




Speech By  
**Hon. Leanne Enoch**

**MEMBER FOR ALGESTER**

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Record of Proceedings, 14 June 2018

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

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (3.32 pm): I rise to speak in support of the budget and the Palaszczuk government's commitments for a cleaner, greener and more vibrant Queensland. Tackling climate change, protecting the Great Barrier Reef and investing in our vibrant arts sector remain at the top of our agenda. This budget clearly reflects these priority areas and demonstrates that the Palaszczuk government is firmly focused on the future and advancing Queensland's priorities.

In keeping with one of our government's main priorities, we are increasing our investment in scientific initiatives that protect the Great Barrier Reef, bringing our total funding for this natural wonder to a record \$330 million over five years. This includes \$40 million of extra funding in this week's state budget. This funding will go towards the joint field management program and, when coupled with a matching contribution from the Australian government, will result in an extra 75 field officers and rangers patrolling the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage area. We are also investing in the Queensland Reef Water Quality Program, which is a scientific program that helps graziers and cane and banana growers to transition to better practices that help reduce pollutant run-off into our waterways.

Science shows that climate change is the single biggest threat to the Great Barrier Reef. That is why in this budget we are investing \$5.6 million to help Queensland transition to a low-carbon, clean growth economy. This funding will be rolled out over four years and will help Queensland adapt to the impacts of a changing climate. Reducing Queensland's contribution to climate change is a key priority for the Palaszczuk government. We are doing our part to address the impacts of climate change, but what is lacking is leadership from the Turnbull government. To further protect the reef, we need action on climate change from the federal LNP government, and I implore those opposite to call on their federal LNP colleagues to show national leadership on climate change policy. Given the opposition leader's newfound support for renewables, why not take that extra step?

In this budget, we are also supporting small businesses to reduce their energy, water usage and waste, with an almost \$4 million investment to continue the ecoBiz program. This funding will allow ecoBiz to continue helping Queensland businesses reduce their energy and water consumption and reduce their waste production. EcoBiz is delivered by the Chamber of Commerce & Industry Queensland and helps businesses reduce their water and energy bills. On average, businesses which have participated achieved 17 per cent energy savings and 14 per cent water savings. This program has also helped divert more than 24,000 tonnes of waste away from landfill through waste reduction measures for business. So far, more than 1,000 Queensland businesses have received one-on-one support from the program. CCIQ have welcomed the funding this week, saying they are delighted the successful program has been extended.

Our budget will also see the continuation of \$35 million to improve critical infrastructure, including nature based tourism opportunities in national parks and other protected areas. Queensland's protected area estate, including our magnificent national parks, are the cornerstone of the state's tourism industry.

In addition, we are continuing to support the protection of country and environmental and Indigenous cultural heritage activities through a \$12 million Queensland Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger program, resulting in over 100 Indigenous rangers across the state.

The Palaszczuk government is also making a significant investment in how we manage waste in Queensland, including investment toward the implementation of the Container Refund Scheme as well as our ban on single-use lightweight plastic bags. We are committed to reducing the amount of plastic pollution in Queensland and protecting our environment for the long term. The Palaszczuk government is also progressing with the development of a broader waste management strategy underpinned by a reintroduced waste levy to stop Queensland being the dumping ground for other states and to drive investment in jobs and industry for a sustainable future. In this budget, we are providing \$32 million in advance payments to councils so they can better manage, reuse and recycle waste whilst ensuring it will not cost any more for ratepayers to put their wheelie bin out.

We are making sure that our waste strategy and the levy that underpins it create industry and job growth and improve recycling. While the Leader of the Opposition's budget reply continued to reveal the LNP's lack of commitment to recycling through their opposition to the waste levy, she did not mention anything about repealing it, so today when the opposition's environment spokesperson, the member for Broadwater, stands in this House to deliver his own budget reply, will he support investment in the waste and recycling industry or will he advocate against it again? Will he back Queenslanders, or will he allow our state to be the dumping ground for our southern neighbours again?

This budget also supports our vibrant arts sector. The Palaszczuk government is providing \$125 million towards a new state-of-the-art theatre at the Queensland Performing Arts Centre. QPAC is nearing full capacity in all of its theatres, and in fact QPAC is now the busiest theatre complex in Australia. Building a new theatre will ensure we can keep attracting even more big shows and more visitors to Queensland. We fundamentally believe in the value of public funding for the arts. This investment enhances QPAC's ability to support small and medium companies and increases its capacity to deliver a vibrant regional arts program. We are also allocating \$14 million towards the upgrade of the Thomas Dixon Centre. This will allow the internationally renowned Queensland Ballet to grow even more.

I am also excited to say we are further investing in our children's future by providing an additional \$5 million per annum in the First 5 Forever family literacy initiative. This reading program, delivered through our state's public libraries, helps to give our children a great start to their education. In this budget, the Palaszczuk government has also allocated \$8 million for a new art gallery in Rockhampton which is dependent, as we have already stated, on a commitment from the federal government. The Palaszczuk government is also continuing our funding in vital arts programs, including the Queensland Arts Showcase Program, the Backing Indigenous Arts initiative and Playing Queensland Fund.

I am also excited about the initiatives that the Palaszczuk government is funding in this year's state budget for the people in my electorate of Algeester. A big win for my community of Algeester in this budget is the \$4.3 million that has been allocated towards a business case for the Greenbank RSL bus station park-and-ride upgrade. This project, worth a total of \$21 million, is important to my community and will add an extra 600 car spaces to the Greenbank RSL bus station in Hillcrest, bringing its total capacity to more than 840. This upgrade will provide greater capacity for commuters to access public transport, meaning fewer cars on the road.

Schools in my electorate are also getting a funding boost in this budget. Algeester State School will benefit greatly with a \$350,000 investment in classroom refurbishments. Five other schools in my electorate will also benefit from investment over the coming 12 months, with almost \$1 million going towards education in the Algeester electorate for the coming financial year.

Algeester State School in particular is part of a large community and this much needed funding will ensure students will have the best opportunities available when it comes to their education. I am also pleased that \$2.5 million has been allocated to complete resurfacing of Beaudesert Road. This funding will benefit motorists along this major thoroughfare, making it safer and more accessible.

This budget demonstrates that the Palaszczuk government is not only delivering on its commitment to the environment, science and the arts sector in Queensland but also delivering for my community in Algeester. Through this budget the Palaszczuk government is ensuring Queensland will continue to thrive. I commend the bill to the House.