




Speech By  
**Peter Russo**

**MEMBER FOR SUNNYBANK**

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

 **Mr RUSSO** (Sunnybank—ALP) (11.20 pm): Tuesday saw the Palaszczuk Labor government introduce its 2016 budget for Queensland. The Premier, Deputy Premier, Treasurer and all the front bench should be congratulated for the great budget that puts front and centre the Palaszczuk Labor government's policies to assist the regions that sadly were neglected during the reign of those opposite. The Cowboys did not miss out in the regions. The great North Queensland Cowboys will finally get their stadium in Townsville.

This budget reinforces our commitment to bring not only fiscally responsible, but morally responsible solutions to guide Queensland through the downturn in the resource industry and the impact that is having on jobs in the regions and also jobs in my electorate of Sunnybank. Within my electorate is Hastings Deering. Hastings Deering supplies the mining industry with those large dump trucks that transport minerals to be processed and then transported to the coast by train. Hastings Deering is just one example of heavy industry affected by the downturn in the mining industry which has resulted in high job losses in my electorate. The pain of job losses from the mining sector downturn is also very relevant in my electorate.

Whilst I have been speaking about some of the harder aspects of what is occurring in Sunnybank there is some good news for my electorate. This budget will make the life of my constituents so much easier. The children of my electorate will receive a better education by improving the services that are available to a number of the schools in my electorate. The constituents who rely on public housing will receive a further boost with the Cornerstone Living project in Coopers Plains. I take this opportunity to also highlight some of the achievements that have been introduced in the Labor Palaszczuk government's 2016 budget. I hold a special place in my heart for the Sunnybank Special School. The staff at that school are a great example of selfless devotion to the students they have in their care. That is why I am proud to be part of a Labor government that is delivering on education in my electorate, including \$150,000 to refurbish administration space and \$400,000 for site redevelopment at the Sunnybank Special School. Watson Road State School will get \$93,370 of the \$100,000 needed to complete work on an outdoor learning area. The Watson Road State School is one of the most diverse schools in my electorate. There are many Indigenous children at this school as well as many children from all over the globe. I know the parents, students and teachers at Watson Road State School will be very grateful to receive this funding to complete the outdoor learning area.

There is also \$3.3 million allocated from the 2016-17 budget as part of multiyear \$4.8 million government funding to the Technology Commercialisation Fund. The Palaszczuk government made an election commitment to attract funding for agriculture research, development and extension initiatives. In Kessels Road in my electorate is an agriculture research centre that will benefit from the increased funding that will ultimately benefit the whole of Queensland through the expansion of exports of our

produce overseas. That is why I am pleased these funds are being spent in my electorate. The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, in partnerships with universities and other research facilities, are continually developing new and innovative advancements in the agriculture sector but there is a gap between these advancements and making them a commercial reality. The Technology Commercialisation Fund will fill the gap and allow these innovations to jump the divide. The Technology Commercialisation Fund will engage with the private sector to invest in the government's agriculture and food based research and development with the aim to spearhead commercial innovations into both the domestic and export markets. The flow-on effect of this will be more jobs, more profits and a more robust economy for the great state of Queensland. The funding we have given this initiative demonstrates our commitment to building a stronger agriculture industry in this great state to improve our ability to export our produce to the world. I commend the appropriation bills to the House.