




Speech By
Kim Richards

MEMBER FOR REDLANDS

Record of Proceedings, 15 June 2018

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

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (2.25 pm): Today in the House I rise proudly to support the 2018-19 Palaszczuk government budget. It is a great budget for Queensland and it is a great budget for Redlanders. I promised to be a strong voice for our community, to listen, to work hard and to fight for the needs of our growing region. The people of Redlands put their trust in me and our Labor team to deliver for our community and I am pleased to say that we are doing just that. In my maiden speech I said that a measure of my success in this place would be determined by the legacy ultimately left behind, so I am proud to share what the budget means for Redlanders and what it is positioning us for into the future.

In terms of infrastructure and roads, we are commencing the planning phase to ensure we deliver the right road solutions to address our growing pains, with the \$500,000 Victoria Point bypass feasibility study. This looks to support our growing residential community and opportunities to develop our businesses. We are also delivering on the Anita Street intersection with Cleveland-Redland Bay Road, which was a project dumped by the LNP back in 2012. That work builds on our commitment to improving roads in the Redlands, such as the recently completed Giles Road intersection with Cleveland-Redland Bay Road.

We will be delivering a new Victoria Point central bus station to increase the capacity of our network, with sheltered bus platforms and a waiting area, improved lighting and security cameras with 24-hour video recording. We do not have access to train stations, so the bus terminal will be really transformative for our area. It will have bicycle storage, which we do not currently have, and bus driver facilities. For my growing community, not only will that mean greater public transport capacity but it will also provide us with safe and secure transport and active transport to get people onto bikes and using the public system.

The Eastern Transitway is also important for Redlands, although outside of our electorate. We know that every day 70 per cent of our employed residents leave the city for work. The Eastern Transitway will upgrade major intersections on that journey to town, getting our community to work quicker and home to their families sooner.

For our island communities, we are also delivering in spades with much needed jetty upgrades on Russell, Macleay, Lamb and Karragarra islands. That is on top of the work that we are currently doing at the foreshore of Macleay Island and the recent upgrades that I had the pleasure of opening with the Assistant Treasurer last year at Redland Bay, as well as the Coochiemudlo and Victoria Point jetty upgrades.

This budget is about supporting success for all Queenslanders through jobs and economic growth. It is about how we transition our state in a complex global economy. I am proud to be part of a government that has and continues to invest in our people through programs such as Skilling Queenslanders for Work. It invests in Redlands organisations such as Running Wild, which is delivering

that amazing program for our community. The budget will continue to grow our businesses. The Advance Queensland agenda supports local businesses in the Redlands, such as BOP Industries, a business founded by the amazing Scott Millar, who graduated only last year from Sheldon College. It is an entrepreneurial business started by a dynamic young man. The 3D hologram technologies business has benefitted from our government's Advance Queensland agenda. Recently Scott was selected to represent Redlands at the Myriad Festival.

Our government is also investing in renewables. This is great for our region as well. There is much innovation occurring as a result of that focused agenda. In Redlands we are benefitting with international investment and collaboration with the government and QUT in this space. We are truly positioning and delivering in a knowledge based economy. This budget will continue to provide those who employ apprentices and trainees with payroll tax rebates. I know that for Redlands where one of our key employment industries is the construction sector, these incentives deliver.

Everyone knows our Queensland environments are spectacular. I am a little biased, but I think Redlands is one of the best in Queensland. It is an environment of pristine wetlands, beaches and sunny natural environments. We are positioning our region to capitalise on our natural assets. In this budget we have committed to delivering an artificial reef dive site in Moreton Bay—an underwater playground that will celebrate cultural heritage and our Quandamooka coast and attract tourism to our region.

We have committed to celebrating the magnificent Migaloo and the Queensland whale migration experience that runs down our coastline with a commitment to an immersive whale-watching interpretive centre. There is so much happening up and down the Redlands coast. The future is exciting for our region. This budget really is delivering.

It is only a Labor government that will invest in supporting our communities, our organisations, our hospitals, our health services and our front-line police and ambulance personnel. In Redlands we are set to receive two new Queensland Police vessels that will increase the capacity and speed of response to our remote and complex islands. We promised to improve our Redland Hospital. The emergency department is being upgraded with additional beds and we are enhancing the birthing suite facilities.

We have an amazing domestic violence shelter in the Redlands. The team at Maybanke are incredible. Valda, we love what you do out there. In this budget Maybanke will receive \$1.95 million in funding over the next five years that will ensure we are delivering the support services our families need for the scourge that is domestic and family violence in our communities. I am proud to be part of this Labor government that is ensuring that the Redlands continues to have a thumping and vibrant community heart and the vital services that we need.

Finally, I want to talk about education. Our children are our future as members well know. A world-class education invests in the next generation. This budget delivers on education. It delivers for our children. It delivers for our families. It delivers on ensuring the future is prosperous for all Queenslanders.

A great education is something every child deserves. It has been a privilege as the member for Redlands to meet with Redlands principals, teachers, parents and students over many months to understand the opportunities and challenges that exist in our schools context. Our government knows that facilities are important. The built environment and design that supports pedagogical delivery is key to a great education. We are delivering upgrades across our schools from building refurbishments through to solar panel installation.

I am particularly excited that our Russell Island State School, which is in a remote community setting, is set to receive over \$1 million in funding for building refurbishments. They are complex and remote communities and Principal Barrett, of Russell Island State School, like Principal Seawright on Macleay Island, are doing amazing work in those communities.

We have increased our teachers by over 10 per cent and we are employing an additional 248 teacher aides. I know how important teacher aides are in our school. I recently had the opportunity to talk with many of our teaching support staff in the Redlands. I know how incredible the work they are doing is. I thank them for the amazing work they do with our young people.

I will finish where I started. I want my Redlands community to know that I will continue to be tenacious and unwavering in delivering for Redlanders. This budget delivers and positions my Redlands community for a prosperous future. I know that there is still much more to do. I will continue to work hard every day on behalf of my amazing community. I commend the bills to the House.