




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR NUDGEES

Record of Proceedings, 14 June 2018

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

 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (2.40 pm): I rise to speak in support of the 2018 appropriation bills before the House and to celebrate what the state budget means for my community across the Nudgee electorate, but first I want to take a moment to congratulate the Treasurer, Jackie Trad, on this her first budget. I thought the Treasurer's speech on Tuesday was incredibly eloquent. It spoke for all of our vast state, for every Queensland, and it was a very clear articulation of both her and this government's values and vision for our great state in the coming years. It is also only the third time in 159 years since the formation of Queensland as a separate colony that a woman has been appointed to the role of Treasurer in this House. I think that is noteworthy. The Treasurer deserves to be proud of what she delivered on Tuesday. I am sure that her husband and their two boys are equally proud of her.

Queensland is in a period of growth and rapid change. Having recently passed the five million mark, our population is one of the fastest growing in the country. Change, transformation, growth, progression, whichever adjective you choose to use, Queensland is experiencing it. Labor governments have always believed we have a strong role to play in helping people deal with these challenges, embracing the opportunities and making sure no-one is left behind. In addition to population growth, economic growth is forecast to accelerate from two and a half to three per cent. This growth has directly resulted in increased employment opportunities and Queensland now has the second highest annual employment growth rate in the country. Business investment has rebounded strongly in 2017-18 to be a key driver of economic growth. The entry of jobseekers encouraged by greater opportunities has seen the participation rate rise sharply and the unemployment rate stabilise with an expected fall in the out years following stronger domestic activity.

We were elected with a commitment to make jobs for Queenslanders a priority and this is a priority that has not changed. Approximately 150,000 jobs have been created since we came to government in January 2015 through investment in essential services and infrastructure. These are numbers, but behind these numbers we are talking about real people who now have a place in our economy and hope for their and their family's future. But our work is far from done. This budget will invest almost \$45.8 billion in infrastructure over four years, an increase of more than \$3 billion on last year's budget. From the south-east to the regions, projects such as completion of the Gateway Upgrade North, M1 and Bruce Highway upgrades, the Cairns Convention Centre and the Townsville stadium will drive the economy, deliver better services and support tens of thousands of Queensland jobs every year.

It is truly a pleasure to see that Brisbane's cultural precinct will also form part of this list, with \$125 million allocated towards a new theatre at QPAC. My husband and I recently had the pleasure of spending some time with Li Cunxin, or, as he is commonly known, Mao's last dancer, Queensland Ballet's artistic director. He spoke so passionately of why Brisbane, of why Queensland, desperately needed a new or extended performing arts space as we reach capacity and start to turn away major

productions of dance, music and theatre. As Thomas Merton famously said, 'Art enables us to find ourselves and lose ourselves at the same time.' This investment in a world-class arts precinct will leave a legacy for our community for generations to come.

None of these infrastructure projects could be of more direct benefit to my community moving forward than the \$5.4 billion Cross River Rail project. With 12 train stations and three major train lines across the length and breadth of my electorate, this project is truly a game-changer for the thousands of commuters who call the Nudgee electorate home. Cross River Rail, once built, will allow more trains to run more often, enabling a turn-up-and-go transport system, a system that commuters demand of a modern city like Brisbane.

From \$5 billion to \$50,000, it is not always the big-ticket items that will make the biggest impact on a little person's life and I want to turn now to education. Since March 2015 we have employed more than 4,700 extra teachers and teacher aides because we know that it is teachers and teacher aides who make a real and lasting difference to student outcomes. This budget commits to employing an additional 3,700 teachers over the next four years; it commits to additional instrumental music teachers and musical instruments for schools as part of the world-class education election commitments; to refurbishing and upgrading existing primary and high schools; and to building new schools to meet growth. Back to my \$50,000 reference. Amongst this record \$14.1 billion education and training budget is funding for two very large industrial fans for the hall at Nundah State School to make 750 young students very happy.

Nundah State School is a new school to my electorate post the redistribution late last year. When I attended their student leader induction at the beginning of the year I experienced firsthand the heat inside their hall and the effect it had on students. Principal Deb Cox was very excited to hear this week that they will receive not only this funding in this year's budget but also \$136,000 for science, technology, engineering, arts and maths classroom upgrades that she has had her heart set on for some time. After phoning Deb at Nundah it was a pleasure to call the principal of Virginia State School, Roger, to let him know that this year's Education budget also contains \$111,000 to upgrade pool amenities at the school.

The Virginia State School Swim Club executive, but particularly president Carlie and vice-president Clive, have literally stalked every community barbecue and mobile office I have done—rain, hail or shine—in Virginia to raise the importance of this issue with me. It was such an example of a cohesive community campaign and truly one that it was my pleasure to support and see come to fruition. These improvements at both Nundah and Virginia state schools are also complemented by more than \$400,000 across schools in my electorate for maintenance and minor works that truly make all the difference. I give my sincere thanks to Minister Grace Grace and her office for listening to the needs of my community.

From education to local community improvements, I was very excited to see the words 'to complete' after the \$9 million entry in this year's budget for the upgrade of the Gateway Motorway. This \$1.143 billion project, including widening of the Gateway from four to six lanes from Nudgee to Bracken Ridge, has been a massive undertaking. I think they have done an excellent job, but as any community that has experienced extended roadworks of this nature can attest, we are looking forward with much anticipation to its completion.

From cars to trains, this budget will see \$700,000 and \$500,000 respectively delivered to extend park-and-ride facilities at Geebung and Virginia train stations. An increase of 70 spaces at Geebung station in my electorate and 30 at Virginia will make an appreciable difference to commuters and local streets that often feel the brunt of commuter overflow parking. These extensions are in addition to the extensions I was able to deliver for my community at Nudgee, Banyo and Nundah stations during the last term and will take place alongside the continuing accessibility upgrade at Boondall station with \$6 million in this year's budget at a total budget cost of almost \$19 million. I thank the transport minister, his office and Queensland Rail for these investments in my community.

Last year my community was the beneficiary of a new emergency services complex and 24-hour ambulance station and step-up step-down community mental health facility. A Labor government will always prioritise the essential health services needed by people when they are at their most vulnerable. This budget continues that commitment with a record \$17.3 billion operating budget and a \$985 million investment in capital.

Since March 2015 we have employed more than 4,800 extra nurses, 1,600 doctors and 370 ambulance officers. We said we would employ an additional 400 nurse navigators to help Queenslanders navigate the often complex system of tertiary health care and an extra 100 midwives to help birthing mothers. This budget achieves both.

With an estimated 4,000 small to medium sized enterprises across my electorate, I was very pleased to see a further \$123 million in the budget to back our entrepreneurs, funding industry research fellowships and helping small to medium sized businesses innovate, grow and create jobs. This, coupled with an extension to the Business Development Fund of \$40 million over the next two years, a further \$180 million in the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program to deliver more training opportunities and workforce participation and an extension of the 50 per cent payroll tax rebate scheme to June 2019 to support up to 26,000 apprentices and trainees, is all about supporting Queensland businesses to grow, create jobs and boost Queensland's economy.

Building the productive capacity and resilience of our state's traditional and emerging industries remains a critical focus for our government, both to maintain economic momentum and to support the ongoing prosperity of Queensland families and communities.

I have large areas of manufacturing across my electorate, in Banyo, Northgate, Virginia and Geebung, ranging from broad-based to advanced manufacturing. I eagerly await the outcomes of the environmental scan and forecasting piece that Jobs Queensland is currently undertaking to ensure that, as a government, we are best placed to provide the assistance required to successfully transition workers from traditional to emerging industries where structural change requires it to ensure that no Queenslanders is left behind.

This budget is all about delivering the infrastructure, skills and services that equip Queensland and Queenslanders to manage growth and navigate the changing economy. Our No. 1 priority continues to be jobs for Queenslanders. It is a responsible and measured budget and one that delivers operating surpluses over the forward estimates, starting with \$148 million in 2018-19. However, it is also a budget that moves Queensland forward and articulates a vision of where we are going as a community and as a state.