




Speech By
Julieanne Gilbert

MEMBER FOR MACKAY

Record of Proceedings, 17 June 2016

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

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (7.50 pm): The 2016 Palaszczuk government's budget is good for my electorate of Mackay and regional Queensland. The budget delivers on much needed new infrastructure and maintenance projects to get tradies back to work, with opportunities for apprenticeships. This is what my community has been asking for.

The Palaszczuk government's second budget has thoughtfully and successfully addressed the neglect our emergency services and other vital community services endured under the former LNP government. While the former LNP government treated our firefighters as a low priority, the Palaszczuk government has worked to rectify the LNP's reckless mismanagement by restoring funding to this important sector. Mackay's firefighting response capabilities will be overhauled with a \$7.5 million dedicated modern fire station in Mackay. The funding will provide complementary emergency services support facilities to the Mackay region. This new station will deliver better equipped infrastructure to respond quicker to emergency situations we may face in the future. I am pleased our hardworking emergency service workers will have the best facilities with new office accommodation, staff amenities, storage, operation areas and vehicle accommodation.

Students in Mackay are also going to benefit from the state government's budget. As a passionate believer that all students should receive the same educational opportunities, regardless of where they live, I am thrilled to announce that there is \$10.6 million in capital works funding. Mackay District Special School, Mackay State High School, Pioneer State High School, Victoria Park State School and Mackay West State School will be all sharing this funding. For our students to have the best chance at success, we need to ensure our schools continue to be quality learning environments. This extra school funding is a welcome addition to our region. I look forward to seeing these important projects underway and benefiting our teachers, staff and students.

Mental health is a pressing issue in my community. The current LNP federal government has shamefully neglected the Mackay community by withdrawing funding for transition housing—a shameful lack of support for regional mental health services. My colleague the member for Mirani and I hosted a recent visit to our region of the Minister for Health at the Mackay Horizons clubhouse. The members at this clubhouse told heart-rending stories of how their lives were turned around being able to access transition housing—moving from acute care into the community. The fact that almost every person in our region knows of someone who has been affected by mental health issues and suicide and yet the current federal LNP government has continually denied people access to support services through their ruthless lack of funding is clear evidence they are out of touch with what is important.

One of my most important priorities since being elected to represent my electorate of Mackay has been to lobby for increased mental health services and facilities for our community. That is why the member for Mirani and I have asked the Premier and the health minister to provide additional mental health support services in Mackay, and they delivered. The Palaszczuk government is investing \$12 million to build new step up, step down community managed mental health facilities at three regional locations, including Mackay. Our new 10-bed facility will provide prevention and recovery care services which will support the transition between acute and community services for people with mental illnesses. This facility reflects my community's need and will deliver innovative mental health services that offer flexible, recovery focused care close to home and support networks. There can be no doubt this facility will save lives.

In line with the Queensland government's commitment to creating new and diverse employment opportunities, the budget provides \$1.3 million for a new Mackay region tourism centre to develop our emerging local tourism industry. This is great news for the community as part of a state-of-the-art visitor information centre for Mackay which will be repositioned on the highway and designed to recapture visitors who currently bypass the city. This project would integrate with other tourism upgrades currently taking place in the region. I am delighted the visitor information centre is expected to be completed and ready for operation in November 2017—in time for the peak Christmas holiday period.

Not only is this great news for our local tourism industry; this project will also provide local construction jobs for our region. The tourism industry employs more than 6,000 people in the Mackay region and brings economic output of more than \$1.4 million per year. This project will help connect visitors to the fantastic tourism offerings around Mackay. I seek leave to incorporate the remainder of my speech, which I have had approved by the Deputy Speaker, in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

Growing the tourism industry will benefit local businesses and support jobs in the region.

In addition—a \$435.8 million infrastructure spend in the Mackay, Mirani and Whitsundays region in the 2016-17 budget will support an estimated 1500 jobs locally.

All of this has been achieved without the need for asset sales. I commend the Palaszczuk Government on the delivery of an economically responsible and future focused budget that will provide widespread benefits across my electorate.

Mr Speaker I seek leave to incorporate the remainder of my speech approved by the Deputy Speaker.

Other Key initiatives announced in the budget that will support jobs and growth in Mackay and region are (new and continuing):

- \$5.3 million in 2016-17 to continue the replacement of bridges and approaches at Vines Creek, Harbour Road, North Mackay, at a total cost of \$28 million. These works represent a portion of the \$144.6 million Accelerated Works Program.
- \$4.8 million in 2016-17 to establish a long life Multi Offloading Facility at the Abbot Point Port, at a total cost of \$8.6 million.
- \$500,000 to commence construction of a replacement Mackay Tourism Visitor Information Centre, total cost \$1.3 million.
- \$50,000 in 2016-17 to develop a strategy to identify and prioritise safety upgrades to principle cycle routes in the Mackay urban area, at a total cost of \$100,000.
- \$3.4 million in 2016-17 to construct a Roll Off Roll On ramp at the Abbot Point Port, at a total cost of \$3.5 million.
- \$3.6 million of \$4.7 million to complete construction of additional classrooms at Mackay District Special School.
- \$300,000 for amenities upgrade including replacement of air-conditioners at Pioneer State High School.
- \$1.1 million refurbishment of the swimming pool change rooms at Victoria Park State School.
- \$1.2 million to refurbish the Home Economics and Manual Arts classrooms at Mackay State High School.
- \$55,755 of \$500,000 to complete the upgrade of Prep Classroom at Andergrove State School.
- \$400,000 to commence construction of Mackay replacement fire station, total cost \$7.5 million.

Other initiatives (ongoing and continuing):

- \$9.2 million to continue replace aged assets at the Mackay Substation, the total estimated cost of the project is \$32.3 million.
- \$2,646,000 from multiple ongoing funding sources to non-government organisation as part of the Homelessness Base initiative to deliver homelessness services for Queenslanders.
- \$1,659,319 from multiple funding sources to commence construction of 10 dwellings as part of the Public Rental Housing New Construction initiative due to commence in July 2016.
- \$530,000 from multiple ongoing funding sources to provide Home Assist Secure for Queenslanders aged 60 years and over, and people of any age with a disability.
- \$508,000 from multiple ongoing funding sources to provide transitional housing to eligible applicants with high or very high needs as part of the Community Rent Scheme.
- \$57,000 from multiple ongoing funding sources to registered housing providers to deliver crisis accommodation as part of the Crisis Accommodation Program.

- \$216,400 as part of a \$461,400 commitment to be spent in 2016-17 to invest in communities through funding for the Dudley Denny City Library in Mackay.
- \$2.275 million to support the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan including: information management; catchment monitoring; ground cover and water monitoring; wetland mapping; Queensland Wetlands program support; training on wetlands in agriculture; and supporting the State Council of River Trusts works program..
- \$0.09 million for the Rural Water Use Efficiency for Irrigation Futures program to assist the irrigation sector statewide to achieve more productive on-farm water use.
- \$2.25 million as part of a \$215.4 million commitment over 2 years funding the Building our Regions program, this project is to provide upgrades to 42 sewage pump stations across the Mackay Region.
- \$250,000 as part of a \$6 million over four year investment into regional waterway health report cards.
- \$236,000 for crocodile management as part of \$1.9 million allocated in 2016-17 under the enhanced crocodile management strategy, worth \$6 million over 3 years.
- \$50,000 is provided as part of a \$150,000 over 3 year agreement to support the operations of the Mackay Conservation Group.
- Finalisation of Mackay Hospital redevelopment.
- \$12 million to develop Step Up/Step Down Units in regional communities.
- \$123,076 as part of a \$469,604 commitment over four years to support and enhance community relations with people from diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds.
- \$1 million to commence expansion of public moorings and coral appreciation zones on Great Barrier Reef, total cost \$2.4 million.
- Mackay Cricket Association Inc: \$118,753 to complete the construction of the dressing rooms, coaches box, upgrade oval and install lighting at Harrup Park at Mackay, worth \$734,121.
- \$77,680 to increase participation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in structured sport and active recreation activities in each community; to deliver a quality and sustainable multisport and recreation program; and increase the capacity of communities to plan and manage quality sport and recreation appropriate to local needs as part of the Indigenous Community Sport & Recreation Program ongoing program.

Department of Communities Child Safety and Disability Services

- \$313,000 for the George Street Neighbourhood Centre Association in Mackay, including \$200,000 to commence major upgrades to the Mackay Neighbourhood Centre worth a total of \$1.2 million to improve connectivity between building spaces, increase functionality and efficiency and address overcrowding.
- \$4.457 million to ensure children in need of protection have a safe place to stay in Mackay including funding for local service providers:
 - Churches of Christ in Queensland in East Mackay
 - Marabisda in Mackay
 - Life Without Barriers in North Mackay
- \$721,000 to support the needs of children in out of home care in Mackay, including funding for local service providers:
 - Churches of Christ in Queensland in East Mackay
 - Mackay Hospital and Health Service in Mackay
- \$2.206 million to support families to safely care for their children in Mackay, including funding for local service providers:
 - Act for Kids in Mackay
 - Churches of Christ in Queensland in Mackay and East Mackay
 - George Street Neighbourhood Centre Association in Mackay and East Mackay
 - Mackay Women's Centre Inc in West Mackay
 - Mackay Youth Support Service Inc in Mackay
 - UnitingCare Community in Mackay
- \$793,000 to respond to domestic and family violence in Mackay including funding for counselling and court based services provided by Domestic Violence Resource Service (Mackay & Region) in Mackay.
- \$563,000 to deliver support to vulnerable Queenslanders, including funding for local service providers:
 - Murri Watch Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Corporation in Mackay
 - UnitingCare Community in Mackay
 - Domestic Violence Resource Service (Mackay & Region)
 - Community Accommodation and Support Agency in Mackay
 - Mackay Women's Centre in West Mackay
 - Mackay Yamadi Lera Yumi Meta Association in Mackay
- \$619,000 for women's support services in Mackay, including counselling, community support and capital funding for the Mackay Women's Centre in West Mackay.
- \$572,000 for services to support young people in Mackay, including funding for local service providers:
 - Mackay Regional Council in Mackay
 - Queensland Police-Citizens Youth Welfare Association in North Mackay
 - YIRS One Stop Youth Shop in Mackay
 - Madec in Mackay

- \$612,500 to establish new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Family Wellbeing Services in the Mackay and Whitsundays 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 other electorates in the Mackay and Whitsundays areas—funding not yet awarded to organisations to determine exact location)
- \$4.160 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 Mackay, including funding for local service providers like:
 - Blue Care: Head Office in Mackay
 - Community Accommodation and Support Agency Inc in Mackay
 - HTM Community Transport Inc in North Mackay
 - Integrated living Australia Ltd in Mackay
 - Life Without Barriers in North Mackay
 - Mackay Community Visitors Assoc Inc in West Mackay
 - Mackay Hospital and Health Service in Mackay
 - Mackay Meals on Wheels Association Incorporated in Mackay
 - Mackay Yamadi Lera Yumi Meta Association Inc in Mackay
 - Ozcare in Mackay
 - Skills Training Mackay Association Inc in Mackay
 - The Presbyterian Church of Queensland TA PresCare in Mackay
- \$0.010 million to provide support for older people to help maintain and strengthen their connections to the community in Mackay, including funding to Mackay 50 and Better Programme Inc in North Mackay.
- \$13.437 million to assist people with a disability and their families to access the support and services they need in Mackay, including funding for local service providers like:
 - Autism Queensland Limited in West Mackay
 - CQ Nurse Pty Ltd in West Mackay
 - Endeavour Foundation in Beaconsfield, East Mackay, Mackay and West Mackay
 - Engedi Inc. in North Mackay
 - Funding to Individuals in Andergrove, Beaconsfield, Mackay, North Mackay and Slade Point
 - Healthcall Pty Ltd ATF the Healthcall Unit Trust in Beaconsfield
 - Innovative Disability Employment and Liaison Placements Assn Inc in Mackay
 - Life Stream Services Inc in Mackay and North Mackay
 - Life Without Barriers in North Mackay, South Mackay and West Mackay
 - Mackay & District Spinal Injuries Assoc Inc in West Mackay
 - Mackay Advocacy Inc in Mackay
 - Mackay Family Care & Community Support Inc in Andergrove and Mackay
 - Mackay Hospital and Health Service in Mackay
 - Mackay Regional Council for Social Development Ltd. in Mackay
 - Madec Ltd in Mackay and South Mackay
 - Multicap Limited in Beaconsfield and West Mackay
 - Phoenix Place Inc. in Mackay
 - The Coothinga Society of North Queensland in Mackay, North Mackay and West Mackay
 - The Presbyterian Church of Queensland TA PresCare in North Mackay.

I congratulate the Treasurer Curtis Pitt and commend the budget.