




Speech By  
**Kim Richards**

**MEMBER FOR REDLANDS**

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**REVENUE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL; APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL (NO. 2); AND APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 2)**

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (3.04 pm): I rise today to speak in this cognate debate and support the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2018, the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) 2018 and the Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 before the House. Queensland is really kicking goals when it comes to our economy. Members spoke earlier about debt. I remind the member for Everton that debt is lower under this government than it was under the LNP. It is down by more than \$13 billion. This financial year's budget is a \$57.6 billion budget and has a surplus of \$148 million this year. That is while our Palaszczuk government is delivering record investment in health, education and infrastructure—record infrastructure investment of \$45.8 billion over four years.

We are doing the heavy lifting here in Queensland while the federal government still does not want to put a cent towards Cross River Rail and does not want to bring forward the money for the M1. The Queensland state government is working hard to make sure that we are delivering the infrastructure to build our cities both here in South-East Queensland and for our regional Queenslanders. We are driving economic growth—more exports, more jobs, more investment attraction and more industries. The news from the economic experts has been positive as well, with great reports coming from Standard & Poor's, the credit agency Moody's, the NAB business survey, Deloitte's Business Outlook and the Grattan Institute's state orange book, which was released on the weekend.

Our government is investing \$17.3 billion in health, with 4,800 new nurses and 1,600 doctors since the Palaszczuk government was elected in 2015. There is a \$14.1 billion investment in education and training, with 3,600 new teachers and 1,100 new teacher aides. We have created 170,000 jobs since 2015. The outlook for our Sunshine State will continue to improve, as reported by Deloitte's. We will continue to go from strength to strength in driving Queensland's bright future.

I thank my fellow committee members on the Economics and Governance Committee, the committee secretariat and parliamentary staff for their assistance to the committee on these bills, particularly Melissa Salisbury, who is changing roles within our committee, and Brett Nutley, who travelled with us and assisted in our public hearing on Mornington Island. It was fantastic to have Brett's support on the day.

The Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) 2018 and the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2018 provide supplementary appropriation for unforeseen expenditure incurred by the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service in 2017-18. Together, the total supplementary appropriation for 2017-18 is \$555 million. I note that this is under the average historical supplementary appropriation.

The committee considered both bills together in one inquiry. We invited stakeholders to make written submissions. We did not receive any. We also held a public briefing with representatives of Queensland Treasury. Treasury advised that the unforeseen expenditure incurred was predominantly in relation to the changes in electoral boundaries and the requirement for new offices and also in relation to the state election and expenses to do with staff.

In relation to the unforeseen expenditure incurred by the seven departments in 2017-18, 46.2 per cent of total expenditure related to accelerated state and Commonwealth funding for transport infrastructure, including the Bruce Highway upgrade and other state roads. Again, it speaks to our government's focus on the importance of making sure we get the infrastructure built for Queensland now. The Treasurer also advised that a further significant proportion of the unforeseen expenditure related to the on-passing of Commonwealth funding for financial assistance grants to local government. The remaining unforeseen expenditure related to a range of initiatives, including the Affordable Energy Plan and the Townsville water security enhancement project.

The omnibus Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 covers a range of amendments including to support the expansion of electronic conveyancing, which will make it simpler for our constituents to access those transactions; to ensure the charitable institution registration requirements deliver on their intent; and to give retrospective legislative effect to a number of administrative arrangements. These include to extend the transfer duty concession for family businesses of primary production to all types of dutiable property used to conduct a primary production business; to ensure that certain deregistered managed investment schemes can be treated as exempt managed investment schemes in particular circumstances and subject to certain conditions; to correct a cross-reference in the landholder duty provisions to ensure that landholder duty is properly calculated; to ensure that deceased estate land is assessed for land tax as intended; and to update the rate used to calculate the exempt component of a motor vehicle allowance.

The bill seeks to support the implementation of the new service delivery model for the State Penalties Enforcement Registry by making amendments to address technical issues within the State Penalties Enforcement Act. We know that it is really important to create better efficiencies within SPER. The bill also seeks to make minor administrative changes to the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority Act, which will bring its budget reporting into alignment, and includes amendments to allow the board to appoint an interim chief executive officer. The bill expressly confirms that compulsory land acquisition applications may be endorsed by the minister administering the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority Act 2016.

The bill will also reinstate the 'last claim standing' provision as previously understood by decision-makers under the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003 and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage Act 2003. It was good to hear today—and we were given this feedback during the consultation process—that DATSIP will be undertaking to review the cultural heritage acts more broadly. Finally, the bill will capture and prohibit substances that are used in home-brewing such as turbo yeast that can be used to make homemade alcohol in nine discrete Indigenous communities.

The government consulted widely on this bill. During our examination we received 14 submissions and a public briefing from Queensland Treasury and DATSIP. We held a public hearing on Mornington Island and one in Brisbane. At the Mornington Island hearing we were so warmly welcomed by the community. It was so insightful to take the parliament to the people. Our hearing on Mornington Island was deeply moving. It is a small community with really big challenges. Although we were there to discuss the narrow piece of legislation around turbo yeast and home-brewing, we heard so much more on the day about the complexities that the community faces as a result of alcohol abuse—the impacts on families and the impacts on their children.

Mornington Island is one of only eight areas in Queensland where alcohol is completely banned. We heard a lot from the community in that briefing on alcohol management plans and their effectiveness within the community. They have not been allowed alcohol there for over a decade, and this has had a knock-on effect in their community with home-brew now being a serious problem. As the member for Bonney mentioned, there is also a knock-on effect with other illicit drugs. What is disturbing is that children as young as six know the recipe to brew. I was talking with the principal up there and she was saying that children as young as six know the recipe and know how to make home-brew. What we heard is that you can take a 10-litre container of water, add some sort of sugar substance, cordial or vegemite and turbo yeast, and within 24 hours you have 10 litres of 20 per cent alcoholic content ready for consumption. It has a street value of approximately \$500. Home-brew is not only creating serious health and social issues but also having an economic impact. When you are paying \$500 for 10 litres of what, in essence, is close to an ethanol substance, you can only imagine what it is doing to that community.

Diabetes is out of control. They spoke of the need for nearly having to have a dialysis unit located on the island. For such a small community, this is a really huge problem. It trickles down to kids and their attendance at school. The principal told me that the attendance rate at school is 54 per cent. When there are parents who are facing serious substance abuses, we really need to step in and assist. I know that this legislative reform will assist in tackling that particular home-brew issue, but I think we need to keep looking longer and deeper into that community to help them break the cycle of serious substance abuse. For those reasons, I commend the bills to the House.