




Speech By
Charis Mullen

MEMBER FOR JORDAN

Record of Proceedings, 13 June 2019

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

 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (4.14 pm): I rise to speak to the Appropriation Bill and the important choices and decisions that our government has made to deliver for the people of Queensland. The 2019-20 budget focuses on the issues that certainly matter to those in my electorate of Jordan: the creation of jobs, the opportunity of education, accessible health care, safe and inclusive communities, reducing cost-of-living pressures and infrastructure for our growing region. Queensland has been challenged through our recent natural disasters and a federal government that quite unfairly favours our southern cousins in New South Wales and Victoria. However, we prevail with a budget that continues to invest in the Queensland people.

We are backing jobs in this budget and that is particularly important for the people in my electorate. 207,000 jobs have been created by our government, made possible via investing in job-generating infrastructure, increasing front-line services, and focusing on new industries and diversifying our economy. We also know that, particularly in outer metropolitan areas such as Greater Springfield and Greater Flagstone in my electorate, small and medium businesses are vital to the economic prosperity of our region. I commend the Treasurer on the \$885 million commitment made in the budget in targeted payroll tax initiatives that will deliver lower taxes for an estimated 13,200 small and medium businesses. The increased payroll tax exemption threshold, the employment growth rebate and the extension of the apprentice and trainee rebate will certainly be welcomed by hardworking local business owners in my electorate.

I am particularly proud of the schools we have in the Jordan electorate. This year's budget provides a fantastic boost for our growing area, delivering a great start for our children. The Springfield Central State High School is the fastest growing high school in my electorate. Therefore, I am very happy to see that we are addressing that growth with a \$10 million investment in new classrooms. Thank you, Minister. That new funding will complement the \$9 million we have already committed for a new multipurpose hall for the school, which is currently being constructed and is due for completion in September. One of our oldest schools in the electorate is also receiving a much needed boost, with Woodcrest State College in Springfield receiving new funding of \$550,000 for a community hub and outdoor learning area. Those are projects that I know the school communities will be very happy to see progressed and I was very happy to advocate for them.

I am proud to be part of a government that understands the importance of properly resourcing our health system. This year's budget has a record investment of \$18.5 billion in health services and infrastructure, which includes significant upgrades for the Logan and Ipswich hospitals. The Jordan electorate will also receive over \$2.3 million in the next financial year for targeted health support services and programs, including mental health services. That is a particularly important area of need within my electorate and the government's investment of \$62 million to support those struggling with mental health issues is vital and necessary.

Last year I was pleased to invite Queensland's Mental Health Commissioner, Ivan Frkovic, to the Jordan electorate as part of our Greater Springfield Regional Connect forum to hear directly from front-line services on the challenges of supporting those in our community with mental health issues and to hear more on the Queensland government's mental health strategy. I am very pleased that our government has committed funding to the early implementation of that strategy, which means funding for suicide prevention services and safe haven cafes as an alternative to emergency departments for people struggling with their mental health, as well as funding to trial a community based crisis stabilisation facility to support people in the initial 24 hours of a crisis. As the Minister for Health rightly pointed out, every death to suicide is one too many and Queensland's statistics are far too high.

I am also pleased to see continued funding for two key infrastructure projects in my electorate. The Mount Lindesay Highway is important for the southern end of my electorate, with \$47.5 million to be spent in 2019-20. Work is well advanced on the upgrade of the very dangerous Greenbank Road intersection in North MacLean, with early works now also underway in South MacLean. The widening of the highway to four lanes between Rosia Road and Stoney Camp Road and between Camp Cable Road and Johanna Street will also see great improvements in traffic flow for the Mount Lindesay Highway. The detailed design for the Springfield Central park-and-ride is advancing well and the Department of Transport and Main Roads, with Queensland Rail, is working closely with the Ipswich City Council and the Brisbane Lions on ensuring the Springfield Central station stadium precinct is well planned and accessible for commuters, motorists and visitors.

Further funding in this year's budget will support this detailed planning as we move towards major construction works in the area in the later part of this year. The 2019-20 budget will also see funding for route planning for the Springfield rail extension. I am happy to see this commitment. Springfield Central Station, being a terminus station, is feeling the brunt of our growing commuter communities. There are only so many car parks to be built at Springfield Central so we need to progress the Springfield rail extension for those communities from Redbank Plains, Deebing Heights, Yamanto and Ripley who currently park at Springfield Central to access the rail line.

It is good to see funding for the Centenary Highway for Sumners Road and the Centenary Bridge. However, I am disappointed for my community that there is no funding for the Centenary Highway-Logan Motorway interchange. This is a section of the Centenary Highway that continues to see worsening congestion as the communities of Greater Springfield and Ripley grow. I have lobbied strongly for action on progressing the detailed design on this and moving to a construction solution. I will now redouble my efforts to support my community and see this notorious congestion hotspot fixed.

Having said that, I do see funding has been allocated for further project planning for the Centenary Highway from the Logan Motorway to Willowbank, which significantly impacts Jordan motorists. This is most welcomed given the growth we are experiencing. I have also seen funding allocated for network planning for west Brisbane and Ipswich and I am looking forward to working with TransLink on some of the bus routes in the Jordan electorate that certainly need to be reviewed.

Finally, I am particularly mindful that mortgage pressures and cost of living are significant issues for those in my electorate. The Palaszczuk government, through this year's state budget, has announced more than \$5.66 billion in significant rebates and concessions, an increase of \$76 million from last year. I regularly provide support to constituents to access some of these concessions and this boost in the state budget this year means I can look forward to assisting even more constituents of the Jordan electorate access anything that can assist them with those cost-of-living pressures.

As I said at the start of my speech, this is a budget that addresses the issues that matter the most to those in my electorate of Jordan and to Queenslanders more broadly—infrastructure, education, health, cost of living and, of course, job creation. I commend the Treasurer and all ministers involved in the preparation of this year's budget and look forward to seeing the results of this work flow through my electorate of Jordan.