




Speech By
Shane King

MEMBER FOR KALLANGUR

Record of Proceedings, 17 July 2015

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL

 **Mr KING** (Kallangur—ALP) (12.43 pm): I rise today to speak in support of this first budget by the Palaszczuk Labor government. Firstly, I would like to congratulate the honourable Treasurer and cabinet on delivering a true Labor budget, a budget that delivers on jobs, delivers on education and health services for Queenslanders and, importantly, a budget that retains in government ownership our revenue producing assets while reducing debt in a sensible and stable way. Queenslanders can breathe a sigh of relief upon hearing this budget. After the high of the State of Origin win last week Queenslanders can continue to be happy to know that our great state is a winner not only in rugby league but also now in economic terms.

This budget will deliver on what is a priority always for Labor governments: jobs for Queenslanders. There is nothing more important to us than to keep Queenslanders in decent jobs that are safe, secure and rewarding. The Working Queensland program will deliver on our promises and will do this through the important tasks of skills development, fostering emerging and innovative industries and by supporting investment in infrastructure. It will help build new businesses leading to jobs now and jobs for the future. This budget will focus, as promised, on the restoration of those front-line services like health and education—services that suffered so much at the hands of the LNP cruel cuts.

This budget brings a record increase to health, delivering more nurses across the state. We will also deliver on nurse-to-patient ratios, an initiative that not only saves lives but also provides Queenslanders with quality health care. This budget also gives our new nurse graduates a future they deserve and one that we all need them for. This budget also brings a record increase to education and training which will provide more teachers and better classrooms and helps with restoring TAFE to its rightful place in our training agenda. Our teachers are at the forefront of preparing our children and jobseekers for their future and it is too important to let them down. My local schools will be amongst the first to benefit from the new funding.

The best part of this budget's focus on jobs, health and education is that all this is being done while leaving my industry, the electricity supply industry, in strong government hands. In doing so this secures the safety, supply and affordability of our electricity network for all Queenslanders and job security and safety for the men and women who work in the industry.

The people of Kallangur are winners in this budget. We have secured over \$4 million to complete the replacement of a new fire and rescue station at Petrie. We have \$4 million for additional classrooms at Pine Rivers Special School. We have funding for flashing lights at Narangba State School and Pine Rivers Special School. Over \$5½ million of funding is committed to assisting people with a disability and their families to access support services and funding for seniors in the Home Assist program to help them remain independent and safe in their homes. Funding is provided in 2015-16 to commence the construction of the Bruce Highway-Boundary Road interchange. And the final funding for a third rail

line between Lawnton and Petrie stations which will allow the Moreton Bay Rail Link to integrate with our existing network.

As a result of Labor's election promise to commit to an extra 875 teachers in this term of government, my electorate is expected to receive up to 13 new full-time-equivalent teacher resources over the next three years across local state, primary, high and special schools. I am also happy to inform the House that funding has been provided for my election commitment to a project plan that will focus on what can be done to restore and rebuild lost local community services. This funding, whilst it is only small in budgetary terms, will give me the resources to kickstart the consultation and planning around an integrated community hub at Kallangur that will rehouse lost local community and youth services. Over recent years in Kallangur we have gradually lost many of our community services and private businesses to high-growth areas like North Lakes. For many of my constituents this means being unable to access library, youth groups, banking and even JP services. Many of our great community organisations are in need of suitable premises to conduct their good works. Thanks to this funding I will now be able to consult widely with the community, police, churches, business, local youth and family services and council to decide the type of facilities and services that will best provide what the area needs and to put together a well-considered plan to set about restoring and revitalising the heart of Kallangur. This is all great news for Kallangur.

I am very pleased to see that my neighbouring MP and friend Nikki Boyd has managed to secure a much needed upgrade to Strathpine station. It has been a long time in coming, I know, and I hope in the not-too-distant future to be able to deliver similar news to my own electorate in relation to Dakabin station. I commit to continue to lobby with tenacity for a similarly necessary upgrade to Dakabin and that will not stop.

A few short months ago the people of Queensland faced the very real prospect of a mass fire sale of public revenue producing assets like our electricity supply industry by the LNP, a sale that came without any guarantee of affordability, reliability or safety. Workers faced more of the same from an arrogant, uncaring LNP—fear for their jobs, wages and their conditions like health and safety. Health workers protested in the streets against cruel cuts to service delivery, our classrooms began to become more crowded and resource deprived while also facing potential losses of land and assets to the private sector.

A few short months ago, Queenslanders made a decision to vote for a Labor government that would deliver for the people of Queensland and provide funding for infrastructure, education and health, as well as creating jobs now and into the future. It was the right choice and this budget shows it to be so. I commend the bill to the House.