




Speech By  
**Christopher Whiting**

**MEMBER FOR MURRUMBIDGE**

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Record of Proceedings, 16 July 2015

**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL**

 **Mr WHITING** (Murrumbidgee—ALP) (9.01 pm): It is a pleasure to stand here to support these appropriation bills as the representative in this House for Deception Bay, North Lakes, Rothwell, Mango Hill, Griffin, Burpengary East and parts of Kippa-Ring. It is an honour to be a part of a government that is delivering on its promises to build better communities. All of our election commitments are included in this budget and have been paid for by smarter savings. It is an honour to be part of a government that will grow and diversify our economy, restore front-line services and generate jobs—jobs now and jobs for the future.

I can point to some particular initiatives that will build better communities, build jobs and build the local economy in the communities of Murrumbidgee. Firstly, there is \$6 million in 2015-16 in joint funding to commence the construction of the Bruce Highway-Boundary Road interchange at a total cost of \$105 million—the state government is contributing \$21 million—all without selling assets. This will make such a difference to the lifestyle and community health of the residents of North Lakes and Deception Bay. It means less time queuing to get onto the highway and less time on the highway away from their families.

This project funding is part of more than \$18.8 billion that will be invested in Queensland's overall transport infrastructure over the next four years. That also includes \$175.9 million in this budget in joint funding to widen the Gateway Motorway to six lanes all the way between Nudgee and Bracken Ridge with a total cost \$1.2 billion. Although this traverses mainly the electorates of my fellow members, the members for Nudgee and Sandgate, it is of vital interest to my community. Approximately 50 per cent of the workers in my electorate travel up and down the highway each day to work.

The Gateway Motorway upgrade is part of the \$10.1 billion infrastructure funding program in this state budget, with almost \$4 billion committed to Queensland's road and transport network. This \$10.1 billion infrastructure funding program will support 27,000 jobs across the state this year and over the next four years. Of these jobs, 10,500 will be supported by roads and transport related projects such as the Boundary Road overpass. I would like to add that 10 per cent of the workers on the Boundary Road and Gateway Motorway projects will be apprentices and trainees, as they will be on all government projects. That is another initiative that we have promised and we will deliver. That is a great opportunity for the young workers in Deception Bay, North Lakes, Rothwell, Mango Hill, Griffin, Burpengary East and Kippa-Ring.

Secondly, we are delivering great improvements to schools for the families in the Murrumbidgee electorate. Bounty Boulevard State School is getting \$3.68 million in this budget to keep building new classrooms. Mango Hill State School is receiving \$3.9 million to build their new classrooms. That is \$7.6 million invested by this government in local classrooms, and it is badly needed. Bounty Boulevard has 1,155 pupils this year from prep to year 6 and it has only been open since 2011. Mango Hill has

656 pupils and they started with just 212 students when it opened in 2012. Surely this must be the fastest growing school region in Queensland. The locals can trust Labor to keep delivering the infrastructure they need in their schools.

This investment is part of a record \$12.4 billion Education and Training budget in the first Palaszczuk Labor government budget. It includes a \$456 million Capital Works Program, an increase of \$64 million over the last LNP budget. Local schools will also be boosted by a \$500 million Schools and Hospitals Fund. This program will deliver \$230 million to boost maintenance of Queensland schools over three years from 2016-17, as well as \$70 million in this budget for schools maintenance and refurbishment for Queensland schools. This will tackle the backlog of maintenance left from recent years. It is a jobs-generating initiative for businesses in places like Deception Bay, North Lakes, Mango Hill, Griffin, Rothwell, Burpengary East and Kippa-Ring because the refurbishment is going to be done by companies from these and other areas. Not only that, local schools in Murrumba will get 12 new full-time-equivalent teacher resources over the next three years in an initiative that will allow teachers to teach. This initiative will provide curriculum coordination time, more teacher release time and more support for principals and teaching principals for our local schools. That is part of our election promise to deliver an extra 875 teachers this year as part of 2,500 teachers during this term.

Thirdly, I am glad to say that this budget delivers for local sports clubs. We have funded a multisport facility for North Lakes including two senior fields and one junior field; construction of a clubhouse including four change rooms, public toilets, kitchen, club room, office, official's room and a three-bay storage area; car park; pathways; and field lighting up to 200 lux. An amount of \$460,000 has been put aside in this budget, with \$263,000 allocated next year for this project. It is part of a \$176 million spending program in 2015-16 to stimulate greater grassroots participation in sports and recreation, and that includes the Get in the Game scheme.

Get in the Game, the latest name change in a long-term scheme, allocates funding of more than \$80 million over three years to assist sport and recreation at the grassroots level, a \$10 million increase over the previous LNP budget. Get in the Game has been a vital lifeline for local clubs both in Murrumba and across Queensland. We are glad to support these clubs because not only do they promote the benefits of physical activity and a healthy wellbeing but they also bring everyone together and they help create a friendly local community.

There is something else that will be welcomed by the residents in the Murrumba electorate, and that is the Home Based Business grants program. As part of the Queensland Entrepreneurs of Tomorrow initiative, the government will fund \$1 million in the Home Based Business grants program over three years. It will support stay-at-home parents who want to establish and develop home based businesses. We have many start-up businesses being born in Murrumba, especially in North Lakes: web based entrepreneurs and young mums and dads who have great ideas and great drive to create these new start-up businesses. I am really looking forward to going out to local businesses and businesspeople and introducing this program, along with Advance Queensland initiatives such as the \$40 million Business Development Fund to assist innovative and emerging industries and the \$24 million Startup Queensland program to increase start-up business formation.

What I will really enjoy from this budget is seeing the completion of the Deception Bay bus interchange. Let me talk to honourable members about the Deception Bay bus interchange. This was something that was trumpeted in the last two LNP budgets but we are going to deliver it. It was their signature project in the area. They loved it so much, they announced it twice. But what was there when I became the member? Two pop-up canvas-topped shelters on the side of the road. 'Here is our big project for you, Deception Bay: two pergolas. Please do not lean on them.' After two budgets these temporary measures were as far as they got with this project, and in less than six months we have finalised the design and we have started construction.

Over the last few months we have often heard the LNP complain that we have simply handed in their homework. Well, you have abandoned your homework; you have dropped it on the ground. We had to pick it up, complete it and hand it in because you could not do it.

**An opposition member** interjected.

**Mr WHITING:** I will take that interjection. I will refer you to the Queensland Auditor-General's report which was lodged on 26 March. They have marked your homework on that and they gave it a C. Gee, you cleared some backlog there! But you need a proper program of ongoing maintenance, and that is what we have done. We have incorporated that report and put it into our budget initiatives. I cannot wait until they mark our homework; it will be better than your C.

It is an honour to be part of a government that is delivering on its promises to build better communities in Murrumba and delivering on our election commitments to the people of Murrumba. It is an honour to be part of a government that will grow and diversify our economy, restore front-line services and generate jobs in Deception Bay, North Lakes, Rothwell, Mango Hill, Griffin, Burpengary East and Kippa Ring. Jobs now and jobs for the future!