




Speech By  
**Barry O'Rourke**

**MEMBER FOR ROCKHAMPTON**

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Record of Proceedings, 13 June 2019

**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL; REVENUE  
AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (12.19 am): I rise to speak in support of the appropriation bills introduced by the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, the honourable Jackie Trad. This is a great budget for Central Queensland and I am pleased to be able to respond to another great Labor government budget. I feel great pride in the wonderful outcomes that this budget will bring for all Queenslanders, none more so than my constituents in Rockhampton. Again this budget will see record funding of \$622 million for health in Central Queensland. The Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service and its staff do an absolutely amazing job. Good health is real wealth for our community and it is important to get good quality care when you visit your local hospital.

Approximately 444 businesses in Central Queensland will benefit from an increase in the payroll tax threshold and the regional discounts as part of the \$885 million payroll tax package. This is good for business and good for jobs growth. Rookwood Weir will receive \$88 million this year and will create approximately 250 jobs and 500 indirect jobs. The Rockhampton Regional Council will receive \$6.5 million for construction of the new art gallery. This is in addition to the \$2 million previously provided and a total commitment of \$15 million, creating 104 construction jobs.

We all know how important education is to securing better life outcomes. It is essential that our schools are maintained and upgraded with \$1.2 million in funding across the schools in my electorate. There will also be \$650,000 to upgrade the performing arts building at Glenmore State High School; \$300,000 to enhance the current basketball court to become a multipurpose court at Depot Hill State School; \$270,000 towards a quadrangle shade structure and resurfacing at the North Rockhampton Special School; and \$130,000 for external repainting at the Hall School.

It is so important to have quality facilities to encourage participation in sport. I am pleased to see \$301,000 in funding for the CQU Rockhampton Panthers Australian Football Club to construct a new clubhouse and upgrade existing change rooms to support Australian football in Rockhampton. The Rockhampton Regional Council will receive \$260,000 to finalise the construction of the toilets, showers and change rooms for netball at Jardine Park and Victoria Park Gymnastics and Trampoline Club will receive its final payment in its in excess of \$100,000 grant to upgrade its amenities to support gymnastics and trampolining in Rockhampton.

Across Rockhampton and Central Queensland we will see an investment of \$233 million for road infrastructure projects like the Northern Access Road which has already commenced, the Gracemere Highway duplication, additional passing lanes on the Bruce and Capricorn highways and the Rockhampton Ring Road creating approximately 1,300 jobs. The Capricorn Correctional Centre will receive \$88 million in the 2019-20 year of \$243 million over five years for an extra 348 cells to provide additional prisoner capacity at the centre. This funding will ease overcrowding and boost staff safety. It will provide 176 construction jobs and, once completed, an additional 232 permanent jobs.

Given my passion for the provision of housing services, it is great to see ongoing funding of services not only in the Rockhampton electorate but nearby electorates, with \$980,000 to the Rockhampton Regional Council to provide Home Assist Secure services. Organisations like Anglicare Central Queensland, Darumbal Community Youth Services, Girls Time Out, Ozcare and Rosemary Community Services will share in \$4.7 million in funding to deliver specialist homelessness services. The budget will also see \$5.6 million towards the completion/construction of 26 units of accommodation across two sites in Rockhampton for clients at risk of homelessness. We will also see an infrastructure and upgrade spend in excess of \$50 million on the Stanwell Power Station.

The Palaszczuk government is serious about training and apprenticeships with Skilling Queenslanders for Work assisting up to 785 people to get job-ready skills through funding of \$6.28 million in the Central Queensland region. The Back to Work Regional Employment Package in Rockhampton has supported 645 jobs through funding of \$6.39 million to date with at least \$707,000 committed in the 2019-20 financial year. The Palaszczuk government's support of local government has seen the Rockhampton Regional Council deliver projects like the Jim Webber Reception Room, various flood mitigation works, enhanced sport and community event amenities, the Gracemere streetscape and pathways upgrades to name a few. We have seen more than 1,200 jobs supported through this very important program across Central Queensland communities and we have also listened to our council, and the latest round again carries a two-year time frame allowing them to plan and budget for the workforce needed to deliver these projects for our communities.

There is an allocation of \$8.6 million to the Rockhampton Regional Council over two years to deliver projects such as riverbank stabilisation works, construction of amenities and an accessible entry ramp to the Fitzroy adventure play area, construction of fishing platforms along the Fitzroy River and other local community infrastructure like footpaths et cetera. These initiatives will continue to support jobs. We have already seen over 7,000 new jobs created in the past year in the Fitzroy region. I congratulate the Deputy Premier and Treasurer Jackie Trad on a budget for all Queenslanders and I commend the bill to the House.