




Speech By
Leanne Linard

MEMBER FOR NUDGE

Record of Proceedings, 14 June 2019

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

 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (4.13 pm): It is a pleasure to rise to make my contribution in support of the 2019 appropriation bills before the House and to celebrate what the state budget means for my community across the Nudgee electorate. Firstly, I congratulate the Treasurer on a budget that continues our government's commitment to investing in job-generating infrastructure and delivering better, essential front-line services for Queensland workers and their families. This budget maintains record spending in core services essential to meet the needs of our growing state. It means more teachers and teacher aides, doctors, nurses, police and paramedics on the front line supporting our communities. It means investment in our schools, hospitals, roads and public transport network. It means investing in TAFE as our premier training institute with apprenticeships and skills programs to ensure we have the people with the right skills to take advantage of the opportunities created by our policy settings and economic growth across the state. It means \$885 million over four years in targeted payroll tax initiatives to deliver lower taxes for small and medium sized businesses to stimulate employment in the private sector.

The Deputy Premier and Treasurer said during her budget speech that budgets are fundamentally about choices and we choose the prosperity of Queenslanders—the prosperity of Queensland workers and their families and of their businesses. That means keeping our economy moving, innovating and diversifying, particularly in the face of deteriorating national and global economic conditions over the past two years and in the face of a continual erosion of our state's share of GST by a federal LNP government that takes from Queensland with one hand and withholds with the other. Queensland, despite these challenges, continues to lead the mainland states and territories in terms of domestic economic growth. Queensland's businesses, industries, communities and regions continue to grow as our state continues its transition to a more resilient and diversified economy and, despite these global economic and GST challenges, net operating surpluses are projected in each year of the forward estimates. This does not happen without a clear economic plan to invest in and deliver job-generating infrastructure. Over the next four years we will continue to do just that, with a \$49.5 billion capital program to deliver infrastructure that supports economic growth across Queensland, enhances front-line services and provides employment opportunities.

This level of investment will be partly funded through borrowings because to do otherwise would be to put a handbrake on our economy as the former Newman LNP government did when it decided that the way forward for Queensland was to cut, sack and sell. That is how you slow an economy. That is how you constrain an economy. It is not how you grow an economy and create prosperity. Budgets are about choices. They are about staying the course in challenging economic times and they are about articulating a vision for where we are going as a state. That is something we as a state Labor government have always done and one of the many things that so clearly differentiates us from those opposite.

I turn now to my electorate and some of the tangible things my community will see from this year's state budget. With 12 train stations and three major train lines across the length and breadth of my electorate, people in my local community are strong supporters and users of public transport—in fact, well above the state average. Since being elected, I have lobbied strongly for upgrades across the network to benefit my local community, and I always will. This budget delivers \$280,000 in planning funds for an expansion of Northgate train station park-and-ride—without doubt the gateway station to Brisbane north. Not only will this study allow commuters an opportunity to have their say on future expansion at the station but also the surrounding residents who have long called for relief for congestion in their local streets. This planning work has already been warmly welcomed by my community. More than 100 park-and-ride spaces are also being added to Geebung and Virginia train stations, enhancements that complement additional car spaces already delivered at Nudgee, Banyo and Nundah stations since my election in 2015.

Some \$5.6 million will also be spent to continue the current accessibility upgrade of Boondall train station, taking the total investment in train station upgrades in my electorate contained in this budget to \$6.7 million. I want to take this opportunity to thank the transport minister, Mark Bailey, his team and the Treasurer and her team for listening to my local community and progressing these projects. There are a number of advisers in those two offices whom I speak to, often weekly, on behalf of my community. They know who they are and I appreciate their support and assistance tremendously.

Some \$200,000 will be spent in this financial year to undertake transport project planning on the Toombul Bus Interchange and the Sandgate Road-Parkland Street intersection. Some \$200 million has been committed to upgrade the Gateway Motorway between Bracken Ridge and Pine Rivers at a total cost of \$1 billion. My community has been a significant beneficiary of the recently completed billion-dollar Gateway Upgrade North between Nudgee and Deagon and this next stage will continue vital congestion busting on this major arterial gateway to the north.

A record \$1.4 billion will be spent building new state schools and refurbishing, maintaining and expanding existing state schools across Queensland. This includes \$100 million for priority state school air-conditioning projects following a review of state school needs. An additional 1,000 teachers and over 200 extra teacher aides will be employed in 2019-20. Some \$1.5 million will be spent expanding the School Breakfast Program to additional schools across the state.

Nudgee has a relatively young population, the average age being 35, predominantly young families with two children. Schools are extremely important to this northern suburban community and each year I have had the pleasure of being able to deliver local projects of importance to local schools—from the \$1 million performing arts centre at Wavell State High School, to the swimming pool upgrade at Virginia State School and to facility upgrades at Nundah State School and Earnshaw State College. This year, it is Boondall State School's turn.

The Boondall State School P&C, under the strong leadership of Aaron Richards and principal Angelique Padgett, had long had a vision of an early years playground deserving of their growing and vibrant community. Their current prep playground is tired and uninspiring. For years the P&C had been fundraising and approached me for a little help to get across the line. Cue our amazing education minister, Grace Grace. Boondall State School is now the very happy beneficiary of \$100,000 to bring its vision to reality. We know that a quality education requires quality facilities and that is not limited to classrooms. I cannot wait to see the joy and wonder on the faces of the students when this project is delivered.

In addition, \$50,000 will be delivered for a parking feasibility study at Boondall State School. Since I was elected safe pick-up and drop-off zones at the school has been a concern raised with me. Already, this government has delivered improved road safety around the school in the form of flashing lights and crossing improvements, but to be able to deliver this funding for the P&C and school community to make a plan for improved safety in the future is wonderful.

An amount of \$400,000 will also be delivered to Nundah State School for the installation of a lift as part of its beautiful heritage building to improve wheelchair accessibility and there is \$430,000 for welcome maintenance and minor works across the schools in my area.

In health, there will be 800 more nurses, 200 more doctors, 250 more health professionals and 200 more ambulance officers to build on the thousands that we have hired since 2015 as part of our commitment to restore front-line services after the former LNP Newman government cut them. Our hospitals will be supported by a record \$18.45 billion operational budget to keep up with the increased demand for public health services, of which \$77 million will go to the ongoing specialist outpatient long wait strategy to deliver an extra 120,000 appointments and 13,000 elective surgery procedures.

Locally, mental health, dementia and palliative care services will receive \$1.5 million in grants to make a real difference to the lives of people at a time when they need it the most. The budget also contains \$27.9 million to complete a new adolescent extended treatment centre at the Prince Charles Hospital, which services my electorate.

The budget contains vital ongoing funding for child safety, youth and family services in my electorate, supporting Jabiru Community Youth and Children's Services, Kurbingui youth services, Mercy Community Services, the Community Living Association, Queensland Foster and Kinship Care and the North-East Community Support Group. These youth and community services, alongside two neighbourhood centres at Nundah and Zillmere, are there for the most vulnerable in my community and we are there for them.

The Nudgee electorate is home to an estimated 4,000 small to medium sized enterprises—a dynamic mix of industrial, retail and professional service precincts. With almost \$900 million of targeted payroll tax initiatives over the next four years delivered in this budget, we are absolutely focused on creating the right conditions for small businesses to invest, grow and employ in this state. In addition, we have a \$978 million training and skills budget focused on making sure that we have the skilled Queenslanders to take up the opportunities that are created by industry into the future. That means investing in TAFE, apprentices and trainees and in Queensland workers. This budget is focused on growing a strong economy, investing in the infrastructure and services that we need, and delivering locally for our communities. It is a budget for all Queenslanders, wherever they live. I commend it to the House.