




Speech By  
**Cynthia Lui**

**MEMBER FOR COOK**

---

Record of Proceedings, 14 June 2019

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

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (11.34 am): Today I rise in support of the 2019-20 budget and congratulate the Premier and Deputy Premier and Treasurer, the Hon. Jackie Trad, for handing down another phenomenal budget. The people of Cook want to know that they are being listened to, and this budget does exactly that. I have said it before and I will say it again: Cook is unique in the vastness of the region and, as such, faces many challenges in achieving positive social and economic outcomes. Through my travels in Cook I get to experience firsthand the vast terrains—from island communities in the Torres Strait to communities separated by vast masses of land in Cape York and the Tablelands. For many regional and remote communities this is home, and I acknowledge the challenges people face living in their communities.

This budget speaks volumes for communities in my electorate and highlights this government's commitment to regional and remote communities not only in the Cook electorate but also in all communities of Queensland. The 2019-20 budget delivers for health, education and jobs—all of which are at the forefront of this government's priorities. When it comes to education, every child deserves a quality education wherever they are in Queensland, and having adequate infrastructure is vital for students' learning. I am thrilled with the record investment of new funding to carry out refurbishments for certain schools in the Torres Strait Islands, Cape York, Mareeba and Mossman. This new funding announcement in the 2019-20 budget will also fund amenities for schools at the Hope Vale campus, external painting to the primary campus at the Northern Peninsula Area State College, replace stairs and a veranda floor in Mossman State School and a new school set-down shade structure at Tagai State College's Thursday Island primary campus in Torres Strait.

In addition, \$2 million is allocated across 47 schools in the Cook electorate for maintenance and \$0.72 million for minor works in schools throughout the Cook electorate for this financial year. I felt extremely proud to recently accompany the Minister for Education, the Hon. Grace Grace, to the Tagai college high school campuses on Thursday Island, Badu Island, Saibai Island, Horn Island and also Lockhart River state school in Cape York. We met with locals, school leaders, teachers and students in communities to hear firsthand the issues in relation to education that are important to them. I can tell members that, when it comes to education, this government is listening because we only want what is best for all children, no matter where they live in Queensland.

In examining the budget for Health, this Palaszczuk Labor government is the only way to go. Some \$322,727 in new funding for a school dental service as part of a \$1.29 million package commitment over four years is just one component of how this budget is going to deliver. There is also a \$1.81 million investment to provide step-up step-down services, over \$150,000 for dementia respite services and over \$942,000 as part of a \$2.13 million package to provide mental health service programs. This new health funding is in addition to the ongoing funding to build, upgrade and adequately resource health service delivery in my communities. Funds to build a new clinic on Mer Island, the redevelopment of five primary healthcare centres in the Torres Strait and install a new CT scanner at

Mareeba Hospital show just how serious this government is about supporting regional Queensland. As a former health worker, I feel proud to represent a government that is committed to improving the health and wellbeing of all Queenslanders.

This government is listening to the people of Queensland. When the federal LNP government chose to turn its back on communities in my electorate, it was the Palaszczuk Labor government that did the heavy lifting for Queensland. Some \$228.3 million to improve housing for discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, \$20 million for seawall and flood mitigation works on five vulnerable islands in the Torres Strait, \$25 million for the Mossman mill and \$5.8 million in new funding for the Burke Developmental Road show that this government backs communities 100 per cent, even after the federal government refused to listen and walked away.

Taking into consideration the vast geographical landscape of the Cook electorate, it is clear that this budget aims to address social and economic disadvantage for regional and remote communities by investing in services, providing the right infrastructure and creating opportunities for local employment. This budget focuses on making a real difference for people and their communities through addressing barriers to enhancing people's livelihoods under challenging circumstances. This is a fantastic budget. I commend the budget to the House.