My Government will intervene, providing appropriately funded intervention programs to put kids back on the right track when they show the first signs of offending.

This includes nine new Regional Reset Camps for young people who demonstrate high-risk behaviour.

To support young offenders when they are in youth detention, there will be a shift of focus to discipline and rehabilitation and mandatory participation in full time education.

The Staying on Track program will provide 12 months of support for young offenders following their release from youth detention to provide stability and support as they transition back into the community.

Victims support

Victims will be the foremost consideration under the law.

A new professional Victims Advocate Service will be established, working with Victims Assist Queensland and other support services to help guide victims of crime through the justice process.

This was a recommendation in the second report from the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce, Hear Her Voice and my Government will implement it, offering it for all victims of crime.

The new service will be a one stop shop for victim support from the start to the end of the justice process and will address any shortcomings in the system.

As part of my Government's Making our Community Safer Plan, victims of serious crime will be automatically provided with updates which relate to their case, unless they opt-out, to remove the burden of having to seek-out information.

Also under the Plan, my Government will support an expansion of frontline DV services by establishing a new Townsville-based hub, doubling the capacity of Womensline and Mensline to provide services to Queenslanders experiencing domestic, and family and sexual violence.

DFV working group

Domestic, family and sexual violence is a terrible scourge on our community that must be addressed.

A working group with victims of this violence will be established to ascertain where there are gaps in the system and to consider opportunities for future reform.

Housing

Every single Queenslanders deserves a place to call home and my Government has a comprehensive plan to end the housing crisis and to support the housing needs of Queenslanders.

The first steps toward this goal were taken in the first week of Office, with the establishment of the Housing Ministerial Taskforce Cabinet Committee.

The Housing Ministerial Taskforce Cabinet Committee is being chaired by the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations and will work to ensure all Government activities align with the goal of increasing housing supply and putting Queenslanders in homes.

My Government has started work on putting home ownership back within reach of ordinary Queenslanders, with a new Home Ownership ministry to open the door to a first home for more young people.

Queensland has the lowest home-ownership rate in the country. My Government has plans to go from last to first in the nation in 10 years.

Work is underway to abolish the transfer duty on new homes for every first home buyer and to support them further by ensuring they can rent out a room in their first year of home ownership without penalty.

A new shared equity scheme will help to close the deposit gap for 1,000 Queenslanders who don't have the savings to get into their first home.

These measures will only work if there is enough housing supply.

Queensland needs more housing supply across the state, and my Government is committed to delivering one million new homes, including 53,500 new social homes, by 2044.

This will be achieved through a suite of targeted strategies, including better planning to secure the land required and working with churches, charities, and the community housing sector to deliver up to 10,000 new social and community homes on church and charity land.

Regional plans covering every corner of the state will be delivered.

A new \$2 billion housing infrastructure investment fund will accelerate new housing developments, with \$1 billion earmarked for regional communities.

Close cooperation with local governments will support the delivery of community infrastructure and streamline housing approvals.

A landmark Queensland Timber Action Plan will be delivered to secure a sustainable timber supply to build 1 million homes across the state over the next 20 years.

As my Government works towards easing the housing pressures, the most vulnerable members of the community will be supported by boosting after-hours outreach homelessness services and delivering ten new and replaced domestic and family violence services and eight youth supported accommodation services.

Health

Like secure and affordable housing, Queenslanders deserve world class health services when they need them, no matter where they live.

My Government is permanently abolishing payroll tax for general practitioners which will save Queenslanders money when seeing a GP, support bulk billing services and protect local GP services.

The Easier Access to Health Services Plan will reduce ambulance ramping and stabilise wait lists.

My Government will make real-time hospital data publicly available, so Queenslanders can see what is happening in their local hospital.

Better and more timely data will also identify where there are pressure-points and allow us to target funding to drive resources and frontline staff to where they are needed. My Government will secure a pipeline of health workers for the future, and train and hire the clinicians needed for the next decade.

To tackle emerging mental health issues, there will be investment in more dedicated facilities.

Frontline health services will be enhanced across the regions.

Empowering local clinicians to deliver solutions for their community will help to deliver improved services.

My Government is working to rename the 'satellite hospitals' so that Queenslanders know where to go to get the health care they need.

Work has also begun to identify which sites are suitable for CT and MRI machines to be added to bolster these facilities.

And work is underway to assess current staffing levels across regional Queensland maternity services, so that high quality services can be delivered for mothers and their babies.

My Government is committed to improving the lives of First Nations people by focusing on areas that can drive change with measurable outcomes including boosting health, lifting education standards and expanding homeownership opportunities in Queensland's Indigenous communities.

Cost of living

My Government knows that cost-of-living pressures are making it hard for Queensland families to get by.

My Government will respect Queenslanders' money.

Every taxpayer dollar invested will deliver the maximum benefit for Queenslanders, with a goal to repair structural cost-of-living issues and deliver projects on time and on budget, putting an end to expensive cost overruns.

Key priorities such as reducing crime, investing in the transport system, delivering housing supply and supporting first home buyers will put downward pressure on the cost of living across the state.

Insurance premiums will be eased by getting crime under control, improving natural disaster resilience, and investing in regional roads.

The Securing Housing Foundations Plan will boost supply, easing pressure on rents and mortgages across Queensland.

Employment and jobs

My Government will invest in the future of Queensland by growing our economy and delivering more jobs.

A more productive Queensland results in a stronger economy.

Productivity will be increased across the Queensland economy.

A Bill will be brought before the Parliament to reinstate the Productivity Commission and task it with removing red tape.

Reflecting my Government's commitment to addressing challenges facing the building industry, the Productivity Commission's first priority will be to conduct a regulatory review to ensure workers are well paid, are safe, contracts are honoured, productivity is returned to job sites, and housing red-tape slowing down new builds is removed.

My Government will secure a pipeline of skilled workers for the future by delivering new TAFE Excellence Precincts and boosting training.

The Queensland Minerals and Energy Academy will be expanded to 50 additional schools, providing a pathway for jobs in the traditional sectors including coal and gas, as well as the emerging critical minerals and energy jobs of the future.

Economic security for women

My Government is committed to greater economic empowerment for women and has a plan to tackle the economic barriers currently preventing women from re-joining the workforce.

Targeted support for women returning to work after having children or doing unpaid work will be implemented, by providing \$5,000 grants for essentials to help remove barriers to work.

Through economic empowerment, opportunities for women in Queensland will be broadened and enhanced.

Support for Small Business

There will be a strong focus on growing future opportunities by backing small business and investing in innovation.

This will be achieved by making it easier for small businesses to tender for government work with simplified procurement processes, standardised contracts, smaller tenders and streamlined processes.

My Government will engage Queensland small and family businesses and their staff in opportunities through the Small and Family Business Innovation Pathway, as well as delivering a five-business day 'On Time, Every Time Payment Guarantee' for small businesses and immediate payments for invoices under \$10,000.

The Small Business Commissioner will be tasked with a renewed focus on red tape reduction and dispute management for small business, with the goal of establishing a small business concierge service to assist businesses.

Customer Services

Customer services stretch across every arm of government and the new Customer Service and Open Data portfolios will deliver Australia's most customer focused government.

The new Department of Customer Services, Open Data and Small and Family Business will deliver a fresh approach to accessing services and doing business with government.

Energy and Climate/Environment

My Government has already acted to take Queensland forward with a new approach to energy and emissions reduction.

This approach puts new emphasis on the reliability and affordability of our energy supply.

Queensland Hydro has been directed to cease work on the Pioneer-Burdekin pumped hydro project to take a \$36 billion funding requirement off the shoulders of Queensland's taxpayers and electricity consumers.

And the Electricity Maintenance Guarantee will introduce full transparency and accountability of maintenance requests to the Shareholding Ministers of Queensland's government-owned power plants.

It is important that these assets are operated responsibly because they need to be available to provide reliable baseload power while the energy system shifts to renewables.

Space will be created for private sector investment, including in smaller pumped hydro sites.

My Government will support Queenslanders to take control of their energy needs, such as providing grants so that renters have solar options.

These are households which, up until now, may have been left out of Queensland's solar boom.

Natural Resources

My Government has already delivered its commitment to establish a Resources Cabinet Committee, to provide a coordinated approach to ensuring a strong resources sector that also strengthens Queensland and its communities.

The committee provides a dedicated forum for considering policies and initiatives to maintain and improve the competitiveness of Queensland's resources sector and the value of its supply chain.

My Government has committed \$117.84 million of funding to expand the Natural Resource Management Program across Queensland.

The expanded program will support local organisations with deep knowledge and experience in their region to take critical roles in delivering practical outcomes for local communities and our natural environment.

The funding will also contribute to strengthening the resilience of vulnerable communities in Far North Queensland to empower the delivery of on-the-ground solutions to local environmental challenges.

Water

Water security for all Queenslanders will be strengthened, including a plan for building dams and weirs and a review of all 23 water plans that cover the State.

More clean water infrastructure will be delivered for Queensland's Indigenous communities.

Rural and Regional Development

To deliver a prosperous future for regional communities my Government will deliver plans for every Queensland region to identify the infrastructure and services requirements to accommodate growth.

The footprint of manufacturing hubs will be expanded in regional Queensland and an additional \$5 million per year will be provided to the sector through the Made in Queensland Grants Program.

Train manufacturing will be strengthened on the Fraser Coast.

Primary Industries

Primary industries are the lifeblood of many regional communities, and my Government will back Queensland's farmers to help agribusinesses thrive.

An extra \$50 million will be invested over the next four years and an additional 100 frontline staff will be employed at regional Department of Primary Industries centres.

New stock inspectors, vets, agronomists and AgTech specialists will bolster the support the public service provides to our primary industries.

With industry and university partners, the \$30 million Sowing the Seeds of Farming Innovation Fund will boost Queensland's farm gate output to \$30 billion by 2030.

Beef Week means so much to the lives of so many rural and regional communities, and to the Rockhampton and Central Queensland economies, and \$4.5 million will be provided for the next Beef Week event in 2027.

Local Government

Local governments are key partners for my Government, especially in the regions.

Local governments, their Mayors and Councillors are integral in creating and supporting thriving communities, and my Government will work in partnership with local governments to address the housing crisis by resetting the planning partnership with local government.

My Government will provide funding certainty by making *Works for Queensland* a permanent program, providing more than \$100 million a year to support local projects and local jobs delivered by local councils.

A new Memorandum of Understanding with the Local Government Association of Queensland will ensure there is equal standing between the state and local governments, respect for councillors, Key Performance Indicators for Infrastructure, a dedicated First Nations Forum, and reduction in red tape.

Tourism

Local governments and communities across the state are at the heart of Queensland's tourism experiences.

My Government's 20-year Tourism Plan will ensure Queensland is ready to harness the tourism opportunities from the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games and beyond.

A Tourism Cabinet Committee has been established to support the agenda for this important sector.

There will be a focus on bringing environmental tourism to the forefront, showcasing Queensland's wonderful natural assets to millions of households around the world.

Transport

My Government will ensure Queensland has a world-class transport system with improved public transport services, roads and waterways – for locals and visitors.

To ensure transparency of the cost of major infrastructure projects, within its first 100 days my Government will disclose the real cost of Cross River Rail, and will advise when it will be completed.

A long-term upgrade plan will be provided to bring the Bruce Highway up to safety standards, and the Bruce Highway Advisory Council will be re-established.

My Government will hold the Federal Government accountable for the long-standing 80/20 funding contribution for our national highway.

The Olympic and Paralympic games will be used as the catalyst to develop and expand transformative transport projects across Queensland by 2032.

In addition, \$400 million will be provided for a Caloundra Congestion Busting Plan.

There will be a review of the proposed stage four extension of the Gold Coast Light Rail project to Gold Coast airport, including considering alternative routes and modes of transport.

My Government will also be making Disability Parking Permits free, allowing families to apply for permits for multiple vehicles within the one family at no cost.

Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games

The greatest tourism drawcard over the next decade will of course be the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

My Government will ensure Queensland will benefit from the legacy of hosting the Olympic and Paralympic Games for decades into the future.

It is important to facilitate the best possible plans and infrastructure because the event will be a showcase for the state around the world.

This is why my Government will establish an independent infrastructure coordination authority which will be tasked with reviewing and mapping out the infrastructure and transport needs for Queensland for the Games and report to government in 100 days.

To further ensure all Queenslanders benefit from the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, my Government will deliver the \$250 million *Games On!* Program - a community Olympic and Paralympic legacy fund that will provide new and upgraded community sports infrastructure across Queensland.

Safer children

As we look to the legacy of 2032, my Government will also look to our children.

My Government is committed to protecting Queensland's most vulnerable children and ensuring that every child and young person – regardless of whether they live with their families or are in out of home care – has the tools and opportunities for a brighter future.

The Safer Children, Safer Communities plan outlines my Government's vision.

A focus for my Government will be repairing the residential care system, so that children and young people are safe and cared for, are attending school and extracurricular activities, and have access to employment and training pathways.

A new dual-carer model for residential care will be delivered, so that by 2030, every single residential care home or facility will always be staffed by two residential care workers.

The Queensland Family and Child Commission will be asked to undertake a full, independent inquiry into the child protection system in Queensland, so our children can be better protected.

The inquiry will investigate current gaps in the system which may be allowing perpetrators to continue offending and will deliver recommendations for the necessary reforms needed to keep children safer in our communities.

Support for teachers

Our teaching workforce is key to supporting our children through the education system.

My Government will empower our teachers to do what they do best by reducing their administrative workloads so they can focus on the basics.

Teachers will be given the time to respond to students' individual needs so that all Queensland students can reach their full potential.

This will help the teaching staff and ensure students are engaged with their education from prep to Year 12 and beyond.

Our teachers will also be empowered to ensure that behaviour in Queensland classrooms meets acceptable standards, and that there is a zero tolerance taken to bullying.

Conclusion

Honourable Members, in 1893 Queen Victoria granted the Queensland Coat of Arms to the Colony of Queensland.

They are the oldest State Arms in Australia and were the first Arms assigned to a British colony since Charles the Second granted Jamaica its Arms in 1661.

The Queensland Coat of Arms carries the state motto – Audax at Fidelis (**pron:** or-dacks at fi-dell-iss), meaning 'Bold but Faithful'.

This motto is as relevant today as it was then.

My Government will boldly deliver a fresh start for Queensland.

And my Government will faithfully serve every single Queenslander across Australia's most decentralised state, from the most rural and remote communities to the towns and cities.

I trust that Honourable Members will adhere to the Queensland state motto in this 58th Parliament, and I wish you all well with your duties serving the people of Queensland.

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