



Speech By  
**Kim Richards**


**MEMBER FOR REDLANDS**

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Record of Proceedings, 21 August 2018

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

**Economics and Governance Committee, Report**

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (6.43 pm): I rise proudly today to speak to the estimates report tabled by the Economics and Governance Committee, this being with regard to the Appropriation Bill 2018. I want to thank my colleagues of the Economics and Governance Committee, chaired by the member for Logan, and the committee staff. This was my first opportunity to participate in the estimates hearing process, overseeing the budgets of the Speaker of the House; the Premier and Minister for Trade; the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships; and the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs. We heard from the Speaker of the House and the Clerk of the parliament about the 150-year celebrations of Parliament House, and can I take this opportunity to congratulate them on the fabulous array of events and connections with our community that has made this celebration something all Queenslanders could get involved with.

The estimates process was indeed a great opportunity to interrogate the budget and to hear again about the great achievements of this budget brought down by the Palaszczuk Labor government. It was an opportunity to learn in detail about Queensland's really strong economic position under this government and the strategies for growth and prosperity into the future that this budget will deliver for all Queenslanders. The estimates process highlighted that this budget is focused on investing in Queensland, investing in Queensland services and investing in Queensland jobs.

The Palaszczuk government has demonstrated success with a strong record in creating jobs, with over 162,000 jobs created since being elected. We know that there is dignity in employment. The budget and estimates process outlined the opportunities that will continue to create jobs and continue to position Queensland for success now and into the future. Our government is creating jobs through record investment of \$45 billion in infrastructure over four years, as the budget highlights, supporting 38,000 jobs.

This budget commits to significant projects like Cross River Rail. We know that projects like Cross River Rail will unlock South-East Queensland, and unlock opportunities in more ways than we are yet to imagine—along rail corridors that will not only provide vital transport solutions, but open up new opportunities for these transport precincts. We heard how this budget will continue to serve and deliver for all Queenslanders on matters that are critical to our great state's future like record investment of \$17.3 billion in Health and \$14.1 billion in Education. Then there is the \$650 million in the Advance Queensland initiatives that have delivered and will continue to deliver for Queenslanders through innovation and programs that are designed to ensure we create the jobs of the future and are competitive on the global stage.

This is in stark contrast to the budget delivered to Queenslanders under Malcolm Turnbull and the federal LNP government in which they are: ripping off Queenslanders in delivering our fair share of the GST; ripping off Queenslanders in delivering our fair share of funding for nation-building

infrastructure like Cross River Rail; ripping off Queenslanders in providing for our fair share of Health funding for services and for our hospitals, particularly in programs like the national dental partnership with 30 per cent being cut from this program—and I know what an impact that has had in my area; ripping off our trainees and apprentices in funding cuts; and, most disappointingly, ripping off our first nations people by failing to renew the national partnership around remote and Indigenous housing. This is a shame. What makes this worse is that this is all while rewarding big banks with a gift of \$17 billion and delivering unprecedented tax cuts for the top end of town.

I am proud to be part of the Palaszczuk Labor government that is delivering for Queenslanders as it is very clear that our budget commits to infrastructure, trade, tourism, health, education and, importantly, supporting great initiatives within our communities like the breakfast program.

We are one of the fastest growing and most decentralised states in the Commonwealth and we recently welcomed our five millionth Queenslander way ahead of schedule. Queensland is growing and Queensland is changing. Through this estimates process it is clear that the budget responds to the challenges we face and harnesses the opportunities that both growth and change present. Our government is focused on positioning for a prosperous future for all Queenslanders. I commend the report to the House.