

# COMMUNITY NEWS



## BUSHKIDS CELEBRATES 90YRS

Congratulations to Toowong-based BUSHkids on 90 years of delivering health and wellbeing support to rural, regional and remote communities! From humble beginnings in outback Queensland, BUSHkids now supports nearly 9,000 children, delivering 500 weekly sessions to over 30 communities last year.



## CELEBRATING NAIDOC

It was a pleasure to join thousands of people for the 31st Musgrave Park Family Fun Day, the largest celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture in Brisbane. This event was started by Aunty Joan Collins to preserve and showcase the essence of her culture.

## STREET CARE

Looking for a way to help people sleeping rough on our streets? Street Care is a local volunteer organisation providing clothing, food and toiletries to people who need it. Volunteers pack hampers with fresh produce, proteins and snacks – plus hot coffee and warm conversation for people sleeping rough.

## MAIWARRIORS YOUTH GRANTS NOW AVAILABLE!

My youth grants program provides up to \$500 to help school-aged kids fund social justice and environmental projects.

[michaelberkman.com.au/maiwarriors](http://michaelberkman.com.au/maiwarriors)



## HELMETS FOR LOCAL KIDS

Local kids living in crisis housing were excited to receive new helmets from our office in July. After concerns were raised with police about the safety of kids riding without helmets, I worked with the police to buy helmets for families who didn't have them, instead of imposing unnecessary penalties.



## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR MAY COMMUNITY GRANT RECIPIENTS!

Every year I provide grants of up to \$1,500 to support community projects in Maiwar. Congratulations to all of our May grant recipients; the Brisbane German Language School, Brymore Productions, Montessori Children's House, St Lucia Playgroup, St Lucia Community Garden, UQ Sri Lankan Association, UQ Sustainable Innovators Club and the Vera St Community Garden.



St Lucia Playgroup  
Grant for new toys and supplies



Montessori Children's House  
Grant for safety repairs and new seating



Brisbane German Language School  
Funding for traditional lantern making festival and parade

## CATCH UP WITH ME

I'd love to see you at one of the upcoming events I'm hosting!

**EVERY WED**  
Free community meals  
From 5pm  
Guyatt Park, St Lucia  
Meet your neighbours, enjoy a free dinner & skip the washing up!

**SATURDAY 22 NOV**  
People's Olympics Summit  
Location TBC - save the date!

**THURSDAY 27 NOV**  
Indooroopilly Pop-Up Office  
5-7pm  
Indooroopilly Shopping Centre (near Coles/Indooroopilly Fruit)

**SATURDAY 13 DEC**  
Xmas Family Fun Day  
2-6pm  
Taringa Playground Park

Get more info and RSVP here  
[michaelberkman.com.au/events](http://michaelberkman.com.au/events)

To get local event updates, follow my Facebook page or sign up at:  
[MICHAELBERKMAN.COM.AU/GET\\_UPDATES](http://MICHAELBERKMAN.COM.AU/GET_UPDATES)

**OFFICE CLOSURE**  
My office in Indooroopilly will be closed for renovations until 15 December, but you can still contact me via phone or email.

**NEW COMMUNITY PANTRY**  
We're excited to launch our new Community Pantry, in my office, offering free food support for anyone who needs it! It's as simple as take what you need, give what you can.



**CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY DINNER**  
5-7pm  
WEDNESDAY 3 DEC  
Join us for our special Community Christmas Dinner in Guyatt Park. Free food, festive cheer, and fun for the whole family – with a chance Santa might stop by! Everyone's welcome.



## HOW I CAN HELP

- I am your representative in State Parliament, and I work for you. My office can help you with:
- ▶ Advocacy or support with government services or housing
  - ▶ Printing newsletters, flyers and posters
  - ▶ Free meeting room & event equipment (PA system, marquees, BBQ, projector, tables)
  - ▶ Small grants for community projects
  - ▶ Raffle prizes or sponsorship for schools & community groups

迈克尔是您当地的议会成员同样也是Maiwar在昆士兰州议会的声音。迈克尔的工作是为您效劳。迈克尔和他的团队将竭力帮助您向州政府不同部门、住房、交通和发展等当地问题进行宣传，同时迈克尔也将支持您的社区活动。翻译可以安排。

Michael은 주의회 에서 귀하의 지역 위원 의 발의자 마인 의 권한을 위 해 일하는 것 입니다. Michael의 일 는 귀하의 일 을 도와 주는 것 입니다. Michael과 그의 팀 은 귀하에 관한 정부 개입 과 같은 지역 문제를 해결하거나 문화를 위해 지원하는 것을 위하여 지원 하는 것

Soy tu representante local, y la voz de Maiwar en el parlamento estatal. Mi responsabilidad es trabajar para ti. Mi equipo y yo te podemos ayudar con trámites frente a departamentos del estado de Queensland, vivienda, asuntos locales incluyendo transporte, y apoyo a iniciativas comunitarias. Puedes acceder a un intérprete gratuito si prefieres.

Michael adalah anggota parlemen local anda dan merupakan suara atau perwakilan Maiwar di Parlemen Queensland. Adalah tugas Michael bekerja untuk anda. Michael bersama timnya bisa membantu anda dengan pembelaan kepada departemen, yang berhubungan dengan perumahan masalah-masalah lokal seperti lalu lintas dan pengembangan atau dukungan dan inisiatif bekerja untuk / komunitas. Penerjemah bisa di atur jika di butuhkan.

SPRING 2025



# MAIWAR MATTERS

NEWS FROM YOUR STATE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT  
**MICHAEL BERKMAN MP**



Dear neighbour,

I want to start this local newsletter by thanking everyone who has donated food to our free food pantry, or volunteered to cook for our weekly community meals at Guyatt Park. We've had a lot of people looking for help with food or housing, many of whom have been forced out of their homes. I feel so grateful to live in a neighbourhood full of kind and proactive people who are stepping up to help.

At times like this, it's frustrating to see the government focused on all the wrong priorities, while our housing and health system is in crisis. The recent closure of the Toowong Private Hospital, one of the few specialist mental health facilities in our area, is just one devastating example. Our mental health system is stretched to the limit, but despite pleas from me and the community, the LNP's new Health Minister has refused to step in and save the hospital.

**In this newsletter I've included some stories of locals impacted by these decisions, as well as news on the significant new development proposed at Toowong Central, and a breakdown of the Queensland State Budget and what's in it for our community.** Spoiler: a lot of it is disappointing for our local schools and housing affordability, but there are better solutions to fight for (ditching secret deals with coal giants like Adani and making them pay their fair share would be a good start).

As your local representative in parliament I'm always keen to help in any way I can, so please reach out if you need some advice or support. **A heads up: my Indooroopilly office will be closed for renovations until late December**, but my staff will still be available to assist via phone or email. I'd also love to see you for a chat out in the community, perhaps at our Christmas community meal, family fun day, or one of my upcoming pop-up offices (see the back for details).

Yours in hope,

*Michael*  
**MICHAEL BERKMAN**  
Greens State MP for Maiwar

P.S. I only send these hard-copy newsletters twice a year to minimise waste, but you can subscribe to my monthly local e-newsletter here [michaelberkman.com.au/get\\_updates](http://michaelberkman.com.au/get_updates)



- ### What's inside?
- ✔ Qld State Budget Review
  - ✔ Toowong Private Hospital Closure
  - ✔ Major Proposal for Toowong Central
  - ✔ Olympics – Have Your Say
  - ✔ New Community Pantry
  - ✔ Local News + Events



A huge THANK YOU to the wonderful volunteers who cook for our free community dinners, every Wednesday at Guyatt Park!

## GET IN TOUCH!

☎ 07 3737 4100  
✉ [maiwar@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:maiwar@parliament.qld.gov.au)  
📱 [michaelberkmanmp](https://www.facebook.com/michaelberkmanmp)  
📍 1/49 Station Road, Indooroopilly  
[michaelberkman.com.au](http://michaelberkman.com.au)

# WEST SIDE NEWS



## LOCAL SCHOOLS EXPANDING

Public consultation has now closed on the plans for new classrooms at Toowong State School and new buildings at Indooroopilly State High School. Our schools are stretched to capacity, and these proposals are a positive first step. I've been consulting with our schools and residents on what you'd like to see included, and I'm hopeful that our strong community pressure will see a good outcome. If you'd like to see the final plans when they're released, sign up for my monthly email newsletter at:

[MICHAELBERKMAN.COM.AU/GET\\_UPDATES](http://MICHAELBERKMAN.COM.AU/GET_UPDATES)

## TOOWONG CENTRAL PROPOSAL

There's a new proposal for the old Woolworths site, which has been vacant for years. They're planning three high-rise apartment towers, but zero affordable housing. Toowong is growing, and building at this well-connected site makes sense. But we don't need to accept a bad first offer. **I'm calling for any approval over the height limit to require 25% public or affordable housing.**

There's also no sign of the new park required by the neighbourhood plan. Instead they're calling a concrete plaza an "alternative park outcome". Over 80% of the "green space" is private resident gardens, green walls or balconies.



[MICHAELBERKMAN.COM.AU/TOOWONGCENTRAL](http://MICHAELBERKMAN.COM.AU/TOOWONGCENTRAL)

Get notified when public comment opens

## SHOCK CLOSURE OF TOOWONG PRIVATE HOSPITAL

Our community has been shocked by the sudden closure of Toowong Private Hospital, a 58-bed specialist mental health service that has been operating since 1976. **Why did the hospital close?** The costs of treatment have skyrocketed, yet private health insurers won't increase their payouts, leading to mounting debt. Healthscope's 37 hospitals and more than 70 smaller operations nationally have collapsed since 2020.

**I've been pushing the state government to step in to acquire the hospital,** and there is precedent for this. But so far the Crisafulli Government has refused to save this hospital, let alone deal with the chronic underfunding of our public mental health system.

If you're concerned about the devastating impact of the hospital's closure, I encourage you to contact the Minister for Health Tim Nicholls MP at [health@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:health@ministerial.qld.gov.au)



Patients and community protesting the closure (June 2025)

### Elle's story

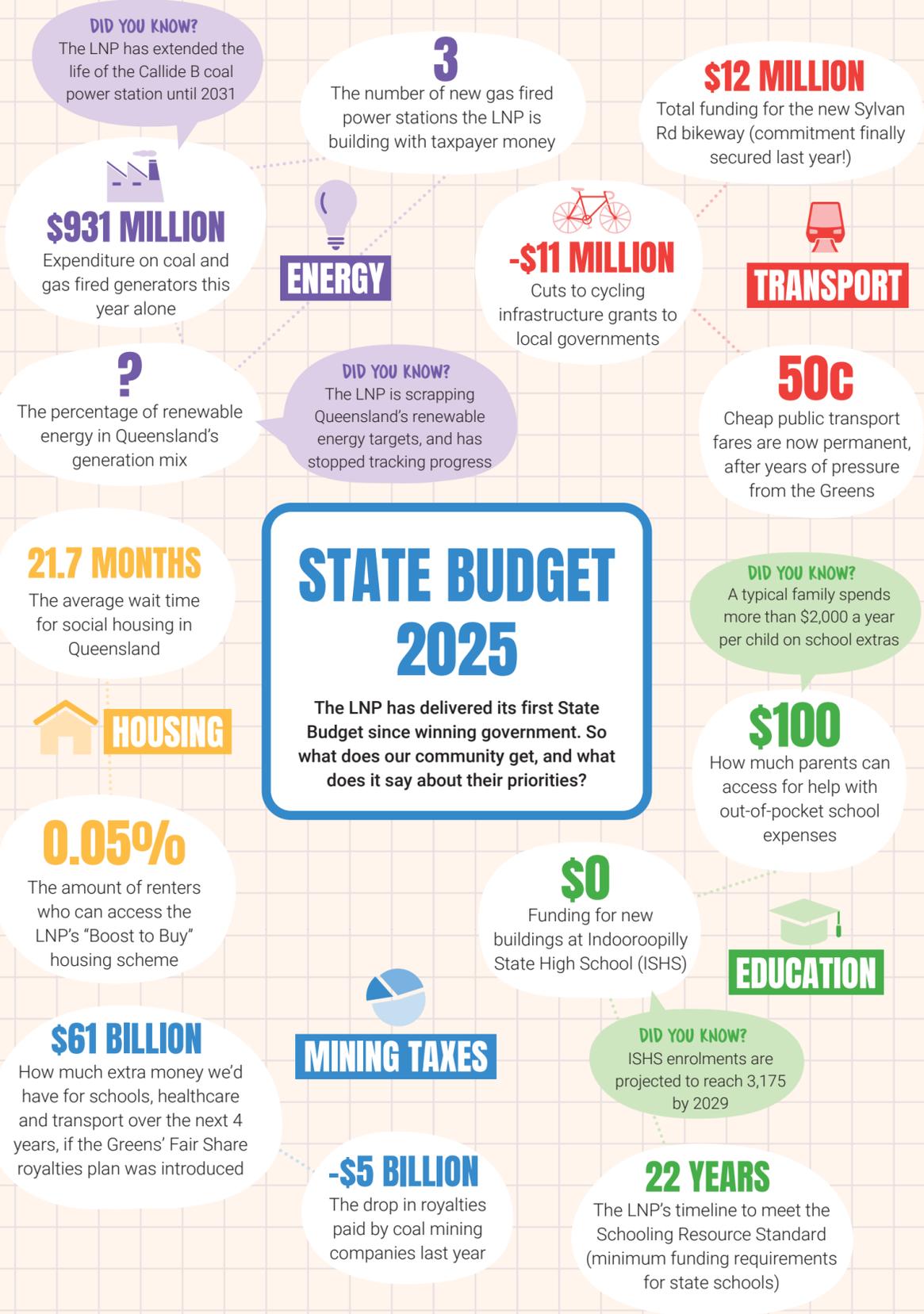
"My life would most certainly have ended over a decade ago if not for the treatment I received at a time when I had completely given up hope... The government can choose to act on the warning signs now and step in to save lives, or it can wait on the sidelines for the next news article where important figures can sadly shake their heads and announce "if only we had known".

- Elle, Taringa



# STATE BUDGET 2025

The LNP has delivered its first State Budget since winning government. So what does our community get, and what does it say about their priorities?



## WHAT WOULD A BETTER BUDGET LOOK LIKE?

Budgets are about choices and priorities, and with pressure we can get Labor and the LNP to make better choices. We've done it before, getting the previous government to make mining companies pay more in royalties, and provide (almost) free public transport with 50c fares.

INSTEAD OF	INSTEAD OF	INSTEAD OF
Billions of dollars to build and expand youth prisons	\$400 million to extend the Callide coal-fired power station operations	Letting mining companies like Adani avoid paying royalties
WE COULD	WE COULD	WE COULD
Close the funding gap for Queensland's state schools	Establish a new fund to provide finance and technical support for community owned renewable energy projects	Use the royalties to build 200 new public health clinics with free GPs and psychology

## A BETTER DEAL FROM THE OLYMPICS

The Budget includes \$3.8 billion in State Government funding for 2032 Olympics venues. Added to \$3.5 billion from the Federal Government, it's clear there's money to spend. Brisbane locals were never asked if we wanted to host the Olympics, but if our taxpayer dollars are being used we should get a say on how they spend it. **I believe the huge investment in the Olympics should be used to benefit our local community.**

**DID YOU KNOW?**

The LNP's plan to build a new Olympic stadium at Victoria Park (Barrambin) breaches Brisbane's host city contract, which prohibits permanent construction in statutory nature areas and cultural protected areas. I asked the Minister why they were prepared to violate the contract - he claimed they "have" to do it.

**A BETTER DEAL FROM THE OLYMPICS COULD MEAN-**

- A major investment in public transport** - like new train connections, more busways and high-frequency services (especially on the west side, which has been totally neglected by the Metro) and returning the AirTrain to public hands (it should be 50c too!)
- Local facilities we can all use** - like new public pools and parks
- Negotiating a better deal from housing developers** seeking to profit from the Olympics - like a mandatory minimum allocation of social housing
- Making it possible for locals to enjoy the Olympics** - without the huge ticket price

**I WANT TO HEAR YOUR IDEAS!**

What do you think Brisbane deserves to get out of the Olympics?

Take the survey

[michaelberkman.com.au/olympicssurvey](http://michaelberkman.com.au/olympicssurvey)

