



Speech By
Kim Richards

MEMBER FOR REDLANDS

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APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation Bill

Economics and Governance Committee, Report

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (12.28 pm): I rise to endorse the estimates report tabled by the Economics and Governance Committee for the Appropriation Bill 2019. The contributions from the other side of the House today have been very similar to those during the estimates process. The lines of questioning were woeful. They showed little regard for what the budget is delivering for Queenslanders. Their line of questioning, which was so tedious and repetitious, showed that those opposite did not understand what the budget was delivering for Queenslanders on the ground. It was terrible.

This was my second opportunity to participate in the estimates process and it only reinforced and highlighted what we on this side of the House already know and that is, in the 2019-20 budget, our Labor government is delivering in spades for Queenslanders. Our government's budget is focused on jobs and economic prosperity for all Queenslanders. It is a budget that demonstrates clearly our government's ability to create jobs and deliver a strong and resilient economy.

The key initiatives and capital works programs outlined in the 2019-18 state budget are estimated to support over 80,000 jobs. That builds on our government's track record of delivering on jobs—over 200,000 jobs since our election in 2015, which is in stark contrast to the LNP's 14,000 sackings in three years. Whether I am at Redland Hospital, TAFE, or the Redlands research centre, I still speak to locals whose lives were impacted by the LNP's cut, sack and sell approach to governing. We know that, currently, the LNP has announced in some sort of big black-hole thought bubble \$7 billion worth of unfunded promises. Like it did in 2012, given the opportunity, we know that the LNP would revert to its approach of cutting, sacking and selling to make ends meet.

The estimates process reinforced that our government's budget builds on previous budgets and continues to create secure, well-paid jobs, driving sustainable economic growth across our state. It leverages off successful initiatives and investment in our four previous budgets. One of the many highlights of the state budget was the \$885 million payroll tax reform that will see thousands of businesses across all areas of Queensland benefit. It is clear from the estimates examination that this budget delivers for Queensland businesses, creating jobs and stimulating our economy in tricky national and global conditions.

I have to say that the task is not made any easier for Queenslanders with our federal government continuing to not invest in Queensland to help support us deliver infrastructure as Queensland continues to grow. The payroll tax reforms, as well as delivering for businesses, will support tens of thousands of

jobs across the state, primarily in the private sector. Included in the package is the extension of the 50 per cent payroll tax rebates for businesses hiring apprentices and trainees. We know how important that is.

We are really backing jobs for Queenslanders. That is important in my area. What I have seen delivered from the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program has been absolutely phenomenal. It is having a significant impact on people who did not have the skills to get a job. It makes sure that Queenslanders have those skills. That program was cut by the LNP. It is astonishing that, if a government were trying to grow jobs and opportunities, it would cut that program.

This government continues to deliver jobs. I cannot tell members what a treat it was for my electorate to hear the announcement of the free apprenticeship training component for under-21s for over 130 different apprenticeships. Having been out to the high schools, the TAFE and the local trade college in my electorate, I know how important this initiative will be for young Queenslanders, Queenslanders and their families in making sure that we position them to get a job. Thousands of secure, well-paid jobs are also being supported by our ongoing funding of the Advance Queensland initiative. In the tourism space, the attracting industry fund has delivered in spades for my area. Whether it is the first Indigenous owned and operated whale-watching tour heading out of Minjerrabah, the whale-watching centre, or the cultural centre, this budget keeps delivering for my community.

I touched on the federal government's lack of investment in major infrastructure. It has a trickle-down effect in areas such as the Redlands. If we are not seeing federal government investment in projects such as Cross River Rail, there is less money to go around the rest of the state. However, I can tell members that, with this budget, people are still smiling and happy dancing in Redlands as stage 1 of the duplication of Cleveland-Redland Bay Road is about to kick off.

This is a great budget for Queenslanders. If those members opposite say that it is a bad budget, I do not think they have read the budget papers. It is a fantastic budget for Queenslanders. Only a Labor government will deliver for Queenslanders.