




Speech By
Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

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APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL

 **Mr RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (2.50 pm): I rise in support of the budget and the appropriation bills. Finally, after three long years Queensland once again has a government that cares about people and that likes people—finally. We went to the last election promising Queenslanders a better way and by golly this budget delivers a better way for Queenslanders. Not only does it deliver on our election commitments; it delivers a budget surplus, it delivers a reduction in net government general debt, it restores front-line services, it creates jobs now and for the future—and I think this is the thing that upsets the opposition the most—and it does all of those things without privatising our most profitable income-generating assets. I think that upsets them the most.

All through this budget debate the opposition members have been so miserable. They are so sad. It is like a drove of Eeyores—‘Oh, Madam Deputy Speaker, I’m so sad. Oh, Madam Deputy Speaker, I’m so disappointed with the budget. Oh, Madam Deputy Speaker, this is such a horrible budget.’ Like poor old Eeyore, this is a poor excuse of an opposition. Not only can’t they see the good in this budget; they have forgotten so quickly all the damage they did to Queensland when they were last in government. They have forgotten the higher debt that they delivered. They have forgotten the higher deficits that they delivered. They have forgotten the higher unemployment that they delivered. They have forgotten the 14,000 public servants that they sacked?

Mr Millar interjected.

Mr RYAN: I hear a couple of interjections. I always love reading the financial parts of the budget. If we look at page 197 of Budget Paper No. 2 we can see when the biggest net operating deficit in Queensland’s history was delivered. It was the 2012-13 financial year when they were in government. The biggest net operating deficit in Queensland’s history was the financial year of 2012-13 when they were in government. The highest level of net government debt in Queensland’s history was under them. They have forgotten so quickly. They have forgotten those 14,000 public servants that they sacked. How short their memory is.

Thank goodness we now have a government that likes people, that cares for people and that will be delivering a better way for Queenslanders. We have heard them being so sad about this budget. We have heard them say how horrible it is. I wanted to go to some of the budget initiatives to see how sad they really are about these things. Are they so sad about the record spend in Health—\$14.2 billion, an extra \$2.3 billion for front-line services and improved health outcomes? Are they sad about that? If they are, they should go out to their communities and say, ‘We won’t accept that. We don’t want a record spend in Health.’

Maybe what they should be doing is sticking up for Queenslanders by standing up to Tony Abbott and their LNP mates, because their LNP mates in Canberra are the ones who are cutting money out of the Queensland Health budget. They are the ones who are cutting \$11.8 billion over the forward

estimates from the Queensland government growth funding spend in Health. If they are so sad about this budget, if they are so sad about the record spend in Health, they can go out to their communities and say, 'We don't want a record spend in Health. We don't want \$14.2 billion in Health.'

Let us see if they are all so sad about the Education budget. It seems that they are very sad and disappointed about the record spend in Education, the \$12.4 billion record spend—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Grace): Order! Unfortunately, there is a bit of banter going across the chamber that has nothing to do with the member for Morayfield's speech. Members know better, as this is against the standing orders. I ask members to cease that. The member for Morayfield has the call.

Mr RYAN: Madam Deputy Speaker, I was speaking about education. Maybe if the other side listened for a moment it might learn something. The education component of this year's budget is delivering a record spend—\$12.4 billion for schools, teachers and students all over Queensland, particularly in the Morayfield electorate. I am very pleased to see that this budget will deliver extra teaching resources for the schools of the Morayfield electorate. Also, importantly, it confirms the funding for some additional classroom facilities at the Caboolture Special School, the biggest special school in Queensland. We have almost 250 students at the Caboolture Special School, and I pay tribute to the principal and staff, particularly the teachers and teacher aides, of the Caboolture Special School for the good work they do for the wonderful kids who attend the Caboolture Special School.

The budget also confirms funding for the Trade Skills Centre at the Caboolture Special School. The opposition will probably also be a bit sad and disappointed about the Trade Skills Centre because their federal colleagues opposed the trade training centres program, but thank goodness for the previous federal Labor government and the current Queensland state Labor government that we will be delivering that Trades Skills Centre for the kids of the Caboolture Special School. We also see in this year's budget that there are some funds available to refurbish the Special Education Unit at the Morayfield State High School.

I wonder whether the opposition members are also so sad and disappointed about this budget which delivers record money to assist in domestic violence prevention. It is a great initiative being led by this government to make sure that families receive the support they need to provide safe households and safe family environments. Some of the really exciting things that I see in the social services space—the space where we see that this government really truly does like people—is a return of funding for tenancy advice services. I pay tribute to Enhanced Care, which is based in the Moreton Bay region, which is providing a tenancy advice service right now. They continued to provide that service for the last three years. Despite the other side cutting funding to tenancy advice services, we had a wonderful organisation that without any government funding continued to provide tenancy advice services for the people of the Moreton Bay region and, more broadly, throughout Queensland. I pay tribute to them and welcome the announcement that additional funding will be provided in this budget for tenancy advice services all over Queensland.

I also welcome the news that funding will be provided to restore diversionary courts such as Murri courts and drug courts. This is very important funding for some very important initiatives which provide alternative support options for some of our most vulnerable Queenslanders. In particular, I see that funding will be restored for youth justice conferencing. This is probably one of the most important things that we do in the justice space—providing direct support and direct assistance to young people who may come in contact with the criminal justice system.

The interesting thing about the youth justice conferencing arrangements in Queensland is that they are world leading. In fact, I find it very humorous that at the time when the previous government was cutting funding for youth justice conferencing there were international jurisdictions from all over the world coming to Queensland to say, 'Tell us how to do youth justice conferencing. It is the best thing in the world. Tell us how to do it. Teach us your program. Show us the system.' At the very same time they were cutting funding to youth justice conferencing, the world was saying, 'We need it.' Thank goodness this government is restoring funding for youth justice conferencing.

I wonder if the opposition members are also so sad and disappointed about the additional funding which will be provided for drought assistance for our rural brothers and sisters in Queensland. I wonder if they are so sad and disappointed about the money which will be provided to construct a \$30 million state netball stadium. I tell you who is not disappointed about that, and that is the 1,500 young ladies who played netball at the Suzuki Challenge Carnival at Caboolture last week. They were very excited about the commitment by this Queensland Labor government to provide \$30 million for a state netball stadium.

We know what the LNP members are really sad and disappointed about and it is something they cut when they were in government—that is, the funding for Skilling Queenslanders for Work. Thank goodness that has been confirmed in this budget because for the local people in the Morayfield electorate, particularly those young people who are desperate to find jobs, Skilling Queenslanders for Work will deliver. It will provide them with the support they need to find a job and get into the workforce. I wonder really if the LNP members are so sad and disappointed about the \$1.2 billion operating surplus that this government will deliver and the reduction in net government general debt.

Mr Rickuss: Mark, can you really say that with a straight face?

Mr RYAN: I can. It is in the budget papers, mate. Here it is.

Mr Rickuss: It is written on a piece of paper.

Mr RYAN: It is a document—\$1.2 billion operating surplus. Wow, what a good government we are! This is a good budget for the people of the Morayfield electorate. It is a good budget for Queenslanders. I ask all members of this House to support it.