



Speech By  
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**MEMBER FOR MOGGILL**

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## **APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL**

### **APPROPRIATION BILL**

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (3.18 pm): I rise to address the appropriation bills for 2021-22. The Palaszczuk state Labor government's budget for 2021-22 is a budget that is deep in deception and one that is full of trickery. Labor's budget relies on what can only be described as some very ambitious assumptions, not to mention dubious accounting. Important fiscal principles have been abandoned by the current Labor Treasurer, the member for Woodridge. Further, Labor's current Treasurer has exhibited perhaps the best example of 'Labornomics' that our state has ever seen after accepting that the state Titles Registry could now be valued at nearly \$8 billion, which is almost double what it was valued at a year ago, not to mention the fact that the Labor government appeared to indicate that it was worth \$4.2 billion just two weeks ago.

Only Labor could deliver a state budget in which there are building and investment funds without funding. There is a so-called \$2 billion Hospitals Building Fund, a \$1 billion Housing Investment Fund, a \$300 million Path to Treaty Fund and a \$500 million Carbon Reduction Investment Fund. All of these are announced as so-called funds and yet not a single dollar has been allocated by Labor in this state budget. After more than six years, the Palaszczuk state Labor government has failed to learn any lessons from its own economic mismanagement and incompetence as the state budget for 2021-22 has revealed yet again. This year's state budget continues the long tradition of 'Labornomics' under this state Labor government—that is, using voodoo economics coupled with the blatant attempt of smoke and mirrors as a means of distracting Queenslanders from years of Labor's gross economic failings and trying to pretend that Labor has a sound economic plan.

Despite the tricks and despite the spin, the Liberal National Party does not forget and, as with every previous Labor state government and the current Labor budget that has been handed down this week, the Liberal National Party will continue to remind all Queenslanders of Labor's track record of failing to deliver and the Liberal National Party will again show that Labor cannot be trusted to manage our finances and our economy. Under Labor, transparency and accountability with Queensland's budgetary processes have been sorely lacking, and that is why the Liberal National Party has announced our plan to introduce a new Parliamentary Budget Office to provide independent budget costings available to all parties. I join with the Leader of the Opposition and call on the state Labor government to implement this office before the next election.

Labor's track record with Queensland state budgets has seen \$3.4 billion raided from the entitlements of Queensland public servants and billions of dollars withheld from public servant superannuation. It is a track record that shamefully now means that Queensland's defined benefit fund for our public servants is in fact technically insolvent. Labor's track record is also one which includes the loading of billions of dollars of debt onto our state's government owned corporations and power companies to the point that they have now been placed in financial jeopardy given the sheer weight of debt that has been loaded onto them by the state Labor government

The Palaszczuk state Labor government's track record can best be described as one of constant failure and missed opportunities. Sadly, with Labor's 2021-22 state budget, the missed opportunities for our state of Queensland will be felt nowhere more harshly than in my own electorate of Moggill and across the western suburbs of Brisbane.

**Mr Nicholls:** Clayfield.

**Dr ROWAN:** I take the interjection from the member for Clayfield; they will also be felt in the state seat of Clayfield. In the lead-up to this year's state budget, just as I have continued to do so since I was first elected as the local state member for Moggill, I have made it absolutely clear that the Palaszczuk state Labor government must deliver the critical infrastructure and services that residents of the electorate of Moggill deserve. Despite my voluminous correspondence to Labor state ministers and their departments, various meetings as well as countless speeches and questions in the Queensland parliament, the Labor state government has failed to act.

The many services and key infrastructure requirements for my local community that Labor has failed to deliver include an integrated road and public transport plan with funded solutions to ease traffic congestion and improve public and active transport services. Labor has failed to provide an extension of the 444 bus service to the Moggill District Sports Park and Labor has failed to increase public transport service timetables and extend public transport routes to service residents of Anstead, Karana Downs and Mount Crosby. Labor has failed again to fund a new school hall at Kenmore State High School as well as other key capital projects for this important high school. Labor has abandoned families in Karana Downs, Mount Crosby, Karalee and surrounding suburbs by failing to deliver a desperately needed new high school. Labor has again failed to fully fund school infrastructure for every local state school in the electorate of Moggill according to their school strategic infrastructure plans. Specifically at Chapel Hill State School, four additional classrooms are needed at the beginning of 2022 and the school also has multiple demountable classrooms that need a long-term and permanent solution.

Local community organisations have again been let down by this Labor government after Labor failed to provide a new community and neighbourhood centre to support the vital work of local community and not-for-profit organisations including the Kenmore Bridge Club, Shed West Community Men's Shed and eWaste Connection. Residents will have to wait even longer for enhanced footpath and pedestrian infrastructure along Moggill Road and Mount Crosby Road, including key pedestrian travel points through Pullenvale, Pinjarra Hills, Mount Crosby, and a dedicated footpath to the Moggill District Sports Park, with no specific funding allocated by the Palaszczuk state Labor government.

Similarly, despite constant pleas and even petitioning from local residents, Labor will not increase the vegetation maintenance schedule to ensure overgrown weeds and other debris is removed and that these state roads are maintained to a high standard in order to eliminate serious safety and visibility concerns. Sadly, there is no dedicated new funding for local environment and creek catchment groups to support the ongoing and vitally important efforts to preserve, maintain and rehabilitate our local environment and creek catchments, including for the Moggill Creek Catchment Group, Pullen Pullen Catchments Group, The Hut Environmental & Community Association, Cubberla-Witton Catchments Network and the Rural Environmental Planning Association.

The electorate of Moggill and the western suburbs of Brisbane have quite literally been left off the map. In both Labor's online map and in Labor's glossy brochures, when local residents look at the Palaszczuk state Labor government's regional action plan for Brisbane, they see not one budget highlight or action item for a single suburb in the electorate of Moggill that will improve our roads and public transport, enhance our schools or invest in our important community groups, such is the disdain that this state Labor government has for our local community. With the one and only traffic and transport item that is listed for the greater western suburbs of Brisbane, the upgrade of the Centenary Highway bridge, Labor has now pushed back vital funding into future years and I note how disappointed the RACQ was with this sleight of hand, not to mention the fact that there is no new funding for the Centenary Highway and Western Freeway from Darra through to Toowong. I table a copy of that map for the benefit of the House which clearly shows this lack of infrastructure spending.

*Tabled paper:* Map, undated, titled 'Queensland Budget: Regional Action Plans Map' depicting the Moggill electorate [898](#).

Just as the Palaszczuk state Labor government is content with providing nothing for local residents in the electorate of Moggill, it is similarly more than happy to impose a new wheelie bin tax of at least \$88 on every single household. Local residents simply cannot trust Labor and local residents simply cannot afford Labor.

As the Liberal National Party's shadow minister for education, I now wish to turn to the \$15.3 billion in funding that has been allocated in the 2021-22 Queensland state budget for education in Queensland. The Palaszczuk state Labor government wants Queenslanders to believe that it should be given credit for handing down a 'record education budget'. Labor is seeking accolades for merely

doing its job. With an increasing population, coupled with substantial failings by Labor in delivering a world-class education system that all Queenslanders deserve, a significant spend on education is entirely needed to fix Labor's ongoing neglect of our state schools and associated school infrastructure. Even before this week's state budget, the last six months alone has been nothing short of a disgrace when it comes to the service delivery of education and school infrastructure in Queensland by the state Labor government.

Our hardworking and dedicated principals, teachers and staff at state schools across Queensland are entrusted with ensuring the education of our youngest Queenslanders, yet under the Palaszczuk state Labor government many of our principals and teachers are forced to endure workplaces that are harmful, unsafe and detrimental to their own health and wellbeing, and this is something I have heard from representatives of the Queensland Teachers' Union and the Teachers Professional Association of Queensland. It is simply a fact that, when it comes to the provision of education in Queensland, Labor cannot get the basics right. Critical and fundamental existing infrastructure has been neglected for far too long under Labor. It is an absolute fundamental human right and basic expectation that students and staff in our state schools be provided access to clean and functioning bathroom facilities. What is more, it should not have taken the advocacy of important groups like the Isolated Children's Parents' Association to highlight the absurd situation of private companies being used to literally truck in clean and usable drinking water for students and staff in our school communities in rural and regional Queensland.

I note that the Palaszczuk state Labor government is desperately trying to convince Queenslanders and Queensland families that it is genuine about early childhood education, but those on the front line know that this is not the case. I have been in constant contact with our early childhood education sector, and it is disappointed. It is disappointed because, despite the glossy brochures, despite the media releases and despite the spin, what it has seen from this state budget is nothing new by way of additional funding and certainly there is nothing in this budget that is comprehensive or targeted to address critical workforce issues in this sector. This is once again another missed opportunity. It is a missed opportunity because, if Labor were serious about early childhood education, it would genuinely work to improve the quality and number of early childhood educators. But Labor just does not care and, worse still, it just does not understand this.

More broadly, we have seen the educational outcomes of students directly jeopardised with significant evidence that the Palaszczuk state Labor government has failed to deliver on its own commitments to improve teacher readiness in STEM subjects and provide crucial support to principals and teachers in STEM development. It is a hallmark of the Palaszczuk state Labor government and the current Labor Minister for Education to not be open, transparent and accountable with the parents, teachers and staff of our school communities in Queensland. Again, the last six months alone since the 2020-21 Labor budget has seen a litany of failings from the Labor government. We had 24,000 year 12 students incorrectly advised that they were not eligible for an ATAR score, with the minister going into hiding and taking no responsibility. Without warning, Labor scrapped the year 12 outcomes reports, a crucial resource for schools, parents and staff and for further policy development and sound educational decision-making in Queensland. Queensland parents and state school communities have continued to grapple with school catchment allocations that are bursting at the seams and applied inconsistently.

Similarly, schools in Queensland have had to cope with Labor's botched rollout of its air-conditioning program. With just 12 months to go to complete this rollout, the Liberal National Party will be watching to ensure that every single school receives its air conditioning on time and on budget. There are also significant public health safety matters related to the potential exposure and management of asbestos in our state schools. In the western suburbs of Brisbane, Labor's consultation and implementation of a proposed new Brisbane inner-west state primary school has been shambolic at best, with a location seemingly hand-picked before any consultation with the local community and a consultation process that has had to be extended simply because Labor cannot get the basics right.

I would like to take time to address Labor's allocation of funding for the health portfolio. Despite boasting of another record health budget, a simple reading of Labor's budget papers reveal that nothing meaningful will be done to fix the state Labor government's health crisis. We continue to see code yellows across our public hospitals, we have 40 per cent of ambulances in Queensland being ramped, and 55,000 Queenslanders are sitting on the elective surgery waitlist, with a further 220,000 Queenslanders sitting on waiting lists to get on the waitlist.

**Government members** interjected.

**Dr ROWAN:** I hear those members opposite interjecting. I know that they are disappointed with their own track record when it comes to health here in Queensland. Local residents continue to share with me their terrible experiences of Labor's management of Queensland Health. It is not just patients

who are regularly calling and contacting me about the perilous state of our public hospital system under Labor. Each and every week I have frontline health professionals contacting me, including medical specialists, general practitioners, visiting medical officers, registrars, resident medical officers, nurses, allied health professionals and ambulance officers about the problematic issues they are experiencing. In a few weeks it will be AMA Queensland's past presidents meeting. There is also the upcoming annual Rural Doctors Association of Queensland Conference at which former presidents of this association will also be present. One of the main topics will be the complete and utter lack of confidence that health and medical specialists have in the ability of the Palaszczuk state Labor government to manage and provide a well-functioning health and public hospital system.

**Mr Harper** interjected.

**Dr ROWAN:** I hear the member for Thuringowa interjecting. He knows that his former colleagues in the Ambulance Service are very unhappy with the performance of the Palaszczuk state Labor government.

In my remaining time I would like to address the arts portfolio. As the Liberal National Party's shadow minister for the arts I note the Palaszczuk state Labor government's announcement of \$90 million in allocated funding for the arts sector. I note the inclusion of \$7 million in funding to support the sustainability of Queensland's live music venues. I must say that on this front the state Labor government has been found absolutely wanting when it comes to supporting these venues and operators when they needed it the most over the last 12 months. We know what a debacle Labor's management of the NightQuarter on the Sunshine Coast has been. The LNP's member for Kawana, who I acknowledge here in the chamber, outlined all of the relevant circumstances earlier and Labor's complete debacle in managing that circumstance and also supporting our live music sector here in Queensland.

In conclusion, Labor has recklessly abandoned local residents of the electorate of Moggill and the western suburbs of Brisbane. Local residents of the electorate of Moggill deserve better than this current Palaszczuk state Labor government.