




Speech By  
**Deb Frecklington**

**MEMBER FOR NANANGO**

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Record of Proceedings, 5 June 2014

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

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (3.32 pm): I rise to speak in support of the 2014 state budget handed down by the Treasurer, the Hon. Tim Nicholls, on Tuesday of this week. Like I do so often, I stand here to say that I am very proud to be part of a strong government with a strong plan for a brighter future. This budget is a clear demonstration of how we are restoring and repairing the state's finances, which were left in absolute tatters when those opposite left government. It has been a difficult task, but we have made some strong choices and we have listened to Queenslanders about how they would like us to reduce Labor's legacy of \$80 billion worth of debt, which costs all Queenslanders up to \$4 billion annually in interest.

At the outset, I would like to thank the Treasurer for visiting Kingaroy through part of the Strong Choices campaign. He also went to Toowoomba, on the outer reaches, of my electorate. Everyone in Queensland had a chance to have their say in relation to the choices that face Queensland. This carefully balanced budget outlines our plan to secure our finances by making these strong and smart choices. It will help us make the smartest choice to reduce our debt so that we can invest sustainably in infrastructure such as schools and hospitals. Our government is the only government that can deliver for a brighter future.

Following the announcement of the budget this week, I received an email to my office from one of my constituents. It read—

I just wanted to add my support to today's budget announcement—if this is what it takes, then let's do it—there will be plenty of do-gooders—but the biggest problem is people's lack of understanding of the big picture as we need to get out of this mess that we are in.

The opposition, both State and Federally have a very short memory of why we are at this crossroads—I know this is impossible but I would love to see their plan .... One word of advice—Please keep reminding the public of who got us in this mess ...—you and the team need to keep this phrase going until you go blue in the face ... keep up the good work.

Congratulations to the Treasurer. This really sums up the feelings of Queenslanders who understand that, without strong choices, our government is faced with limited opportunities to implement further measures to help the future of all Queenslanders.

I would like to highlight a few of the budget announcements that will be of great benefit to the Nanango electorate. Firstly, one of the big announcements is the additional \$406 million over the next five years to implement the recommendations of the Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry. The provision of extra child safety officers will address the huge workload of our current staff, which in time will benefit all children who find themselves, through no fault of their own, unable to remain with their families. We have many of these children in my electorate.

It is wonderful to see a focus back on the important pillar of agriculture. Already, we have seen some major changes to legislation and regulation that makes life easier for our farmers, not the least of which is the vegetation management reforms and the recent land tenure reforms. I would really like

to congratulate the Treasurer and the Minister for Agriculture for the \$62 million for ongoing drought assistance.

One area of the budget that I am extremely proud to have had involvement in is the future of succession planning in the regions. The lineal stamp duty concession that the Treasurer announced in his budget this week means that the future of some family farms that it is wished will be passed on, not from mum and dad to daughter or son but from an aunt and uncle down to a niece or a nephew, can be secured. I am very proud of the work that I did as assistant minister to the Treasurer around this policy decision.

Irrespective of what those opposite keep carrying on about—and it has been embarrassing to have to sit here to listen to what they have said—I am pleased to see an increase in spending by six per cent in the health sector. I congratulate the Minister for Health for all of the hard work that he is doing in my area, particularly around the South Burnett, in increasing the services provided by the South Burnett regional hospital. In Education, spending is up seven per cent. On top of that, we have a massive capital spend that is going into Kingaroy State High School to secure the future for the year 7s who are going into that school. I also want to touch quickly on a commitment for the Geham State School to upgrade the passenger set-down facilities and for a bus shelter. This is a small school located on the southern boundary of my electorate that has been lobbying very hard for an upgrade of their car park facilities. I am really pleased to have been able to support this commitment in the budget.

It is also important that I touch briefly on how successful we have been in the last 12 months with the betterment fund and continuing with that, whether it is for bridges for the Somerset region or the Royalties for the Regions project. I am hoping to work with the Deputy Premier and relevant ministers to ensure that this Royalties for the Regions money continues to flow, for example, for more overtaking lanes. I have just been able to announce further overtaking lanes to the two that we were already along the way of delivering—another overtaking lane just north of Kingaroy, which is extremely exciting.

A big win for the Nanango electorate in this budget is a brand new police station for the Kingaroy and South Burnett police. I am extremely proud, after many years of lobbying—even before I was a member of this House—to have achieved this goal. These hardworking men and women are working in the most diabolical conditions. Local lawyers have to sit in the car park while they are interviewing clients, which is completely unacceptable in this day and age. I am extremely proud that we have been able to announce the new police station. The Nanango police do not miss out; they are receiving an upgrade to their police station. At this stage I wish to thank the Treasurer for that wonderful announcement. It is something that I have been discussing with the officer in charge, Senior Sergeant Duane Frank. We have had inspections by the police minister and also our local assistant commissioner. The local South Burnett legal fraternity have for many years put complaints in. My understanding is that there will be a secure way for the police to take prisoners backwards and forwards from the police station to the courthouse. This delivers on our promise to revitalise front-line services and shows that our government is listening and that we are committed to the best possible facilities for our hardworking local police who are on the ground doing their best to work in that very old building for so many, many years.

There is also a significant amount of funding for the state and local road networks, a major win for our primary producers who need a sturdy road network to transport their produce. To list just a couple in my area, there is some work being done on the bridge over Stuart River on the Kumbia-Brooklands Road, roadworks on the Esk-Kilcoy Road and also the Dalby-Cooyar Road. These are important roads to enable this produce to get in and out.

The Nanango electorate is on its way to promoting itself as a great area for tourism. I am extremely pleased to see continued funding going towards the Peach Trees camping area north of Kilcoy up in Jimna. The funding will go to revitalise toilets and showers, fix the swimming hole platform and generally enhance this area. I know many campers who will be happy with this outcome. I encourage everyone in this great state to come and visit the Nanango electorate any time and anywhere. They are always welcome. In conclusion, I congratulate the Treasurer and his hardworking team for what they have done for this great state of Queensland. It is only our government that has a strong plan for a brighter future.