




Speech By
Hon. Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 14 June 2019

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

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (5.49 pm): I rise to speak in support of the budget. I congratulate the Treasurer on an outstanding budget and acknowledge the great leadership of our Premier in respect of this great budget for Queensland. This budget is a budget for Queenslanders. It is a budget for the regions. It is a budget that delivers jobs. It is a budget that delivers infrastructure. It is a budget that delivers now and for the future.

The government is building a new prison at the Southern Queensland Correctional Centre precinct near Gatton. This \$620 million project will deliver more than 400 jobs during construction. Even more significantly, the new prison will deliver more than 500 permanent jobs. This will be a game-changer for the Lockyer Valley. I know that the mayor, whom I spoke with this week, is extremely excited about this project—500 new permanent, ongoing jobs, injecting a massive financial stimulus to the surrounding region; 500 workers and their families generating demand for goods and services from local businesses. This is transformational for a regional economy like the Lockyer Valley.

When Clive Palmer's nickel refinery plant in Townsville went bust and hundreds of jobs were lost, it had a devastating impact on people and the economy. We are adopting the anti Clive Palmer approach. Instead of wrecking a business, people's lives and a local economy, we are building. We are building Queensland's future. We are building jobs. We are building regional economies. 'Build it and they will come.' The jobs, the people and the opportunities will come.

It is the same philosophy in Central Queensland, where we have funded a \$241 million expansion of the Capricornia Correctional Centre near Rockhampton. It is another job-creating project. The expansion will deliver a total of 232 permanent, ongoing jobs once the works are complete. Again, the local economy and local businesses will benefit. This is a smart use of government investment—investing in the infrastructure that benefits regional Queensland, because our state is like no other. We are a big state and, unlike the other states and territories, we have significant population centres spread across vast distances. That makes clever investments across the regions even more critical.

The good thing about our investment in these two major prison facilities is that it has another major impact. The construction of a new prison and the expansion of another will significantly ease the capacity constraints within our corrections network. The new prison facility will deliver about 1,000 new cells for male prisoners by 2023. Once construction is complete on both projects, the Palaszczuk government will have delivered more than 4,000 extra prison beds since being elected in 2015. That means better delivery of rehabilitation programs but, more importantly, greater levels of safety for our front-line corrections officers.

Additionally, officer safety will be boosted statewide, with extra funding in this budget of over \$14 million to provide for increased staffing levels to reflect prisoner numbers. We are supporting our corrections staff with these major investments because they do an incredibly difficult job. They manage

on a daily basis the most complex and challenging Queenslanders, and they do this challenging work to keep their fellow Queenslanders safe. Make no mistake: these are historic reforms that will support regional economies, benefit corrective services staff with a safer workplace and deliver much greater capacity to our prison network.

That brings me to those other front-line Queensland workers who do such a wonderful job for the community. I speak of course of our world-class Queensland Police Service. Our government will always back our police, 100 per cent. This year the government has delivered a record Police budget. A total budget of \$2.6 billion in operating and capital has been allocated to the Queensland Police Service. It demonstrates the government's commitment to delivering the front-line services that our community needs.

Amongst the budget highlights, additional funding has been allocated to make Queensland's unique Taskforce Orion a permanent fixture in the Queensland Police Service. Taskforce Orion, in conjunction with Task Force Argos, leads the world in hunting down online child sex abuse predators and setting free the victims. A further \$2.3 million over the next four years and ongoing, permanent funding will be allocated to integrate Taskforce Orion into the Queensland Police Service's Child Abuse and Sexual Crime Group to tackle the making and distribution of child exploitation material.

There is also additional funding to continue the boost of police efforts to combat organised crime and outlaw motorcycle gangs. The Organised Crime Gangs Group, including Taskforce Maxima, has led the way tackling organised crime so that more bikies are now behind bars. There are no bikie clubhouses operating in Queensland anymore. Police capability will also be enhanced to tackle alcohol fuelled violence and the drug ice. This year's budget also includes further funding for work to continue on the Counter Terrorism and Community Safety Training centre at Wacol, with a further allocation to increase the numbers of the Special Emergency Response Team in Brisbane and Cairns.

The government has allocated over \$10 million to complete a new police facility at Arundel and almost \$5 million to continue work on a replacement police facility at Pormpuraaw. Funding has been allocated to the highly successful Project Booyah and the Framing the Future initiative to provide community based youth support and mentoring across nine locations throughout Queensland. It is important to highlight the funding for the Framing the Future initiative, because the federal government stepped away from its commitment. It was funding the Framing the Future initiative. When we asked it to continue its funding it said no. Like we do all the time, this Labor government steps up and funds those programs and initiatives that deliver a great benefit to our community. We all know that the award-winning Project Booyah is making a real difference turning young people's lives around, getting them back into education and work and keeping them out of detention.

The funding in this year's budget will be used by the Queensland Police Service to enhance its ability to keep our community safe. Increasing the ability of our hardworking officers to address crime and harm in the community is one of our top priorities. The additional funding we are providing covers a significant cross-section of the organisation and will allow our officers to continue to serve the community and reduce crime and harm. We are also committed to upgrading police facilities for our police that will enhance working conditions and service delivery. Further investment by the government in infrastructure projects for the Queensland Police Service will see our officers equipped with modern facilities that will enhance their ability to serve the community. That is what this government does: we invest in Queenslanders everywhere.

That brings me to my home patch, the Caboolture and Morayfield areas. I acknowledge the Treasurer for her support of the great people of the Morayfield state electorate. A number of projects and services have received funding in this year's state budget, for which there is great support in the community. Firstly, after many years of advocacy I am pleased to see that there is funding in the budget for a new school hall for Morayfield State School. In fact, this will be the school's first hall. They currently use a basketball court with a roof. For a school that has 1,400 students, a new hall is an appropriate addition for a modern education environment.

There is also significant money towards the completion of construction of a new special school at Caboolture. All up, that project is over \$20 million. We also see additional works at Caboolture State High School, Caboolture Special School and other schools like Morayfield State School. In fact, every state school in the Morayfield state electorate will be receiving some funding to support projects at their school.

We see a significant investment in health infrastructure—the first contribution towards the major upgrade of Caboolture Hospital, including the car park facilities, which will be—

Mrs Wilson interjected.

Mr RYAN: In a media interview recently the member for Pumicestone said that there was nothing in the region. She forgot \$400 million worth of investment for Caboolture Hospital. This is a significant investment in health infrastructure.

Mrs Wilson interjected.

Mr RYAN: Those opposite have always been against Caboolture Hospital.

Mrs Wilson interjected.

Mr RYAN: It is true. Look at the facts. The community advocated for decades for a hospital at Caboolture when the National Party was in government. They never got it. It took a Labor government to deliver Caboolture Hospital.

When an upgrade of the Caboolture Hospital was planned—and this is how the Leader of the Opposition is going to fund all of her pie in the sky \$7 billion worth of unfunded commitments—the National Party came to power as part of the Borbidge government and put an infrastructure freeze on and downgraded the upgrade of the Caboolture Hospital—an essential upgrade. At every point along the journey of the Caboolture Hospital it has been a Labor government that has contributed the infrastructure, and here we are again. The member for Pumicestone is criticising a \$400 million investment in health infrastructure.

Government members: Shame!

Mr RYAN: Shame on you.

Mrs Wilson interjected.

Mr RYAN: The records will show that you are interjecting on a \$400 million investment in health infrastructure.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! Through the chair please.

Mr RYAN: Shame on you. I will ensure that every member of your community knows that you were against the hospital upgrade.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Morayfield, I ask you to direct your comments through the chair please.

Mr RYAN: My family has used that hospital before. It is an exceptional hospital. The staff are amazing and this investment of \$400 million in health infrastructure should be celebrated, not criticised, by the member for Pumicestone.

There is also a contribution for local sporting groups like the Caboolture cricket club, and I know it is very excited. There is also additional funding for another new police facility at Caboolture—a big investment of over \$10 million for a new police facility at Caboolture which will be well received by local police. Our investment in significant road infrastructure upgrades will continue. The upgrades to Morayfield Road and Beerburum Road as well as Lower King Street will improve transport and traffic throughout the region. There is also a further contribution to the upgrade of the Morayfield train station which is shaping up very well. All in all, that upgrade program is worth over \$20 million for the Morayfield train station and we very much look forward to the final stages to be completed on that train station upgrade.

This is a budget that delivers for the Morayfield-Caboolture region significantly. There is huge money involved in infrastructure upgrades for the Caboolture-Morayfield region which will stimulate the local economy as well as deliver outstanding infrastructure and services for the community, as it deserves. All in all, this is a budget which builds Queensland's future. We are building it today. We are building it for all Queenslanders, and rightly so. All members of this House should support this outstanding budget for Queensland.