




Speech By
Hon. Mark Furner

MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE

Record of Proceedings, 13 June 2019

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

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries) (2.14 pm): The Palaszczuk government's budget has once again delivered important support for the agriculture and fisheries sectors, building on a proud record stretching now to five successive surplus budgets. This budget delivers on biosecurity, it delivers on fisheries reform, it delivers on drought support and it delivers in spades when it comes to jobs in rural and regional areas of the state. That is investing in regional jobs today and for the future.

The budget funds the key programs that will support our agriculture sector through the tough times of drought and floods and help to enhance it as the vital economic driver that we know it is. The increased 2019-20 budget for agriculture and fisheries is \$525 million and contains ongoing funding to support producers grappling with serious and persistent drought conditions across much of the state.

That compares to a budget of \$408 million under the final year of the previous Newman government. That is right, we have increased the allocation for agriculture and fisheries by more than 28 per cent in just five years. The Leader of the Opposition is so embarrassed by it that she made not one single commitment to the agriculture sector in her budget reply speech. When I travel around the state, and I have done more than 91,000 kilometres since becoming minister, talking to producers and industry leaders, I am inspired by so many regional Queenslanders who are so passionate about what they produce and the communities they support. I stand with them. Every single day I stand with them and the Palaszczuk government does the same with this budget, supporting regional Queensland businesses today and growing our economy for the future.

We have set aside more than \$74.6 million over the next four years for continuation of the multi-agency Drought Assistance Package as well as support for implementing Queensland drought reform, delivering on our commitments under the National Drought Agreement. There is \$11.7 million available over the remaining three years of our world-leading Queensland Drought and Climate Adaptation Program. Since this drought began we have invested more than \$670 million in supporting producers and drought-affected communities.

Queensland faces more biosecurity threats than any other state or territory, which is what made the Newman government's cuts to Biosecurity Queensland even more shameful. This year's budget includes funding for control and eradication programs for red imported fire ants, electric ants, exotic fruit flies in the Torres Strait and pest weeds. We have also allocated an additional \$12.1 million to continue our successful response to Panama disease over the next five years.

The budget has also provided additional funding of \$3.6 million over three years for Queensland to meet its obligations within the National Biosecurity System, including strengthening Australia's fruit fly system. We will continue to progress the Queensland Biosecurity Capability Implementation Program and provide grant funding for maintaining wild dog fencing to support the growth of Queensland's sheep

industry. That is right, we are bringing the sheep industry back in Queensland. On Saturday at Winton it was my pleasure to attend the Winton show with the consular general from Japan, Mr Tanaka, who put a ribbon over a champion award winning merino.

Already we have allocated \$3.2 million in the first round of the Rural Economic Development Grants, supporting expansion projects at rural businesses such as the Kenilworth Dairy and Flourish Plants at Mareeba, as well as Swan Ridge Farms in the Bundaberg region, which the Premier attended last week. In all, 15 projects will create more than 600 direct and indirect jobs under the first round of projects. The final two rounds funded in this budget will bring the total invested to \$10 million by 2021.

These are serious and strategic investments supporting regional Queensland businesses today and growing our economy for the future. The budget also includes \$10.6 million over two years for ongoing reform of our fisheries. These are vital reforms to protect jobs in the commercial and recreational fishing industries, building a legacy of a sustainable fishery for our children and grandchildren.

We are protecting Queensland's way of life while investing in jobs today and for the future. We are investing \$1 million in the installation of fish-attracting structures in South-East Queensland to promote recreational fishing and \$1.1 million to further enhance our fisheries compliance system and review fisheries regulations to better reflect community expectations. Development of our strategy for agribusinesses and food industry development is underway and we are about to begin working with industry on a 10-year road map to achieve zero net emissions in the agricultural sector by 2050.

The budget confirms our commitment to the transition of the Queensland Agricultural Training Colleges to a more modern training model at the end of 2019 with the provision of \$7 million over two years. I am proud of the Palaszczuk government's commitment to research and development work to make sure that Queensland's agricultural sector is at the cutting edge of technology and science. We are investing in innovation so that our farmers can take on the world. In this budget that means an additional \$8 million investment for safety improvements and site equipment upgrades to research and operational facilities across Queensland, including \$1.7 million to upgrade Toowoomba's Tor Street site and Leslie Research Facility. That is yet another example of the Palaszczuk government's investment in regional jobs today and for the future. We will invest \$700,000 to begin the refurbishment of the Wacol Tick Fever Centre and we are developing a Queensland government policy on the future of timber production in state owned native forests.

The budget also invests in greater swimmer safety at our 86 popular beaches, with more than \$17 million in additional funding for the Shark Control Program over the next four years. This will help to manage increasing equipment, safety and contractor costs and underwrite our SharkSmart safety and education program. Importantly, it includes \$1 million over the next four years to research new technologies.

I turn to my electorate of Ferny Grove and I am proud to say that the budget has delivered for my constituents. As the member for Ferny Grove since 2015, I have been campaigning to have improvements made to some key intersections on Samford Road. I am very pleased to be able to say that the Palaszczuk Labor budget has delivered.

I successfully lobbied Transport and Main Roads to conduct the first traffic-flow study of the Mitchelton section of Samford Road in more than 25 years. Full upgrades of the Pickering Street and Glenholm Street intersections have been funded in this year's budget, with funding allocated for the planning for Osborne Road. That is in addition to the upgrade of the intersection outside the Enoggera Army barracks, which came on line in 2018 and has already cut five minutes off morning journey times along Samford Road. The Palaszczuk government has also allocated \$26 million for the Stafford Road bypass, which will further relieve traffic problems on Brisbane's north side. These are real investments in real infrastructure that will make tangible differences to the lives of people in the Ferny Grove electorate and on the north side.

The Palaszczuk government budget has once again delivered for schools in Ferny Grove with the allocation of \$5.5 million worth of investments committed to local schools, with the bulk going to primary schools facing growing student numbers. Newmarket State School has received a new classroom that I had the pleasure of inspecting last week. Student numbers have doubled in just 10 years and are still growing, so this great state school has received funding for another four classrooms.

Oakleigh State School is undergoing classroom renovations, along with Patricks Road and Ferny Hills state schools. Earlier this year, Grovely State School opened its new car park and drop-off and pick-up zone, completing the delivery of another election commitment by the Palaszczuk Labor government. The \$18 million Centre of Excellence at Ferny Grove State High School is nearing

completion. Construction will begin shortly at Ferny Grove and Mitchelton state high schools on our \$20 million investment in new school halls to meet growing student needs and deliver state-of-the-art facilities to those school communities. The budget invests half a million dollars in Grovely TAFE and another half a million dollars in local department of housing properties.

Work is ready to begin on the transit oriented development at Ferny Grove. A \$100 million investment of private funds is delivering new parking, more shops, cinemas and apartments on the site of the Ferny Grove Railway Station. This budget locks in the Palaszczuk Labor government's \$9 million investment in the site, delivering hundreds of extra car spaces and much needed local jobs for the Ferny Grove electorate. Brisbane City Council approval for that important project is pending and hopefully not too far away.

I am incredibly proud to serve as the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries in the Palaszczuk Labor government and I am just as proud to serve the people of Ferny Grove as their local member of parliament. It is at times like this, when a Palaszczuk Labor government is clearly delivering by investing in jobs today and for the future and is delivering infrastructure and services for our growing state, that we can proudly state that we are Labor and we stand shoulder to shoulder with the people of Queensland.