




Speech By
Joan Pease

MEMBER FOR LYTTON

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APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL

Education, Tourism and Small Business Committee, Report

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (8.25 pm): I rise today to speak to report No. 4, the 2015-16 budget estimates report, of the Education, Tourism and Small Business Committee. The committee has recommended that the proposed expenditure as detailed in the Appropriation Bill 2015 for the portfolios of Education, Tourism, Small Business and Commonwealth Games be agreed to without any amendments.

I enjoyed my first experience of working in this portfolio committee environment and would like to thank the committee, in particular the chair, my parliamentary colleague the member for Townsville, and my fellow committee members, government and non-government. I also acknowledge the work and professionalism of our committee secretariat. I particularly acknowledge the outstanding work of Minister Jones, who displayed her detailed and in-depth knowledge of all portfolio areas. The process of estimates is an important one, providing opportunity for the budget to be discussed in finer detail, and Minister Jones provided succinct and detailed responses to all questions. As I stated, this was my first experience of estimates and I must say that, as some of my colleagues before me mentioned, I was disappointed by the opposition's line of questioning of non-portfolio related matters.

The Palaszczuk government is committed to education and to providing outstanding educational outcomes. This government will invest \$152.4 million over three years and \$86 million ongoing to deliver initiatives under the extra teacher policies. This will lower class sizes and support high schools and will include the hiring of up to an additional 875 teachers, which includes 275 specialist high school teachers beyond the normal growth in Queensland state schools. With a record investment in Education, this will ensure Queensland students receive the world-class education that they deserve. Further, \$1 million has been allocated as part of \$8.9 million over three years to employ 45 guidance officers to increase counselling and career advice for Queensland state high school students.

This government is committed to small business and innovation, as can be seen by the Palaszczuk government's rollout of the Queensland Entrepreneurs of Tomorrow program which will provide \$1 million over three years to structured entrepreneurship and IT skills learning programs to primary and secondary schools across Queensland. The government will invest \$1 million over three years for stay-at-home parents to develop home based businesses. I know that these initiatives have been received with much interest and enthusiasm by the community of Lytton.

The extension to the service, growth, reach, quality and maturity of the Queensland government's online service delivered via the Business and Industry Portal has also been well received by local business and entrepreneurs in Lytton, as has the Queensland Small Business Advisory Council which will provide direct input to government on issues facing the small business sector. Further, the forward funding commitment by the government ensures that the Queensland Destination Events Program can

now be planned with confidence, meaning that more events can be attracted and planned for in Queensland. Further, the government will deliver the Tourism Demand Driver Infrastructure Program, which includes enhancements in tourism capability building, quality standard and new tourism facilities.

Mr Speaker, I am sure that you are very excited by the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, as I am. The implementation of the Embracing 2018 action plan and the continued implementation of the Gold Coast games venues and infrastructure program ensures that the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games are on schedule and will be the best Commonwealth Games yet. In conclusion, I again thank Minister Jones, the chair, my colleagues on the committee and the secretariat.