




Speech By  
**Jennifer Howard**

**MEMBER FOR IPSWICH**

---

Record of Proceedings, 13 June 2019

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

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (9.53 pm): I rise today to give my fifth budget in reply speech as the member for Ipswich in this parliament. It is an enormous privilege to hold this position, and I will never take it for granted. This budget puts Ipswich on a firm footing to accommodate future population growth and its social and economic changes. I take this opportunity to thank the Deputy Premier and Treasurer on her excellent work with this budget.

Ipswich is a vibrant and growing city with a diverse population and economy. We face challenges similar to any city undergoing rapid change and growth. I know that people in Ipswich are worried about the challenges that lie ahead. I assure the people of Ipswich that this budget will not leave behind anyone. The Palaszczuk government has handed down a budget that will help Ipswich cope with future challenges that arise from fast-paced growth and change. I am excited and optimistic about Ipswich's future.

This budget puts Ipswich on a firm footing to manage our future growth. We are getting more learning facilities for our schools, more funding for our hospital and health services, more affordable housing, more funds to upgrade roads and develop public transport, and more funding to extend our court services.

One of the big wins for Ipswich in this budget is the reinstatement of the Murri Court. Seven years after the Newman government closed it down, Ipswich is getting it back. Since 2015 I have fought for the return of a Murri Court in Ipswich and know that this service will be welcomed by many who wish to see the rate of Indigenous incarceration reduced. Around 15 Indigenous people attend court every day in Ipswich. This number is far too high, and the Murri Court will be a step in the right direction to reduce recidivism rates and improve outcomes for Indigenous people in Ipswich. I respectfully acknowledge all the local elders in my community who fought long and hard for the reinstatement of the Murri Court in Ipswich.

The future of Ipswich is our children. The Palaszczuk government is committed to investing in their education through quality teachers, classrooms, learning resources and facilities so that none are left behind in a rapidly changing world. Teachers and principals in Ipswich state schools do fantastic work imparting their skills, knowledge and wisdom to children. They do outstanding work in sometimes challenging environments to help students achieve their best. The volunteers on our school P&C committees also deserve a mention. They are out there providing support and resources to their school community, fundraising and lobbying for essential infrastructure upgrades and learning resources that improve the quality of their students' education.

Labor understands that a good education starts with good teachers. Since Labor was elected in 2015, the Palaszczuk government has employed an extra 556 teachers and an additional 221 teacher aides for our state schools. Labor also understands that we cannot provide a good education without proper investment in education infrastructure. The Palaszczuk government is investing \$94.1 million

into two new state schools in Ripley, helping to alleviate some of the enrolment pressures placed on neighbouring state schools, Raceview and Silkstone in particular. This comes out of a total statewide education infrastructure spend of \$1.564 billion.

This year's budget will also see several state schools in Ipswich get urgent and critical infrastructure funding to upgrade their school grounds and learning facilities. Raceview State School will receive \$750,000 in funding so that it can refurbish its existing learning areas, add a new outdoor learning area, provide an outdoor special education learning space, and construct bag racks for its demountable classrooms. Ipswich Special School will receive \$620,000. Bremer State High will receive \$190,000 to upgrade its junior oval. Another \$720,000 will be allocated to 12 schools in Ipswich for maintenance work, and \$250,000 has been allocated to 13 schools for minor works.

Another great measure to come out of this budget is the announcement of \$100 million for school air conditioning which includes air conditioning for schools outside the Cooler Schools zone determined to be of greatest need. I welcome the rollout of the Cooler Schools program throughout South-East Queensland and believe it will benefit Ipswich state school students who currently struggle through lessons during the extreme heat of our summers.

In more good news for Ipswich parents with young children, this budget delivers an additional \$30 million over two years to support universal access to kindergarten. This budget invests in the health and wellbeing of Ipswich people with West Moreton Hospital and Health Service receiving a record \$642.8 million in this budget. It means more front-line staff, improved allied health services and more funding to continue the upgrade of Ipswich Hospital. Some \$790,000 will be delivered to provide services in dementia respite, mental health funding programs and palliative care programs. Some \$290,000 will be allocated for the delivery of alcohol and other drug services to provide out-client treatment, court diversion programs, residential rehabilitation and Connecting Care to Recovery programs.

Indigenous health funding is also set to be boosted with close to \$51,000 going to the Institute of Indigenous Urban Health for oral health services, and just over \$185,000 going towards Indigenous health services under the Making Tracks Investment Strategy. It is also great to hear that Kambu Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation for Health will receive close to \$1.9 million to continue providing family services.

I am also pleased to see \$1 million in route planning for the Springfield to Ipswich rail line extension. I will never stop fighting for transport infrastructure to connect Springfield to Ipswich. This funding gets the ball rolling on this important project for Ipswich.

I am pleased to see funding devoted to domestic and family violence in our community. The Palaszczuk government committed \$232,000 for two additional Ipswich based district police domestic and family violence coordinators who will deliver specialist education and training to police.

I am saddened to say that there is a growing homelessness problem in Ipswich which is exacerbated by the lack of suitable, affordable housing for some parts of the population. This budget is tackling the growing housing crisis by allocating an extra \$2.7 million towards commencing construction of 21 units of accommodation in Ipswich.

Services are delivered by dedicated men and women who are working for government and non-government organisations to keep children safe, and I welcome the continuation of funding in the budget for child safety and protection services. The budget delivers a total of \$16.5 million to non-government organisations in Ipswich so that they can carry on doing important work protecting children and supporting vulnerable people.

Youth in Ipswich will also be supported through the continued funding of the exceptional Ipswich Community Youth Service and Project Booyah, which is turning around the lives of young offenders in Ipswich. I could not be happier to see this fantastic initiative get an extra \$3.173 million plus an additional \$982,000 under the Framing the Future initiative.

TAFE is a very important part of the Ipswich community. Some \$7.27 million has been allocated for that. They do amazing work. On this National TAFE Day I want to give them a really big shout-out. Another big thing in our budget is getting rid of red tape for small businesses by increasing the payroll tax free threshold to \$1.3 million. This is terrific for Ipswich business confidence and great for local job growth.

I know that Ipswich people have been doing it tough, particularly over the last couple of years. Our city has taken a few knocks and suffered a few setbacks, but Ipswich is a city worth fighting for. I want to assure the people of Ipswich that, along with Labor, I will continue to deliver for this great city.