




Speech By
Leanne Linard

MEMBER FOR NUDGEE

Record of Proceedings, 16 June 2016

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

 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (5.52 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Appropriation Bill before the House. From the outset I would like to congratulate the Treasurer on this, his second budget. I would also like to acknowledge and thank his office and departmental staff who have worked tirelessly to pull together such an important suite of measures. The second budget of the Palaszczuk government is a budget that continues to deliver on the commitment we gave Queenslanders at the last election to focus on jobs and restoring front-line services, and sets out a clear economic plan for Queensland's future focused on three priorities: job-creating innovation, investment and infrastructure. It is a budget that addresses both the challenges and opportunities currently facing our state.

The budget maintains a clear focus on job creation. We have already seen 52,500 new jobs created in Queensland since the election of the Palaszczuk government, but we know we need to deliver more jobs for Queenslanders, particularly in regional Queensland. Measures such as the two-year, \$100 million package to give employers the confidence to take on new staff in regional Queensland via employer support payments is part of delivering on that commitment. So, too, is maintaining and building business confidence, which has consistently been the highest of mainland states over the past 12 months. Queensland is forecast to record the strongest economic growth of all states over the next few years.

While global and domestic conditions are challenging, we are optimistic about the opportunities ahead for our state and for all Queenslanders. I recall saying in my budget speech last year that as a government we must not only govern for the welfare and good government of Queensland today, but we must also have a vision for where Queensland is going tomorrow. This budget will accelerate our Advance Queensland plan with an additional investment of \$225 million on top of the existing \$180 million and look to capture opportunities in industries such as genomics, robotics and biofuels. The Advance Queensland package builds on and advances many forward-thinking initiatives and policies of successive Labor governments and will create a new era of opportunity for Queensland.

I was very pleased to see the \$22.7 million Advancing Small Business strategy contained in the budget to help create jobs, drive business growth, harness innovation and build digital capacity. Digital capability grants of up to \$10,000, matching dollar-for-dollar contributions by small businesses, will help to build their digital capability through website development, training and/or adopting new online tools and technologies. There are over 4,000 small to medium sized business enterprises across the Nudgee electorate and I look forward to talking about this strategy with local business, about how it may help them to grow and harness new opportunities.

I am delighted to see public transport take centre stage in this budget with the announcement of a public transport fare reduction across all South-East Queensland zones. My electorate is highly serviced by public transport with 12 train stations and 394 active bus stops. The simplification of the zoning system will result in savings to constituents in my electorate in the order of \$315 per passenger

per annum from Toombul station to the city and up to \$578 per passenger per annum from North Boondall station or bus stop to the city. I thank the Minister for Transport and member for Sandgate for delivering for public transport patrons in South-East Queensland who will travel further for less.

I also take this opportunity to mention my ongoing priorities in regard to finding innovative solutions to commuter parking issues at stations across my electorate, but particularly at Nundah station, to planning for significant commuter growth around Nudgee station, and to looking at innovative solutions to road and pedestrian issues at the Banyo railway crossing. These are issues of concern to constituents in my electorate and I will continue to raise them with the minister, who I acknowledge has always given me a good hearing on these issues. Cross River Rail is the highest priority infrastructure project for our government and is key to managing congestion on the network which, as I have outlined earlier, with 12 train stations, is key to my electorate. The budget allocates \$50 million towards early stage planning and approvals of this significant infrastructure project.

As some of my northside colleagues have already spoken about, \$250 million has been allocated in the budget to continue the vital widening of the Gateway Motorway upgrade between Nudgee and Bracken Ridge. When complete, this joint \$1.1 billion Commonwealth-state project will make an appreciable difference to the journey time of local residents of the Nudgee and neighbouring electorates, with an estimated 80,000 motorists using this stretch of road daily.

The budget also contains welcome improvements for my local schools with funding to upgrade the middle years playground and refurbish a teaching block at Geebung Special School, funding to complete outdoor learning areas at Northgate State School and Wavell Heights State School. I have seen the work that Education Queensland is doing in repurposing these outdoor learning areas and it is impressive. When I was at Earnshaw State College recently I saw firsthand the significant improvement the Infrastructure Enhancement Program is making—aesthetically yes, but more importantly, how interactive and useable the space was made by the modern design concepts used by the department under the program. As all members in this House know, it is not always the big items that mean the most. I was tremendously grateful to see that \$60,000 has been provided for in the budget to install large industrial fans in the multipurpose hall at Earnshaw State College. The heat in the hall for students, particularly during the heat of summer, the absence of any assisted cooling and the challenge for the P&C in funding such improvements was raised with me by Principal Dave Bosworth early last year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Treasurer and his staff, the education minister and her wonderful senior advisor for taking my written and verbal requests seriously and for facilitating this improvement for my local school. I know the students will be very grateful.

I was disappointed to see Wavell State High School miss out on capital funding for a new performing arts centre. The school principal, P&C, teachers and parents are desperate to see a new centre built at the school to support the growing performing arts programs there which I can attest to as being of the highest calibre. I know that the Minister for Education is very aware of this issue and my strong support for it—

Ms Jones: Very aware.

Ms LINARD: Thank you. I take that interjection.

Ms Jones interjected.

Ms LINARD: I take that interjection, too. Thank you, Minister.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Miss Barton): Order! I will remind the Minister for Education that if she wishes to interject she should be doing so from her own seat.

Ms LINARD: Not only is the minister aware of this because of my repeated approaches on the issue; she also made the time to come and see the need for herself. I thank her for that. I will continue to raise this issue as a priority for my electorate.

During question time this morning the Minister for Health spoke about funding in the budget for a Step Up Step Down facility at Nundah. This model of care reflects community need and the preference for innovative mental health services that offer flexible, recovery focused care closer to home and to family and friends who can offer support—an important alternative to hospital admission. I thank the minister for this investment in mental health services. I know that this facility will be another resource to support the vital work currently undertaken by the Nundah Neighbourhood Centre and Community Legal Service, Nundah Activity Centre and community service providers supporting vulnerable Queenslanders and building resilience and capacity in my local community.

Similarly, \$6.9 million has been allocated to local organisations to support families to safely care for their children, including funding for community based intake and referral services at Kurbingui Youth Development in Zillmere and Mercy Community Services in Nudgee and Zillmere. It was wonderful to have Minister Fentiman and the Treasurer come out and view these services recently.

\$1.9 million has also been allocated to ensure that children in need of protection have a safe place to stay, including funding for foster and kinship care, residential care and supported independent living services provided by Mercy Community Services in Zillmere and Virginia. They do a wonderful job. Vitally, \$112,000 and \$129,000 for different projects offered by the Zillmere Community Centre continue to build capacity in this vulnerable suburb within my community.

Six million dollars has also been allocated to assist people with a disability and their families to access the support and services they need across my electorate, and I make mention of the Cerebral Palsy League of Queensland, Help Enterprises, Micah Projects, Multicap, Open Minds, the Burnie Brae Centre, Geebung Meals on Wheels, Nundah Activity Centre, Ozcare and Technical Aid to the Disabled, which are all wonderful groups within my electorate.

This budget sets out a clear economic plan for Queensland's future and is focused on three priorities: job-creating innovation, investment and infrastructure. It is a budget that addresses both the challenges and opportunities currently facing our state. I commend the Treasurer on his second budget.