




Speech By
Brittany Lauga

MEMBER FOR KEPPEL

Record of Proceedings, 13 June 2019

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

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (5.23 pm): I rise this evening to speak in support of the appropriation bills that are before the House. In doing so, I want to highlight a number of the commitments and initiatives included in this budget that will support and grow jobs and grow prosperity in Central Queensland, in particular in Keppel. In her budget speech the Treasurer talked about this being a budget for the regions. I really think this is a budget for regional Queensland. It is a tourism budget and an agriculture budget. It goes to the heart of education and health and creating jobs in our regions.

In particular, I am very impressed and very pleased to be delivering millions of dollars worth of education infrastructure. I note that this is a record Education budget. I know that the teachers, students and parents in Central Queensland and right across Queensland will be very pleased to see that this record budget is delivering \$1.35 billion in Education capital works expenditure. I think that is marvellous. Not only is it about improving our schools; it is also about creating jobs.

At Parkhurst State School there is \$5.7 million going towards six general learning spaces and two specialist learning spaces. I note that all of the member for Stretton's brothers went to Parkhurst State School. I am sorry that he was not fortunate enough to enjoy the experience of being a student at Parkhurst State School. I know that Principal Lyle Walker is over the moon about this funding.

There is \$250,000 to refurbish the tuckshop at Yeppoon State High School. I recently met with the P&C from Yeppoon State High School. They told me about the need to refurbish the tuckshop. This is something about which I went in to bat for them. I spoke with the minister and I lobbied really hard for this funding. On Monday I called the tuckshop to tell them that I understood there would be some money in the budget for the Yeppoon State High School tuckshop. They were just so over the moon about this funding that will go towards improving the tuckshop at Yeppoon State High School.

The Yeppoon State School P&C, parents and the school principal wanted to meet with me about the need for a new playground and shade covering, since the cyclone a couple of years ago knocked down most of the shade trees. I went in to bat for them, too. I am pleased that in the budget there is \$150,000 to go towards a new permanent shade structure and playground at Yeppoon State School.

There is close to \$870,000 allocated across the 15 state schools in Keppel for maintenance and minor works over the next financial year. I think that is great. A lot of the schools get maintenance and upgrade work done over school breaks. When the students, parents and staff come back, they are really pleased to see the work that has been done. Even a lick of paint on some of the buildings can make a big difference in terms of pride in the schools.

Also in the budget is \$5.1 million for Yeppoon State High School's new administration building. Construction is underway, so the funding in the next financial year is for the next stage of those works. I know that the P&C, the parents, the staff and the principal at Yeppoon State High School are very much looking forward to that building being completed.

There is also \$861,000 to provide mental health program services. The member for Rockhampton and I recently met with the CEO of Anglicare, which has been contracted to deliver part of this mental health program. She is just over the moon. I know that it will go a long way to helping people in the community who are struggling with their mental health.

There is also half a million dollars to construct change rooms and amenities to support female participation in multisport at the Barmaryee Multisport Precinct. That multisport precinct is a precinct that Labor has been investing in for years in partnership with the Livingstone Shire Council. That precinct now is huge. There are Rugby League and netball carnivals on there regularly. It is a hive of activity. It is amazing to see that, in partnership with the Livingstone Shire Council, the Palaszczuk Labor government is delivering on sporting infrastructure in Keppel. I thank the Minister for Sport for his support and for allocating this funding towards the multisport precinct at Barmaryee. The other day I spoke with the president of the netball association, Tanya Burnett. She is just so excited. The girls need more change rooms, and this funding will go towards expanding the amenities there.

There is also the continuation of funding, delivered by the Department of Transport and Main Roads, for the Rockhampton Northern Access Upgrade in the Parkhurst part of my electorate. This project is shared with the member for Rockhampton and it is going gangbusters. There are workers and machinery everywhere. It is a \$120 million project that is creating jobs, giving local people the opportunity to work on a very big project and really improving the entire northern entrance to Rockhampton. It will make the entrance to Rockhampton much more spectacular and it is growing jobs at the same time. The businesses around the Parkhurst Town Centre are absolutely loving the fact that this project is ongoing around their shopping centre.

The budget also includes funding to deliver on our commitment for the Rockhampton alcohol, ice and other drugs detox and rehab centre, a \$14.3 million commitment that we made for a new 42-bed residential alcohol and other drug rehab and detox facility. There will be 32 beds in that facility for residential rehabilitation where people can stay and be treated, eight beds for withdrawal stage or detox treatment and two family units so that people can get the treatment that they need with their families supporting them on their journey. I understand that a preferred site has been identified for the facility, and the schematic level design and the detailed business case are expected to be completed by the end of this year, with construction planned for 2020. Service delivery will commence as soon as practicable after the completion of construction. The services to be provided include residential treatment for adults aged 18 years or over and flexible non-residential treatment provided for young people aged under 18 years and other groups in the community indicated for this type of treatment to address their substance abuse issues, and that is fantastic.

There is so much more that I could talk about with respect to budget commitments in Keppel. This is a great budget for Central Queensland and it is a great budget for Keppel. This budget will create jobs and it will improve our health services, our hospitals and our schools. We made the commitment in 2015 to restore the front-line services that the Newman government cut in Queensland and I am really pleased that since March 2015 when we came to government there have been 168 extra nurses employed in Central Queensland and 95 extra doctors. That is an outstanding number of front-line workers who have been employed in our hospitals and who are delivering services to Central Queensland local people in order to keep them healthy.

There have also been 185 extra teachers and 71 extra teacher aides, and that is just fantastic. It goes a long way to help improve our schools and help deliver a quality education for people in Central Queensland. As a teacher my mum would be very pleased to know that there are 185 extra teachers in our region now. She is always talking to me about the importance of education and how hard teachers work. I know how hard they work because I have seen it. She has been working hard every day for the last 30 years as a teacher and she is passionate about it. She loves her job, but we need more teachers and the Palaszczuk government is delivering.

This budget includes \$1.1 billion for infrastructure in Central Queensland—a record budget for infrastructure. I understand that 60 per cent of the infrastructure spend in this Palaszczuk government budget is being allocated across regional Queensland, and that is great news for regional Queensland because the \$1.1 billion that is being spent in this budget will support around 3,600 jobs in this coming financial year in Central Queensland alone. That is outstanding news for people in Central Queensland. I also think that the payroll tax package is a great way to incentivise business to grow, to hire more staff and to diversify their business. It is an awesome package and I am so pleased that the Treasurer has listened to the calls from the chambers of commerce and other business associations across the state, because people in Central Queensland have been saying for a long time that they want payroll tax relief, and this government is delivering.

In closing, I highlight the need for the seven-day manning of the Yeppoon Fire Station. There is no budget line item for any additional firefighters at Yeppoon station, but I want to see that station manned seven days. Currently those officers are on a five-day roster—and the auxiliaries and the officers do a fantastic job manning that station—but I want to see that station upgraded to a category B station with seven-day manning. I will be calling on the government and the minister to allocate some of the remaining full-time-equivalent positions that are still owing to regional fire stations across the state to Yeppoon and I will be asking for the Yeppoon Fire Station to be considered for that upgrade, an upgrade which is desperately needed to help improve response times in Central Queensland.

Mr Millar: You have my support.

Mrs LAUGA: The member for Gregory is also supporting that call. I congratulate the Treasurer on this fantastic budget that is delivering jobs for regional Queensland.