




Speech By  
**Peter Russo**  
**MEMBER FOR TOOHEY**

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Record of Proceedings, 13 June 2019

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

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (8.48 pm): I rise to support the budget bills introduced into this House by the Deputy Premier and Treasurer on 11 June 2019. Just like the budget of 2018, this is a Labor budget that delivers on the infrastructure, skills and services that Queensland needs. Queensland is the most decentralised state in Australia and, therefore, the budget needs to cater for the needs of the regions that last year bore the brunt of bushfires, cyclones and floods.

When introducing the 2019-20 budget, the Treasurer told the House that budgets are about choices and that the Palaszczuk Labor government has chosen to stay on course, continuing our strategy of investing in jobs and in front-line services to meet the needs of a growing state. As the Treasurer stated in her budget speech, the Palaszczuk Labor government has made the choice to stay on course—I repeat: to stay on course—to prepare our state for the future by investing in new industries and new skills. The Palaszczuk Labor government made the choice not to cut, sack and sell. That choice was made because the Palaszczuk Labor government's plan to create jobs is working.

I will now deal with the new initiatives contained within the budget that directly benefit the constituents in my community. In relation to education, I thank the Minister for Education for the interest that she has shown in my electorate and for the new buildings that are coming our way. There is \$1.55 million of a total \$6.2 million in funding to build 10 general learning spaces at Warrigal Road State School; \$500,000 to refurbish the administration block at Coopers Plains State School; \$800,000 to refurbish block E at Moorooka State School; and \$500,000 to upgrade the science lab and two general learning spaces at Sunnybank State High School. Within the Toohey electorate, \$710,000 has been allocated across 13 schools for maintenance and \$320,000 has been allocated across 14 schools for minor works throughout the 2019-20 financial year.

As everybody knows, the QEII Hospital is located in the electorate of Toohey. I use this opportunity to acknowledge the budget initiatives for health services in the electorate, which will go a long way to enhancing the lives of my constituents. As part of a \$1,112,648 commitment over three years, there is \$379,605 to provide mental health funding program services.

I will now deal with the new initiatives contained within the budget for continuing road works and upgrades. I take this opportunity to thank the Minister for Transport and Main Roads for those road works, which will make my community safer. They will mean a reduction in the time it takes for people in my electorate to travel to and from home and work, as well as the different venues on the south side that this government has provided for sport and recreation. In 2019-20, there is \$12.6 million to continue design activities for widening busway extensions along the Pacific Motorway.

Sport is important to my constituents and my electorate is home to the Griffith Moorooka AFC. The club has a female team that plays hard and can party hard. The team is committed to keeping fit and supporting each other. The club has a strong sense of community, so I was pleased to see that the Griffith Moorooka AFC is to receive \$443,241 to construct an amenities block that will include toilets and change rooms to support female participation in Australian football at Moorooka.

I close my contribution in support of the budget bills on this note: the budget will allow for upgrades to stations on the south side. Those upgrades are part of a \$57 million boost to the Palaszczuk Labor government's \$300 million Station Accessibility Upgrade Program. Cross River Rail already includes plans to build additional platforms at south-side stations, so it makes sense that at the same time an investment is made in upgrading the existing station platforms. The package of station upgrades will include new overpasses, lifts, kiss-and-ride infrastructure and bike facilities. The upgrades will make it easier for commuters with a disability, parents with prams and travellers with luggage to use our public transport system. The upgrades will occur at Moorooka, Salisbury and Rocklea stations. The Palaszczuk Labor government is committed to ensuring that it delivers a transport system for all Queenslanders.

I take this opportunity to again thank and congratulate the Treasurer, the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, and the Minister for Education and Industrial Relations. I commend the budget bills to the House.