



**Jon KRAUSE MP**

Member for Scenic Rim

**Tabled Document: Written Addendum to Budget Reply Speech for Labor's \$28 billion "Broken Promise" 2020-21 Budget**

**4 December 2020**

Tabled by: MR KRAUSE MP  
At: LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER  
Time/date: 1:40 15/12/20  
Signature: [Signature]

There are many issues that time limits in the Parliament during the debate on the 2020-21 budget did not permit me to address, but they are no less important, especially with so much debt been incurred – debt that our grandchildren will likely still be paying for in the future as this Labor Government borrows tomorrow's future to pay for spending today. It is disappointing that with so much new debt, there is so little in the way of investment in the roads, infrastructure, and other services our region needs.

- Beaudesert Kingfishers Rugby League need upgrades to their facilities, especially to cater for the strong growth in female participation, but also just to deal with growth for the club overall. They have had grant applications in for a very long time – Government should get on with it and commit the funds or let them know they need to re-do the process under another initiative. They should be given money, but get them out of limbo either way.
- Public Transport is required for Tamborine Mountain, noting there was a petition signed by hundreds in 2018 and a very comprehensive submission from Tamborine Mountain Rotarians in recent months in support of public transport. It is inequitable that similar or smaller sized communities in the



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Sunshine Coast Hinterland have bus services, but Tamborine Mountain does not. We also need to see more direct to City/Beaunesert services during the week, and weekend services, to and from Beaunesert.

There are unmet transport needs around Boonah and the Fassifern, especially for young, training, those with medical needs and those without work. I thank those in that community who have been advocating for better options, and will continue to lobby government to come up with solutions for those sectors of the community that need it.

- Harrisville SS flashing school zone lights: these are an important safety feature arounds schools, and I have been lobbying for these to be installed since 2017. Still they have not been installed. For such a small outlay, the safety of our children can be improved and the Government should just get on with it.
- I note the budget refers to funding for guardrails on Boonah Beaunesert Road. This road needs an overtaking lane to make the road more efficient for heavy vehicles, tourist traffic and agricultural/equine traffic. It is not a large amount of money when it is considered that there is \$28 billion in extra debt being added to the State. Further, TMR should get funding to undertake proper assessment of costs and design for upgrading the Coulson crossing of the Teviot Brook, which floods and cuts the region in two even after moderate rain events.

Lighting for our bushland



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- The grounds at Long Road, Tamborine Mountain, run by TMSA have enormous potential. During the election, the LNP made a commitment to provide funding to help them advance their masterplan to make this venue a regional asset. The Government should recognise this potential, work with TMSA and support their community-driven plans with a grant to help get these plans going.
- Canungra has again run out of water this November. Seqwater was again trucking water into the town. This is not a long-term solution. Before the amalgamation of shires in 2007, Beaudesert Shire Council had worked up a plan to secure water for Canungra, but since Council lost control of their water assets, Seqwater has done nothing to advance these plans. It should get on to this immediately. The Government should also take steps to halt the approval of new residential zones in Canungra – there has been too much housing approved, with too little infrastructure build (both water and road). For this, the State Government and Council jointly shoulder the blame – the State for allowing it, the Council for not pushing back hard enough against State planning documents that allow housing to proceed.
- I acknowledge the budget's reference to some funding to improve infrastructure at Moogerah Dam in relation to the campgrounds at Muller Park. It is welcome, but what is not welcome is the fact that Seqwater and the Council have overseen a massive slashing of campsites able to be utilised at Muller Park. What's the point of expensive upgrades, if there

*Lighting for your business*



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are three times fewer campers allowed to visit? It just doesn't make sense when once considers Moogerah Dam is the single biggest tourism attraction in the Scenic Rim region.

I also refer to the heavy-handed approach towards landholders and other tourist operations taken by Seqwater. Seqwater needs to change its approach and realise this is the biggest single tourism attraction in the region – we need to let people use the water, including residents, people who want to fish, local camping businesses and adjoining landholders, and Seqwater must be reasonable in dealings with all parties. I've been told so many accounts lately about a lack of reasonableness from Seqwater, especially when it comes to local camping businesses seeking permits to access the shoreline of Moogerah, and adjoining property holders being dealt with in an extremely unreasonable manner when it comes to the renewal of issuing of permits on the flood margin land. Seqwater may own the dam; but it was built by, and for, the community, and a more community-minded approach should be adopted by the government owned body.

- The Government is ripping off parents who use Fassifern Coaches to get their children to school. I know that the operator of these bus routes has had income payable under these contracts with the Transport Department slashed by \$200,000, while being asked to do more work. Bus routes have been cut, meaning local children are spending more time on longer routes because there are fewer buses servicing a large area. Cuts to revenue for the operators also mean that parents



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who live on the periphery of two schools (Boonah SHS and Bremer SHS) who pay fares directly to the operator are being hurt badly by fare increases. It can cost nearly \$700/term per child, and these fares keep climbing because there is less funding made available for the bus routes that are fully

subsidised. While the Government shovels money into Cross River Rail, and borrows \$28 billion more just to keep the wheels of government turning, they are ripping off our local families and school bus operators. They should hang their heads in shame.

- Air-conditioning has been installed at Beaudesert State High School, but no upgrades have been carried out to electricity networks to allow them to be operated. This is deplorable management. In some cases, fans have been removed as well. When will it be fixed? The Government pinched the LNP's policy to air-condition all State Schools in 2019, but they have completely botched the program. I will keep on working to get this issue fixed.
- The LNP will stand up for our Independent Public Schools – Kalbar State School, Tamborine Mountain State School and Tamborine Mountain State High School. The Government should keep this initiative that is very well supported by the community.

*Working for our Region*



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- The budget includes funding for some work on Boonah-Ipswich road - wide-centre line treatments. I have made several representations to Main Roads about the state of this road from Yamanto to Peak Crossing, but especially from Yamanto to Purga School Road. It is not due for significant work under Main Roads' present timeframe until 2022 or later. It should be brought forward, and I have asked this to occur. It is dangerous, especially with so many heavy vehicles using it out of the Boral Quarry. Further, when this work occurs, an overtaking lane should be built to ensure the efficient movement of traffic along this road as commuters interact with agricultural vehicles, quarry trucks and tourist traffic.
- Fire ant issues: the slow march south of fire ants continue, and I continue to be contacted by current / former employees of the eradication program to provide me with feedback about things going wrong in the program. The Government has no excuses for continuing to allow inefficient work practices, ineffective methods of following up on fire ant detections and a culture in the program that has been described as "toxic" by both insiders and those looking in. It won't be long until they are in New South Wales, at this rate, in which case the funding agreement between the States and the Commonwealth will be jeopardised. Fire ants are a threat to agriculture and families if they get into residential areas, and I call on the Government again to take seriously all of the concerns that have been raised by me and others in the past 12 months.

planning for our future



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- Harper's Crossing on Mount Alford Road should be upgraded to a two-lane bridge. It has been in need of replacement for a long time.
- Boonah Auxiliary Fire Station is no longer appropriate for our local hard working fireies. I know signfiacnt work has been undertaken in the past towards constructing a replacement, but it has not yielded an outcome. I call again on the Government to find a block of land, and then source the funding to replace this fire station.
- Boonah Rathdowney Road, in the section about 5km past Musgrave Bridge towards Maroon, is abysmal. It needs urgent work to deal with the large increase in tourist traffic that the Scenic Rim is seeing. In 2016, I successfully lobbied for shoulders to be added to a section of road in similar condition on Lamington National Park Road. The cost was around \$800,000 for a section approximately 1.5km long. A similar approach should be adopted here, and it would be a good project for Scenic Rim Council to carry out on behalf of TMR.
- Beaudesert Nerang Road is having a lot of work carried out on it near Tabragalba House Road, jointly funded by the Federal and State governments. This is something I fought for over many years, and it is past time that it was done. However, the culvert at Biddaddaba, and the gravel section from there to Wonglepong, must also be fixed. It has been 30 years now since the community first asked for this.

Building a better future for the Scenic Rim



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Main Roads has installed 'rub rail' on the Gorge Road at Witheren. To my mind, they have gone over the top, and it is causing safety issues both for motorists and wildlife. I have lobbied Main Roads to address this issue since it came to light earlier this year, but so far progress has been very slow. All in the community know that motorist safety is paramount, but common-sense in this case would dictate that the installation of the guardrail as it has been done was unnecessary. I understand that Main Roads is working toward fixing this issue, but I urge them to get on with it more quickly.

- Lamington National Park Rd is too narrow on a very short stretch of road near Double Crossing Road. Just like I successfully had a section of this road upgrade in 2016/17, TMR maintenance funds should be used to fix this.
- Hooning and dangerous drive behaviour are growing concerns around Tamborine and Tamborine Mountain. It is good that Canungra and Tamborine Mountain now have 2 police vehicles each, as a result of my lobbying over 3 years from 2016-2019. However, there remains an issue where some communities around the region have times of day when there is a very thin police coverage, and the hoons know this. I'm calling for additional police officers to be based in the district, whether this comes from more officers at Canungra or Tamborine Mountain, or through having dedicated patrols coming from Jimboomba or Beaudesert.

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In our region, the list of infrastructure and services that need to be improved is very long and growing by the day. The Government must respect our region, realise that it is a unique region – not a part of Logan, Ipswich or the Gold Coast – and resource it accordingly.

There's so much that hasn't been done for too long in all parts of Queensland, and our economy is suffering as a result. Our businesses lack the confidence to invest, to grow and to employ people – because they have no faith in their government to do the right thing by them and to create the right conditions for business.

This budget fails Queenslanders, just when Queenslanders need their government to stand up and get the job done. The Government needs to take a good hard look at themselves, make some hard decisions about their priorities, and change direction accordingly.

*Exploring the Scenic Rim*