




Speech By  
**Brittany Lauga**

**MEMBER FOR KEPPEL**

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Record of Proceedings, 16 August 2016

**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL**

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (4.29 pm): I rise this afternoon to speak with respect to the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee's inquiry into the Appropriation Bill during the estimates process. It was a wonderful opportunity to hear from the Deputy Premier, from Minister de Brenni and also from Minister Lynham about their respective portfolios—portfolios that I have a key interest in.

I start by thanking the committee. The committee chair, the member for Mirani, is a great mentor to me. I thoroughly enjoy being a member of a committee of which he is the chair. I think he does a great job. I would also like to thank the other members of the committee for their support, their work and their interest in these portfolios.

The estimates hearing was a long day. We did have three ministers whom we were scrutinising. It was a long day. It went until about nine o'clock that night, so it was about 12 hours of estimates hearing that day. We started with the Deputy Premier. The Deputy Premier has a number of different portfolios as the Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade and Investment. A number of these portfolios are very important to my electorate.

The Deputy Premier outlined the Palaszczuk government's infrastructure plan and how it is guiding the rollout of Queensland's \$10.7 billion Capital Works Program which will, in turn, support more than 31,000 jobs throughout Queensland with around 46 per cent of this being invested in our regional areas, which is of great importance to me as a regional member.

The significant regional infrastructure fund is a fund that I am keenly interested in. I am very pleased that the 2016 Palaszczuk government budget includes an allocation of \$1.25 million from the significant regional infrastructure fund for Frenchville State School's new school administration building. The school community has welcomed that announcement. There is also \$200,000 for the Farnborough State School undercover play area which is coming directly from that significant regional infrastructure fund.

I also raise the issue of the infrastructure funding. We are seeing a \$2 billion State Infrastructure Fund which will deliver the next phase of priority infrastructure needs. The Deputy Premier talked about how the State Infrastructure Fund will be informed by the independent advice of Building Queensland and how, through this fund, the government is already fast-tracking \$300 million of transport projects to unlock economic activity across the state. There is \$180 million in economic and social projects for regional and rural Queensland and \$20 million to progress business cases for other infrastructure priorities.

Also funded from the significant regional infrastructure fund is about \$2.3 million of moorings and reef protection buoys which will go out in Keppel Bay. It is something that a lot of people in my community are very excited about. Being able to moor their boat using these public moorings will save

them needing to use an anchor and, in turn, save a lot of precious reef around the very popular Keppel Bay.

The Deputy Premier also talked about the NDRRA funding and the over \$1 billion shortfall that the federal government is still yet to pay. This is a very sensitive issue for people in my community given that we were victims to Cyclone Marcia last year. In this budget there is an allocation of about \$20 million for natural disaster recovery payments, which is of great need to people in my community.

We also heard from Minister Lynham about the Building Our Regions program. I know that people in my community are very excited about the next stage of the Building Our Regions program. I understand that more than \$70 million is being invested in 42 projects around the state. People in Keppel are very excited about the next stage of that program. We have about three projects which have been invited to progress to the next stage.

I would like to thank all the members of the committee and also the committee secretariat. I commend the report to the House.