



Speech By  
**Cynthia Lui**


**MEMBER FOR COOK**

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**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL**

**Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee, Report**

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (6.31 pm): I rise today to speak in support of the 2018-19 budget estimates report No. 5 of the Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee. I want to first acknowledge and thank my parliamentary colleagues including committee chair Duncan Pegg MP, member for Stretton, and deputy chair Jon Krause MP, member for Scenic Rim. I would also like to acknowledge the member for Noosa, the member for Whitsunday, the member for Jordan and the member for Capalaba, who was my proxy on the day.

I would like to particularly acknowledge involved ministers, the Hon. Kate Jones MP, Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games, and the Hon. Leeanne Enoch MP, Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts. Special thanks go to the committee and the departmental staff for their hard work and dedication during the estimates process. Unfortunately, I was not present for the hearing as it coincided with a very important visit by the Premier whom I had the pleasure to welcome to various communities in my electorate, as I reported to the House yesterday. I take this opportunity to thank Don Brown MP, member for Capalaba, for filling in for me. I have been advised that he did an excellent job.

I would like to discuss the budget highlights particularly in relation to the wonderful things that are happening in my electorate of Cook. The Palaszczuk government continues to support economic growth and development in Far North Queensland by investing in vital infrastructure for the region. This demonstrates the government's engagement to remain consistent with communities' needs, creating opportunities for jobs—jobs for now and jobs for the future. While I acknowledge that opportunities in electorates such as Cook can be limited, this estimates hearing shows that we can finally hope for a brighter future thanks to great initiatives supporting tourism, environment, science and the arts.

The Palaszczuk government is committed to mobilising government in partnership with industry to drive the visitor economy especially through the growth of tourism, major events and international education throughout Queensland. Let me give the House some examples. The Wangetti Trail, a 76-kilometre nation-leading bike and walkway project, is expected to generate around \$300 million over the next 30 years, creating 150 jobs once it is operational. Another great example is the increased funding of \$13.8 million over four years including \$10.1 million to support the cane, grazing and banana industries in Great Barrier Reef catchments to improve water quality.

This government is also leading in supporting great environmental initiatives that focus on addressing potential future environmental impacts including the \$500 million flagship Land Restoration Fund to support and grow Queensland's carbon farming sector to supply premium carbon offsets and drive economic, social and other environmental co-benefits.

If we truly want to build a stronger future we need to focus on our vital assets—our children. The \$5 million to continue to deliver First 5 Forever in partnership with public libraries as an ongoing family literacy initiative to give families the information and tools they need to help children develop language and literacy skills will help to achieve our goal. To be able to support our growing economy we need to invest in vital infrastructure and natural assets to support Queenslanders now and into the future. I commend the report to the House.