




Speech By
Hon. Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 14 June 2018

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

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (8.44 pm): This budget is not just about economics. It is not just a set of numbers. It is not just a financial statement. It is a moral statement. It is a statement of intent. It is a statement about what the Palaszczuk government stands for. It is a statement about what our government believes in. Most of all, it is a statement of how the Palaszczuk government is helping Queenslanders. It is not just about dollars and cents; it is about common sense—the common-sense, practical ways the Palaszczuk government is delivering for Queenslanders: a safer Queensland, a healthier Queensland, a richer Queensland, a better Queensland that gives our young people a great start in life.

Before I talk about the detail of what this budget means for the portfolios I represent, Police and Corrective Services, I would like to talk about my home, the Morayfield state electorate, because first and foremost I am the state member for Morayfield. This budget brings to the electorate of Morayfield many benefits and many opportunities. This budget highlights for the people of the Morayfield state electorate what the Palaszczuk government stands for.

In this budget we see funding provided to continue construction on the replacement police station and district headquarters at Caboolture. The result of that will be better policing services delivering greater community safety. Our government is also making a big commitment to child safety in the Morayfield region. More than \$11 million is allocated in this budget to provide out-of-home-care placement services to ensure children and young people in need of protection are supported and safe.

There is also over a million dollars to provide domestic and family violence services to improve the safety and wellbeing of victims and their children, particularly those in high-risk situations. I am very pleased to see in this budget that one of the new domestic violence shelters will be built in the Caboolture region. There is also over \$7 million to provide family support services to work with vulnerable families to help improve parenting skills and give parents the support they need to prevent problems from escalating to crisis point.

I am using these numbers—the dollars and cents destined for the Morayfield state electorate—to paint a bigger picture. What is happening in our community is a portrait of Labor values. The broad brushstrokes are fiscal responsibility and restraint, but the detail is always coloured with an eye to the human impact—delivering our investments to deliver the best practical outcomes for people.

Again in education in the Morayfield state electorate we see a template for what our government stands for. We see funds committed for a new special school in the Caboolture region, with construction starting this financial year. We see minor works and maintenance funding for all of our state schools in the Morayfield state electorate. We also see funds committed for refurbishments and upgrades at Caboolture State High School, Morayfield State High School, Burpengary Meadows State School,

Caboolture State School and Caboolture Special School. Each of these investments is targeted at places of need, to deliver the best bang for our education bucks. Also, they are investments destined to deliver the best outcomes for the people in these important educational institutions.

Then there is health. We see funding committed in this budget for the detailed planning and preparatory works for the proposed \$253 million redevelopment of our local hospital, the Caboolture Hospital, to increase capacity and support the provision of quality and safe services to meet current and future healthcare needs. Funds are also committed to start construction of the new Caboolture emergency department, effectively doubling the size of that emergency department to enable provision of quality and safe emergency health services for our region. The Palaszczuk government is committed to delivering a healthier Queensland, and no region will be left out. For the people of the Morayfield state electorate, these investments in the Caboolture Hospital will mean a great deal.

For the people of the Morayfield region, getting around on the roads in their daily life is a critical issue. We see in this budget funding towards design work for an upgrade of the Bruce Highway between Pine Rivers and Caloundra. We also see funding committed to improve intersections and upgrade signals on Lower King Street, King Street, Morayfield Road and Beerburrum Road. There are also funds committed for the upgrade of Morayfield train station and funds to commence construction on the new Morayfield bus station upgrade.

Whether it be in public safety, education, health or transport, the Palaszczuk government is certainly delivering for the people of the Morayfield region and for all Queenslanders for that matter. It is the same across my portfolio responsibilities of Police and Corrective Services. This budget continues the Palaszczuk government's commitment to advancing Queensland's Department of Corrective Services. This budget includes a \$41 million commitment to expand the Capricornia Correctional Centre. This is on top of the previously announced \$200 million funding boost, with the total \$241 million investment delivering 348 new cells and 396 beds. The expansion of the Capricornia Correctional Centre will create approximately 172 jobs over the four years of construction and, once all new sections of the centre are in full operation, there will be 130 extra full-time jobs created at the prison which is a big boon for the Rockhampton local community and economy.

There are other key budget commitments. There is almost \$4 million to expand the Supreme Court bail application service to male prisoners. There is almost \$3 million to support prisoners with a disability. There is over \$1 million to support supervised community service projects implementing the Palaszczuk government's tackling alcohol fuelled violence program. There is over \$9 million for expansions to the Probation and Parole service which includes additional front-line staff. Importantly, the Palaszczuk government is also delivering the funding that our Queensland Police Service needs to keep Queenslanders safe. Domestic violence is a blight on our society and we are acting. The state budget is allocating \$4 million to fund 24 new domestic and family violence coordinators. These specialist officers will be deployed across the state to provide direction, guidance and training to other officers.

We live in a world of emerging threats which include terrorism and this budget is investing an extra \$15.7 million to enhance the counterterrorism capabilities of our policing service. There is also funding for police infrastructure, for vehicles and for vessels for our police officers. Technology also plays a big part in modern policing. It enables our officers to be more mobile and more rapid response ready. That is why we are rolling out an extra 1,400 QLITE mobile tablet devices. The best crime fighting is crime prevention, and that is why our government is continuing to support the award-winning Project Booyah program for at-risk young people with a significant contribution over five years.

I could go on about what the Palaszczuk government has done, is doing and will continue to do to advance Queensland's priorities, but I think it is fair that we also give a bit of coverage to those opposite in the chamber. While our government continues to increase the number of police, which will total 535 additional officers over the next four to five years—that is our commitment—we also have to look at what the LNP did when it had its five minutes of sunshine, its one term in power. When the LNP was in power it went on a bit of a crime spree of its own, slashing and burning with abandon. Who can forget how 106 senior police officers were dismissed under the LNP and who can forget how it shifted front-line officers to desk jobs in the PSBA?

We got a bit of an insight about what those opposite would do if they were in government again with the Leader of the Opposition's budget reply speech today when she said that she was very proud of the record of the former government—very proud, I guess, of the cuts, the sackings, the selling, the 43 per cent increase to power bills that they imposed when they were in government. If she is so proud of those things, it means she will do it again if she ever gets in government. The leader in waiting, the member for Broadwater, said in his contribution tonight that the problem with the budget in his eyes is a spending problem. Do members know what that is code for? More cuts.

Mr Lister interjected.

Mr RYAN: We see from the current Leader of the Opposition and the leader in waiting that what they will do in government is what they have done before.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Member for Southern Downs, if you are going to interject, you need to be in your correct seat.

Mr RYAN: What they will do if they ever get on the treasury benches again is what they did before, and that is cut, sack and sell, and we can never allow that to happen. We can never allow that to happen because the LNP does not get government. The LNP does not get that when you make a decision—any decision—in government you have to consider the impact on the community. It is because of that that we are in government. We are in government to look after the community, to advance Queensland's priorities, to make our state a safer, healthier, richer place. The members of the LNP do not get that. They are the do-nothing experts, and why are they the do-nothing experts? It is because they get so much practice at it. You get a lot of practice doing nothing when you are in opposition, and that is where the LNP belongs. That is why the Palaszczuk Labor government is getting on with the job—the job of governing for all Queenslanders and advancing Queensland's priorities.