




Speech By  
**Jennifer Howard**

**MEMBER FOR IPSWICH**

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Record of Proceedings, 17 June 2016

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

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (12.33 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Queensland budget 2016-17. I stand before you today to once again speak on a budget that is good not only for the people in my electorate of Ipswich but also for all Queenslanders. The Palaszczuk government has remained steadfast to its commitments, and this is very evident in this budget which continues to put the people of Queensland first. By putting Queenslanders first, we have not shied away from one of our paramount commitments, which is to not sell our assets.

Once again we have proven that we are a government that understands the need to look to the future. We need to embrace technology. We need to identify jobs for the future. We need to encourage tourism and embrace projects that will significantly diversify our economy. I commend the Premier for her strong leadership of this state and for her progressive approach to the future of Queensland. I thank the Treasurer for providing a budget that delivers for all but, importantly, for Ipswich people.

With over \$16 million being spent on major capital works for Ipswich schools, the Palaszczuk government is putting its money where its mouth is and ensuring that the education of our children, including some of our most vulnerable, are at the forefront in all decisions. Of the \$16 million, \$10 million will go to Claremont Special School. Claremont Special School is an established and treasured part of the rich tapestry of Ipswich, and it has been educating some of our most disadvantaged children for over 20 years. I commend and thank Principal Patricia Thiedeman, staff and teachers who are committed and passionate about educating some of our most disadvantaged students and providing the opportunity for students to develop respect, independence, communication and a healthy self-esteem. I am so proud that we as a government have been able to provide \$10 million to assist in the further development of this school. The funds will provide a new two-storey building which will house not only 10 new classrooms but also an additional admin centre which will enable Principal Trish and her staff to continue to provide a high level of professionalism. This is something we have come to expect from this school.

This funding is an example of the Palaszczuk government's commitment to the education of students with disabilities. There are three special schools in my electorate of Ipswich—Ipswich Special School, ably led by Principal Bruce Grigg; Claremont Special School; and Ipswich West Special School, led by Acting Principal Renee Summerville. I am pleased to say that a further \$5.8 million will be provided to the Ipswich West Special School to provide additional classrooms.

Ipswich West Special School is a small but vibrant school in my electorate of Ipswich. It has been providing quality education to children living with disability since it was established in 1973, and it is a testament to the quality of education provided by Acting Principal Renee Summerville and her loyal staff that the school continues to shake the disability education landscape in Ipswich.

There is another delightful school in my electorate, Churchill State School led by the dynamic and inspiring principal, Kelly Harvey. I am delighted to say that in this budget \$400,000 will be delivered to Churchill State School for the upgrade of many of their existing classrooms. Both of my children attended Churchill State School—quite some years ago now—and it is fantastic to hear that the school will be able to modernise their classrooms and provide current students and students of the future with the opportunity to have access to modern facilities.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Minister for Main Roads, the Hon. Mark Bailey, for listening to me, my state colleagues and my constituents in Ipswich and committing \$200 million to fund the Ipswich Motorway upgrade from Darra to Rocklea. Like the member for Ipswich West and the member for Bundamba, I was delighted to see that the upgrade to the last section of the Ipswich Motorway has finally been given the attention that it was due. For those who do not venture west very often, this section of the motorway is vital to our economy. At present, there is an estimated 85,000 motorists who travel, and very often sit idle, on this section of the motorway every day.

When I was elected in January last year, I made a commitment to my constituents that I would do everything I could to ensure that the Ipswich Motorway upgrade was completed. I made this commitment because I know how important that road corridor is in my electorate, but I am disappointed to say that this vital piece of infrastructure had been overlooked, obfuscated about and used as a political football by the LNP. During their time in government I can recall the LNP talking about many things like sacking 14,000 public servants and cutting funding to the incredibly successful Skilling Queenslanders for Work program, just to name a few cuts to vital services in my area, but one thing that was conspicuously absent during those dark days was any talk of an upgrade to this section of the Ipswich Motorway. What a missed opportunity for the LNP and what a missed opportunity for the people of Ipswich.

The former Labor federal government committed funding to complete the Dinmore to Darra section of this motorway—\$2.8 billion—and then committed a further \$279 million to kickstart the Oxley section of the road at the roundabout. The newly elected federal coalition government came forward and said that they would match any commitment from the Queensland government, but sadly we never saw anything from the LNP from 2012 to 2015. I know that is all in the past now, because earlier this year the federal Labor opposition committed to matching this government's commitment to fund the completion of the Ipswich Motorway from Darra to Rocklea and the federal coalition government made the same commitment afterwards, but the people of Ipswich will not forget the contempt with which they were treated by the LNP for far too long.

This piece of infrastructure is in many ways the lifeblood for the people of my electorate and the LNP did nothing. I say to the Premier and the Minister for Main Roads, and on behalf of my constituents, a very sincere thank you for hearing this call. Mr Deputy Speaker, I seek leave to have the remainder of my speech incorporated into the *Hansard*. I have had approval from the Deputy Speaker.

Leave granted.

Mr Speaker, I am also proud to be part of a Government that is committed to providing housing to our most vulnerable. I commend the Treasurer and the Minister for Housing, Hon Mick de Brenni for providing \$5,114,704 to complete 37 dwellings in Booval and Bundamba as part of the Government's social housing construction program. This is on top of the \$1,248,848 commitment to commencing 6 new dwellings in Booval.

The funding of these housing projects will have a very positive impact on those who are most at need in the Ipswich community.

Additionally, Mr Speaker, I commend the Treasurer and Minister Fentiman for continuing to fund those in our community who are affected by the scourge that is domestic and family violence. The \$1.177 million for the Domestic Violence Action Centre to respond to domestic and family violence will go a long way in providing support and advice to those affected by this epidemic.

The \$1.118 million for local service providers like DVAC, Relationships Australia Ipswich, Uniting Care Ipswich, and the Ipswich Housing and Support Services in Booval will deliver support and services to the most vulnerable residents of Ipswich.

The needs of Ipswich children have also been remembered in this Budget. Mr Speaker, the Treasurer has made sure that children in need of protection have a safe place to stay in Ipswich by providing \$12.645 million of funding to local service providers such as Churches of Christ in Bundamba, Life Without Barriers in Ipswich, Mercy Community Services in Churchill, and UnitingCare Community in Ipswich.

This is on top of the \$2.932 million to support the needs of children in out of home care in Ipswich. Important services, including counselling services, can continue to be provided by Ipswich providers from UnitingCare Community, West Moreton Hospital and Health Service, and Kambu Medical Centre.

Mr Speaker, we all know that it takes a village to raise a child. In the sometimes disconnected society in which we live, it is important that we are able to support families to safely care for these children. The \$3.586 million of funding provided for in the Budget will allow Ipswich service providers such as Uniting Care Community, Mission Australia, Ozcare and the St Vincent de Paul Society to make a world of difference for those families.

It is also my pleasure to announce that the Ipswich Community Youth Services Inc has received \$325,000 in funding. This will allow the ICYS to support young people and the community in Ipswich to provide information advice and referral, and support and case management services.

The ICYS has been providing assistance and support to at-risk young people, their families and their communities in the Ipswich and surrounding regions since 1983. The funding from this Budget will allow the ICYS to keep providing a range of support programs and activities to the almost to assist and empower young people to make positive choices and decisions for their future.

Mr Speaker, I am proud to be part of a Government that is looking after our most vulnerable. These include those who are victims of domestic and family violence and children who are in need of special care and again I commend Minister Shannon Fentiman for her fabulous work in these areas.

I am pleased to say though, Mr Speaker, that the Palaszczuk Government has not forgotten the older members of the Ipswich community. This government, by committing \$6.478 million in the budget, is allowing Ipswich service providers such as Able Australia, ALARA Qld Limited, the Alzheimer's Association of Qld, Blue Care, CODI, Ipswich Meals on Wheels, Ozcare, the Corporation of the Synod of the Diocese of Brisbane, and the Secondo Day Respite Association Inc to assist persons under 65 or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons aged under 50, with a disability or condition that restricts their day-to-day living, to stay living at home in Ipswich.

The \$209,000 given to Able Australia Services, Ipswich 60 and Better Program Inc, and Seniornet Association Inc will allow these organisations to provide support for older people in Ipswich to help maintain and strengthen their connections to the Ipswich community.

Mr Speaker, I am proud to be part of a Government that has committed over \$20 million to assist people with a disability and their families to access the support and services they need in Ipswich. I thank the Minister for Disability Services, the Hon Coralee O'Rourke for her great work. The support and services provided by organisations such as ALARA Qld Ltd, Cerebral Palsy League of Qld, Life without Barriers, Ozcare, UnitingCare, and Ipswich Regional Advocacy Services will allow those most vulnerable in our community to live comfortably.

Finally, Mr Speaker, I commend Minister Cameron Dick for his continuing commitment to helping those in our community who are struggling with mental illness. The \$391,942 in the 2016-17 financial year is a small part of the larger \$1.16 million commitment to provide a range of non-clinical support to people with mental illness, their carers, and families.

Additionally, the \$972,386, which is part of a \$2.91 million funding commitment over 3 years to provide palliative care services will assist those in our community who require extra help in their times of greatest need.

Mr Speaker, the budget that this Government has put forward is the blueprint for our state. A state that will look after the most vulnerable. A state that will invest in the future. A state that will protect what we have. I could not be more proud to be a part of this Palaszczuk Government.

Mr Speaker, this is a budget that is good for Ipswich and good for Queensland.

I commend the Bill to the House.