




Speech By
Joan Pease

MEMBER FOR LYTTON

Record of Proceedings, 15 June 2017

**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL; REVENUE
LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (9.23 pm): Wasn't that an interesting contribution from the member for Moggill? I will have to agree with my colleague, the member for Stretton, that the member is, indeed, Dr No. What a questionable diagnosis he has delivered tonight in the House. I am proud to rise today to speak in support of the Appropriation Bill delivered by the honourable Treasurer, Curtis Pitt MP. I congratulate the Treasurer, the Premier and all the ministers for this impressive budget. What a great budget it is for Queensland and for my electorate. This great Labor budget is responding to the needs of Queenslanders, setting out a clear economic plan, creating jobs, attracting investment and building infrastructure—growing our economy. It responds to the needs of all Queenslanders: the young, the elderly, the unemployed, the disadvantaged, business and industry.

The member for Moggill obviously has a very short memory because under the Nicholls-Newman government baysiders suffered terribly. We were punished. We lost many of our front-line services so important to a community: Child Safety office closed; Department of Housing closed; Bayside Tenancy Advice office—which was tenancy advice for caravan park owners—closed; and a reduced number of hours for a doctor at the primary care clinic. Perhaps the most hurtful was the closing of the Moreton Bay Nursing Care Unit. This was a functional, accredited aged care facility. I have spoken many times about it in this place. Eighty-five residents lost their home and it was all down to the Newman-Nicholls government, member for Moggill. It was an attack on the most vulnerable in our community. Sadly, these attacks are upon the most marginal: the elderly, families, young people, unemployed and renters.

Baysiders sent a strong message in 2015. We made it clear that we would not stand for the disgraceful axing of our local services and the total lack of regard for our community. The great news for baysiders is that the Palaszczuk Labor government is delivering for Queensland. It is committed to creating jobs, building important infrastructure and growing the economy. This budget delivers just that. Gundu Pa, our new community health centre, will see the return of a 24-hour primary care clinic, including increased and improved services. This \$13 million investment in health services in the bayside is scheduled to open later this year. Thank you to the Palaszczuk government. This budget delivers funding for our new Wynnum Ambulance Station that will be co-located at Gundu Pa. This will meet the growing needs of our community, providing a centralised, modern public health precinct. Minister for Health, thank you for your commitment to providing outstanding health and paramedic options for all Queenslanders.

I cannot miss the opportunity to acknowledge the Minister for Housing and Public Works who knows how important it is to support communities. Thank you for supporting Bayside Housing Services which is a return of weekly outreach services for the Department of Housing in my community. BABI, Mangrove Housing, QSTARS tenancy advice service, Wynnum Community Hub and Second Bite are just a few of our important bayside organisations supporting local people, people who were ignored and

disregarded under the Newman-Nicholls government. These organisations look out for some of the most marginalised people in our community. I thank them for the outstanding work that they do each and every day in our community.

Today is World Elder Abuse Day and it is fitting that I talk about the statewide boost that this budget delivers, with funding of a record \$12 million to ensure that our communities are age friendly, providing important funding to expand elder abuse prevention and senior legal services. Many of our local young people have really benefited in the last two years from Skilling Queenslanders for Work programs. In fact, last night was BABI's graduation. I really love going along to these graduations. It is great, and often hard, to hear the stories of these young people, their journeys, their highs and lows, but most particularly their successes. Whether it is returning to school, training or finding employment, Get Set for Work has helped so many people in the bayside and across Queensland. Parents, grandparents and carers are so proud seeing their young people finding their way. I am so very proud to be part of the Palaszczuk Labor government that has reinstated Skilling Queenslanders for Work. Thanks to the Minister for Training and Skills for this impressive program which has helped more than 18,000 disadvantaged Queenslanders, with 8,182 now employed, 2,119 gone on to further education and training and 321 who have returned to school. This is good Labor policy, offering a hand of support when needed and, importantly, returning a program with a proven successful track record.

Further, a commitment of \$27.5 million for employers who hire a long-term unemployed or young unemployed jobseeker has been allocated in this budget. This will see eligible employers receiving up to \$15,000 for a long-term unemployed person or \$20,000 for a young jobseeker between 15 and 24. This is great news for jobseekers and employers.

Unlike the opposition, we have no plans for a coal-fired power station in North Queensland. Rather, the Powering Queensland Plan is a road map to drive down energy costs, leading the transition to a low-carbon economy, delivering jobs and investment. That is the Palaszczuk government's commitment to renewable energy: 50 per cent renewables by 2030 and transitioning to a low-carbon economy, reducing the cost of living by delivering subsidies and support across the energy and water supply, securing reliable and cost-effective concessions to eligible households.

Commuters already benefit from the great cost-of-living savings initiative Fairer Fares and baysiders are set to benefit from the wonderful Cross River Rail. Thank you very much to the Deputy Premier and the Palaszczuk government, because we are fully funding this priority infrastructure project. This project will reduce travel time into the city for baysiders by up to 14 minutes. Importantly, it will take 18,500 cars off the road, reducing congestion and pollution. This traffic-busting project will support 1,500 construction jobs each year during construction. This is an economy and city-shaping project and we baysiders are set to benefit from the jobs during construction, reduced travel time and access to a modern, active transport system. Due to the Palaszczuk government's vision and commitment, construction will start this year. This really is a budget that delivers in terms of cost-of-living relief, a renewable energy future, creating jobs, strengthening our economy and delivering infrastructure. I commend the bill to the House.