




Speech By  
**Bruce Saunders**

**MEMBER FOR MARYBOROUGH**

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Record of Proceedings, 14 June 2018

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

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (3.54 pm): Is there a doctor in the House? Because after listening to that, I think I need a bit of help. As most people know, I can be a bit cranky sometimes, but I am very happy with the first budget from the Treasurer, the member for South Brisbane, in this Palaszczuk Labor government. I am very happy for my electorate, the great electorate of Maryborough, because once again a traditional Labor government has delivered for a Labor area four years in a row. How many times do we have to deliver for those opposite not to realise that this government is delivering for Queenslanders? All I have heard from those opposite is that nothing is being delivered in regional Queensland, yet 65 per cent of the infrastructure in this budget is being delivered in regional Queensland.

I will talk about what is being delivered in the Maryborough electorate. In 2017 when I was re-elected by the good people of Maryborough I said that, for me, our first budget would be an Education budget. I would like to thank the education minister, Grace Grace, for delivering for the Maryborough electorate. Areas like mine desperately need money spent on education because that is what will lift the standard of living in our area. The minister has delivered in spades. One thing I will say about the minister is that, not only has she delivered for the area, but she has listened to me and delivered for the regional outpost schools in my electorate. I am not speaking about the major schools, but the rural communities in my electorate. I will just run through them if you give me a bit of leeway, Mr Deputy Speaker.

There is \$250,000 to upgrade Brooweena school. Brooweena is a very small school in my electorate. They are good people, and I believe they have the same right as every other person across this state to a good education. That is what a Labor government does. That is what a Palaszczuk government does: we deliver. No matter where you are in Queensland, we deliver services to you. Howard is a great community and one of the first coalmining communities in Queensland. The Howard State School has not had money spent on it for years, and it received \$420,000 to upgrade A block and sporting facilities for the students. Albert school in Maryborough is a very small school. The school was opened in Maryborough in 1867. It is one of the first schools and there is a great principal there too, Principal Phil. Following through with what the Palaszczuk government delivers, we are upgrading the classrooms there for STEM because we all know how crucial STEM is for the future education of children throughout this state.

We are getting ready for the digital economy, and this is what a traditional Labor government does: we spend on education. We try and make sure that everyone, no matter where they live in this state, gets a fair go at education. I am sure that everyone has driven through Tiaro on the Bruce Highway. Tiaro school is getting an upgrade and Sunbury school in Maryborough is getting an upgrade. This is what a Labor government does: we invest in education. We do not cut teachers. We do not cut teacher aides' hours. We invest in teachers and teacher aides and we invest in school facilities so that

our children have the best facilities to learn throughout Queensland. That is what we do as a Labor government. The Maryborough electorate has received a very fair share. I am still smiling about the budget.

There are upgrades to the air-conditioning at the Maryborough Hospital, and we are also putting in a brand-new \$10.4 million accident and emergency which will be one of the best on the east coast of Australia. I would like to thank the former health minister, the member for Woodridge, and the current health minister who came up to the hospital, had a look and made sure that we received adequate funding to upgrade our air-conditioning and other things at the hospital along with the new accident and emergency and the new CT scanner. The CT scanner was promised by the LNP in 2014, but it has been delivered by a Labor government. We are committed to making sure that health care in the Maryborough electorate is up to standard.

I refer to the Bruce Highway. There is \$200 million for section D, including the bypass of Gympie, in conjunction with the federal government. The federal member and I have worked as a team to get funding from both the federal government and the state Labor government. That project is crucial for the benefit of the Maryborough electorate and the trucks from Richers Transport travelling to Brisbane. The bypass will save valuable travelling time and improve safety for residents along the Bruce Highway. There is also money for a new bridge over Saltwater Creek on the Bruce Highway heading towards Bundaberg. We have worked with the federal government to realign the highway to improve safety for all road users.

I refer to a wonderful small grant included in the budget. There is \$20,000 for a great bunch of people in the Maryborough electorate to establish a military trail across the electorate. This \$20,000 will start off the Maryborough Military Aviation Museum. Maryborough was crucial in the training of Air Force personnel during World War II. The amount of \$20,000 is not a great deal of money for a lot of people, but it is a great start for the military museum. I thank the Premier for it. When she was in Maryborough she spoke to people from the committee about this military museum, which is part of a military trail that starts in Maryborough and goes through to Hervey Bay, with Z Force—we have the Duncan Chapman memorial in Maryborough—and out to Toogoom and the Vietnam veterans museum at the RSL.

The budget is very good for the Maryborough electorate. There is record spending in Health and Education. Electorates like mine need that. I am also very happy with the upgrade to the Maryborough Correctional Centre, with a \$12.4 million spend over two years. The minister spoke with and listened to Corrections. We are improving the safety of Maryborough Correctional Centre and ensuring it is a world-class facility.

**Mr Ryan** interjected.

**Mr SAUNDERS:** I take the interjection from the minister. I thank him on behalf of all of the correctional officers because it is a good spend. It will make their lives easier. I thank the minister very much for the \$12.42 million.

I cannot make a speech without mentioning trains. We know that Maryborough is the home of trains in not only Queensland but also Australia. There are some great workers at Downer. In the budget is more money for contracts for Downer, for rail. We also see that the NGR trains are coming back to Maryborough to be modified.

**Mr Madden:** They should have been built there.

**Mr SAUNDERS:** I take that interjection from the member for Ipswich West. They should have been built in Maryborough. It was an absolute disgrace. Today I heard the Leader of the Opposition say that she was proud of the former Newman government. I challenge the Leader of the Opposition to come to Maryborough, stand shoulder to shoulder with me and the 242 workers at Downer and say that she is proud of the decisions made by the Newman government. She would be the only one in the crowd who is proud of the decisions of the Newman government.

This is a great traditional Labor budget. I thank the Premier, the Treasurer and the cabinet for talking and listening to Queenslanders. This is a good budget for the Maryborough electorate.