




Speech By
Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR SANDGATE

Record of Proceedings, 17 July 2015

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (9.55 pm): Tuesday marked the 150th anniversary of the foundation stone of this building being laid. And so it was that we witnessed the Treasurer lay the foundation for our state's diversified economic future. This first Palaszczuk Labor government budget honours Labor's election commitments to responsibly pay down debt without selling our state's assets or cutting services. It is also a strong Labor budget that is measured and fair. It will grow the economy, generate jobs and restore front-line services with record spending on health and education, picking up the slack in the face of savage federal funding cuts.

This is a prudent and responsible budget that responds to feedback from the many business leaders whom I have been meeting through the Premier's Business Advisory Council and other forums. Indeed, right across the length and breadth of the community, I have heard community members say that they want to have a measured and fair budget. This is indeed a measured and fair budget.

We have taken on the difficult task of fiscal repair and it has paid dividends, with Treasury forecasting a \$1.2 billion surplus in 2015-16 and a \$6.9 billion surplus over the forward estimates. Queensland's economic growth is set to rebound, from two per cent in 2014-15 to a robust 4.5 per cent in 2015-16 and 2016-17—better than any other state in the country. This is a great result and it provides an opportunity to build on it. This growth will help shore up confidence in the Queensland economy for consumers, employers and investors. I say to members to not just take my word for it. A range of industry groups and peak bodies have already lined up to back the government's fiscal strategy and responsible economic management.

But what have we heard from the other side? A continuation of their tradition of talking down the Queensland economy, talking down Queensland's prospects, talking down Queensland's future. That is exactly what the business community and the whole community of Queensland do not want. We want to talk up our economy and make sure that we can continue to see the bright, glowing future that I know we have.

Unlike the LNP, we have a real plan for the future of Queensland, underpinned by a coherent economic framework. But more importantly, this budget restores the front-line services that the Newman government ripped the heart out of. We have allocated a record \$12.4 billion for more teachers, support and better classrooms. This is not just service provision or good social policy; it makes good economic sense to invest in our human capital, thus boosting participation and productivity. On top of that, we have set aside \$500 million in new funding over four years for a statewide schools and hospitals fund to support hospital and school refurbishments in a manner that will boost local economies and jobs for tradies. While I am on my feet, I wish to express my appreciation to the people of the Sandgate electorate for their support and the ongoing encouragement that I have had from so many people across that great electorate since the end of January.

There is a lot of good news in this budget for my electorate of Sandgate. A major highlight is the \$232.4 million in state funding to progress the widening of the Gateway upgrade north to six lanes between Nudgee and Bracken Ridge. Local schools will also benefit from flashing lights to improve road safety at Sandgate State School and Bracken Ridge State High School. Affordable housing at Fitzgibbon Chase will be supported with an additional \$11.9 million to continue the development of this master planned community established by Labor. I am very proud to have been involved in this as the original planning minister when that development kicked off and have seen this community grow from nothing to a model sustainable and affordable urban place in our northern suburbs. Like all good Labor governments we are looking after the most vulnerable members of our community with a \$2.1 million commitment to ensure children in need of protection have a safe place to stay and \$1.2 million to respond to domestic and family violence in the Sandgate community.

I am thrilled to report that around \$2.85 million has been provided for a new trade skills centre at Sandgate District State High School with a focus on engineering and automotive trade training. This is a great investment in high-end skills for young people in my community. I had a chance last year to visit with some of the students from Sandgate District State High School, as part of this program, ahead of having the trade skills centre constructed at Sandgate District State High School, the Bracken Ridge TAFE campus where they were doing some practical work on some motors. They were really an excited group of young people getting involved and having hands-on experience with some small motors in a program that is supported by an industry partnership with the Yamaha company. It was a very good example of an innovative, good quality, highly professionally staffed state school. The budget will also allow local schools in the Sandgate electorate to employ an additional eight full-time-equivalent teachers over the next three years—more professional quality educators in our community.

While the Palaszczuk government is investing in skills today, we are also supporting the jobs and economy of the future. This is a smart budget for a smart state. It is deliberately focused on innovation through our centrepiece Advance Queensland strategy because we know that we have to diversify our economy by targeting emerging industries. This \$180 million package is a real game-changer and will future proof our economy through capacity building investments in industry research collaboration, commercialisation, venture capital and business development to deliver the knowledge based jobs for now and into the future. As a key plank of this we want to build a start-up state. We want to see more success stories like Red Eye, one of Queensland's fastest growing tech start-ups providing cloud and mobile based design apps to the world.

The former government was blindly committed to four pillars of the Queensland economy that collectively now represent less of the Queensland economy than when they came to office. In their latest so-called economic plan, these economic troglodytes have reluctantly and belatedly acknowledged the role of knowledge industries. While we will always look to build on our existing strengths in areas like agriculture, resources and tourism, our economy is in transition. You cannot deny it, like a global financial crisis; you have to take that on board and embrace it and join the future. As has always been the case, it is only Labor that has the vision and drive to broaden our economic base and to position Queensland to capture the benefits of a global economy and emerging industries. Just as all of our predecessors laid the foundations for this parliament 150 years ago this week, so too this Palaszczuk government budget lays the foundation for a stronger, smarter, more vibrant future for our great state. I commend the Appropriation Bill to the House.