




Speech By  
**Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk**

**MEMBER FOR INALA**

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Record of Proceedings, 17 June 2016

## **APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL; DUTIES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (2.52 pm): I rise to make some comments on the 2016 state budget firstly as Premier but also as the very proud member for Inala. I thank Treasurer Curtis Pitt on the delivery of this week's state budget and I also thank the Deputy Premier and the Minister for Main Roads and Energy, both of whom were instrumental in putting together this budget, as well as the entire cabinet.

Our government's second budget is focused on advancing Queensland's economy through innovation, investment and infrastructure because that means jobs. It is a back-to-work budget that is responsible and measured. It will strengthen and diversify our state. It will keep Queensland growing. It includes debt reduction, nation-leading economic growth, surpluses across the forward estimates and forecast revenue outstripping forecast expenditure, meaning that we are spending less than we earn. Like everything our government does, the 2016-17 budget is all about jobs.

Over the last year I have travelled the length and breadth of Queensland. My Working Queensland Cabinet Subcommittee has met in Mount Isa, Charters Towers, Cairns, Townsville, Rockhampton, Mackay, Maryborough and Toowoomba this year. I promised to consult Queenslanders, to engage them, to give them an input into helping frame government policy. I have heard how so many, especially in our regions, are doing it tough. This budget is aimed squarely at working with the private sector to address those concerns. I am especially proud of the \$100 million regional Back to Work program which will support 8,000 Queenslanders get back into work. This builds on our \$240 million Skilling Queenslanders for Work commitment in last year's budget which is supporting 8,000 Queensland jobseekers a year and 32,000 jobseekers in total over four years.

Under the regional Back to Work program there will be employer support payments of up to \$10,000 to hire and keep a regional Queenslander employed for 12 months or more. That climbs to \$15,000 for hiring a long-term unemployed person. The program also includes a boost to the certificate III program, access to job readiness payments to help workers start a new job, and regional back to work officers who can connect workers with jobs or specialised skills training. I want this to be a partnership between government and business, enabling small as well as bigger businesses to put on more workers.

The support for the regions does not stop there. We will also deliver a \$175 million boost to the Building our Regions program. We will put in place a \$77.9 million rural assistance and drought package to help the 84 per cent of Queensland still in drought. There is also a \$33.5 million Connecting with Asia tourism package, a \$96.5 million Northern Queensland road funding program and of course our capital program will focus heavily on the needs of regional Queensland. This budget commits to investing \$40 billion over four years throughout our state. We have boosted the State Infrastructure Fund to \$2 billion, with \$500 million worth already allocated. Fundamentally, I want to show Queenslanders,

especially regional Queenslanders, that when you talk my government listens. That stands in stark contrast to those opposite. How could you possibly cut funds from a region-specific back to work fund and spend it on the south-east corner? As usual, it is Labor that will stand up for regional Queensland, not the LNP.

There are enormous areas of opportunity across other portfolios. Something that I am particularly proud of is the way this budget embraces innovation, and I know that the innovation sector has the potential to drive new economic and job opportunities in our regions. We have more than doubled our investment in our Advance Queensland agenda to \$405 million, promoting the jobs of the future, and I am determined to see Queensland become the national innovation leader. We will create regional innovation hubs, we will help small business innovate and we have money set aside to create a biofutures industry. We are focused on innovating in traditional industries and creating whole new industries and we will actively attract new investment, poaching businesses from interstate and overseas through the Advance Queensland Industry Attraction Fund.

This budget also recognises the cost-of-living pressures facing Queenslanders. We have delivered the biggest reforms to public transport in recent history, meaning cheaper fares for commuters. In my electorate of Inala, public transport users will benefit from fewer zones and lower fares. Travelling from Inala bus station to the CBD during peak periods will be more than \$2 cheaper per trip. Commuters on this route could save up to \$889 a year, and I know how important that is to families living in my electorate. Local travel will also be cheaper, with a trip from Gailles station to Ipswich providing savings of up to \$328 a year. These are real savings that will deliver real benefits to the people of Inala and across South-East Queensland. I seek leave to have the remainder of my speech incorporated in *Hansard*. I can confirm that this has been cleared by the Deputy Speaker.

Leave granted.

I'm also proud to say my Government has protected electricity concessions for pensioners.

No-one will forget the last Newman/Nicholls Budget of 2014 when they cut pensioner concessions, only to reinstate them following a groundswell of public opposition.

That's what you get from the LNP and the Member for Clayfield a complete disregard for the needs of Queenslanders.

Mr Speaker, We will also maintain a heavy focus on the fundamentals over \$15 billion in the health budget, including the implementation of our ICE strategy, 170 new and replacement ambulance vehicles, and an additional 68 nurse navigators for our hospitals.

And almost \$13 billion for education and training ensuring the next generation of Queenslanders has even greater opportunity than those of us that have gone before them.

To help those saving for their first home starting from July they will be able to get our First Home Owners' Grant of \$20,000 for a newly constructed house, unit or townhouse valued at less than \$750,000.

And as we have been clear about it will be funded by a property surcharge on foreign investors something Victoria are doing and New South Wales are planning.

Except as usual our surcharge will be lower, making us more competitive than the southern states.

Inala

Mr Speaker, My first and foremost calling is to the people of Inala. As a growing, ageing, diverse community, the needs of my electorate vary greatly. And this Budget delivers.

We have set aside \$25.4 million for the Ipswich Motorway upgrade from Rocklea to Darra. This money is to commence the construction of additional lanes in the Oxley Road Suscatand Street Street.

You'll recall that my Government increased its funding to \$200 million for this project half the total cost, despite it being a Federal road.

Not only is this project a job-generator, but it will dramatically improve the time people in the south-west suburbs spend in traffic.

Mr Speaker, There is also \$1.2 million to continue the replacement of the Inala Community Centre.

Almost \$500,000 for local community groups and neighbourhood centres, including:

- Inala Community House
- South West Brisbane Community Legal Centre in Inala
- Vietnamese Community in Australia (Queensland Chapter) Inc in Darra
- Elorac Place in Ellen Grove

And crucially Mr Speaker, over \$15 million in funding to support people with a disability and their families.

Great organisations like Autism Queensland, Endeavour Foundation, Southern Cross Care Services among others, need this support so they can support those in our community.

And finally Mr Speaker, nothing is more important to my electorate than high-quality education.

We will continue to provide strong funding to all the schools in my electorate, including money specifically for a collaborative outdoor learning area at Camira State School.

And the Inala Early years' Centre will receive \$29,500 through the State Government's Early Years' Small Assets grants program.

Conclusion

Mr Speaker,

This Budget is about getting the balance right. Strengthening our balance sheet while stimulating the economy, especially in regional Queensland.

That is what my Government has delivered.