




Speech By  
**Peter Russo**

**MEMBER FOR SUNNYBANK**

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Record of Proceedings, 8 August 2017

### **APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL: FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

 **Mr RUSSO** (Sunnybank—ALP) (2.41 pm): I rise as chair of the Finance and Administration Committee to speak on the 2017-18 appropriation for the portfolio areas of the Premier and Cabinet, Treasurer, Employment and Industrial Relations, Racing and Multicultural Affairs. I present report No. 43 on the Appropriation Bill 2017. The committee's recommendation is that the proposed expenditure for the committee's areas of responsibility, as detailed in the Appropriation Bill 2017, be agreed to by the Legislative Assembly without amendment. On behalf of the committee I thank the Premier and Minister for the Arts; the Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment; and the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs as well as their staff for their attendance and providing details in answering questions of the committee during the estimates hearing.

In her opening statement to the committee discussing the 2017-18 budget, the Premier outlined that her government's third budget is a budget that invests in job creation. The Premier outlined that, as a result of that commitment, there has been a total of 69,300 jobs created in Queensland and that the current budget will support a further 40,000 jobs over the next 12 months. It was also outlined in the Premier's statement to the committee that this is the government's third budget where there will be a further delivery of infrastructure. The budget has committed more than \$42.75 billion for its capital program over the next four years, and the Premier outlined that this has occurred without privatisation—in other words, without the need for asset sales—which was the main plank of the LNP's policy going into the 2015 election. The member for Clayfield was the main architect of those asset sales. In this third budget the Premier also outlined that we will see record investment in health and education. The third budget continues to restore front-line services for our growing and decentralised state.

In her opening statement the Premier also outlined to the committee that, since being elected in 2015, the Palaszczuk government has delivered additional front-line services through nurses, doctors, teachers, teacher aides, police, ambulance officers and Fire and Emergency Services. I would now like to outline some of those numbers: 3,170 nurses, 1,190 doctors, 3,095 teachers and teacher aides, 330 police, 250 ambulance officers and 200 fire and emergency services officers. The government's election promise to restore front-line services after the massive LNP cuts has been fulfilled. The Premier also outlined that this budget caters for growth in our community, including the regions.

In the Premier's opening statement to the committee there was talk about electricity prices, which are a concern to many householders in Queensland. As was outlined to the committee, electricity prices have been stabilised after dramatic increases under the LNP. As we are all aware, the national electricity market is a mess. This has mainly been caused by the federal government's inability to rectify issues on the national grid. Queensland has managed to keep downward pressure on electricity prices, and price increases have been held at an average of 1.9 per cent per annum under the Palaszczuk government. The Premier pointed out that this is as a result of us keeping our energy businesses in

public ownership, developing additional energy resources, reopening Swanbank E—which had been mothballed by the member for Clayfield—and providing concessions to Queenslanders on their electricity bills.

The Palaszczuk government's third budget is in stark contrast to the federal budget, which was delivered in May. As outlined by the Premier in her opening remarks, the Turnbull government has ignored Queenslanders and continued to refuse to fully contribute—

*(Time expired)*