




Speech By
Don Brown

MEMBER FOR CAPALABA

Record of Proceedings, 14 June 2019

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

 **Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (6.02 pm): This budget yet again delivers for Queensland, Redland City and, most importantly, my electorate of Capalaba. I am proud to say that this budget delivers in the areas of roads, infrastructure, education and health which all lead to more jobs. I am proud to say that Don delivers for Capalaba. I am glad to announce that in this budget we are fixing the Gateway on-ramp from Old Cleveland Road. Nearly every morning in peak hour, traffic banks back on the shoulder of Old Cleveland Road. I have fought hard for years to solve this problem and a couple of years ago we were able to deliver cameras which helped synchronise flows during peak traffic demands. When the traffic built up again a couple of years later I again went into bat for the people of my local area and I am glad that in this budget we have been able to deliver a \$5 million upgrade for that on-ramp. I want to thank all of the locals who supported me in this fight by signing my petition, and this is not the only good news for roads in Redlands. It is great to see that the hard work and advocacy of the member for Redlands has paid off with \$37 million for stage 1 of the duplication of Cleveland Redland Bay Road.

This budget also starts to deliver on key public transport infrastructure in my area. There is \$1.8 million of a \$22 million project for the Eastern Transit Way which will see five key intersections along Old Cleveland Road expanded for faster bus travel, but this will also have a positive effect for motorists. There is also \$98,000 to continue the planning and corridor study for the duplication of the Cleveland railway line.

As many are aware, I am a vocal advocate for TAFE, particularly the Alexandra Hills TAFE in my electorate. I understand that if a kid gets a certificate III they are more likely to find a job than one who gets a bachelor degree. I fought hard for years, even before I was elected, to ensure that Alexandra Hills TAFE was restored after the savage cuts that we saw during the Newman years. I went back and had a look at some of the old articles from the local paper at the time and I was amazed that it actually survived. It was only due to the huge community campaign, Save Alexandra Hills TAFE, which I was proud to be a part of and lead, that it survived. I have no doubt that if there were a second term of the Newman government it would have been gone.

Let us go through the comments from the oncer LNP member at the time. An article titled 'Cloud over Alex Hills TAFE' stated—

Students and staff at Alexandra Hills TAFE have a three-week wait to find out if the state government will close the Windemere Road campus next year.

...

Member for Capalaba, Steve Davies, said he believed the campus was under-utilised but said it was too early to say whether it would shut.

He said if the campus did shut, however, possible options would include selling some of the land for public housing or allowing a portion for the next door Alexandra Hills State High School to build a primary school.

"We want TAFE to grow and be effective so underperforming colleges will be shut to enhance the whole system," Mr Davies said.

"I don't want to get caught up in speculation about its fate. I don't know if the campus is shutting but once the decisions have been made, we will look at the best solutions for the site," he said.

This shows just how clueless he was at the time, because just down the road from Alexandra Hills High is a primary school, Alexandra Hills primary school. Not only was the Newman government thinking about selling off the TAFE; it was going to sell off Alexandra Hills primary school and put the primary school at the high school as well. In that same article, which I will table, Metropolitan South Institute of TAFE director Kaylene Harth contradicted the member, and I have no doubt she would have got sacked after that.

Tabled paper: Media article, dated 8 November 2012, titled 'Cloud over Alex Hills TAFE' [1027](#).

The article continues—

Metropolitan South Institute of TAFE director Kaylene Harth said she did not believe the Alexandra Hills campus was under-utilised.

She said 3000 enrolments was "reasonable" for that campus, but there was "room for improving site utilisation" which would require cash investment.

"Whether to shut the campus is a decision that should be made on demand, which is steady in the Redland area," Ms Harth said.

That is the difference between us and those opposite. They want to sell it off and we want to put a bit of a cash injection into it. I am proud to say that when we got back into government on day one we signalled that TAFE was open for business and that we were not going to sell it off. We got rid of QTAMA, we gave TAFE back to TAFE and we stopped the privatisation from the inside. We increased courses there. We increased teachers there. We increased students there, and guess what? That increases jobs and careers for local kids in my area.

To cap all of this off, we are also now investing \$10 million to upgrade the campus. This is the single biggest injection into the campus site in the 32-year history of the site. This upgrade will mean that most of the trades training that happens at the Alexandra Hills site will be from years 1 to 4. At the moment when students finish their first year they have to go to Acacia Ridge and I have heard too many stories of students dropping out because they were not able to travel to their courses at Acacia Ridge. That is why I fought so hard to ensure that trades training was back at Alexandra Hills and I am glad that we have gone a long way to delivering that in this budget. I am glad to see that part of the upgrade will also go to new nurse training facilities. We have seen a massive growth in the need for jobs with the NDIS and aged care, and that is why I am happy to announce that in this budget we will be training the future nurses of Redlands in the Redlands.

There is more fantastic news for Redlands when it comes to education, particularly in the state schools of my electorate. There is \$700,000 for Coolwynpin State School—the 'cool school'—to remove its old demountables and to construct a new prep precinct, including an outdoor learning area, and we know how important that is to modern education. We will also deliver the last \$620,000 of the \$4.25 million for Alexandra Hills High's Centre of Excellence in Automation and Robotics. I was recently at the site to review the construction of the brilliant learning facility and I know how excited teachers, students and parents are to see the final product in a couple of months time. There is also a massive \$9 million for Redlands special school for the renewal and revamping of that school given its growing cohort, and I thank the Minister for Education for delivering all of this.

This is a fantastic result. I went with the member for Springwood and the member for Redlands to meet with the principal, Andrew Thompson, and to go on a tour of the school to see where the works were needed. Andrew Thompson had such a passion and I could see how the teachers found that passion contagious. Each of the schoolkids had a smile on their face. It was fantastic to see them responding in that way. It meant so much that we are supporting Andrew Thompson and the teachers to continue that fantastic work that they do at the Redlands special school.

This is a budget that yet again delivers for health. In that regard, I thank the Minister for Health. This budget delivers particularly for Redland Hospital. There is \$22 million for ongoing upgrades and the construction of an expanded emergency and maternity ward. This year, there has also been a massive increase in the funding for Metro South Health of 6.25 per cent.

I love working alongside the local community groups in my area. It is the best part of my job. That is why it is great to see support for communities in this budget. There is \$230,000 for the Redland Community Centre. That centre does fantastic work in being the safety net for my community. That centre helps out those in their time of need. There is \$284,000 to finish off the \$500,000 upgrade of the Capalaba Warriors club. I went down to that club to see the construction that was taking place and I was given a tour. I know that that upgrade will be opened in a couple of weeks time. I particularly note that the female players at the Capalaba Warriors are looking forward to their new clubhouse. There is

\$12,000 to replace the six goalposts at the Redlands Muddies rugby club—which is my old rugby club—just in time for old boys day on Saturday. I encourage all the old boys of the Redlands rugby club to get down there and fill the hill.

This budget delivers for the good people of the Capalaba electorate by delivering infrastructure, public transport and education in TAFE and in health. Ultimately, this budget will deliver jobs for my community. I would like to congratulate the Premier and the Treasurer for working in lock step with all the ministers to deliver a fantastic budget. I commend both bills to the House.