




Speech By  
**Mark Boothman**

**MEMBER FOR ALBERT**

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**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL; REVENUE  
AMENDMENT AND TRADE AND INVESTMENT QUEENSLAND BILL**

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Albert—LNP) (10.34 am): I rise today to speak on a budget that is committed to growing the Queensland economy, rebuilding Queensland and making Queensland communities more resilient for the future. Today I can certainly inform the residents of Albert, the northern gateway to the Gold Coast, Australia's playground, we have a budget focused on rebuilding our great state and delivering front-line services.

Queensland will never forget the trail of destruction inflicted upon it by ex-Tropical Cyclone Oswald and the flooding that followed. The financial costs of the flooding events of early 2013 are expected to pass \$2.5 billion. The emotional costs are endless.

The residents of Albert certainly did breathe a sigh of relief as we escaped the majority of immense devastation which we saw in other parts of Queensland. However, we did suffer riverine and localised flooding, power loss, fallen trees and loss of business income and infrastructure due to these natural events. Once again, the John Muntz Causeway was closed to motorists for an extended period of time, which resulted in both physical and financial loss for Albert residents.

This government has got on with the job of funding a new bridge. The expressions of joy about the construction of a new bridge for the residents of Upper Coomera, Oxenford and Tamborine Mountain who rely on this major arterial road know no bounds. Many residents have stopped me in the street to say how pleased they are to see the actual progress—yes, progress—on the construction of this crucial piece of infrastructure. It is quite humbling to know that we as a government have recognised the need for and provided this vital piece of infrastructure. Residents can now see the new concrete pylons finally being completed. I should also inform the House that I was recently invited to join the workers at the construction site to celebrate the completion of this important milestone. In addition to the John Muntz Causeway, this government has continued to fund important road safety infrastructure. Beaudesert-Beenleigh Road is another important arterial road in the electorate of Albert which has been recognised in this budget. Many residents have contacted my office with regard to the repairs of safety barriers. I am pleased to inform the House that funds have been allocated to help alleviate these concerns. Waterford-Tamborine Road has also received funds for much needed overlay pavement.

The budget is all about future proofing. One of the most important assets in this state is our children. Education is a key cornerstone of this government and the Great Teachers = Great Results program will deliver real results for educational outcomes. We understand the important contributions made by teachers, principals and the local school P&C committees. These individuals take great pride in their chosen paths and are truly inspiring. These people are moulding the minds of our future leaders and shaping young minds to greatness through direct input and motivation.

Great Teachers = Great Results is all about giving schools a chance to become independent, allowing them more say for their community and the running of their own local school. This is backed up by a focus on professional excellence in teaching, including mentoring of teachers, paid

postgraduate studies and strengthening of discipline in schools. This budget recognises the importance of this sector and is providing an additional \$537 million over five years starting in 2013-14. I know I put great emphasis on this, but the Albert electorate is truly blessed, with great teachers, great principals and hardworking P&C associations. Our school principals and P&Cs know what their schools need. They know how to run their schools and they do not need somebody thousands of kilometres away who does not understand the individual needs of their schools instructing them what to do and what not to do.

Great Teachers = Great Results directs money to the front line so that it is not swallowed up by bureaucrats in Canberra. Norfolk Village State School is a prime example of a truly great school located in the northern growth corridor of the Gold Coast. I am very pleased to inform the House that the budget has allocated \$1.5 million for additional classroom accommodation. Windaroo Valley, another great school in southern Logan City, has also benefitted from this budget for refurbishment works by \$295,000. Let us not forget all of the maintenance money that this government has allocated to the repair of our front-line educational facilities: our schools. Schools are at the heart of our community, and the Newman government has recognised this and responded; whereas our predecessors avoided and ignored them. With the tender loving care of our school staff, P&Cs and \$300 million over three years of additional maintenance funding going directly to schools to clean up the maintenance backlog, schools have been reborn.

Regarding education, on a closing note I add that schools such as Highland Reserve State School have also received temporary classrooms to help deal with the increase in student numbers. We have also delivered flashing school zone lights for Coomera Spring State School, Upper Coomera State College, St Steven's College and Coomera Anglican College.

Another crucial aspect of this budget is delivering front-line police. The Queensland Police Service received a record \$2 billion for 2013-14, upholding this government's firm commitment to revitalise front-line services. This government is committed to delivering a further 267 new officers this year. I should add that in the May graduation of first-year constables, almost one quarter were allocated to the Gold Coast and Logan regions. This government sees a need for front-line officers, and we are committed to delivering our goal of an additional 1,100 officers over four years.

This budget also includes funding to facilitate delivery of the Queensland Police Service helicopter for our region. You do not need to go far to see the massive positive impacts this helicopter has had on crime and antisocial behaviour. I refer to the news article by Channel Nine on 2 May 2013, which said—

Amazing vision shot from a police helicopter equipped with a heat sensitive camera shows a ute driven by an alleged hoon leaving a trail of fading white light as it does doughnuts south-east of Brisbane.

This suburb was Yatala. The residents of Yatala can now sleep peacefully—something we all take for granted—knowing that the police helicopter is on the job to deal with this antisocial behaviour.

Residents have expressed their dismay also when it comes to the youth justice system we inherited from the previous Labor government, a system with no hope and a revolving door. This budget continues funding for an important key LNP initiative: the youth boot camp program for young people who are at high risk of reoffending. The 8 May ABC News article titled '*Boot camp brings boys back in line*' is a truly inspiring story to read. To hear that these boys' lives are being changed is truly uplifting. Once again this government is committed to breaking the cycle of crime.

This budget continues to deliver necessary funding for the Albert region: child safety initiatives, \$5.5 million; disability services, \$4.3 million; expanding services at the new Gold Coast University Hospital, including cardiac surgery, trauma services, radiation, oncology, neonatal intensive care services; and the expansion of the Logan Hospital emergency ward.

In summary, this is a state budget that takes important steps to control debt and allocate money where it is needed: \$8.8 billion on community services; \$12.3 billion on Health, up 4.5 per cent; \$11.4 billion on education, up 6.6 per cent; and \$5.5 billion on transport.

In closing, this is a front-line service budget which is controlling debt. It also goes a long way to delivering for Albert. I certainly commend this budget to the House.