




Speech By
Linus Power

MEMBER FOR LOGAN

Record of Proceedings, 14 June 2018

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

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (4.18 pm): This budget can seem a dry document filled with numbers. For many in Logan, that can feel remote. This Labor budget is a budget for all of Queensland, and it is not just about the dry figures: it is delivering better connections for work; more opportunities for jobs; a secure Logan through better police facilities and bases for ambos and our fireys; a better educated Logan with new classrooms and specialist learning hubs; a stronger Logan community through funding our neighbourhood centre and a health hub.

The budget is alive with new initiatives for the Logan electorate and I endorse every piece of this investment in the Logan electorate. As many members know, southern Logan is growing very fast and it is vital that that area is supported. I will continue to advocate for more support for this growing community. My job is to stand up for the people of the Logan electorate and to be on the side of every resident of the Logan electorate. I will continue to do that every year for every budget.

We have heard about the five-millionth Queenslander, baby Elizabeth. I would like to think that the five-million-and-first Queenslander was a baby born in Logan Hospital, meeting the new nurses who have joined our health team—

Mr Healy interjected.

Mr POWER: No, not Cairns, at Logan Hospital. That baby would have been helped out by the new neonatal and postnatal services at the Logan West community health centre and would be looking forward to the redevelopment of the Logan maternity ward. I am proud that we are restoring the services for the babies born in Logan that were cut by the LNP and funding them in this budget.

Little baby five million and one, born in Logan, might have been driven home through the roadworks on the Mount Lindesay Highway, or on Waterford-Tamborine Road. Under the LNP, the need for that work was completely ignored but under Labor it is being delivered. Baby five million and one might, with their mum, use the new demand responsive transport service. As baby five million and one from Logan gets older, they might be educated at the new Yarrabilba State School or high school or in the new classrooms at Logan Village, Park Ridge or Flagstone State Community College. They might use the health services at the new Yarrabilba Health Hub or attend a function at the Yarrabilba neighbourhood centre.

This budget is for the future. It is for that five-million-and-first baby who was born in Logan to a Logan family. This budget is not just dry numbers; it is alive for the families of Logan who are working hard and looking for a government to support them with jobs, services and education. That is what this Labor government is delivering. Every time I advocate for better services for Logan, I am thinking of that young family and baby five million and one.

During the last election campaign, as part of the Palaszczuk Labor government, I made commitments to the families of Logan. This budget is delivering on those commitments in black and white. When it comes to road funding, this is especially true. It is important to understand the key documents behind our roads budget. When the people of Logan elected me in 2015, we were still working under the LNP funding for roads from its 2014-15 budget, which laid out funding from 2014 to 2018. That budget reveals that, in the three years of the LNP government, it budgeted only \$846,000 for the construction of the Mount Lindesay Highway north of Jimboomba. It is more important to look at the funding allocated in that budget for the years 2016, 2017 and 2018. In those years the LNP had budgeted nothing for the Mount Lindesay Highway north of Jimboomba—nothing at all.

Since that time, I have fought to make up for this lack of investment by the LNP during its time in government. The Leader of the Opposition sat on those key CBR committees that would have decided on investment in the Mount Lindesay Highway and rejected or did not even consider that investment. Since that time, we have gone some way to make up for the failures of the LNP government, and that is outlined in the QTRIP 2018 document. We have invested \$20 million in duplicating to four lanes the highway at Park Ridge South between Rosia Road and Stoney Camp-Granger Road. That is a key intersection where there is a bottleneck in the afternoon. There is \$20 million extra in funding to put in a service road north of St Aldwyn Road through to Greenbank Road and to upgrade to four lanes the Greenbank Road intersection.

The budget also includes an upgrade of the Camp Cable Road intersection and uplifting to reduce flooding and four-laning between Camp Cable Road and Jimboomba and upgrades to Stockleigh Road. In this budget, there is \$36 million of committed budget investment that is new to the Mount Lindesay Highway north of Jimboomba. That is 42 times—42 times—just in this budget, what the LNP government delivered in three years of its budgets. Members may think that 42 times the investment of the LNP government is a good outcome, but I continue to argue that that only indicates how woeful the LNP government's investment was and how much we need to make up for that lack of investment. I will continue to fight for more funding for the Mount Lindesay Highway and to refresh the priorities on the Mount Lindesay Highway through the existing west Mount Lindesay Highway development corridor study, which was simply abandoned by the LNP.

This government is not just investing in the Mount Lindesay Highway. We have brought forward the four-laning of Waterford-Tamborine Road between Hotz Road and Anzac Avenue and the upgrade to four lanes of the North Street intersection, where the roundabout is being overwhelmed and creating congestion. There is \$5.8 million to improve the Beaudesert-Beenleigh Road between Dunns Road and Luscombe Crescent.

This government is also improving public transport in the Logan electorate, with funding for the demand responsive transport system and upgrades to Loganlea station to improve access for people with disability, for which the member for Waterford and I fought so hard—more the member for Waterford. The government is also increasing parking capacity at the Greenbank RSL park-and-ride. The member for Algeester and I fought hard for that. The Springfield park-and-ride will also have increased capacity. The member for Jordan and I also pushed for that increase. I will continue to fight for an expansion of public transport services and remind the residents of the Logan electorate that the LNP government cut services to the growing areas of the Logan electorate, including the 560 bus that connects West Logan through to Logan Hospital.

This budget also funds the construction of the Cross River Rail connection from the south side of the city to the north. We know that the river crossing is a bottleneck that stops services coming through the Loganlea station more frequently. As well, Cross River Rail is required for the future Salisbury to Greenbank to Flagstone rail line. We need Cross River Rail. We saw the LNP members back a rail line to Melbourne airport that does not even have a route, much less a business plan, but they will not support Cross River Rail in South-East Queensland. I am disappointed that the LNP members put Malcolm Turnbull's career above Queenslanders.

We cannot go back to the cuts, the sackings and the chaos of the LNP government. We cannot face years of no funding for the Mount Lindesay Highway, which we saw from the LNP in its last term of government. The people of the Logan electorate know that. They know that we need to continue to back our teachers and build new classrooms and specialist learning areas in our schools. As a former high school teacher, I have always backed our schools and students and fought for new classrooms in schools. That is why in this budget there is funding for the new Yarrabilba State High School—a school that I fought for—for the Logan Village, Stockleigh and Yarrabilba communities. Kids going to prep at the new Yarrabilba primary school will be able to go just over the hill to the new high school when they finish primary school.

This budget also funds stage 2 of Yarrabilba State School, which has seen a strong level of enrolments. There are also new classrooms at Park Ridge State High School—six additional learning areas and two specialist areas—and at Flagstone state high school, which is now in the electorate of Jordan. Planning continues for a new school to meet future growth in Logan Reserve. There is also a new playground for seniors at Boronia Heights State School.

Southern Logan is a growing community. Families are moving in and they need classrooms. We have built over 30 classrooms for the students of the Logan electorate. How many classrooms do members think the LNP would have delivered? I cannot hear any of the LNP members chipping in to help. Are there any bids on 25 classrooms they would have built for these growing communities? Ten? Even five? There are no bids. The answer is zero. Despite knowing about the growth in the number of students, the LNP government did precisely nothing for the Logan electorate. The Logan electorate has always been let down by the LNP, but Labor backs the Logan electorate.

A growing community wants a budget that backs the need for more and improved services to meet that growth. That is why this budget funds the new Yarrabilba Ambulance Station, an upgrade to the west Logan permanent fire and rescue station, an upgrade for more staff and offices at the Logan Village police facility and an upgrade to the Logan Village rural fire station.

Mr Millar interjected.

Mr Butcher interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): Order! Member for Gladstone and member for Gregory, there is too much cross-chamber chatter.

Mr POWER: I know they are excited about the upgrades to the Logan Village police facility and the Logan Village rural fire station as well as a new facility at Yarrabilba. This budget delivers record funding for a healthier Queensland, with funding for an upgrade to the learning and specialist area of Logan Hospital, an upgrade to maternity services and funding for the Yarrabilba child services health and community hub.

Health is not just about hospitals; it is also about sports groups. The Jimboomba Redbacks AFC has received funding for the construction of female change rooms and a community area. Importantly for the Yarrabilba community, a new trail will be built in the Plunkett Conservation Park, which is right next to Yarrabilba. I have taken my kids to this area to experience nature.

The key point to make about this budget is that Labor backs the services that growing communities need and understands what those communities need. We cannot go back to a complete failure in the funding of those services. We need to stay committed to expanding our roads, our services and our education and health facilities. That is what this budget does. That is why I commend it to the House.