



Speech By
Cynthia Lui

MEMBER FOR COOK

Record of Proceedings, 21 August 2019

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation Bill

Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee, Report

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (2.25 pm): I rise to speak to the budget estimates for the 2019-20 financial year. In doing so I thank Kate Jones, Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games, Leeanne Enoch, Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts, and their departmental officers for their hard work and cooperation in providing information to the committee throughout this process. I also thank the members of the Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee for their hard work and valuable contribution to the hearing and other members whose participation in the hearing provided additional scrutiny of the estimates. Finally, I thank the committee secretariat and other Parliamentary Service staff for their professional assistance throughout.

Clearly, the 2019-20 budget is one that aims to stimulate strong economic growth and development for Queensland. Based on the LNP's poor track record of sack, cut and sell, Queenslanders certainly are much better off under the Palaszczuk government's primary interest of advancing this state as an economic driver to create opportunities that enable all Queenslanders to thrive successfully. Tourism is a thriving industry, one that enables us to showcase the beauty and uniqueness of everything this state offers. We saw total capital grants spending of \$93.4 million that will promote the long-term growth of the tourism industry by facilitating planning and investment in the state's tourism infrastructure, assets and products and the coordination and leveraging of key major events to generate jobs.

Some of the budget highlights include: delivery of the Queens Wharf Brisbane integrated resort development and progression of the procurement processes for the regional global tourism hubs in Cairns and the Gold Coast; delivery of initiatives under the Growing Tourism, Growing Tourism Jobs policy including implementation of the \$48.6 million Attracting Tourism Fund, which includes \$10 million for attracting aviation, and the \$46 million Growing Tourism Infrastructure Fund which includes the \$10 million Outback Tourism Infrastructure Fund.

The one that I am most excited about is the development of the Wangetti Trail in the electorate of Cook. Once complete, this project will give visitors a high-quality ecotourism experience—an experience I cannot wait to try. When it comes to advancing Queensland, this government knows that we need to invest in innovation to drive economic growth and job creation by harnessing Queensland's research strengths and entrepreneurship and by using new technology, capital and ideas to support business and industry creation and growth.

The budget highlights many great initiatives delivered under the Building our Innovation Economy Advance Queensland Strategy to accelerate innovation in Queensland's economy. There is no way the LNP will stand up for Queensland as the Palaszczuk government does, because its track record when in government was all about cut, sack and sell. When it comes to the environment, let us not ask what the LNP think because only yesterday it tried to revoke the waste levy because it wants Queensland to be a cheap dumping ground for interstate waste.

The capital program for the Department of Environment and Science is \$106.2 million, including capital grants of \$5.6 million. The objective of environmental protection services is to avoid, minimise or mitigate the negative impacts on the environment through design and implementation of regulations that guide and control the activities of businesses, individuals and state and local governments. This budget demonstrates this government's priority in protecting our natural environment.

Whether it is tourism development, innovation, environment, parks and wildlife, arts, conservation services or science, this government delivers. I come from a region where the rainforest meets the Great Barrier Reef and communities are separated by vast land mass or water—a region that is unique, with rich biodiversity and beautiful terrains. This budget estimates highlighted the extent to which this Palaszczuk government will go to advance and create opportunities to grow Queensland's economy. We are also not afraid to invest to protect our natural environment and biodiversity for generations to come. I commend the report to the House.