



Speech By
Christopher Whiting

MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

Record of Proceedings, 16 June 2016

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

 **Mr WHITING** (Murrumba—ALP) (8.35 pm): It is with great pleasure that I rise to speak in support of the second Palaszczuk Labor government budget. The 2016-17 budget is built around our commitments for infrastructure, innovation and investment in Queensland. The budget outlines how we will continue to grow jobs now and jobs for the future. The budget will seek to grow our economy and increase jobs as well as investments in services, particularly health and education. We are focusing on delivering jobs. More than 52,500 new jobs have been created since the 2015 election. We have a plan to advance Queensland's economy. The push to build the infrastructure we need has started. We are encouraging innovation amongst Queensland businesses. We are attracting investment into new industries and projects. Those benefits will flow onto the families and residents from Murrumba from this budget.

There are many laudatory aspects to this budget, many sets of wonderful figures, but I want to look at the framework of values and principles that surround this budget. I approach the budget with this principle: we are making our hard-earned wealth work for all Queenslanders. We work hard and generate an income and surpluses so we can improve our lives—not just improve a bottom line on a spreadsheet. This is an important principle to me. We are here to look after working Queenslanders. Our state wealth is to be utilised to make life better for ordinary Queenslanders.

I also see this 2016-17 budget as being ultimately driven by values—by Labor values. Some of those values are fairness, equity and equality of opportunity. I believe that can be seen in our budget. It can be seen from our drive to deliver better education and better health care for Queenslanders and to deliver jobs and the dignity of work for Queenslanders. In the sphere of education, the 2016-17 Palaszczuk Labor budget will deliver crucial infrastructure to our busiest local schools in Murrumba. A new \$15 million multistorey classroom block at North Lakes State College will be started with an initial \$750,000 allocation from this budget. The Mango Hill State School will get \$900,000 to complete a new \$4.1 million classroom building and \$500,000 for a new \$7 million classroom building. I am especially pleased to see investment in schools in Deception Bay, after the schools in my home community were virtually ignored under the previous LNP government. There is \$300,000 for the refurbishment of the home economics learning spaces at Deception Bay State High School, and \$200,000 for the refurbishment of B block at Deception Bay State School, the oldest school in the area.

I believe investment in education facilities is probably more important to Murrumba than any other electorate in Queensland. Murrumba is now the biggest electorate by population in the state. We live in the fastest growing region of the state. North Lakes State College is the second largest school in the state and Bounty Boulevard State School is about to become the second largest P-6 school in the state. It is not unusual for Mango Hill State School to have 150 new students each year. Therefore, delivering the infrastructure for our rapidly expanding schools is one of my priorities, and education funding is one of the Palaszczuk government's top priorities.

In the area of road and transport infrastructure, funding in the budget for the two major road projects in Murrumba has been confirmed. There is \$10.3 million provided this year to commence construction of the Rothwell roundabout, which will cost \$37.5 million in total, with some federal and local government funding. We have also allocated \$5.6 million to continue the construction of the Bruce Highway-Boundary Road interchange, once again with federal funding. These are two hugely important projects in my area. Outside of the rail link, these are the two most crucial pieces of infrastructure in my communities straddling either side of the electorate. I do believe that these projects are more than the LNP could have ever hoped to deliver. They could not have delivered them. Other projects to be completed through funding in this budget include the multisport facility in North Lakes, where we will allocate \$723,000 to finish construction of a clubhouse, car park lighting and storage facilities. We are also allocating \$50,000 for the indoor shooting range at the sporting shooters club in Burpengary.

We have a thriving small business community in Murrumba, centred on North Lakes and the Narangba Innovation Precinct, and they are set to benefit from this budget. I especially think the businesses in my area will see the real opportunities from the accelerated Advance Queensland package. This package embodies our drive in this budget to generate innovation and investment in Queensland. We are increasing, as we have heard, our investment in Advance Queensland to a total of \$405 million over five years. I believe the accelerated Advance Queensland package offers new funding for industry accelerators and regional innovation hubs that will be embraced by my area. I hope that some of that funding can flow into North Lakes.

One part of Advance Queensland that I think will be especially embraced by my innovative local businesses is the Advancing Small Business Queensland strategy. This strategy aims to make Queensland the place for small businesses to grow, to start and to employ. It will provide targeted support for small business including \$10,000 digital capacity grants and \$5,000 grants through the Queensland Entrepreneurs of Tomorrow program. This budget is good for small business, especially the innovating and emerging businesses in Murrumba. Especially in the North Lakes-Narangba area a lot of them are web based digital businesses. I think the Entrepreneurs of Tomorrow program and the digital capacity grants will suit them to a tee.

Today in this debate we have heard the LNP accuse us of spending too much money.

Mr Boothman: You always spend too much money.

Mr WHITING: Poor us! What the member is doing is accusing us of spending money on employing more teachers, nurses and ambulance officers—employing more Queenslanders. Guess what? That is exactly what we have been doing. Over the last 12 months we have employed 1,940 extra nurses, 651 extra doctors, 479 extra health professionals, 940 extra teachers and teacher aides, 300 extra police and 54 extra paramedics. We are employing Queenslanders and we are employing them to improve the lives of all Queenslanders. This coming financial year will also see the recruitment of an extra 110 ambulance officers and the commissioning of 170 new and replacement ambulances. I want to give my congratulations to the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services on this initiative. There will also be nearly \$16 million to progress work on the new and replacement ambulance stations around the state.

There is something else that is part of this budget that I know will greatly improve the lives of Murrumba residents and relieve their cost-of-living pressures. The residents of my area will see public transport fares slashed from next year under the Palaszczuk government's Fairer Fares package. Commuters travelling from North Lakes bus station to the Brisbane CBD via Petrie train station will save \$315 per year because a six-zone journey will become a three-zone journey. Public transport users travelling locally from Deception Bay to Redcliffe could save the same amount. Deception Bay residents could save \$565 per year on their journeys when travelling to the Brisbane CBD. I know a lot of people in my area struggle, and our new fare structure will make a real difference to their lives. I know that my people are the salt of the earth and they look to their government to lend them a helping hand.

That takes me back to the values and principles of this budget and why we have taken the funding decisions that we have in this budget. The values that honourable members see in our budget initiatives are designed to deliver people into jobs, support them in their jobs or enable them to get the training they need to get a job. The budget reflects our values of fairness and equity because it gives residents better access to top-quality healthcare services or access to a range of well-staffed and well-equipped local schools that give them every chance to get the best start in life. The area I represent is exciting, growing quickly and is very attractive for families and people of all ages. We have a great lifestyle in Murrumba and this budget supports and protects that lifestyle.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I seek leave to have the remainder of my speech incorporated in *Hansard*.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Millar): Have you cleared that with your whips and your government leader?

Mr WHITING: And with the Deputy Speaker, yes.

Leave granted.

Vulnerable Queenslanders in Murrumba will be better supported thanks to a boost for neighbourhood centres of \$6.9 million over four years under this Budget.

The Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, Shannon Fentiman, and the Department of Communities Child Safety and Disability Services have listened to the needs of the communities in Murrumba, and delivered a raft of welcome projects and funding. These include:

- \$1.641 million to local organisations to support families to safely care for their children in Murrumba including funding for local service providers:
 - Mission Australia in Deception Bay
 - Deception Bay Neighbourhood Centre
- \$226,000 to for the Deception Bay Neighbourhood Centre to operate their community centre and deliver support to the community and vulnerable Queenslanders.
- \$282,000 for services to support young people and the community in Murrumba including funding for information advice and referral and support and case management services provided by Deception Bay Community Youth Programs Association.
- \$1.619 million to establish new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Family Wellbeing Services in the Moreton Bay area as part of the Palaszczuk's action plan to reduce overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in Queensland child protection system (shared with all Moreton Regional Council electorates)
- \$1.618 million to assist persons under 65 or an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander person aged under 50, with a disability or condition that restricts their day-to-day living, to stay living at home in Murrumba, including funding for local service providers like:
 - Deception Bay Meals on Wheels Incorporated in Deception Bay
 - Ozcare in North Lakes
 - Suncare Community Services Inc. in North Lakes
- \$0.079 million to assist persons under 65 or an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander person aged under 50, with a disability or condition that restricts their day-to-day living, to stay living at home in Murrumba, including funding to Active 60 and Better Inc. in Deception Bay.
- \$12.895 million to assist people with a disability and their families to access the support and services they need in Murrumba, including funding for local service providers like:
 - Ablecare Pty Ltd in Burpengary, Burpengary East and Deception Bay
 - Brain Injury Association of Queensland Inc. in Deception Bay
 - Breakaway Inc. in Deception Bay
 - Cerebral Palsy League of Queensland in Deception Bay and Rothwell
 - Endeavour Foundation in Deception Bay
 - Funding to Individuals in Mango Hill and North Lakes
 - House With No Steps in Deception Bay
 - Insight Disability Pty Ltd in Deception Bay
 - Leeding Care Australia Pty Ltd in Rothwell
 - Open Minds Australia in Deception Bay
 - Queensland Support Services & Solutions Pty Ltd in Kippa-Ring
 - S.C.O.P.E. Inc. in Deception Bay and Griffin
 - The Corporation of the Trustees of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Brisbane in Deception Bay and Rothwell
 - UnitingCare Community in Rothwell

The electorate of Murrumba will also get great benefit from Budget initiatives from the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services, the Honourable Bill Byrne and the Queensland Police Service

Counter-terrorism funding and a \$69.9 million boost to target serious and organised crime across Queensland are among a raft of community safety measures announced in the Budget.

The Government had committed more than \$16.2 million in increased funding over four years for the Queensland Police Service to enhance its response to terrorism.

\$39.1 million in extra funding had been committed to help police target serious and organised crime in Queensland over the next four years.

Other Budget initiatives that will help keep the resident of Murrumba safe include:

- \$3.2 million over two years for QPS and the Crime and Corruption Commission to tackle child exploitation
- \$5.1 million in increased funding over four years to support the High Risk Teams delivering an integrated response to domestic and family violence

- \$2.2 million over four years to pursue cultural change in support of the Not Now, Not Ever Domestic and Family Violence Report
- \$98.9 million to upgrade QPS facilities, information and communication equipment

Murrumba will benefit from the record infrastructure funding in this Budget, with an investment of more than \$20 billion over four years throughout Queensland.

Under the Minister for Transport Stirling Hinchliffe and Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports Mark Bailey, the program is the largest in five years and would support more than 15,900 jobs over the next four years.

The \$20.02 billion funding under the Queensland Transport and Road Investment Program (QTRIP) is a massive investment in Queensland's transport future and job creation.

The Palaszczuk Government is investing \$4.38 billion in the coming 2016-17 financial year alone to advance our state and ensure we have the infrastructure to plan for future growth.