




Speech By  
**Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe**

**MEMBER FOR SANDGATE**

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Record of Proceedings, 16 June 2017

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

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (9.41 pm): It is an honour to rise to speak in support of the Palaszczuk government's 2017-18 budget and the associated appropriations. I congratulate the Treasurer on delivering this budget with the focus on supporting job creation while recognising the need to support families and households across the state struggling with cost-of-living issues.

This third surplus budget furthers the Palaszczuk government's commitment to jobs for Queensland by continuing to turn our state around—away from the job-destroying policies of the former LNP government toward the careful and considered economic plan that will continue to strengthen and diversify Queensland's economy and support and grow jobs now and into the future. This economic plan is focused on job creation, and this Labor government is more than happy to compare our record on job creation with that of the opposition.

Importantly, this budget is also aimed at helping families and households to ease cost-of-living pressure through a variety of measures. Queenslanders will benefit from the government's \$1.16 billion Powering Queensland Plan, which will ensure we have a secure and affordable supply of electricity now and into the future. Eligible older people in the community will also be able to access other cost-of-living support through the Electricity Rebate Scheme, Pensioner Rate Subsidy Scheme and Pensioner Water Subsidy Scheme.

Commuters in my electorate and throughout South-East Queensland will benefit from measures such as the Palaszczuk government's guarantee that the lower fares, as part of the Fairer Fares program, will remain frozen at 2017 levels. This is great news, for example, for the commuters taking trains from Shorncliffe, Sandgate and Deagon stations, who will continue to save up to \$578 a year under this measure. It is also good news for commuters using a bus to travel from Bracken Ridge into the city for work. They can continue to save up to \$889 a year. Thanks to the Palaszczuk government freezing the lower fares in 2017, people in my electorate of Sandgate using public transport will continue to have more money in their pocket thanks to these fare savings.

Locals in my electorate appreciate these cost-of-living measures, but they also value the commitments to projects that will enhance our community and deliver job opportunities—projects such as Cross River Rail and the Gateway Upgrade North. I am proud to be part of the Palaszczuk government, which is delivering Queensland's highest priority infrastructure project, Cross River Rail. The Palaszczuk government has committed to fully fund the \$5.409 billion required to deliver the project over its city-shaping life. This budget is a jobs budget, and the Cross River Rail project will support more than 1,540 jobs each year and 3,000 at peak over the construction period.

I have told the House before that I am all about modernising Queensland. Noting the Leader of the Opposition's budget reply, I therefore welcome the contrast between the alternative major commitments to the future. A Nicholls LNP government would build a coal-fired power station. A re-

elected Palaszczuk Labor government will deliver the city-shaping Cross River Rail. The Cross River Rail project will contribute to easing congestion, increasing accessibility to the CBD and improving network capacity and reliability across the whole network. This will benefit South-East Queensland commuters right across our region, including those from my electorate of Sandgate.

Cross River Rail will deliver more frequent services. Residents in my electorate will see a train every six minutes on average during peak periods on the Shorncliffe line. That is why Queenslanders expect Malcolm Turnbull and the Australian government to come to their senses and come to the party on this city-shaping project. With the funds for Cross River Rail committed and frozen fairer fares, the Palaszczuk government is laying the foundations for a high-quality public transport system for South-East Queensland—something that honest observers acknowledge those opposite had damaged during their time in office.

Equally, I am pleased to inform the House that the Gateway Upgrade North project has now reached the halfway mark. This is a project which demonstrates perfectly how a partnership between all levels of government can deliver for the people of Queensland. It is how Cross River Rail should be. With regard to the upgrade, the Palaszczuk government has allocated \$236.3 million in 2017-18 to continue the works to widen the Gateway from four to six lanes from Nudgee Road to the Deagon Deviation. This road infrastructure is vital to the north side of Brisbane in reducing congestion issues and travel times as well as improving safety for motorists on one of Queensland's busiest motorways.

Again, not only will this project provide significant commuter benefits; it will also deliver jobs, with over 4,300 individuals employed thus far, just halfway through the project, and an average of 1,000 workers on the job at any one time. It is something I have seen delivering great benefits to the local businesses in my area as well. I also am pleased to note that the project has been recognised with an 'excellent' design rating by the Infrastructure Sustainability Council of Australia. It is the first major road project in Queensland to gain this rating.

I commend to the House this budget, which provides for Queenslanders in an array of areas across community too numerous for me to mention in one speech. I seek leave to have the remainder of my speech incorporated in *Hansard*. I confirm that I have approval of the Deputy Speaker and have provided an electronic copy to Hansard and a hard copy to the attendants.

Leave granted.

Mr Speaker, I am pleased to now speak more particularly about how my constituents and electorate will continue to benefit in this third Palaszczuk Government budget.

Locally, I and other residents have watched with great excitement as the Gateway Upgrade North project has progressed and it has recently reached the halfway mark.

This project, as well as supporting thousands of jobs, has so far seen 75 kilometres of concrete barriers installed, 260 bridge deck units installed, 47 bridge girders installed, 135 bored/driven piles installed, 12,000m<sup>3</sup> of concrete poured for structures, eight major traffic switches.

Importantly, the project also has had significant flow-on benefits for local small businesses.

Such is the interest in the project that around 200 people have visited the Visitor Information Centre.

It is pleasing to see this joint State-Federal partnership, which was fought for by our local Federal Member for Lilley, Wayne Swan when he was Treasurer of Australia, as well as former local Federal MP for Petrie, now Attorney-General and Member for Redcliffe in this place, Yvette D'Ath, reaching this significant project milestone.

Further to the Gateway Upgrade North project in this 2017-18 budget is the allocation of \$3.4 million to complete provision of permanent speed enforcement and heavy vehicle stopping lane on the Gateway Motorway North, south of Nudgee.

These additional measures further contribute to motorist safety as well as congestion and travel time reduction on this key north Brisbane road corridor.

Local communities like mine need this Government's continued responsiveness and support.

Local commuters in my community are also benefitting from the investment of \$3.4 million in the 2017-18 budget for the restoration of the historic Shorncliffe railway station, with a total project cost of \$4.8 million.

I'm pleased to have recently continued my consultation with local commuters at the station regarding this project to ensure the most appropriate outcome for the community.

This year, the Minister for Education with the Treasurer has again delivered a record education budget to ensure Queensland children receive the quality education they deserve.

IT services for our State Schools better funded than ever before and Teacher Aides for all Prep classrooms.

In our local schools it is great news that Nashville State School and Shorncliffe State School will share in around \$450,000 of funding to deliver school infrastructure projects in this 2017-18 Budget.

I am pleased to advise that Nashville State School will receive \$200,000 to refurbish Block A and \$100,000 to resurface the Multi-Purpose Courts through the School Infrastructure Enhancement Program.

Shorncliffe State School will receive \$150,000 to refurbish Block B through the School Infrastructure Enhancement Program.

I acknowledge the Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence and also the Minister for Disability and Seniors for the allocation of over \$10 million in 2017-18 to fund important community and disability services in my electorate of Sandgate.

Domestic and family violence services continue to be a priority and this allocation including funding to improve the safety and wellbeing of victims and their children, provide child safety services, support for people living with a disability and their families and other community support services.

The local providers delivering these services include groups, such as:

- Sandgate and Bracken Ridge Action Group, known as SANDBAG;
- Jabiru Community Youth and Children's Services Association in Bracken Ridge and
- Kyabra Community Association and St John's Community Care in Taigum

Other community support in the form of the vital Home Assist Secure services in my electorate continue to be available, with an allocation of \$293,000 in the 2017-18 budget.

These services assist eligible older or disabled residents with home maintenance, modifications or security work.

The Government is not only continuing to provide these important community services but is also supporting the housing sector in Queensland.

In acknowledging the importance of the housing sector to not only our economy, in creating jobs but also the importance of a home to individuals and the community, the Palaszczuk government has launched its \$1.8 billion 10-year Housing Strategy.

The Strategy will see over 5,500 social and affordable homes built supporting 450 full-time jobs each year over the life of the plan.

The practical rollout of this strategy will, no doubt, learn from the experience and example development of the Fitzgibbon Chase residential estate over the past 6 years on underutilised state land.

This has delivered opportunities for local tradies as has the Government's commitment to the First Home Owners' Grant.

For eligible Queenslanders, including of course in my electorate, the Government is continuing to assist people to get into their first home sooner.

This 2017-18 budget provides additional funding of \$30 million to extend the temporary increase of the Queensland First Home Owners' Grant from \$15,000 to \$20,000, for an extra 6 months to 31 December 2017.

Small businesses in Queensland are supported through a range of measures in this 2017-18 budget including increasing the payroll tax rebate for apprentices and trainees from 25 percent to 50 percent encouraging employers to employ and continue to develop of a highly skilled workforce.

This will further provide greater opportunities for job seekers looking at going into an apprenticeship or becoming a trainee.

As I've mentioned before this is not only a jobs budget but also recognises issues Queenslanders have around cost-of-living.

Living in the Sandgate electorate are a significant number of older people, to whom assistance with costs-of-living and access to timely and quality health services is of the highest importance.

This Budget provides measures such as the Pensioner Rate Subsidy Scheme which provides assistance pensioners to remain in their own homes where possible, in the Palaszczuk government's 2017-18 budget, by providing eligible residents with a 20% subsidy, up to \$200 per year, towards local government rates and charges.

It further provides assistance for eligible pensioners and seniors, under the Electricity Rebate Scheme, by way of a rebate of up to \$341 per year towards electricity costs.

Eligible pensioner property owners in South East Queensland will also be able to access the Pensioner Water Subsidy Scheme which provides a subsidy of up to \$120 a year to reduce the impact of increased water prices.

Queenslanders will also be happy to hear that the 2017-18 Queensland Budget provides a record \$16.6 billion health spend as well as a \$916.1 million capital program.

This record spend on Health helps to ensure Queenslanders can access the world-class health and hospital facilities they need, when they need it.

I am proud to say there is an incredible level of participation in local sporting clubs within my electorate of Sandgate.

Clubs like the Sandgate Hawks AFL Club, Sandgate-Redcliffe Cricket Club—known as the 'Gators' and the Brighton Bulldogs have significant membership from young players thru to seniors and are keenly supported by the local community.

These clubs in my electorate such as these are continuing to experience a significant increase in sign up of women and girls, no doubt encouraged by the example of players such as 'Gators' cricketer Jemma Barsby—the hugely talented all-rounder for the Brisbane Heat.

Thanks to the Palaszczuk Government sporting clubs can access funding to improve or build new infrastructure and facilities to continue to accommodate and encourage this increased membership.

Through the Get Playing Places and Spaces program, grants of up to a boosted amount of \$150,000 for the current round, which opens on 19 June, are available for clubs to apply for new or upgraded infrastructure such as change rooms to accommodate and encourage female participation, upgrading of lighting or building a new club house.

In this current Budget, under the Get Playing Places and Spaces program, my local sporting clubs the Brighton Bulldogs and the Brighton Roosters Junior Rugby League Club have been received funds to improve their facilities.

The Bulldogs have received up to \$100,000 to upgrade the lighting at Wakefield Park and the Roosters have received \$88,287 to help resurface their main playing field.

I know these funds are greatly appreciated by the very active and engaged sporting clubs in my electorate and I am proud that this Palaszczuk Government is continuing to support these clubs.

Mr Speaker, this is a budget that helps strengthen the Queensland economy, as well as continuing to deliver key infrastructure priorities, build key frontline services and provide support to members of our community who need it the most.

I congratulate the Treasurer for this Budget and commend the Bills to the House.