



Speech By  
**Adrian Tantari**


**MEMBER FOR HERVEY BAY**

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**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) (2020-2021) BILL**

**APPROPRIATION (2020-2021) BILL**

 **Mr TANTARI** (Hervey Bay—ALP) (12.29 pm): I rise in support of the Appropriation (2020-2021) Bill 2020. This bill sets out the path for recovery that the people of Queensland and the people of the Hervey Bay electorate voted for. At the last election they said they wanted a strong economic recovery after a year of uncertainty, and yesterday we heard that the Queensland economy is well on its way.

With this bill, the Palaszczuk Labor government has delivered a strong plan for growth and recovery by ensuring that our economy rebounds whilst the rest of the world unfortunately must deal with the containment of the COVID virus. As the honourable Treasurer said in his budget speech, this year has been a year that has been anything but certain. With the COVID-19 pandemic sweeping the world, this budget builds on a health response to COVID-19 that has led the world.

The election commitments in this budget deliver for all Queenslanders and, in particular, for the people of the Hervey Bay electorate. Whilst delivering on our commitments, this budget delivers on the promises made during the election campaign and delivers for the Hervey Bay electorate with our plan to unite and recover for Queensland jobs.

Jobs, Jobs, and more jobs—this is in stark contrast to those opposite who firstly did not even believe that there was an issue with COVID-19. They then wanted to keep the borders open and then flip-flopped until it dawned on them that the pandemic was real and, as always, they came late to the show. They then tried to con the electorate with shallow promises that would have cut services, sold off assets and sacked the hardworking women and men who work on the front line to keep us all safe and deliver the services we all need.

This budget has clearly defined priorities for Queensland and for the Hervey Bay electorate. They were safeguarding Queenslanders' health, supporting more jobs, backing small business, supporting Queensland manufacturers, building Queensland infrastructure, growing our regions, investing in new skills, backing frontline services and protecting our precious environment—and creating more Queensland jobs.

This budget has delivered for the people of the Hervey Bay electorate. At the last election, I said to the people of the Hervey Bay electorate that, if elected, I would work tirelessly to make the Hervey Bay electorate the centre of learning excellence in the Wide Bay. This budget commences that vision with the Palaszczuk Labor government announcing in this budget that schools in the Hervey Bay electorate will receive additional funding.

Included in the 2020-21 budget, Hervey Bay State High School will receive a further \$8.64 million of the \$11 million committed towards the completion of the performing arts centre and additional classrooms. This great addition to our school community will be utilised to develop our next generation of talented artists and performers, with the additional classroom space welcome in this continually growing school.

Some other highlights in the area of education for the Hervey Bay electorate include: \$230,000 toward play and learning spaces at the Hervey Bay Special School; \$2.43 million of \$5.40 million for classrooms at the Hervey Bay State High School; \$500,000 towards the refurbishment of the administration building at the Kawungan State School; \$200,000 towards the refurbishment of the J block learning spaces at the Pialba State School; \$250,000 towards the replacement of shade sail, reshape grounds and artificial turf at the Sandy Strait State School's prep playground; and a further \$250,000 towards the upgrade of the C block learning spaces for the music space expansion at the Torquay State School.

Further to the school improvements, the Hervey Bay electorate will receive important funding for the Hervey Bay TAFE with nearly half a million dollars towards maintenance investment in training infrastructure. The Palaszczuk Labor government is committed to training our young Queenslanders for free in high-priority courses that we know will lead to jobs. The honourable Treasurer announced on Tuesday that we will provide more young Queenslanders with free TAFE and free apprenticeships. The Palaszczuk Labor government has already provided free training for year 12 graduates and pre-apprenticeships for Queenslanders under 21, supporting greater training opportunities for more of Hervey Bay's young people. Now we are going further, by extending that to Queenslanders aged under 25. That means that more of Hervey Bay's young people will be able to get world-class vocational training for free. That is a great outcome.

Also included in the budget for the Hervey Bay electorate is more funding for the Back to Work Regional Employment Package. In the Hervey Bay electorate this has so far supported 1,019 jobs through funding of \$10.308 million to date, with at least \$651,750 committed so far in the 2020-21 financial year.

With health, the Building Better Hospitals commitment is a key priority for the Palaszczuk Labor government which will help address growing demand by enhancing public hospital services in the Hervey Bay electorate. The investment from this budget in the area of health services will add to the delivery of much needed new health infrastructure in Hervey Bay.

In acknowledging that mental health is a growing concern in our regional communities, I am pleased to see the Palaszczuk Labor government has committed over \$7½ million in 2020-21 towards a new adult acute mental health inpatient unit at the Hervey Bay Hospital. This new acute mental health inpatient unit is currently underway and will create more than 140 construction and health jobs. That means more work for our tradies, for our apprentices and for our nurses. I am very pleased that this has been announced for the Hervey Bay electorate.

This is Hervey Bay's first mental health inpatient facility, marking the beginning of a \$39.6 million investment to more than double mental health bed capacity on the Fraser Coast. For the first time, there will be mental health inpatient capacity at Hervey Bay. That is great news for our local community. I commend the Palaszczuk Labor government for its attention to this area of public health. This is all a great outcome for the people of the Hervey Bay electorate.

Further to this investment, frontline services will continue to be strongly supported in the Hervey Bay electorate. As promised, this 2020-21 budget commits \$2.766 million of a \$3.242 million commitment to complete the construction of a new ambulance station in Urraween. This additional station will improve the provision of ambulance services for Hervey Bay and will bolster the response time to call-outs for the Hervey Bay electorate.

With roads, the Palaszczuk Labor government continues to build the infrastructure needed for a growing Hervey Bay electorate. In this 2020-21 budget, the government has committed a further \$176,000 out of a \$182,000 total commitment to install a new pedestrian refuge at the intersection of Booral Road and Garden Drive in Urraween. This is a very high traffic intersection. This refuge will make crossing these busy roads a little easier and enhance the safe passage of pedestrians coming and going.

Further to these road projects, in partnership with the Fraser Coast Regional Council, the Palaszczuk Labor government has committed \$1.2 million out of a total of \$3.5 million across 11 projects that include roundabouts, footpaths and raised priority crossings, as well as shared paths—all things that lift the liveability and safety of the people of the Hervey Bay electorate.

Growing the regions is important to me. It is where I live, and it is what drove the passion in me to come to this place—so that I might be able to advocate to improve the lot of all regional people living in my fine electorate of Hervey Bay but also, through my experience, help drive the policies for our regions, moving them forward into being the great places they are to work, rest and play. One of these programs that does this in spades is the Works for Queensland program—a \$600 million funding program to support local governments with job-creating projects outside of South-East Queensland.

My role prior to entering this place was as a regional manager responsible for the local rollout of this excellent program. Over the period of this Palaszczuk Labor government, I have seen firsthand the jobs created and sustained by this excellent program. I do not think in the five years that I was involved with the program a single mayor or councillor in the regions has had anything to say other than that this was a brilliant program and made a vast difference to their rural and regional communities. I am certain that they are all glad that the Palaszczuk government was re-elected because this great program would have been gone under an LNP government. It is with this sort of well-thought-out focused program that only the Palaszczuk Labor government continues to deliver for the regions.

This 2020-21 budget has allocated another \$200 million to bring the total funding in this program to \$800 million. For the Fraser Coast region, that means 14 local projects have been funded under the COVID Works for Queensland program. These projects will enhance infrastructure in the Hervey Bay electorate and enhance the lives of everyday people in the electorate.

We all know that homelessness is a concern in most of our cities and towns throughout Queensland. It is no different in Hervey Bay. I have been told by many that homelessness is a problem that needs to be addressed. While we understand that you cannot resolve all of the issues that revolve around this matter in my region, the Palaszczuk government recognises this and has committed \$1.9 million towards the delivery of specialist homelessness services. These specialist services will go towards making the lives of local homeless people better.

During the recent campaign I visited many small businesses in Hervey Bay. They told me that because of the actions taken by the Palaszczuk Labor government, after COVID their returns to the same point of the year were around 700 per cent up—yes, that is 700 per cent—all because the Palaszczuk Labor government took the actions needed to protect small businesses in Queensland during that period. Small businesses in the Hervey Bay electorate know that the Palaszczuk Labor government provided the support needed through the Small Business COVID-19 Adaption Grants and payroll tax relief as well as free or low-interest job support loans. The Palaszczuk government is committed to backing businesses and backing Queensland jobs.

Yesterday in the House we heard little from the Leader of the Opposition, the member for Broadwater, in his reply. He had no plan for Queensland. The Leader of the Opposition talked down the economy, he complained about debt and he complained about deficit. He complained about everything, but he did not say what he would do differently. The comments made by the Leader of the Opposition in his reply would have sent shivers down the spines of all hardworking men and women of the Public Service in the Hervey Bay electorate. Who can remember what the last LNP government did when they occupied the benches—

**Mr Saunders** interjected.

**Mr TANTARI:** That is right; I will take the interjection from the member for Maryborough. We can remember what happened in that area when the last LNP government occupied this side of the House. The opposition leader sat in their cabinet with his colleagues ruling red lines through the livelihoods and careers of all those who had no ability to fight back as he cut and sacked the very people who put their backs into their jobs and, through thick and thin, provided the bit extra asked of them time and time again. What else would you expect? As far as that lot on the other side of the House is concerned, they are just numbers on a piece of paper. Who in Hervey Bay will those opposite target next time around? Will they cut nurses, midwives, teachers, teacher aides and frontline staff like they did last time around? According to the Leader of the Opposition's reply, he will. He will be having a look at the Public Service. Fear those words, as we know what that means.

**Mr Pegg** interjected.

**Mr TANTARI:** That is right. The problem is that the LNP has not learned their lesson. They are still running the Campbell Newman playbook, which is to cut their way to a surplus. Compare that to the Palaszczuk Labor government's budget, which has the endorsement of rating agencies and industry and is delivering results for Queensland with the strongest economic growth in 17 years.

During the last election campaign I said to the people of the Hervey Bay electorate that I would bring a new vigour and focus to our unique regional electorate. I said that the Palaszczuk Labor government would build the infrastructure, programs and services needed to create jobs for us and our children's future. My focused determination is to get more jobs, have better infrastructure and provide enhanced services for the Hervey Bay electorate, and that is what my time in this place is all about. As I have said in this place previously, I have started wearing the paint and varnish off ministerial doors to ensure the Hervey Bay electorate gets its share from our government. In this budget the Palaszczuk Labor government has delivered on the promises and commitments it made. In doing so, this government is keeping the Hervey Bay electorate safe and strong. I commend the bill to the House.