




Speech By
Hon. Leanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

Record of Proceedings, 14 June 2019

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

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (11.10 am): I rise in support of the 2019 appropriation bills. I am very fortunate to represent the incredibly vibrant and diverse electorate of Algester where there are fantastic schools. I acknowledge the investment in this year's budget for schools in my electorate. In particular, soon Pallara State School will have a brand-new \$7 million teaching block with 12 new classrooms. I congratulate the school community, in particular school principal Mark Johnstone, who has been a great advocate for his school, and P&C president Geoff Eggins, who displayed great leadership in bringing parents with us on this journey. Pallara State School will also receive \$150,000 towards an environmental outdoor learning area which will be very greatly received.

In other parts of my electorate, Algester State School and Calamvale Special School will receive funding for classroom upgrades. Browns Plains TAFE will receive \$528,000 for campus improvements including painting, air conditioning and maintenance. Browns Plains TAFE is a vital training hub in our community and I am proud to be part of a government that supports TAFE. I am also pleased to inform the House that Acacia Ridge Community Support, now known as Belong, will receive \$120,000 to continue empowering individuals and community groups by providing support through programs like financial literacy, generalist counselling and gambling help services. This organisation does great work for our community every single day, and I am delighted to see it receive further funding support in this budget.

The government's investment of \$898 million in 2019-20 for the Department of Environment and Science will continue to enrich the lives of Queenslanders. Importantly, this funding will contribute to the Queensland government's economic plan for the next decade. It will support job creation, resilient regions and the growth of new industries. This year's budget includes an injection of \$90 million into environmental initiatives that include national park revitalisation, koala conservation, crocodile management and fire management. This year the government will also deliver on its commitment to implement a new koala conservation strategy. Importantly, the government has also committed to continue funding for the important work being undertaken to eradicate yellow crazy ants in the Wet Tropics World Heritage area. Some \$9 million over three years has been allocated to match a federal government investment to ensure that the Wet Tropics are safeguarded from this invasive pest.

This year's additional funding for the department also includes an extra \$10 million for national park revitalisation capital upgrades in 2019-20. There is \$6 million over two years for crocodile management and \$16 million over four years to enhance fire management in national parks. This further funding for fire management is particularly important following the unprecedented fire events we experienced in Queensland over the summer. Our government is providing more resources on the ground to increase our capacity to manage fires and safeguard our national parks. Looking after protected areas is a priority for our government, and that is why in 2019-20 we will continue to invest \$377 million in funding for parks, wildlife and conservation initiatives.

The arts and cultural sector also gets a boost in this year's budget, with the Queensland government continuing to invest \$177 million in our arts community in 2019-20. As we look to the future, the Palaszczuk government is investing \$2 million over two years to explore the development of a first nations cultural centre in Brisbane, a centre which has been touted for more than two decades but which the LNP scrapped when in office. A new centre would showcase first nations cultures from across Queensland and be a drawcard for local tourism. Australia is an ancient land with the oldest living continuous cultures in the world. Our government is committed to celebrating that fact. This year's budget also includes important funding for our existing cultural centres, including \$5 million over two years for energy-efficient LED lighting at the Queensland Performing Arts Centre and new blockbuster funding of \$4 million over two years so QAGOMA can continue to draw exclusive exhibitions to Queensland.

In 2019-20 the Queensland government is continuing to invest \$177 million in our vibrant arts community. This funding includes \$5.2 million in 2019-20 as part of the \$125 million commitment to build the new Performing Arts Theatre at QPAC and \$4 million as part of the government's \$15 million commitment to the new Rockhampton Art Gallery. I know that the member for Rockhampton is very pleased with that.

We also are investing \$6 million in 2019-20 through the Arts Infrastructure Investment Fund to revitalise existing state owned arts and cultural facilities including the Judith Wright Centre of Contemporary Arts and the Cairns Centre of Contemporary Arts. Funding of \$7.82 million over two years will also go towards maintaining environmental conditions and meeting increased service demand at the cultural centre's central energy plant, and \$16.2 million over four years has been allocated for the Queensland Museum to deliver an expanded offsite research and biodiversity collection storage facility, ensuring the museum collection is maintained to the highest possible standard.

I also am delighted that the increasingly popular World Science Festival Brisbane, presented this year in Brisbane, Gladstone, Townsville, Ipswich, Toowoomba and Chinchilla, will build on its success next year with annual funding of \$3 million.

Last week the Palaszczuk government hosted Queensland's first ever Climate Week. The core message of the week was one of opportunity as new jobs and industries emerge. In 2019-20 the government will continue this important work, with over \$17 million to be invested in climate change initiatives. There is a groundswell of community support for better waste management in Queensland and the Palaszczuk government is leading the way. Our vision is for Queensland to become a zero-waste society where waste is avoided and materials are re-used and recycled to the greatest possible extent. The reintroduction of a waste levy in Queensland will support this as well as bring us in line with the rest of Australia. As part of this year's budget, \$1 million over two years has been provided for the development of a waste management data strategy for our state.

This year we will also see expenditure for key programs funded by the waste levy, including support for small businesses and the construction industry and grants for environmental projects. I note the member for Broadwater's claims last night about the amount of waste levy funding going back into environmental initiatives. I am happy to remind the member that, as I have said before in this House, \$6 million of waste levy funds have already been earmarked to expand the Community Sustainability Action Grants program to include waste, koala conservation and threatened species programs. In addition, \$1 million has been allocated towards a school based education program. That is on top of the other initiatives being funded by the levy, including support for councils, industry and businesses.

The Palaszczuk government's approach to environmental protection and better waste management is already delivering new jobs for Queenslanders. The container refund scheme has created 640 jobs in the seven months it has been operating. The introduction of the waste levy will incentivise a move away from landfill and help to curb waste coming into Queensland from other states. The levy will also provide vital funding for infrastructure investment and research and development into new technologies that bolster our recycling and resource recovery industries.

In the coming year the department will also continue to ensure that our approach to environmental protection and management is informed by science and traditional owner perspectives. In 2019-20 the department will deliver a new science strategy for Queensland. As the Minister for Science, I am constantly impressed by the calibre of scientific knowledge that comes out of Queensland and the depth of enthusiasm that exists in our citizen scientists.

The Palaszczuk government is backing our world-leading scientists, with \$25 million over four years of co-investment in cutting-edge scientific infrastructure in this year's budget. We will also invest \$4.8 million over three years to upgrade and extend our high-performance computer facility and modernise our critical scientific systems as part of our Accelerating Science Delivery Innovation program.

The department will also deliver an enhanced Statewide Landcover and Trees Study incorporating new woody extent and clearing mapping for 2018-19. We are supporting the complementarity and convergence of traditional knowledge with western science. This includes leading reforms of the Biodiscovery Act. The department is also developing an integrated first nations framework which will improve our partnerships with traditional owners, increase employment opportunities for first nations peoples and progress co-stewardship of the cultural and conservation values of our protected areas. This is backed by \$15.6 million over four years of new investment in the Cape York Peninsula Tenure Resolution Program.

Our work for an enriched future for all Queenslanders cannot be successful if we do not preserve and treasure our past. That is why we will continue funding our heritage protection services to the sum of \$6.7 million in 2019-20, including \$1.5 million for urgent remedial conservation works to identify state heritage buildings.

The Palaszczuk government remains committed to boosting our economy, creating new jobs and industries and supporting vibrant and resilient regions. For my portfolio, this is a budget that is investing in the protection of our unique biodiversity today and acknowledging the needs of our communities, our cities and our state for tomorrow. I congratulate the Treasurer on an excellent budget and I commend the bills to the House.