




Speech By
Leanne Linard

MEMBER FOR NUDGEES

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

 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (10.18 pm): I rise to speak in support of the 2017 Appropriation Bill before the House. The third budget of the Palaszczuk government is a budget that continues to deliver on the commitments we made to Queenslanders at the last election: to focus on jobs, to invest in the front-line and community services that Queenslanders depend on most and to govern for all Queenslanders equitably and with fairness. It is a true Labor budget and one that everyone on this side of the House has a right to be proud of.

The budget includes: \$16.6 billion for health to strengthen front-line services, redevelop hospitals and bolster mental health care, including in my own electorate with a step-up step-down facility in Nundah; \$13.7 billion for education to invest in our children with new schools and facilities, more teachers, specialist teachers and guidance officers, and an investment in vital early childhood education and care programs; \$1.8 billion for housing in recognition that every Queenslander deserves access to a safe and affordable roof over their and their children's and family's heads; \$1.16 billion for the Powering Queensland Plan to put downward pressure on electricity prices, to ensure secure and reliable electricity supply across Queensland and to lead the state's transition to a 50 per cent renewable energy target, which will deliver significant benefits to Queensland; and \$5.3 billion in concessions to ease the cost of living for households and small businesses across Queensland, including reduced public transport fares. Fairer Fares has been a resounding success across my community and is making a real difference to people's household budgets, along with popular schemes like the electricity rebate and pensioner water and rate subsidy schemes.

However, at the heart of this budget is a \$42 billion Capital Works Program over four years. For me, at the heart of this budget is the commitment to fund the delivery of Cross River Rail. Public transport is incredibly important to my electorate. In fact, as anyone who has looked at an infrastructure map of Nudgee knows, it is the nervous system of the Nudgee electorate and it is something that I am very passionate about. Straight through the centre of my electorate run the Shorncliffe line, the Caboolture and Sunshine Coast line and the Redcliffe Peninsula line, servicing 12 suburban train stations within my electorate boundary. For Nudgee commuters, that city-building project means a reduction in travel times to the city of up to eight minutes on the Caboolture line and a train, on average, every six minutes during peak periods on the Shorncliffe line. I am proud to be a member of this Labor state government that has had the courage and vision to commit to such an exciting and vital infrastructure project for Queensland.

We have already seen over 59,000 new jobs created in Queensland since the election of the Palaszczuk government, but we know we need to create the optimal conditions to see more jobs delivered for Queenslanders. In 2017-18, our Capital Works Program of over \$10 billion will support in the order of 40,000 jobs. That productivity boosting infrastructure program, coupled with the expanded Back to Work program, Advance Queensland program and generous payroll tax rebates, Made in

Queensland, Ecobiz and many other small business initiatives are about creating an environment where business and industry can flourish, expand and invest, leading to more jobs and a stronger Queensland economy.

A significant local highlight in this budget is seeing the \$6 million commitment for a new performing arts hall at Wavell State High School contained in BP3. Last year during my budget reply speech I stood in this House speaking of my disappointment that funding had not been allocated to this vital local project. Today I have the opportunity to thank the education minister, on behalf of principal Jeff Major, P&C President Greg Rodgers, teachers, parents and students at Wavell State High School for making that investment in those talented young students.

While I am thanking sincerely my colleague the Minister for Education, I also thank her for the \$250,000 contained in this budget to upgrade Block C at Earnshaw State College. Along with Principal Dave Bosworth, I cannot wait to personally congratulate the student council representatives at Earnshaw for their long-term advocacy for this upgrade. I promised those students that I would do everything I could to see the project delivered and it will be a pleasure to watch them cut the ribbon. Zillmere State School, Geebung Special School and Wavell State High School have also secured much needed funds under the School Infrastructure Enhancement Program to upgrade an outdoor learning area, refurbish classroom and sporting facilities respectively.

Other local highlights include over \$230 million to continue to widen the Gateway Motorway upgrade between Nudgee and Bracken Ridge from four to six lanes. As my neighbour the member for Sandgate knows well, that stretch of the Gateway Motorway has long been a cause of considerable frustration to our local communities, in addition to the estimated 80,000 motorists using the stretch of road daily. Every milestone on this project is one that we keenly celebrate.

I have already mentioned the ongoing funding to construct a new step-up step-down facility in Nundah to offer flexible recovery focused care. The budget also contains half a million dollars to complete the refurbishment at Ashworth House for the provision of interim care services. I thank the health minister for that investment in mental health and transition care services. I take this opportunity to thank him for the investment he made in my electorate in last year's budget for an impressive new Queensland Ambulance Service emergency and fleet management precinct at Geebung, which is soon to be officially opened.

The budget also contains funding to continue the upgrade of Boondall train station, almost \$2 million for substation upgrades at Nudgee, over \$7 million to build new homes for those most in need in my local community and significant investment in community, child safety and disability services across my electorate. I congratulate the Treasurer, his office and the Queensland Treasury officials and staff who have worked so diligently to deliver this budget. Having had the opportunity to serve two past state treasurers, I appreciate the considerable hours dedicated to formulating, scrutinising and delivering a state budget, and this is a budget to be proud of. It is a budget that continues to deliver on the commitments we made to Queenslanders at the last election to focus on jobs, the front-line services that Queenslanders depend on most and building the infrastructure Queensland needs most. It is a budget that articulates a way forward for all of Queensland based on equity and fairness, which are values at the very heart of this government and the Australian Labor Party that I proudly represent in the electorate I proudly serve. I commend the bill to the House.