




Speech By
Kim Richards

MEMBER FOR REDLANDS

Record of Proceedings, 13 June 2019

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

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (11.28 pm): I rise proudly in this House today to support the 2019-20 Palaszczuk government budget. Numbers in budgets are great and they are great for Queenslanders in 2019-20 and they are brilliant budget numbers for Redlanders—in fact the best in over a decade. I promised to be a strong voice for our community, to listen, work hard and fight for the needs of our growing region, and that is just what I have been doing for the last 18 months. I have tap danced the halls of our departments in William and George streets. Like I said last year to the people of Redlands, they put their trust in me and our Palaszczuk government to deliver for our community and I am pleased to say we are doing just that. Again, I will repeat what I said in my maiden speech—that the measure of my success in this place will be determined by the legacy ultimately left behind. I am extremely proud to stand on my track record of the last 18 months to share what this budget means for Redlanders and what it is positioning us for.

In infrastructure and roads, the highlight is—and I really want to do a happy dance—stage 1 of the Cleveland Redland Bay Road upgrade, \$37 million. I know that everyone in this House is familiar with Riverway Drive, Thuringowa in Townsville. Let me tell honourable members that the \$37 million—that is right, \$37 million—for stage 1 of Cleveland Redland Bay Road is just that for me and my magnificent Redlands community. We fought hard and we have won the much needed commencement of the duplication of this road. I cannot thank Minister Bailey enough. I say to Redlands: it is happening; it is on like Donkey Kong. I know that our councillor and deputy mayor is ecstatic, saying that it will vastly improve travel times for commuters and improve motorist and pedestrian safety. He said that this is one of the best road investments by the state government achieved in the Redlands in over a decade.

It just gets better for commuters on Cleveland Redland Bay Road, with design works well underway on the long-awaited Anita Street intersection with Cleveland Redland Bay Road. There is \$3 million in this budget out of a total of \$5 million to get this intersection underway. It was a project that was dumped and rejected by the LNP under the Campbell Newman government. Again, this work builds on our commitment to improving the roads in the Redlands like the completed Giles Road intersection, which has been very well received.

We are also well into the planning phase of the \$500,000 Victoria Point bypass feasibility study to ensure we deliver the right solution to address growth into the future. Consultation is complete and I am looking forward to the study being finalised next year that will continue to guide our region's road infrastructure requirements as we grow into the future. The new Victoria Point central bus station is well underway and coming out of the ground as we speak.

The announcement of the \$5 million Old Cleveland Road Gateway on-ramp, much championed by the member for Capalaba, Don Brown, is also a fantastic piece of news for Redlands commuters, as is the Eastern Transitway. We know that most of our employed residents who leave the Redlands for the city every day will be using these roads. I am focused on ensuring our Redlands community get to work quicker and are home with their families sooner.

For our island communities we are also delivering the much needed jetty upgrades—\$20.5 million on Russell, Macleay, Lamb and Karragarra islands. This is on top of Minister Bailey's commitment to continuing the free interisland ferry fares for islanders. He knows how important our island communities are and he listened when we spoke about how important it was for them to remain connected.

This budget is about supporting success for all Queenslanders through jobs and growth—how we transition Queensland in a complex national and global economy. I can say that Queenslanders have not been helped by the Morrison government; its loyalties clearly lie with Victoria and New South Wales. I am proud to be part of a government that has invested, and continues to invest in our people through programs like Skilling Queenslanders for Work, investing in organisations like Running Wild and the Bay Islands Community Services with more than \$1.2 million invested in reskilling and improving job opportunities for my community. This is one program that is truly delivering.

I also want to congratulate my neighbour the member for Capalaba, Don Brown, and say what a privilege it has been to work with him on our commitment to the \$10 million investment in TAFE. The refurbishment and expansion of these training facilities is just so important to ensure that our communities are skilled, trained and ready for jobs of the future. This budget is something that will also grow small to medium businesses. This is the lifeblood of our Redlands community. I have already had feedback on how pleased they are with our \$885 million commitment to payroll tax reduction. Our Advance Queensland agenda also continues to support local businesses in the Redlands.

Our government is also investing in renewables and, again, so much innovation is occurring as a result of our focused agenda. In the Redlands we are benefiting from our hydrogen strategy, with international investment in our region through a partnership forged with Japanese electric industry specialists, QUT and our government. I have been meeting regularly to discuss opportunities for the Redlands. I spoke recently with Professor Ian Mackinnon, and he said—

... the Redlands community is well positioned to not only become a model "smart and clean energy" city of the future but also an excellent focal point—via the Redlands Research Facility—to demonstrate the integration of new, and renewable, clean energy technologies as they develop into the future—

and that means more jobs for Redlanders. We are truly positioned and delivering in a knowledge based economy. This budget will continue to provide incentives for businesses to grow and flourish not only in the Redlands but right across Queensland.

Everyone knows our Queensland environment is spectacular—and I am a little biased; I think that has been clear—particularly when it comes to the Redlands. We are continuing to position our region to capitalise on our natural assets and tourism opportunities. We are committed to celebrating our Quandamooka coast with the magnificent Migaloo and Queensland whale migration experience that will run down our coastline. Along with investment in the interpretive centre, these projects will provide knock-on benefits for the Southern Moreton Bay Islands and in fact all of Moreton Bay. They will provide opportunities in terms of river connections to the bay—enormous opportunities. It has been a pleasure to work with the minister for tourism on growing the Moreton tourism opportunity. We are absolutely focused on growing job opportunities here in Queensland. There is so much happening up and down the Redlands coastline and the future is exciting for our region. This budget just continues to deliver.

On the bay I have also been honoured to chair the War on Wrecks Taskforce, which has continued to kick goals in the clean-up of abandoned vessels across Queensland waterways and, importantly, on our mighty Moreton Bay. I also want to thank the Gold Coast Waterways Authority, Hal Morris and the guys down there. They have been doing a fantastic job on this task force. I would also like to thank the balance of the committee members—we really have achieved so much in our first six months—and the team at MSQ.

It is only a Labor government that will invest in supporting our communities, our organisations, our hospital and our health services, and our front-line police and ambulance personnel. In the Redlands we are set to receive two new Queensland police officers for Russell Island and we have taken possession of new vessels that have increased capacity and speed of response across my unique island communities.

We promised to improve Redland Hospital emergency department and we are delivering, with new beds about to commence construction along with new birthing suites. We have \$20 million worth of capital improvements underway including the study that looks at the functional and clinical requirements for future expansion and also the business case for the new multistorey car park.

We have also been investing in domestic violence prevention in the Redlands, and it was fantastic to be with Minister de Brenni and Minister Farmer to announce the increased crisis accommodation at the Maybanke shelter—that has been awesome—along with additional child support workers to support

families that are experiencing domestic and family violence. We are also providing additional supports through programs through the Centre for Women & Co., who are also doing an amazing job in our region.

Finally, I want to talk about education. Along with Cleveland Redland Bay Road—I think I just need to keep saying it again and again, just like the member for Thuringowa—education has been big in this budget for us. Our children are our future and a world-class education invests in our next generation. A great education is something that every child deserves. It has been a privilege as the member for Redlands to meet with and hear regularly from my principals, teachers, parents and students. Our government knows that facilities are important. The built environment and design that supports pedagogical delivery is key to a great education. Again, I am proud to be part of a team that is delivering in this budget focusing on our kids.

Earlier this year we completed the \$1.2 million Russell Island refurbishment. That has changed the dynamics of that school and that island. It is transformative. We are delivering on upgrades for Victoria Point State High School, and they are just over the moon—I cannot begin to tell honourable members how excited they are—with a \$600,000 investment in their library and resource centre refurbishment and the \$2 million multipurpose hall expansion included in this budget. Principal Steinhardt wrote to me today. He said—

The refurbishment and extension of this school's Resource Centre and Student Hall is outstanding news for this school and our community. This is a significant contribution to community assets which are heavily utilised by students, staff and community sporting and performance groups.

From one of our school parents Jose Cobos, said Our children will have inviting places to study and learn. As a parent I am looking forward to my children having access to the latest technology and a variety of classroom structures that the Resource Centre—

refurbishment—

will offer.

What I am also really excited about is our commitment to schools specialising in disability across Queensland. Everyone in this place knows how much I love Redland District Special School. I am so excited that through really strong advocacy—and I cannot thank Minister Grace enough; I offer my genuine and heartfelt thanks—there is \$9 million to upgrade that school's facilities. We cannot say much more than it is only this government in this place that will invest in early childhood development. Continuing that program makes a significant difference not only for my community in the Redlands but right across Queensland. Continuing to fund this—and it should have been something that was picked up by the Morrison government, let's face it.

The NDIS could have done better federally in delivering for our Queensland kids. We continue to see that our government in the NDIS space is doing the heavy lifting. Whether we are talking about the transport subsidy or early childhood development, we are going above and beyond and the Morrison government seriously needs to pull up its socks and get the job done for the people who really need it the most. Principal Thompson said to me that early intervention is critical in ensuring that our children with disabilities have a successful start to their schooling life. He said that he is so proud that this government is backing our kids to get the best possible start.

Finally, I want my Redlands community to know that I will continue to be tenacious and unwavering in delivering for Redlanders. This budget delivers and positions my Redlands community for a prosperous future. I am proud of the work I have achieved in the last 18 months. Track record is everything and an important measure of success. I again promise to my community that I will continue to work hard every day on behalf of all Redlanders. I commend this fantastic budget to my Redlands community and to all Queenslanders.