




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR MACALISTER

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

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (7.39 pm): I rise to make my contribution to the appropriations bills, the 2019-20 state budget before the House. This is Macalister's second budget and it is one that continues to deliver for the people of Macalister. Before I delve into the pages of budget goodness, I would like to close off on elements of last year's budget. The previous budget for Macalister delivered funding for two of my 2017 election commitments—namely, field lighting for the Bishop Street Park in Eagleby and a brand-new trade training centre in Beenleigh. I can proudly report to the House that I switched on the lights for the Eagleby Giants earlier this year and that the \$8 million trade training centre at Beenleigh is only months away from opening its doors, with the first trainees and apprentices to commence their training in September. I highlight these two examples of delivery because I do not believe in promising things you cannot deliver on, and I am pleased to see a number of items in this year's budget that I have been working on with the community since I was elected 18 months ago.

One of the key features of this budget for Macalister is the delivery of a \$4.4 million upgrade to the Beenleigh Redland Bay Road and Kruger Road intersection at Carbrook. On this intersection is Carbrook State School, with just over 450 students. Also on Kruger Road is Kimberley College, with just under 750 students. Located some distance away from the amenities many schools take for granted, like public transport and footpaths, almost all of these students travel to their campuses via car, all entering and exiting via a T-intersection that even during school zone times is 60 kilometres an hour. Within a 500-metre radius of this intersection is also another school with over 700 students, an aged-care facility and a childcare centre.

In my first meetings with TMR about this intersection in January 2018, I raised the issue of the needs at this intersection and I was advised that, whilst it had been looked at, it did not meet the threshold for an upgrade at that time. For me and the hundreds of families that use this intersection, as well as the hundreds of residents and commuters who travel along this key corridor between the Redlands and the M1, this was about safety. Parents already stressed from the school pick-up and drop-off area must face the gauntlet of pulling out onto a 60-kilometre zone state road with traffic backed up in both directions and vehicles parked everywhere. Every child deserves to be able to get to and from school in one piece, and this budget commitment will deliver for the families who attend these Carbrook schools and other facilities. The Beenleigh Redland Bay Road, as I mentioned earlier, is a key commuter corridor and the upgrades do not stop at Kruger Road, with further intersection upgrades along Beenleigh Redland Bay Road, including at Brindabella Street and Riedel Road, with upgrades totalling \$4.35 million to commence this year.

While roads in Macalister have had a big win in this budget, it is the roads to and from Macalister which have the biggest impact on Macalister commuters and how much time they spend in traffic. Firstly, I acknowledge the fantastic progress occurring at the M1-Gateway merge. Driving past it is almost a daily occurrence for me, and it is great to see the sound barriers coming up out of the ground

and the realignment stretch nearing completion. As soon as that southbound lane work is complete, the northbound lane work will commence next year. Closer to Macalister, the business case for the M1 upgrade between Daisy Hill and the Logan Motorway continues.

One of the biggest employment areas for the workers of Macalister is just to our south over the Albert River in the Yatala Enterprise Area. The funds that this government has committed to upgrading M1 exit 41 will be welcomed by Macalister commuters and northern Gold Coast businesses. These exits attract a 50-50 split with the federal government, and this budget delivers Queensland's 50 per cent of that commitment to start the work now. I guess we can only vainly hope that the federal LNP will see fit to commit more than the 25 per cent they have offered to date. Until they commit their full 50 per cent, I guess we will continue to see queueing along the M1.

While all roads do seem to lead to Macalister or at least through it, it is the spending on schools in my area that I am particularly proud of. The preparation work has started on new classrooms at Beenleigh Special School, and this year's budget tips in the final \$5.5 million to build 12 new learning spaces. Numbers at Beenleigh Special School have grown sharply as it continues to draw in students from across Logan and the northern Gold Coast. The finishing touches are now being applied to five new classrooms at Windaroo Valley State High School, and the final \$270,000 will see the classroom operational by the end of this year.

In Eagleby, \$3.4 million will see the groundwork start in the next few weeks on four new classrooms for Eagleby South State School. This will be the first new permanent build at this school for over a decade. I have to say that the plans for the build are impressive—a two-storey building with air conditioning and insulation, which is a concession to its location near a busy Eagleby Road intersection. It also features an undercover play space as part of the build. Given its prominence to the road and the fact that it will be on show to the community, a key component of the build will be the murals to feature Indigenous art—a great reflection of this school in the community.

On top of the work that is about to be completed at Beenleigh State High School with their new build, the investment in Macalister schools is again something I am happy to crow about. There is funding in this budget for not only major capital works for Macalister schools but also refurbishments and facility builds at schools like Carbrook State School, Eagleby State School and Beenleigh State High School. This year's funding of almost \$10 million in capital works for Macalister schools sits easily alongside last year's \$10 million spending on new builds in my schools. That is \$20 million since I was elected, and I will continue to fight for more as my electorate continues to grow.

Whilst last year it was the Eagleby Giants Junior Rugby League Football Club that benefited from a Palaszczuk Labor government funding for facilities upgrades, this year it is the Beenleigh Little Athletics that competes at the Oliver Sports Complex in Eagleby. I am proud to be standing here to yet again back junior sports in my electorate—this time to the tune of \$150,000 for the Little As to undertake some much needed field upgrades to their tracks.

While these amounts large and small make a difference to those in my electorate, the bigger spends in Logan are overwhelmingly in health. Much has been said about the record spend at Logan Hospital, but I want to focus on just a few aspects of this spend. The first is the \$18.9 million refurbishment to the maternity unit. Once completed, this refurbishment will add an additional six maternity inpatient beds, five extra berthing suites and an expanded special care nursery with an additional 10 cots. This is a much needed increase in capacity for those families going through the traumatic experience of having a child in a special care nursery. This means that families that have to leave their little ones at the hospital overnight will be able to daily visit their nearest hospital and not have to travel to Brisbane. On top of this work at the maternity unit is an additional \$3 million to be spent on creating a dedicated maternity access road and entrance for the hospital to allow pregnant patients direct entry into the maternity ward.

The other centrepiece of the Health spend in Logan is the \$6.5 million allocated to adolescent mental health facilities. This includes \$4 million to construct a six-bed subacute mental health facility for Logan adolescents and \$2.5 million to provide a youth mental health day program facility, as well as education programs throughout Logan.

The budget also provides just under \$10 million to update some of Macalister's not insignificant public housing stock. There will be \$9.73 million spent this year constructing 53 new units of accommodation throughout my electorate. Last year I attended the opening of one of the new housing complexes in Beenleigh, and can I say that the residents are absolutely rapt. I spoke to one resident who had been a long-term public housing resident in Beenleigh and she said it was the nicest place she had ever lived in, never having lived in a newly constructed residence. There is no reason why residents of public housing should be denied dignity in their homes.

This is a positive budget for Macalister. It is about jobs. In fact in my electorate alone the Back to Work program has led to 91 jobs, and a further \$374,000 committed this year to Back to Work will continue to deliver more jobs for Macalister locals. On behalf of the residents of Macalister, I would like to congratulate the Treasurer on her budget. It is one that delivers schools, roads, health, jobs and training for my area—core things that voters can rely on a Labor budget for. I commend these bills to the House.