




Speech By  
**Ros Bates**

**MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA**

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Record of Proceedings, 5 June 2014

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

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (5.38 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Appropriation Bill 2014. This budget is a sensible budget that continues to deliver on the government's strong plan for a brighter future for all of Queensland, including my electorate of Mudgeeraba. This budget sees huge investments in education, health, disability services, homelessness, correctional services and road infrastructure, both in our state and in my electorate in particular. As a registered general nurse—and for the benefit of the House I table my current practising certificate—members would be aware that health care is one of my greatest passions and I welcome the commitment from this government to invest an additional six per cent into health in 2014-15.

*Tabled paper:* AHPRA Nursing and Midwifery, Registration Details for Rosslyn Mary Bates—28/04/2014 to 31/05/2015 [[5342](#)].

Only our government has a strong plan for health care and hospitals in our state and I am proud to be part of a team that is delivering on its commitments to revitalise front-line services. It has been a pleasure to serve on the Health and Community Services Committee, where I can continue to be a strong advocate for health issues and, particularly, for the future of nursing.

In my maiden speech I vowed to represent nurses in parliament and be that vocal and credible representation that nurses are so rightly demanding. I will ensure that this most trusted and dedicated profession gets the acknowledgement it deserves. We will also see an additional \$690,000 for Child Safety Services and almost \$5 million for disability services in Mudgeeraba. It is great to see this government so consistently providing assistance to those who need it most and delivering on its commitment in these key areas.

In my maiden speech over five years ago I made some significant commitments to the residents of my electorate. I vowed to be their voice in this place and to ensure that the local services we had been missing out on were delivered for our local community. Together we have been able to see the vision for our local area that I outlined in 2009 come to fruition.

I vowed to bring about a significant increase in police numbers in Mudgeeraba and surrounding electorates that would lead to a major reduction in graffiti crimes and hooning. Since 2012 Queensland has seen 750 new police officers hired as part of our commitment to hiring 1,100 new officers over four years. Locally this has produced results. We have seen year-on-year decreases in graffiti. Hoons have been deterred due to the toughest anti-hooning laws in the country. Over 2,000 hoons have had their vehicles impounded. I have worked tirelessly with our local police, our Neighbourhood Watch groups and our Mudgeeraba Police Community Consultative Committee to fight back against crime and antisocial behaviour in our local community.

In my electorate, as members would be aware, roads are consistently the issue of most concern to local residents, with Mudgeeraba being the largest electorate on the Gold Coast by area and covering a range of state roads that are of vital importance to locals who seek to commute from the hinterland suburbs. This budget will see a tremendous investment in local roads in my electorate which will be welcomed by Mudgeeraba locals.

Since being elected, this government has been one which has delivered on its promises and we have seen some huge investments in local infrastructure and services. I promised to ensure that we would see the end of the infamous Mudgeeraba car park and that residents of my electorate would be able to commute with ease and spend their days productively rather than fighting traffic gridlock.

When I was elected in 2009 a tired Labor government and a complacent local Labor member had simply refused to plan for the future and recognise the huge amount of growth that our wonderful area would see in just a few short years. Roads which were of vital importance to local residents were treacherous, they were deteriorating and they were dangerous. Mudgeeraba locals were simply being ignored.

Since then, we have secured hundreds of millions of dollars of upgrades for our roads and long-term planning has been achieved. The M1, not just the most crucial piece of road infrastructure for local residents of my electorate but also one of vital significance to the Gold Coast and Queensland, has been improved exponentially. We have seen the widening of the M1 from four lanes to six from exit 73 to exit 77. The upgrade from exits 77 to 79 will soon be complete. We will see an additional two kilometres of road widened to six lanes with the 2014-15 budget contributing \$38 million toward this upgrade.

Not only this, but I recently announced, alongside my federal colleague, Karen Andrews MP, roadworks to the value of \$9 million which will see the M1 widened to three lanes southbound from the Mudgeeraba interchange at exit 79 to the Robina interchange at exit 82. Motorists would have already noticed the realignment of the northbound and southbound lanes and the installation of safety barriers to allow work to continue further south.

In Reedy Creek local residents are also seeing significant works undertaken to improve the traffic flow in our area. In addition to the more than \$400,000 spent improving the roundabout at Old Coach Road, over \$2 million is currently being spent on upgrades in Reedy Creek, including the completion of widening the southbound off ramp at exit 84 to provide an additional right-hand turning lane and modifications to the traffic signals and median strip island. Works began last month to install a dual right-turn lane from Old Coach Road into Bridgman Drive, relocate the existing Energex pole and bus stop facilities, and realign the footpath.

Work in Reedy Creek has also included the installation of noise barriers to mitigate sound from the M1, and the painting of a beautiful mural on it at Encamp Street. This is not only a great visual attraction for our local area but it will also decrease the potential for graffiti in our neighbourhood.

Until 2009 Worongary Road was one of the most dangerous and underfunded roads in the Mudgeeraba electorate. It has seen huge improvements over the last five years—to the value of almost \$7 million—in addition to routine maintenance. I recently announced that the Worongary Creek Causeway would be upgraded, with works set to begin later this year. In this budget \$3.2 million has been allocated for this important upgrade. This much-needed work will improve the flood resistance of this key road.

In 2009 I also promised rapid and significant upgrades to Beechmont Road as families feared for their safety and motorists were put in danger just by using this important road. In line with this promise, Beechmont Road has seen over \$11.2 million in improvements since my election to secure the safety of local motorists. Most recently works were undertaken to stabilise slopes and landslips. Not only this but work will soon begin to improve safety for motorcyclists at the Clagiraba end of the road.

The Gold Coast-Springbrook Road has similarly seen millions of dollars spent on improvements in order to increase safety and deliver crucial maintenance. In recent months slope stabilisation works have been completed and locals are able to travel safely down the mountain.

I also promised to find a solution to the issue of acid sulphate in the Witt Avenue canal in Carrara. I am still awaiting the outcome of legal action undertaken by the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection. Residents would recall that whilst the government won the case in court, the defendant has mounted an appeal. This is another issue that was never resolved by the Labor Party. I look forward to a resolution on this important issue.

I also swore to Mudgeeraba constituents that I would work to strengthen our local community through supporting our schools, sporting organisations, non-profit organisations and diverse range of community groups. In line with this promise, I have maintained close working relationships with my local schools that include, as members would have noticed, regular visits by young student leaders to Parliament House; visiting them for awards ceremonies, events and catch-ups; and working with principals and staff to deliver better outcomes for students.

In this budget we see a seven per cent increase in funding for education in our state to \$11.8 billion. This means that schools in my electorate will continue to benefit from fantastic programs like the Great Results Guarantee. In 2014-15 state schools in my electorate will receive \$1.4 million. This is in addition to the great work that has already been done to strengthen our schools by working with principals and school communities and through programs like Great Teachers = Great Results, the Advancing Our Schools Maintenance Initiative and the Great Results Guarantee.

This is a government that is delivering on its promises to foster greater engagement with local principals and provide them with the tools they need to give our kids the best education possible. In my electorate schools have received funding totalling over \$5 million in just the last year through these great programs.

Also amongst my commitments to my constituents has been a new state high school west of the M1. This has been something that has attracted widespread local support lately. It is now the case, however, that Robina State High School, which services high school students throughout my electorate, is no longer at capacity and can continue to provide education to local students in the years ahead.

This government has established the Queensland Schools Planning Commission, an apolitical commission led by a highly qualified and independent commissioner in the Hon. Bob Quinn, which has been tasked with independently assessing the need for new schools according to population trends and school capacity throughout the state. I have not lost sight of the long-term need for a second state high school in my electorate or the local support for this idea, and will continue to revisit this issue into the future. In the meantime, my seven senior private schools and Robina State High School are more than capable of dealing with the secondary education needs of children in the Mudgeeraba electorate.

In addition, the Mudgeeraba electorate has received millions of dollars in grants to fund community groups, sporting organisations and non-profit groups and to ensure their contribution to the local area continues long into the future. In the last year alone, over \$80,000 from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund has been given to sporting groups and community organisations such as Multicap, the Gold Coast Model Flying Club, CareFlight and the Mudgeeraba Little Athletics Association.

The Jupiters Casino Community Benefit Fund has provided funding of \$35,000 to the Gold Coast Dolphins Cricket Club and \$10,774 to the Lions Club of Carrara. Our Get Going program has given funding of over \$30,000 to sporting organisations such as the Mudgeeraba Tennis Club, the Robina Raptors, the Mudgeeraba Baseball Club and the Gold Coast and Hinterland Axemen Club. The Caring for our Community program has given funding of \$12,000 to great local organisations such as the Gold Coast Junior Rugby League Club, CareFlight and the Trinity Anglican Mission. I have had the pleasure of seeing how this funding is invested firsthand through my regular visits, meetings and engagements throughout the electorate.

The state-wide swing at the 2012 election was 13.7 per cent and the swing in Mudgeeraba was 22 per cent. Residents in Mudgeeraba know which party and which member of parliament has delivered for them on all local fronts. I will continue to do so. Our government is delivering on its plan, producing great results for the Mudgeeraba electorate.

I congratulate my very good friend Tim Nicholls, the Treasurer, for his methodical efforts to return this great state back to prosperity after years of economic vandalism by those opposite in the Labor Party. This is a budget that sets out a strong plan for a brighter future, and it gives me great pleasure to commend the bills to the House.