




Speech By
Nikki Boyd

MEMBER FOR PINE RIVERS

Record of Proceedings, 15 June 2017

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

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (3.03 pm): For my community, this budget is about the ongoing work and seeing through the commitments that I made during the election and the projects that I have announced since then. At the heart of this budget is the core promise that I made during my time as a candidate: that I would always fight for jobs.

Congestion is a problem for people in my electorate. It has been for over a decade and it is getting worse. Many people in my electorate have to travel to the city for work. For 20 years every government has been building roads and upgrading intersections to try to solve this problem, but the reality is that, until public transport becomes a cheaper and much faster option, our roads will remain clogged. The government's twofold approach is to be commended. Firstly, the Fairer Fares package has already commenced its rollout, which will mean that a typical commuter from my electorate of Pine Rivers now saves around \$900 a year. That is great news for the battlers in the Pine Rivers electorate.

Locally, this budget continues my commitment to ensure accessibility at the Strathpine station, the major train hub in my electorate. This \$15.2 million upgrade will provide independent accessibility and early works will commence in November this year. The Strathpine station is an old run-down station and the installation of lifts, a new overpass footbridge, drop-off points, amenities and general improvement will contribute greatly to the look and feel of the Strathpine business district.

This budget also provides the funds that are needed for Cross River Rail. This project will save eight minutes in travel time on the Caboolture line. For the people of Moreton Bay, Cross River Rail will also deliver an additional 5,400 seats, with trains departing every six minutes. Cross River Rail will also take around 18,500 cars off the road every day, reducing congestion on our roads and ensuring that we can spend more time with our family and friends and less time travelling.

Of course, public transport does not work for everybody. That is why this budget is also a roads budget. The ongoing works on the Gateway Motorway North south of Nudgee—widening that section to six lanes—is an investment that I know that many in my electorate will welcome. That section is a choke point in peak hour traffic and a key artery for many in my community. Similarly, the removal of two sets of traffic lights and a roundabout at the Gympie Road-Dixon Street intersection at Strathpine has been welcomed by the people of my electorate. The majority of this \$3 million project is funded in this budget. It will allow a smooth flow of traffic through the future growth of the Strathpine business district. So, too, will the upgrade of the neighbouring Petrie roundabout. Many in my community have been advocating for work on this roundabout, as it is particularly needed with the incoming university campus. Together, these improvements will significantly reduce travel times and increase safety on major local roads in my electorate.

The people in my electorate do it tough. Part of the reason they have moved so dramatically against incumbents over the last two election cycles is the feeling that they have not been listened to. I have listened and I am proud to say that this budget helps the most vulnerable and helps those who are most in need. A balanced government budget means little if the pressure is moved onto households.

That is why I invite members of my community to explore the new concessions and rebates on the Smart Savings website, which was launched recently by the Premier. It is a great tool for people to ensure that they are making the most of our government's schemes and programs to make a real difference to their household budget.

My background is in education and, for me, it is a top priority for my electorate of Pine Rivers. In this budget there is \$2.8 million for the \$3 million Bray Park State High School multipurpose school hall upgrade. That will finally see a stop to politics being played by others with this vital project. Significantly, the budget also sees a considerable investment in classroom upgrades at Lawnton State School to the tune of \$155,455. The member for Kallangur and I have also been meeting with Lawnton State School and the department to progress that school's dire need for a school hall—something that I spoke about in my first speech to the House.

Since my election, I have seen a building investment of over \$7.3 million in state schools in the Pine Rivers electorate. This budget is adding another investment of over \$2.9 million. I see the Minister for Education is in the House. I would like to thank her for the contribution that she has made to the schools in my electorate.

Catholic and independent schools in my electorate have also seen a similar building investment from our government, ensuring that my growing community is well serviced now and into the future. In my time as the member, a great achievement has been the installation of flashing school zone signs at every school in my electorate, including Genesis Christian College.

We can measure our progress against those who came before us. When compared to the failed Newman-Nicholls team, in just two years we have led the creation of double the number of jobs. Under the Palaszczuk Labor government, Queensland has seen growth of an extra 59,200 jobs. That figure contrasts starkly with the 28,700 jobs created in the three years of the Newman government. The failed Newman-Nicholls team was a government of sackings, not job creation. Our government supports the growth of business, industries and communities across the state. This budget directly supports 40,000 jobs while continuing to create more and improved employment outcomes for all Queenslanders into the future.

With school halls and classroom upgrades, flashing lights on every major road at every school, train station upgrades, intersection improvements, congestion busting, water infrastructure, fare reductions, health and much needed social service investment, this budget makes good on local projects that I have been fighting for for my community and my community has been fighting for for decades. My predecessor delivered nothing.

Mr Brown interjected.

Ms BOYD: My predecessor delivered none of these things—I will take that interjection from the member for Capalaba—over the three years of LNP representation for my community. With the exception of cuts, sellings and sackings, my community missed out every time. Only Labor cares about the Pine Rivers electorate. Only Labor cares about Queenslanders. That is why Labor is paying for Cross River Rail—not the failed Newman-Nicholls LNP team and not the LNP Turnbull government in Canberra.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I seek leave to have the rest of my speech incorporated in *Hansard*. I can confirm that I have approval from the Deputy Speaker.

Leave granted.

Locally the Bray Park PCYC, Employment Outcomes and Youth Development Foundation have contributed to the more than 18 000 disadvantaged Queenslanders who have been assisted to develop skills, undertake paid work placements and earn nationally recognised qualifications. We are adding to that this budget with an additional \$60 million invested in Skilling Queenslanders for Work, to transition locals into paid employment in a transitioning and changing economy.

Our \$1.6 billion Powering Queensland Plan will put downwards pressure on electricity bills while ensuring that we continue to enjoy a lifestyle bought by an affordable, secure and sustainable energy supply. Not only will this ensure downward pressure on energy prices, it will also drive investment and generate jobs.

We are injecting resources into housing, which will improve the supply of social and affordable housing, including for women and children escaping domestic and family violence. The First Home Owners Grant will be extended to get Queenslanders into their own home sooner. I know I could never have afforded to purchase a home without this grant! Last year it saw 932 first home buyers in our region realise their dream and I am so pleased to see it funded to be made available to our community for longer.

Labor Governments value Health investment and we value our skilled and valued health workforce. In Government we have employed an additional 3172 Nurses, 882 Health Professionals, 1191 Doctors and 250 Ambulance Officers. Locally we will see a new Adolescent Mental Health facility at the Prince Charles Hospital which replaces the Barrett Centre which was closed during the cuts of those opposite.

A record Education investment is seeing an additional 3095 Teachers and teacher aids under our Labor government and this budget sees another 230 more teachers to support our preppies in Queensland.

This budget sees the biggest injection of frontline staff into child safety department safety in over decade. A \$200 million package over 4 years seeing 236 new child safety staff in the next year alone. Ensuring that every child in our state can get the best start in life.

We are overhauling our probation and parole system to enable tougher supervision of parolees, reduce reoffending and improve rehabilitation and mental health services. Our investment in Youth Justice will see 17 years olds moved out of adult prisons and provide pathways to reduce reoffending behaviour. We will re-establish the Drug Court in Queensland and will continue to build on the 332 additional Police Officers we have employed since March 2015.

Under our leadership ours continues to be an innovative, diverse and productive economy. The unemployment rate is falling, not skyrocketing as it was under the LNP.

Our local dam North Pine will see a Water Treatment Plant upgrade of \$6 million invested this budget from the \$10.2 million total spend. This will go a long way to reduce capacity constraints in our growing communities. In also continues the renewal energy boom with 17 large scale renewables projects are getting up off the ground.

As I said Mr Speaker this is a record Education spend and I want to detail some of the education investment for my community to the House—Bray Park State High School in 2015/16—\$140,000 towards the refurbishment of home economics facilities, in 2016/17 there is \$30,566 towards supply and installation of active equipment, \$96,759 towards the refurbishment of home economics facilities, \$212,081 towards multi-purpose hall extension. Bray Park State School received 2016/17 for \$395,127 towards refurbishment of Blocks G & H. Dayboro State School in 2016/17 received \$229,147 towards refurbishment of Blocks D, G and H/R2 which has seen the installation of the retractable walls in classrooms. Lawnton State School received in 2015/16 \$100,000 towards refurbishment of Prep buildings and in 2016/17 \$103,858 towards refurbishment of prep buildings and \$450,000 towards refurbishments of Blocks A & C and as I said \$155,455 towards refurbishments to Blocks A & C. Pine Rivers State High School in 2015/16 received \$140,000 towards refurbishment of the Home Economics kitchen and \$125,000 towards repurposing Blocks 9,10,11 & 12 which includes the remodelling of the mechanics workshop. 2016/17 another \$116,770 towards refurbishment of the Home Economics kitchen. \$51,197 towards repurposing Blocks 9,10,11 & 12, and the recent investment \$100,000 for multiple shade structures. Strathpine State School received 2015/16 in \$257,365 towards Refurbishments for classroom Block D. Strathpine West State School 2015/16 in \$79,748 towards amenities for people with disabilities and 2016/17 saw \$250,000 to refurbish Block 16. Genesis Christian College saw \$500,000 to construct 4 classrooms, storeroom, meeting / seminar room, administration offices, secondary staff room, kitchenette, verandas, outdoor learning area, lift, furniture & equipment and site works. As well as the conversion of temporary secondary staff work area to a science laboratory, furniture and equipment.

This is a budget that delivers for my community and for Queensland and continues to deliver surpluses and pay down debt. It is a budget for builders and battlers and a budget that continues to build our legacy for a better way for Queensland.