




Speech By
Mark Furner

MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE

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APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL

 **Mr FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (3.16 pm): I stand this afternoon to support this Appropriation Bill and also the 2015-16 Palaszczuk Labor budget. My congratulations, firstly, go to the Treasurer on this balanced budget, a Labor government that will see the economy grow over subsequent years and deliver jobs for Queensland; a budget that will deliver on our election commitments which Queenslanders endorsed at the 2015 election; a budget built on jobs, not on jobs gouging like the former LNP government. Is it not great to have a maroon flavour to this year's budget, particularly on the back of the Queensland State of Origin win last week?

Despite a \$3 billion writedown in mining royalties over the next four years, this Labor budget will grow the economy, deliver innovative reforms and restore funding in front-line services. There is a record amount of \$14.2 billion in Health, up by four per cent, delivering 400 new nurses and 4,000 new graduate nursing places. Due to doorknocking many homes in Ferny Grove and meeting many nurses who reside in my electorate, I know that this will be welcomed. There is a record amount of \$12.4 billion in Education, up a massive 7.2 per cent, providing for 875 teachers of which there will be additional teachers provided for in Ferny Grove as the community expands. There is \$10 billion plus in infrastructure works funding, creating 27½ thousand extra jobs in our state. We know that under the former LNP government full-time employment fell by 6,300, with 29,000 additional Queenslanders joining the unemployment queues.

There is \$24 million in Skilling Queenslanders for Work, facilitating 32,000 Queenslanders to get back into work. That is a welcome outcome for many of the sacked public servants in Ferny Grove who felt the cruel axe of termination under Campbell Newman's government. There is also \$2.1 billion for Police, providing extra police, car replacements and new body-worn video cameras, making evidence more credible and helping to protect the hardworking men and women of the police force.

I know that, unlike they would have been under those opposite, no-one will be worse off. Just prior to the state election on 21 January this year, the now president of the Queensland Police Union, Ian Leavers, indicated that Campbell Newman had lied over a promise of funding for an antiviolenace campaign. At that time he had promised \$20 million in funding to administer the new Safe Night Out precincts. For three and a half to four years I had the brilliant opportunity to be an industrial officer with the Queensland Police Union and to represent the good men and women of that particular union. Mr Leavers went on to say that despite the promise the police force had not received one cent from Mr Newman, and he claims that Campbell Newman looked him in the eye and lied to him. This is the credibility and the standard delivered by the previous LNP government to the men and women of the Queensland Police Union.

Something else close to my heart are my grandchildren Xavia and Marley, who live on the northern beaches in Cairns, the Great Barrier Reef. I am impressed with the extra \$100 million to protect our greatest natural wonder. Additionally, the restoration into tourism of \$128.3 million will go a long way in attracting visitors back to our great state.

As a White Ribbon ambassador, I am very impressed with the commitment of \$31.3 million to reduce the effects of domestic and family violence in our state.

Queensland retirees will continue to receive a concession on energy, water and transport thanks to the budget measures of this Palaszczuk Labor government. This Palaszczuk Labor government is covering a \$52 million shortfall after the federal government's mean-spirited cuts to pension scheme funding.

Locally, Ferny Grove and Ferny Hills state schools are the beneficiaries of budget funding for upgrades to the tuckshop, uniform shop and flashing school zone safety lights. On speaking to both principals of Ferny Hills and Ferny Grove state schools regarding these projects, they have relayed their gratitude to our government.

Stage 1 of the Ferny Grove to Samford cycle link, a long-term Labor initiative, is coming to fruition. I know cyclists and families will be impressed to see this project get off the ground. The redevelopment of the Lomandra day use area as a mountain bike hub, including the removal of inappropriate facilities and the improvement of car parking signs and maps, are all examples of Labor funding into Ferny Grove.

Conversely, this is not a budget that seeks to sell our assets; nor is it a budget that cuts service entitlements, thousands and thousands of jobs, health initiatives or education from our children. This is a good budget. This is a traditional Labor budget. The ink on the Borbidge-Sheldon election review is hardly dry, and the Leader of the Opposition still disregards the concerns of the members of the LNP not to pursue the sale of assets. He is still prepared to consider asset sales. In a recent interview the member for Southern Downs did not rule out privatisation in the future. He said that, if voters become comfortable with the idea, he is prepared to go ahead with it. What does 'comfortable' mean in the eyes of the LNP and their leader opposite? He went on to spruik the LNP's new fiscal strategy, adding manufacturing and services and knowledge based industries to the former state government's four-pillar economy. What does the Leader of the Opposition know about manufacturing? Maybe when he gets down to Canberra as the member for Maranoa he can have a quiet word in the ear of Tony Abbott about manufacturing, because we on this side of the chamber know the LNP's record on manufacturing. Many of us on this side of the chamber, particularly those who have worked for unions and drive Australian-made vehicles—the Fords and Holden Toyotas that are all manufactured in South Australia—know that within a couple of years they will be made overseas. That is the commitment of the LNP to manufacturing.

Let us not forget the defence industry and the fact that, most likely in a couple of years, we may see Australian navy personnel operating Japanese-made submarines because, like you, the Abbott government is not concerned about manufacturing in this country. It is quite disingenuous to tell Queenslanders that you believe in manufacturing. What an absolute joke! On that note, it is a great honour and privilege to stand here in this chamber today and support the 2015-16 Queensland Labor budget.