




Speech By  
**Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe**

**MEMBER FOR SANDGATE**

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Record of Proceedings, 14 June 2019

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

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (3.48 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships' budget, which is a blueprint for the Palaszczuk Labor government's continued strong fiscal management and a plan for economic growth, investment in Queensland jobs and continuing the business of restoring the front-line services cut by the failed Newman LNP government. I want to congratulate the Treasurer specifically on another surplus budget. That makes it five from five since the election of the Labor government in 2015. This Labor budget outlines a positive plan for the future of the greatest state in the country.

Unfortunately, the Leader of the Opposition's dark contribution yesterday means that Queenslanders should be very afraid of the alternative vision for the state. What is worse is that the member for Nanango's dystopian diatribe was replete with unfunded promises. It was irresponsible. It promises indeed to be the sequel to the Newman horror show that no Queenslanders want, needs or deserves and every Queenslanders cannot forget. Indeed, during her contribution yesterday the Leader of the Opposition said—

We have fixed Labor's failures before and we are ready to do it again.

We know what that means! If they are harking back to the Borbidge-Sheldon period, that means an infrastructure freeze. If they are harking back to the more recent and specifically LNP experience—the Newman era—cuts will be back, the mass sackings will return and the asset sales will return.

I enjoy being positive, so I take this opportunity to bring the attention of the House to some of the great investments being made in my community in this Queensland Labor budget. I am particularly proud of the \$4.9 million that will boost the Bracken Ridge TAFE, as it will further deliver on my commitments at the 2015 and 2017 elections to protect that important local institution from the member for Clayfield and the LNP razor gang. Labor's signature skills policy, Skilling Queenslanders for Work, continues to go from strength to strength, with \$14.4 million invested right across the Brisbane region including supporting the delivery of those programs by local organisations in my electorate such as Sandbag and All About Living.

As with so many members, schools in my electorate are also big winners. Both Bracken Ridge State School and Norris Road State School will get \$150,000 to improve or create new learning spaces. Bracken Ridge State High School students will enjoy a refurbished hall—as will the community, with it being a very well used facility—to the value of \$150,000 as well. In a project for which I particularly advocated, the Sandgate District State High School will benefit from a \$350,000 refurbishment to the special education block, providing the best environment and best support to some of the students with the most needs in our community. I am also happy to see that \$700,000 was allocated for maintenance and minor work across the nine public schools in the Sandgate electorate.

I make particular and deeper reference to three important projects recognised in QTRIP that are significant and congestion busting in or near the electorate of Sandgate. These are all projects that will see a partnership with the Australian government. I am particularly pleased that, alongside the Commonwealth, \$200 million was set aside to fund the upgrade of the last piece of the Gateway Motorway upgrade puzzle, the stretch from Bracken Ridge to the Pine River. It is a billion dollar project that will make a huge difference to traffic not only in my local area but also right across the north side.

Of deeper importance to residents in my Sandgate electorate, despite the project being located in the electorate of my good friend the member for Aspley, \$25 million in funding has also been allocated for the Linkfield Road overpass duplication. Contrary to some of the member for Everton's comments, that project is funded in lock step with the federal government's commitments, and \$4 million is indeed allocated for early works on that project. In terms of the suggestion that it is somewhere off in the never-never, we should reference the federal government in relation to that.

Equally, the \$15 million in funds to match the federal government's commitment to upgrade the Strathpine Road interchange or, as my constituents call it, the Hoyland Street overpass, of the Gympie Arterial will better connect Bald Hills as well as improve the east-west link between Strathpine and Sandgate. This will provide my constituents with better access to the new university campus at Petrie. I also welcome the \$5 million budget commitment to continue the design and planning work for the Beams Road rail level crossing project which, when constructed, will alleviate a major bottleneck in Fitzgibbon, Zillmere and Carseldine.

The additional \$1.1 million for upgrading boating infrastructure at Cabbage Tree Creek brings the total commitment of the Palaszczuk government on that project over time to \$1.8 million, improving a key asset for the Shorncliffe community. The Brighton Health Campus, continuing to deliver care in the tradition of Eventide, will benefit from the further allocation of over \$0.5 million as part of the \$1.8 million total investment to replace the heating, ventilation and air-conditioning systems on that campus.

In relation to my ministerial responsibilities, I am pleased to see more great news for our important local government sector, for our racing industry, which is going from strength to strength, and for our vibrant multicultural communities. The Palaszczuk Labor government is providing increased funding of \$20 million over two years to continue important inundation mitigation works on five of the outer Torres Strait Islands. Furthermore, \$2.7 million has been provided to fund urgent repairs to reservoirs in the Northern Peninsula Area Water Supply System, and there is \$4 million to renew and replace other elements of the NPA water supply system. This funding will ensure that for years to come the dynamic communities of Bamaga, Umagico, Seisia, New Mapoon and Injinoo, all located at the very tip of Cape York, have a reliable, safe and clean water supply.

I congratulate and acknowledge the member for Cook's work in securing this funding for some of the most remote parts of her electorate and indeed of the state. I also acknowledge the advocacy of Mayor Lindsay Godfrey of the Paroo Shire Council, who late last year secured \$9.1 million to upgrade critical sewerage infrastructure in Cunnamulla. Having joined in July last year my director-general as well as the Paroo shire councillors and officers in Cunnamulla in advocating for that project, I know how important that funding is to them and what a difference it can make to the community.

The inclusion of \$50 million for Works for Queensland forms part of the ongoing support of that hugely successful program, now topping \$600 million, which already has supported more than 14,000 jobs in regional parts of the state. As mentioned yesterday in my ministerial statement to the House, the program is such a boon in regional Queensland. From the Torres Strait to Thargomindah, Cairns to Camooweal, Wujal Wujal to Wallangarra, this program is supporting jobs in regional Queensland. Clearly, I am concerned that the Liberal National Party and the member for Nanango are missing in relation to this issue. Clearly, cutting this popular job-creating regional program would continue to be part of the extension of the Newman-Nicholls 'Deb-onomics'.

The Palaszczuk government's investment in racing, be it in the city or the bush, further reinforces Labor's reputation as the party of choice for racing enthusiasts and participants. The government is providing additional funding of \$131.1 million over five years to increase prize money and other initiatives, including \$119.1 million for thoroughbred racing and \$12 million for the greyhound and harness codes. The Palaszczuk government has also provided a further \$8 million to progress the development of harness racing infrastructure.

In terms of the rest of my portfolio, the state budget also includes \$1.8 million for the Asylum Seeker and Refugee Assistance program. A total funding package of \$4.3 million over three years is allocated to asylum seeker and refugee support, delivering on our commitment to create a more inclusive and welcoming Queensland. It was great to be part of and alongside other members from both sides of the House at the Lunimous Lantern Parade last Friday night. Over 36,000 Queenslanders came together to demonstrate welcome to asylum seekers and refugees living amongst us in our community.

In conclusion, this budget is a great package focused on job creation and economic growth. Despite challenging global economic headwinds, Queensland's economic growth is projected to outpace that of the rest of the nation in 2019-20. Solid jobs growth is projected to continue well into the 2022-23 financial year. Exports from Queensland continue to boom, reaching \$85.2 billion in the 12 months to April 2019. Thanks to strong prices in coal and liquefied natural gas, in addition to new exploration and extraction in the Galilee Basin and the north-west minerals province, Queensland's exports are expected to enjoy continued growth over the forecast period. Again, I congratulate the Premier and the Deputy Premier and Treasurer on a budget that made the needed tough choices. It is another step in Labor's blueprint for jobs and growth. I commend the bills to the House.