




Speech By
Joan Pease

MEMBER FOR LYTTON

Record of Proceedings, 13 June 2019

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

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (9.10 pm): Each morning I get up and enjoy an early morning walk sharing a ‘good morning’ or a nod of a head with locals—mums and dads; grandparents; young and old; people walking their dogs, riding their bikes, fishing on the rock wall—all of us taking a moment before our busy day starts. Perhaps they might be heading back to care for their elderly parents or children with a disability, to get kids off to school or to get ready for work—each of us enjoying a little piece of paradise that we call home, the bayside.

Apart from living in the bayside, which is perhaps or should I say definitely the best place in the world to live, we all share much more. We all want the very best education for our kids, we all want the very best health care, we all want a decent job and we all want to be able to pay our bills and to have some money left over. That is what the Palaszczuk Labor government gets. We understand how important providing access to good education is, setting our kids up for a great start in life.

That is why I am absolutely thrilled, as is each and every student and worker at Darling Point Special School, to be receiving \$1 million in the budget to build new classrooms, which are so well deserved and so needed at that wonderful school on the bay; Wondall Heights State School will receive \$300,000 for an outdoor learning area; Lota State School will receive \$350,000 to refurbish learning areas; and more than \$800,000 is allocated across 11 schools for maintenance and minor works. That is on top of the \$4 million that Wynnum State High School received last year for new classrooms and refurbishment of rehearsal spaces. These investments mean so much to our local schools, our local students, our local parents and our community and, importantly, they are giving our kids a great start. That is what the Palaszczuk Labor government does, and I thank Minister Grace Grace.

I have spoken often in this place about my passion to ensure that in the bayside we all have access to great public health services when we need them, now and into the future. This budget sees an allocation of \$1.6 million in health grants for mental health, dementia respite and palliative care services. We are building on the clinics and services that are already being provided at our fabulous Gundu Pa, which is giving access to world-class public health services close to home. We are providing more doctors, more nurses and more paramedics right across the state. We are building on our public hospitals and our health services. That is what the Palaszczuk Labor government does.

Baysiders who want to study nursing will be able to do so closer to home at the brand-new world-class facility at the TAFE Queensland Alexandra Hills campus. The campus will undergo a \$10 million upgrade to offer more courses and more learning spaces. This is a game changer, combined with the double subsidy for a diploma of nursing, making it \$4,000 cheaper for eligible students. The new and enhanced state-of-the-art facilities and equipment mean that our bayside will be the best place to gain the necessary skills to work in the growing sector of nursing and aged care.

Improving the Lindum level crossing is one step closer, with a \$400,000 investment into the planning stages for this important upgrade. I have been working with our community. I have been listening to the community and, might I say, to the experts to ensure that the best possible and positive solution is available for all baysiders, providing safe carriage for all users of the intersection. That is what the Palaszczuk Labor government does.

We will be developing a progressive management plan for Manly harbour to help Wynnum Manly reach its potential as a tourism hotspot, generating jobs and tourism in the bayside. Raising the payroll tax free threshold from \$1.1 million to \$1.3 million will be a boost to businesses and further support job creation. We will also support payroll tax rebates of up to \$20,000 for businesses that increase their number of employees each year, and we are continuing the 50 per cent payroll tax rebate for businesses that employ apprentices and trainees. This budget backs in local jobs by supporting local businesses, building infrastructure and building a skilled and future-ready workforce. That is what the Palaszczuk Labor government does.

Our commitment of \$5.66 billion to Queenslanders to help with household budgets sees an increase from last year and is equivalent to more than \$1,000 for every Queenslander. These concessions will ease the cost of living for pensioners, students, apprentices and trainees, low-income families, people with a disability and people needing access to specialist medical services that are not available in their area. Helping to take pressure off families' household budgets is what the Palaszczuk Labor government does.

This budget will deliver to those people I see each morning when I am on my walk. We are investing in education and training, giving our kids a great start. We are delivering world-class health services. We are investing in jobs, and we are easing the cost-of-living pressures. We are creating opportunity. We are taking care of those in our communities who might need a hand, and we are investing in the growth of this great state. That is what the Palaszczuk Labor government does. I commend the bills to the House.