



Speech By
Meaghan Scanlon

MEMBER FOR GAVEN

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

 **Ms SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (5.01 pm): I rise to speak in favour of the appropriation bills. I made a commitment to Gold Coasters that we would build a bigger and better M1, that we would invest in our hospitals, schools and TAFE and that we would create jobs. This budget delivers on that promise. We have, of course, already secured funding to deliver four M1 upgrades, with work happening right now at Mudgeeraba to Varsity Lakes and at the Gateway merge. As soon as we have finished those two upgrades, we will move straight on to the M1 upgrades from Varsity Lakes to Tugun and from Daisy Hill to Eight Mile Plains. We have upgraded exit 54 and now this budget allocates \$96 million to upgrade exit 41 at Yatala South and exit 49 at Pimpama—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Pugh): One moment, member for Gaven. There is far too much cross-chamber chatter, especially from the member for Mermaid Beach, who has just finished making his contribution and he took the full 15 minutes. Let us give the member for Gaven the respect she deserves. I am asking for silence in the chamber or you can see yourselves out.

Ms SCANLON: I will repeat that. We have upgraded exit 54 and now this budget allocates \$96 million to upgrade exit 41 at Yatala South and exit 49 at Pimpama as well as \$25 million to upgrade exit 57 at Oxenford. At the rate the northern Gold Coast is growing, we cannot afford to lose momentum on these upgrades, so I would like to see the Morrison government match our commitment to get the job done.

Planning will also continue for an alternative road next to the M1. We have, of course, already gazetted the corridor and we have made a \$10 million commitment to do an options analysis and business case, contrary to what those opposite are saying. I know that a number of people in my electorate travel both north and south on the M1, so this funding will go a long way to get Gold Coasters out of traffic and home sooner.

I am also very pleased to see money in this year's budget for Cross River Rail, a project that will reduce travel time for Gold Coast commuters travelling to Brisbane by up to 15 minutes. I am also pleased to see funds allocated for the three new train stations on the Gold Coast, which I know is welcome news for people living in my electorate and in the northern Gold Coast. I grew up in Nerang and one of the issues I found growing up was access to good public transport to get to and from work. This is an issue that I know still exists, which is why I have fought hard to get funding in this budget for a mobility study to look at the network, consult with our community and find solutions to make public transport better.

Schools in our community are also winners in this budget. On top of the half a million dollars provided to Nerang State High School to upgrade their oval and install two 20-metre long jump tracks and sandpits, we have also provided \$220,000 to William Duncan State School for shade sails and water bubblers, nearly \$900,000 for Pacific Pines Primary School to upgrade their resource centre and \$670,000 to upgrade their special education Grevillea block. There is even more. This budget has

allocated money to continue work on the state-of-the-art two-storey learning centre with 12 extra classrooms and design studios at Pacific Pines State High School. There is also \$450,000 of new money for William Duncan State School to demolish their prefabricated building and to create an outdoor learning area as well as funding to install partition walls. This budget has allocated \$850,000 for Worongary State School to demolish the prefabricated building B and refurbish the double-storey teaching block. There is also \$460,000 allocated across schools in my electorate for maintenance and \$130,000 for minor works.

I know that air conditioning is something that many schools are working towards and I am pleased to see \$100 million allocated in this budget for schools outside of the Cooler Schools area. I will continue to work with principals, teachers and our P&Cs to advocate for the needs of each school and to ensure that our state schools are great schools. We also want to make sure that when students leave school they continue to get the skills and training they need to get the jobs of the future. That is why in this budget we have offered free TAFE to year 12 graduates and we have allocated \$15 million to expand and refurbish our training facilities on the Gold Coast.

The Gold Coast is a rapidly growing area, so investing in our hospitals is critical. I am pleased to see \$1.6 billion invested in the Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service under the Palaszczuk government's record Health spend. There is \$3.4 million out of a \$12.8 million total spend to replace the Medical Imaging Informatics Solution at the Gold Coast Hospital. There is also \$2.8 million in this budget to provide a youth mental health day program facility. I have met too many people who worked in our hospitals who lost their job under the Newman government. We made a commitment that we would restore front-line services. I am pleased to say that since 2015 we have had 874 extra nurses, up 31 per cent, and 214 extra doctors, up 23.4 per cent, on the Gold Coast.

I am also pleased to see \$10.7 million allocated in this year's budget for a new police hub at Arundel, just over the road from Pacific Pines in my electorate, as well as the continuation of Project Booyah, a program that is helping young people get back on track and re-engage with education and training. There is also just over a million dollars allocated in this budget for the Gold Coast Youth Foyer, a safe place for young people experiencing homelessness or at risk of becoming homeless. We have some phenomenal organisations in my electorate that work tirelessly to help others. I am very pleased to say that there is ongoing funding in this budget for organisations like Act for Kids, the Domestic Violence Prevention Centre on the Gold Coast, the Nerang Neighbourhood Centre and Gold Coast Disability Advocacy to name a few.

Last but certainly not least, I want to talk about our sporting clubs. We are, of course, currently in the process of drafting the new sports strategy. However, I am pleased to say that I have been able to secure \$147,000 for the Nerang Cardinals and \$500,000 for the Gold Coast Suns' new female facility. There was a million-dollar commitment from federal Labor, and I am certainly hoping to see a matched commitment from the LNP Morrison government, too. This is on top of our commitment of nearly \$80,000 for the Nerang BMX Club to upgrade their track that I committed to during the election campaign, over \$63,000 given to PCYC Nerang to upgrade their basketball court and \$152,000 to help install lights on the Carrara sports field.

There is more in this budget that I could talk about, however I would well and truly exceed my time limit. Ultimately, I made a commitment to build a bigger and better M1, to invest in hospitals and schools and to create jobs, and that is exactly what this budget does.