



Speech by

Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

Hansard Friday, 11 June 2010

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL; REVENUE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Minister for Disability Services and Multicultural Affairs) (4.11 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Appropriation Bill 2010 and other bills. This year's budget is about building the schools, hospitals and roads Queensland needs for the future. We want to deliver better services for all Queenslanders, no matter where they live in our great state. To quote from the Treasurer's speech on Tuesday—

In this State Budget we report back and recommit ourselves to this task, providing Queenslanders with a chance at the dignity of work.

It's what we have always believed in. It's what we said we would do. And it's what we are delivering.

While the opposition wants to down tools and put up its feet—it has no policies, no new ideas—the Bligh government is pressing on full steam ahead with the biggest infrastructure program in Queensland's history. We are committed to keeping people in jobs, and yesterday's jobs figures show Queensland is leading the way in creating new jobs.

The budget will invest over \$36 million across South-East Queensland in programs targeting low-skilled workers, those facing labour market challenges, and to support the Queensland Green Army strategy. I know that this funding will assist many people out in my local community. We, as a government, have made tough choices so we can keep investing in the infrastructure needed to manage Queensland's growing population. We have a plan for Queensland, and the opposition has none. Our \$17.1 billion building program will transform services across Queensland, especially in my electorate of Inala.

I am really pleased to talk to the House briefly about the new Darra to Richlands rail. The budget provides \$51 million in 2010-11 for construction of a new rail line from Richlands to Springfield. It is part of a wider \$646 million project, which will be fast-tracked by two years. This vital new piece of transport infrastructure could now be open as early as 2013. I know that the new Richlands train station in my electorate is also well on track and is now over 75 per cent complete. I am looking forward to opening next year.

More than \$104 million will be spent on a new rail line linking Darra to Richlands, with a further \$25 million allocated to construct a third track between Corinda and Darra. A further \$117 million has been allocated for the duplication of the Centenary Highway between Springfield and Darra, at a total cost of \$414.6 million. These projects provide infrastructure to cater for our growing and existing population, linking Darra and Richlands with the greater Springfield area. The whole western corridor is growing. This will provide improved transport options for an increasing number of residents from Wacol, Forest Lake, Inala, Richlands, Camira, Ellen Grove to Springfield.

The budget also commits funds to deliver vital community services in my electorate of Inala, including: \$3.44 million to expand the current Inala primary healthcare service to become an Indigenous primary healthcare centre of excellence—I would like to thank the Deputy Premier for his support for this initiative; \$2.39 million to complete the construction of 14 two-bedroom apartments in Darra, adjacent to

the Darra Railway Station, which is being refurbished in my electorate; \$1.2 million towards creating an indoor community facility at Carole Park State School, which will shortly be renamed the Ellen Grove State School; \$31,000 towards construction of a recreational pathway, and supply and install fitness stations at Pollard Park, Camira, with a total state government contribution of \$63,000.

Early education is another key focus of this budget, with \$400,000 to be spent on a brand-new kindergarten at Durack State School. More than \$70,000 will be provided to help our local child-care centres introduce approved kindergarten programs. The budget also provides: \$31,500 to assist Aspen Community Childcare Inc.; \$43,200 to assist Swallow Street Child Care Association Inc.; and \$85,000 towards the provision of passenger set-down facilities at St Mark's Primary School. It is all happening in the electorate of Inala. These extra funds have been warmly welcomed. Recently I was there at the proposed school crossing with the principal and Father Tuong, and the whole school community is very appreciative of this funding.

Finally, I could not sit down without talking briefly about the brand-new Police Academy. The budget provides funding of \$50 million for the continued development of the Police Academy at Wacol, once again in the electorate of Inala. The \$452 million state-of-the-art academy will replace the existing campus at Oxley.

Mr Nicholls interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I know the member for Clayfield is jealous—all this money into my area on infrastructure. Your plan is no plan.

Mr Nicholls: No money for schools in Clayfield.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Do you not support the Policy Academy?

Mr Nicholls: It smells like pork to me.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Are you not supporting the Policy Academy? The academy will house about 300 people in residential accommodation and an education precinct will deliver a full range of training and education programs for trainee and operational police. It will include a facility for special operations training and freshwater training for water police divers. The new campus of the Queensland Police Academy is expected to be fully operational by 2015, and I know that it will be world-class. I seek leave to incorporate the remainder of my speech, and it has been cleared by the Speaker.

Leave granted.

Mr Speaker,

RECORD DISABILITY AND COMMUNITY CARE BUDGET

The Bligh Government doesn't avoid making tough decisions. We have a plan and we're sticking to it. It's a plan to manage growth in the future. Thanks to the tough decisions we've taken, the Government is delivering a record \$1.61 billion budget for Disability and Community Care Services in 2010-11.

It's a budget which will result in better care and support for Queenslanders and their families.

This year's State Budget includes:

- \$1.054 billion for Disability Services
- \$528.7 million for Home and Community Care (HACC)
- \$28.6 million for Community Mental Health Services

The budget for disability services will deliver an extra \$52.5 million in funding over the next three years, including an extra \$12.5 million in 2010-11 which will provide:

- \$4.4 million to support young people with a disability leaving school

This includes an extra \$2 million in 2010-11 to support 140 extra school leavers with a disability. It comes on top of the \$4 million we provided for post school services in 2009-10 to support 290 school leavers. These extra funds will help school leavers with a disability access employment, education and training opportunities.

- \$3.2 million to support people with spinal cord injuries

This commitment will help us deliver locally based services across Queensland to people with spinal cord injuries. It will ensure they have the support they need to move back into the community.

- \$2.9 million for early intervention and support services for the families of children with a disability

This is part of our commitment to Queenslanders with a disability and their families. It will give parent carers a well-earned break while their children get the care and support they need.

- \$1 million for the Community Living Initiative, to help people with a disability to live independently in the community

This will provide up to 50 Queenslanders with up to \$20,000 to remain living independently in their own homes.

- \$1 million to create new autism early intervention centres in Bundaberg and Mackay

CLIMATE CHANGE & SUSTAINABILITY

As the Acting Climate Change and Sustainability Minister, we have new investments protecting our environment and paving the way for more sustainable practices.

- \$56 million over five years from 2010-11 for acquiring more land for protection, particularly national parks.
- \$45.5 million over five years from 2010-11 to continue its Koala Response Strategy, particularly to protect more habitat in south east Queensland.
- \$16 million next year for cutting down on waste going to landfills.
- \$8.4 million to continue the Nature Assist program for nature refuges in Queensland which will total \$15 million over five years.
- \$2.8 million over the next five years to continue the National Packaging Covenant initiative which aims to increase recycling of packaging and cut down on unnecessary and unsustainable packaging.
- \$3.5 million over three years to progress the nomination for Cape York Peninsula World Heritage which will include close and ongoing consultation with Traditional Owners.

The koala funding is the strongest financial commitment towards koalas ever made by a Queensland Government.

Significantly increased funding of \$45.5 million will have a strong focus on protecting and rebuilding koala habitat in SEQ

We will buy land that has been cleared in the past and revegetate it but also look for existing habitat that needs State Government protection.

Rehabilitating old habitat will help reconnect areas of existing bushland and provide new food and shelter opportunities for koalas.

There will also be incentives provided to landholders to protect and enhance koala habitat on their own land in return for entering into conservation agreements, such as nature refuges.

Mr Speaker,

I commend the Bill to the House.