




Speech By
Joan Pease

MEMBER FOR LYTTON

Record of Proceedings, 16 July 2015

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (8.15 pm): It gives me great pleasure to rise to speak to this great Palaszczuk Labor government budget, delivered by the Hon. Curtis Pitt, Treasurer. I congratulate the Treasurer on his budget. What a great Labor budget it is, with a forecast surplus without the need to sell our precious income-generating assets and without the need for redundancies, forced or voluntary, and with this government restoring front-line services to the people of Queensland. During the term of the previous LNP government we saw the reduction of front-line services, massive job losses in the public sector and the raiding of our TAFE system. But today, rather than focus on the shortcomings of the Newman government, I want to focus on the first Palaszczuk government budget, this great Labor budget, a budget that is all about jobs now and jobs for the future and a budget that delivers on our election commitments.

This budget will restore front-line services, with record investment in health and education. Health will grow by four per cent and will include an investment in important nursing and workforce initiatives. It is also a record education and training budget for more teachers, teaching support and better classrooms. We want our children to be equipped and ready for the jobs of the future and we need to resource and support our principals, teachers and support staff to get today's job done in Queensland's schools.

The Working Queensland jobs plan focuses on skills, training and innovative industries that will promote jobs growth and investment with five key priorities: skills and training, enhancing business productivity, boosting government services, fostering emerging and innovative industries and growing our regions. The Queensland pensioner and Seniors Card holder concessions will be maintained and, might I add, without funding from the federal government. There will also be extra funding over four years to tackle domestic violence.

Through this budget the government will provide support for business by delivering a payroll tax rebate for apprentices and trainees, resulting in tax savings for businesses to reinvest. Small business will be strengthened and supported via initiatives such as the Entrepreneurs of Tomorrow fund, which will help stay-at-home parents grow their home based businesses. As I have stated already, this budget is all about jobs—jobs now and jobs for the future. This budget will invest \$180 million in the Advance Queensland program—a comprehensive suite of reforms that will create jobs now and jobs for the future.

Despite the previous government's attempt to reduce our TAFE system, this budget will restore and rebuild TAFE over the next four years to ensure that more Queenslanders are job ready. This budget includes a \$10.1 billion spend on infrastructure across Queensland this year, directly supporting an estimated 27,500 jobs. This budget will also restore a matter very close to my heart, the residential tenancy advice referral service. This budget will support and enhance my community of Lytton, with

commitments to assist people with disabilities, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, children, young people and families and will provide specialist support for homelessness.

Further, our local schools will share in the benefits of this budget with a full-time-equivalent guidance officer at Wynnum State High School and up to nine new full-time-equivalent teaching resources over the next three years across state primary schools, state high schools and special schools as part of this initiative. Indeed, all state schools in my electorate will benefit from Labor's commitment and from this budget. This budget will also deliver an upgrade of closed circuit cameras, or CCTV, in the Wynnum watch house, improving safety for prisoners as well as for our police officers.

Tenants, pensioners and seniors, teachers and jobseekers, businesses small and big, sporting clubs, employers, law enforcement officers, parents, children and students at all levels will all benefit from this great Labor budget. This historic budget begins the process of growing our economy, generating more jobs and restoring much needed front-line services to the people of Queensland. I am proud of this budget and I am proud to be part of the Palaszczuk government. I gladly commend these bills to the House.