




Speech By  
**Bruce Saunders**

**MEMBER FOR MARYBOROUGH**

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Record of Proceedings, 13 June 2019

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

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (11.54 pm): I rise to talk about the appropriation bills. What a great budget this is for the electorate of Maryborough. This is good news week for Maryborough. This is the fourth budget. Every time I look at the budget for Maryborough I do not think it can get any better, but we have beaten it again.

I would like to go through some of the great things in this Palaszczuk Labor government budget relating to the Maryborough electorate. I will talk first about schools, because education is very important to me. The only way you lift low socio-economic areas like mine is through education. Not only do we need great teachers; we also need great facilities. There is \$200,000 for a multipurpose court upgrade at St Helens school. St Helens is located in the Maryborough electorate on the way to Hervey Bay. When I was elected, one of the first things we did as a government was provide a new car park and traffic lights so that people could safely enter and exit St Helens school. We are continuing that good work. St Helens is a very good state school.

There is \$150,000 to upgrade outdoor learning areas at Maryborough Central School, one of the oldest schools in Maryborough city. Principal Lee is a fantastic principal. Maryborough West State School is getting a \$150,000 upgrade. Money will also be spent at Maryborough high. There is also about \$980,000 for upgrades at 17 schools throughout the Maryborough electorate. I thank the Minister for Education. I have had some great meetings with the Minister for Education. She has listened to everything I have said in relation to schools in my electorate. She knows the importance of education and knows what facilities we need in Maryborough.

I will now talk about roadworks. Maaroom and Poona are seaside communities on the Cooloola Coast road. I have been talking to the Minister for Transport about turning lanes into these communities. A lot of road users now use the Cooloola Coast road. A lot of people from the Maryborough and Hervey Bay areas take this back way to Brisbane. I see the member for Gympie nodding; he knows exactly what I am talking about. There are no turning lanes into these communities. Logging is a big industry in my electorate and there are a lot of logging trucks on the Cooloola Coast road. The money allocated in this budget for these turning lanes is very important. These turning lanes will save lives, as will the upgrade to the intersections to Maaroom and Poona. We have been fighting hard for that, and I thank the minister.

Riverside Christian College, on the corner of Biggenden Road and Royle Street, is a great college. It has grown to around 800 students. There will be an intersection upgrade there, as it is a very unsafe intersection for parents taking their children to school and picking them up, for teachers and for everyone who visits the college. The upgrade of that intersection will make it very safe for parents to take their children to school and pick them up and also for children to cross the road so they can ride their push bikes home. That is very welcome.

The Burrum Heads-Pialba intersection outside Hervey Bay is one of the busiest intersections in Wide Bay and one of the most dangerous. I have had great discussions with TMR regarding this intersection. There is money allocated for scoping works for the upgrade. This is a \$44 million to \$48 million upgrade project. The intersection is getting busier as it is in the fastest growing area in the Maryborough electorate—Craignish, Dundowran down to Toogoom and also Burrum Heads. This is very welcome news for people who use that road regularly. Because of the volume of traffic, I have been stuck on that road for up to 25 minutes trying to turn back to Maryborough. It is great news for the people who use the Burrum Heads-Pialba road daily.

The other highlight in the budget is the \$29 million increase in funding to the Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service, the WBHHS. I want to thank CEO Adrian Pennington, the board, the staff, the executive team and everyone who works at WBHHS for the great service they provide for the people in my electorate. Earlier we heard the member for Condamine talking about ramping. The difference is that hospitals in my electorate have had a 40 per cent increase in the number of people going through the A&E thanks to the increase in private health cover. As an example, people with top cover went from premiums of \$485 to \$540 per month and they dropped out of private health and, as a result, there has been a 40 per cent increase in the number of people using the Maryborough Hospital. We are funding that very adequately and I want to thank the minister. That is what a Labor government does. It provides services in the main areas of life—education, transport, health—and we make sure that people have a roof over their heads and a job. That increase to the WBHHS is very welcome.

There is also money for mental health facilities in the Maryborough electorate, and I cannot thank the minister enough for that because with this current federal government and the cutbacks it has made to the Maryborough health district the extra money is very appreciated. Once again, this is the Palaszczuk Labor government supporting these services.

Maryborough is a great sporting city and there is a lot of sport played in the electorate. I note that the minister is in the House tonight and I want to thank the minister for a grant to a soccer club in Maryborough. This is the first government money this club has received in many years—that is, a \$152,000 grant for the Granville Football Club to construct change rooms including toilets, showers and player seating to support female participation in the Granville Soccer Club. The other night when I went to see the ladies and the men at the Granville Soccer Club I have never seen happier people. I thank the minister for that because he listened to me when I spoke to him about this soccer club. Not only did he listen; he delivered, and that is great because female participation at the Granville Soccer Club is going through the roof and this will make it better for them. One of the ladies asked me to personally thank the minister, so I once again thank the minister.

This budget also looks after Works for Queensland, which is a Labor initiative. This is a tremendous program. With the Fraser Coast Regional Council I see the difference in my city with the footpaths, with the roadworks, with the parks. With the allocation of money in the budget we will see a lot of changes in Maryborough city. One of the projects we will see from Works for Queensland in this budget is a water park, and I am going to take the minister to look at where the water park is going to go in Maryborough city next week. This water park will be a game changer for many citizens in my city under Works for Queensland.

I heard the Premier say that the mayor of Bundaberg said how wonderful Works for Queensland was. I can tell members that Mayor Seymour loves Works for Queensland because it has taken a lot of pressure off the regional council and it is providing services and upgrades that it would never have been able to provide without Works for Queensland. It is a fantastic program.

Another program is Back to Work, and many people in my electorate have got work from Back to Work. The other day I was talking to a couple of young women and men in my electorate who have been given a chance by Back to Work. Skilling Queenslanders for Work is another great program.

This is a top budget, no matter what those on the other side say. There is a bit of envy there. The member for Stretton said that it is 5-nil. That is a really bad score—

**Mr Mellish:** Thrashing!

**Mr SAUNDERS:** It is a thrashing. I take that interjection from the member for Aspley. It is a thrashing. The reds have beaten the blues again 5-nil. I want to say thank you very much to the Deputy Premier and Treasurer and the whole of the cabinet that has been involved in this budget. I thank them because they listened to members like me. I have been talking about the budget to many cabinet ministers for the last four or five months. They have listened and they have delivered in spades. On behalf of the people of the Maryborough electorate, I want to thank the Premier, the Deputy Premier and the cabinet of the Palaszczuk Labor government. I commend the bills to the House.