




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR MACALISTER

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

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (2.48 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the 2018-19 state budget. This may be the fourth budget delivered by the Palaszczuk Labor government, but it is the first for the Macalister electorate and, may I say, it is a cracker. I am pretty chuffed to be able to stand here and tell the people of Macalister that this government, the Labor government they voted for, has delivered for them and for the wider Logan community. When I ran in 2017, my local commitments were measured and considered. I know that many in my electorate are not overly passionate about politics in general and at best might think very cynically of the political process. I was cautious that no-one was really going to believe a politician when they went out and promised the earth.

My specific commitments to the people of Macalister were clear: that a re-elected Palaszczuk Labor government would install lights at the Eagleby Giants footy field and that we would partner with industry to build a world-class trade training centre in Beenleigh for the plumbing and fire safety industries. I am pleased to say that this budget delivers on those commitments.

What I am most proud to take back to the people of Macalister is this government's commitment—their investment in our school kids. The 2018-19 budget delivers just over \$10 million in capital works for Macalister schools. This amount does not even include facility renewal or maintenance. This is capital works spending—new classrooms. As someone who has trained as a teacher, I commend this level of funding. Ensuring our kids have the facilities to learn is an important factor in their engagement and enjoyment in their education and, therefore, their educational outcomes.

Beenleigh State High School received \$7.9 million for a new two-storey building containing 12 classrooms to prepare the school for growth to 1,500 students by 2020. This represents the most significant investment at Beenleigh State High School for over 30 years. Windaroo Valley State High School receives \$1.2 million to commence construction of six new classrooms with more funds to follow next year. Beenleigh Special School receives \$1 million towards 10 new classrooms with \$3 million for the following year. Eagleby South State School will receive \$1 million towards four new classrooms with \$3 million next year to complete the build. Beenleigh State School will also receive \$83,000 to upgrade outdoor facilities, and I was very pleased to share that information with the grade 6s when they were here visiting yesterday.

This is not just about facilities. It is about the people who deliver our vital education services and our programs. In Logan this budget will deliver 312 extra teachers and 77 new teacher aides. These are the people who make a difference in our kids' lives.

I would also like to make special mention of the extension to the instrumental music program in state schools—more instruments and more teachers. As a former state school concert band and string ensemble member, I thank Minister Grace. However, as a parent of a potential string student, I may reverse that decision.

Education is best when it is well rounded and diverse enough to cater for all of our students, so I am proud to go back to my electorate because it has backed a winner with the Palaszczuk Labor government. As I said, there is over \$10 million in school funding this year alone. As a matter of interest, I went back through previous budgets to see what the capital works funding was for the schools in Macalister. Macalister, being a new electorate, comprises parts of five previous electorates. I went back through and had a look at the budgets from 2012 to 2014 to see how much the LNP funded my schools during this period. Between five different LNP members over a three-year period, how much funding did they provide for the 10 state schools of Macalister? Nothing—not a single dollar!

This budget will also see \$225,000 for an electrical safety upgrade to the Windaroo Valley State High School. This school needs this because of the air conditioning they have installed in the school. When you install air conditioning in schools you need to make sure that their electrical supply can be guaranteed for the high-use days. Unfortunately, my school learned that lesson during the hot months of this year as they suffered repeated blackouts. Seeing that those opposite have produced no costing for their promise to air-condition every classroom, I highly doubt they have costed the required upgrades to the supporting electrical infrastructure for every school in Queensland.

No-one in my electorate could doubt my support for local junior sport or my willingness to put my body on the line for my electorate, and I am proud to be a member of a Labor government that supports our grassroots sports through the many facility upgrades in and around my electorate. As I mentioned earlier, lights will be installed at Bishop Street Park, home of the mighty Eagleby Giants Junior Rugby League Football Club. The Giants are our newest club and have only recently settled into their new ground located in the heart of Eagleby. Families in Eagleby repeatedly told me throughout the most recent campaign that they needed more activities for kids to undertake after school and into the night. By lighting Bishop Street Park, the Giants will be able to grow with extra training sessions and games after dark.

Through the female facilities grants, two of our local sporting grounds—the Bill Norris Oval and Cornubia Park—will receive almost \$1 million in upgrades between them to build new dressing sheds for their female teams. Outdated, antiquated and unmistakably male facilities can often be a barrier for young women to participate in sport. I spent many years playing sport where it was more comfortable changing in cars or car parks or simply going home in my playing gear. As we move into an age of professional sporting opportunities for women, we need to provide them with the same facilities as their male counterparts.

The biggest investment in Logan in this budget is the M1 upgrades currently underway. Motorists travelling the Gateway merge can see the work commencing as grading equipment is about to roll out following the clearing of the acquired buildings and vegetation. This government is getting on with it, but the work will not just stop at the Gateway merge. The planning for the M1 upgrade all the way through to the Logan Motorway starts now with funding now. Logan motorists cannot wait for federal funding to turn up two federal elections from now. The funding must come now, and that is what this government has committed to do.

As someone who has been a daily commuter on public transport from Logan to the city, I commend this government on its funding of public transport with additional bus lanes on the M1 as well as the massive investment in Cross River Rail. Logan's public transport commuters are winners in this budget because we know that we cannot just keep widening motorways. We need to provide accompanying public transport. With Cross River Rail, Beenleigh's train commuters can look forward to more frequent and faster services into the city.

At the heart of this budget, at the heart of all Labor budgets, is jobs and training. All those on this side of the House believe that there is dignity in work; that when Queenslanders have secure work they can plan and provide for their families, and they can have a crack at the Australian dream. I am proud to see the impact that a Labor program like Skilling Queenslanders for Work has in my area. For many, this is the first time that anyone has taken the time to give them a legitimate shot at a job, and in an area where intergenerational unemployment is a real concern this cannot be understated.

Skilling Queenslanders for Work has resulted in over 2½ thousand Logan residents now being employed. I have seen firsthand the work that organisations in my electorate like Logan Women's Health and the Twin Rivers Centre have done with trainees, and the passion and commitment with which these trainees have now gone into the workforce. While some may consider the outcomes as just a certificate, for graduates of these courses it is so much more. It is an achievement and the first step for many into the workforce.

Ensuring that our young people have the skills needed for the workforce of the future is just as important. The trade training centre to be built in Beenleigh is an absolute boon for our local area. Built in partnership with the plumbing and fire safety industry, once fully built it will be able to train up to 700 trainees in the latest, most technologically advanced training facility of its kind. The flow-on effect for local businesses again cannot be understated.

Finally, I would like to make mention of the court upgrades to occur at the Beenleigh Magistrates Court and the increase in specialist police numbers and equipment that will make a difference on the front line. A total of \$3.7 million will kickstart an \$11 million increase in the capacity of the domestic and family violence courts. It will also increase safety measures for victims and vulnerable persons in the court's precinct.

I applaud the increase in funding for equipment for our front-line police. More QLITEs and body worn cameras will increase the investigative capacity and safety of our men and women in blue. What I am most pleased to see is the increase in domestic and family violence coordinators within the Queensland Police Service. I spent many years working with these dedicated, hardworking officers. For many years they have carried an ever increasing workload, and I am glad to see their burden being shared with more specialist officers.

I am proud to be a member of this government as I take the message back to my electorate that the Palaszczuk government is working for them and that it is delivering for the people of Macalister. I commend these bills to the House.