




Speech By  
**Brittany Lauga**

**MEMBER FOR KEPPEL**

---

Record of Proceedings, 14 June 2018

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

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (5.10 pm): The Palaszczuk government's 2018-19 budget is a budget for all Queenslanders. This budget delivers on the Palaszczuk government's election commitments and pumps billions of dollars into the Central Queensland economy.

Just eight months ago I gave birth to my beautiful and clever daughter, Odette. Every day I love and cherish her more and more. It is an honour to be her mum. I love watching her grow and learn, and on the weekend I watched on proudly as she crawled for the first time. Like all parents, I want the best for my baby. Becoming a mum has instilled in me a deep, fervent desire to leave our world a better place than I found it—a better place for Odette; a better place for the five millionth Queenslander, baby Elizabeth; and a better place for all Queensland children.

We know that governments that fail to plan plan to fail, and there is no greater reminder of the importance of planning for the future than our children. I am proud that the Palaszczuk government is delivering a great start and a bright future for our children. Since March 2015 we have hired 3,634 more teachers and 1,135 teacher aides across Queensland including 137 extra teachers and 58 extra teacher aides in Central Queensland. We are going to hire thousands more because we are building six new schools and we are spending more than \$200 million refurbishing existing schools including \$10 million on each of 17 high schools.

In Keppel, Yeppoon State High School is receiving \$4.2 million for a new school administration building and new classrooms as well as \$124,000 for the school's new e-learning hub in the library. I have spoken with Principal Ruth Miller and she is delighted with the news that the school is receiving this funding to help build this growing school. In North Rockhampton we are spending \$2.5 million to refurbish classrooms at the North Rockhampton State High School.

We believe that Queenslanders, whatever their age and wherever they live, should be able to get the health care that they need. This budget provides a record \$17.3 billion operating budget for Queensland Health and \$985 million in capital investments to deliver first-class health services and facilities for Queenslanders. Since March 2005 this government has been rebuilding front-line health services that were savaged under the LNP. We have employed more than 4,800 extra nurses, 1,600 doctors and 370 ambulance officers. In Central Queensland we have employed 144 extra nurses and 77 extra doctors. However, it is not enough to repair the LNP's damage; we must create excellent and responsive services for Queenslanders when they need it most—when they need hospital care. We are building better hospitals, health facilities and emergency departments. The Palaszczuk government is investing more than \$610 million in health care in Central Queensland—a record Health budget for the region and almost \$44 million more than the 2017-18 financial year. We are delivering a Health budget that focuses on strengthening front-line services and managing rising demand.

I heard many stories from local people and families about the devastating impacts that ice is having on people in our Central Queensland community so I fought for our local community and I am proud to be delivering \$14.3 million for a new 42-bed residential drug rehabilitation and detox facility in Rockhampton. This new centre will create jobs during the construction, but it will also give Central Queensland residents improved access to vital drug treatment services and support.

I am delivering on the commitment I made to refurbish the North Rockhampton Nursing Centre. I visit the staff and patients at this nursing centre regularly, and in 2016 I fought for funding to refurbish this important public aged-care facility. I was proud to announce last year \$8 million in funding to refurbish the Cec Pritchard Wing and for a new kitchen, and I am proud that this budget includes \$5.7 million of that \$8 million for major renovations which are expected to be completed in December this year.

We are also investing \$4.4 million across Central Queensland for community mental health services. We are investing \$9.1 million to help our hardworking doctors and nurses meet the increase in demand at our hospitals including at the emergency department and \$1.3 million to improve gastrointestinal endoscopy services.

It is for our children that we are building the economy of the future. We want to create jobs in a strong economy. The two go together. We want to create secure jobs that come with fair pay and safe working conditions to provide families with the confidence they need to spend and invest. That is the foundation of a strong economy. We will equip our workers on the front line of a fast-changing world with the skills and support to succeed. We will encourage innovation and give businesses and industry the confidence to grow. We will direct every effort to our No. 1 priority—jobs for Queenslanders—and we will do that by delivering the infrastructure, the skills and the services that our strong, diversified economy needs by including everyone in the benefits regardless of who they are or where they live.

The 2018-19 budget includes over \$1 billion for infrastructure in Central Queensland, over \$600 million for our local hospitals and over \$30 million for our local schools. There is \$66 million in the budget to support the \$352 million project to build Rookwood Weir. The budget allocates \$107.4 million out of a total of \$243.2 million for the expansion of the Capricornia Correctional Centre, further building on the original investment. This investment will create approximately 172 jobs over the four years of construction, and once all new sections of the centre are in operation there will be 130 extra full-time jobs created at the prison.

A total of \$11.79 million is allocated to support job-creating maintenance and minor infrastructure works across local councils in Central Queensland as part of the Works for Queensland program. Growing jobs in regional Queensland is the Palaszczuk government's first priority, and we are doing just that by providing \$25 million towards water and electricity infrastructure to support tourism on Great Keppel Island. Tourism operators, residents and future tourism development projects will benefit from improved access to infrastructure that will create jobs and provide a catalyst for tourism and economic development across the region.

We are delivering improved marine infrastructure with \$3.4 million to upgrade two popular local boat ramps at Corbetts Landing and Thompsons Point. The budget also delivers \$1.4 million to fund two all-tide lanes and a floating walkway for the boat ramp at Corbetts Landing, improving safety and accessibility for boaties using the facility. We are also delivering \$2 million to upgrade the Thompsons Point boat ramp. Labor is currently delivering \$3.1 million in improvement works at North Rockhampton's Callaghan Park facility, and the Palaszczuk government has already invested \$250,000 on improvements at Ski Gardens and \$147,000 at Mulambin Causeway Lake.

Importantly, we are restoring front-line services, which is in stark contrast to the LNP which sacked tens of thousands of public servants right across our state. Since the 2015 election the Palaszczuk government has improved front-line health and education services in Central Queensland by employing an additional 77 doctors, 144 nurses, 137 teachers and 58 teacher aides. People want their children educated in good schools. They want to be looked after when they are sick. They want to be able to turn on a light without taking out another mortgage, and they want to do it without destroying the planet. All of these things the Palaszczuk Labor government is delivering in a methodical, ordered and well-planned way. I grew up in Central Queensland and I love living there. In the last three years I have been standing up and fighting for our community, and now I am proud that the Palaszczuk government's 2018 budget is delivering on its commitments to Central Queensland.

Becoming a parent has changed my perspective on life. I was fighting for Keppel's future before, but now I see the future in a whole new light. I have found that being a parent and a member of parliament gives me a greater vested interest in our future. The decisions we make today affect our children well beyond our own life spans.

I am proud to be a part of a government that is planning for our future, that is building the infrastructure that we need, that is delivering better services, that is protecting the Great Barrier Reef, that is combatting climate change—a government that is growing jobs and steering the economy through change. This is a budget for prosperity, a budget that will deliver on our economy's future, a budget that delivers fairness and a budget that will deliver a bright future for the entire Central Queensland region.