




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR IPSWICH

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APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (8.24 pm): I rise to speak on the 2015 state budget. I stand before you today to speak on a budget that is good for the people of Ipswich and good for the people of Queensland. Before the budget was handed down, the Treasurer pledged to this week deliver what he called a real Labor budget. On behalf of the people of Ipswich I commend the Treasurer for this week indeed handing down a budget that can be proudly called a Labor budget. After three years of neglect from an LNP government with no plan for the economy but to slash and burn this will come as a great relief to the people of Ipswich.

I want to give members an example of how this budget rectifies the last three years of LNP neglect in my electorate. I am proud to say that \$500,000 in this budget will be spent addressing the serious student safety and congestion issues at the Ipswich Special School. There is no question that for highly mobile students there is a need for security fencing at the school. There is no question that there is a congestion problem being caused by the location of the set-down area at the school, with the pedestrian entrance on the busy main road. These problems need to be fixed and I thank the Treasurer for making the money available to fix these problems. The former LNP government did not take these significant problems seriously despite the fact that they posed an unacceptable risk to the safety of students. The Ipswich Special School community, led by Bruce Grigg, the principal, who I commend for his hard work, struggled for years to get something done and no-one in the LNP would listen to him despite the fact that there were LNP members of parliament in Ipswich and in Ipswich West.

I am pleased to see that finally, with the handing down of the Palaszczuk government's first budget, there is a recognition that these children are in need of deserving care. A real Labor budget is a budget that looks after the safety of people like the students of Ipswich Special School and I take great pride in being part of a government that is fixing the LNP neglect of this school over the past three years.

A real Labor budget is a budget that gives help to those who most need it. That is why in Ipswich we are committing \$1.8 million for non-government organisations to deliver specialist homelessness services and \$600,000 to complete the construction of 26 public housing homes. That is why in Ipswich we are committing \$12.3 million for out-of-home care placement services to ensure young people in need of protection have a safe place to stay, along with \$3.4 million for parenting support services and \$2.8 million for counselling services to support the needs of children in out-of-home care.

That is why in Ipswich we are committing \$18.7 million to assist people with disability and their families to access the help and services they need as they move through the different stages of their life. That is why in Ipswich we are committing \$1.14 million to deliver a timely and coordinated response to people affected by domestic and family violence. Too many women and children have died in Australia as a result of domestic violence and these funds for services to improve the safety and wellbeing of victims and their children will be very welcome in the Ipswich community.

I congratulate the Treasurer for having the fiscal discipline to hand down a budget that will pay down debt without selling our state's income generating assets. Critically, I applaud him for not cutting crucial jobs like teachers. In fact, Tuesday's budget saw a record allocation to education funding which will allow local schools to employ additional teachers above growth over the next three years. In Ipswich we will be getting the equivalent of an extra 11 full-time teachers. This is very welcome news that will go some way to relieving capacity pressures as well as providing more jobs in my electorate.

Jobs are certainly something that my electorate needs. While last month's figures show that unemployment in Ipswich has dropped, our general unemployment figure still sits above the state average and our youth unemployment rate is even higher. Indeed, youth unemployment in Ipswich more than doubled during the three years of the Newman government's slash and burn and neglect. That is why it is so important that this is also a budget that will provide economic uplift in the Ipswich region. The uplift will be generated in our community when the \$500,000 project gets underway at the Ipswich Special School and the \$7 million in infrastructure for the Ripley Valley Priority Development Area. That \$7 million is part of a \$12 million commitment by the Palaszczuk government for the design and construction of road, water and wastewater infrastructure in this key growth area. The Ripley Valley Priority Development Area is located five kilometres south-west of the Ipswich CBD. It is earmarked to provide 50,000 dwellings to house a population of approximately 120,000 people.

That is why it is so important that in this budget, for the first time, Ipswich's regional budget statement outlines how much of the total budget spend will flow to the local region. We have put dollar figures on exactly how much Ipswich will receive from the Health budget and our school maintenance program and estimated how many local jobs will be supported through our infrastructure improvement program.

The LNP's regional budget statement for Ipswich last year did not have any details for local projects. Unlike the LNP, the Palaszczuk government has not forgotten the Ipswich region. The Ipswich regional budget statement shows that the Palaszczuk government has allocated \$483.8 million to infrastructure spending in the Ipswich region. If not for Labor, the neglect that Ipswich got used to from the LNP, whose only plan for Queensland was to slash and burn, would have continued. We are building and upgrading crucial infrastructure, thereby providing uplift for the economy and jobs for the Ipswich region. This is, indeed, a real Labor budget that is good for Ipswich and good for Queensland. I commend the Treasurer.