




Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

Record of Proceedings, 15 September 2015

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL

Finance and Administration Committee, Report

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (2.56 pm): I rise to speak in relation to the Finance and Administration Committee's report of the estimates hearing. It gives me great pleasure to speak once again about my government's first budget. This is a budget that delivers jobs now and jobs for the future through our \$1.6 billion Working Queensland plan and our \$180 million Advance Queensland initiative. It is a budget that restores vital front-line services, particularly in the key areas of health and education. This is a budget that lowers debt and delivers nation-leading surpluses over the forward estimates: some \$1.2 billion in 2015-16 and an estimated \$6.9 billion over the next four years. This is a budget that delivers for the arts: \$173 million in 2015-16 including \$28 million for essential upgrades to Brisbane's cultural precinct in the wake of its heritage listing. Importantly, this budget delivers on the commitments that Labor took to the 2015 state election. Let's go over some of those commitments.

At the election we promised to restore the successful Skilling Queenslanders for Work program, which was scrapped without warning by the now Deputy Leader of the Opposition. This budget delivers on that commitment. I am pleased to report that the Minister for Training and Skills has already announced the first tranche of funding—some \$26 million for 200 organisations to help more than 8,000 jobseekers—that was just approved last week. There is more funding to go out. I encourage all members in this House to apply for the funding because it is going to ensure that our people throughout regional and rural Queensland get access to job-creating projects.

We promised to diversify the economy and we have delivered. Our Advance Queensland initiative involves a wide range of programs that will help solve global challenges, retain our best and brightest and develop the knowledge based jobs for the future. We promised to restore some of the deep cuts made by the LNP to front-line services, particularly in Health over which the opposition leader presided. We have delivered a record \$14.2 billion budget—well done, Minister—for Health including 400 new nurses and up to 4,000 new graduate nurses.

We have delivered on our commitment to restore the arts as a vibrant and sustainable sector and industry for future generations. The budget invests in the future of the arts in Queensland, commits to restoring arts funding and protects the heritage value of our cultural institutions through investments in critical infrastructure like our cultural precinct.

My government will provide \$173 million in 2015-16 for the operating expenses of the Arts portfolio including the arts statutory bodies—the Queensland Museum, the Queensland Art Gallery and the Gallery of Modern Art, the Queensland Performing Arts Centre, Screen Queensland and the Queensland Theatre Company. We have not forgotten our grassroots arts sector either, with

\$5.1 million going towards establishing the new Queensland Arts Showcase Program with a strong focus on the small to medium arts sector.

Importantly, my government has restored integrity and accountability in Queensland by lowering the threshold for the disclosure of political donations from \$12,800 to \$1,000. Will the \$100,000 be disclosed by the LNP? Time is running out; the clock is ticking. We are looking forward to seeing full disclosure.

We have also restored openness and transparency by reinstating a proper estimates process, with eight committees sitting over a two-week period rather than the LNP version of the committees sitting simultaneously over two days. They should hang their heads in shame for that because it is a shameful part of Queensland's history. When did they change their mind on that? Not until after the Stafford by-election, when we saw Anthony Lynham elected to this House as the member for Stafford and now a minister in my government. After that result, Campbell Newman—we do not hear his name mentioned too much in the House anymore; he will be coming back soon, as I hear that a book tour is about to take place—declared that the new approach to estimates would be dropped and the LNP would revert to the system that Labor had reinstated.

In conclusion, I am very pleased that the estimates committee process has been restored in this state. We are honouring our commitment to integrity and accountability. I would like to thank the chair, the member for Bulimba, all the members who served on the estimates committee process and everyone who participated.