



Speech By  
**Ali King**


**MEMBER FOR PUMICESTONE**

---

Record of Proceedings, 3 December 2020

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

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

 **Ms KING** (Pumicestone—ALP) (8.19 pm): I rise to speak in favour of the appropriation bills. I congratulate the Treasurer and the government on this week's budget. During the recent election and throughout the COVID lockdown, my volunteers and I spoke with over 26,000 people right across Pumicestone. Every single day I promised that I would work hard and stand up for what our community values most, whether that is the strong public services that people in Pumicestone count on, the workers who deliver them or the infrastructure upgrades that will grow local jobs. I promised I would work every day to make Pumicestone better for us and this week's budget absolutely delivers on my commitments to the Pumicestone community.

Health is the No. 1 issue for many people in Pumicestone. My electorate has a median age 12 years above the rest of Queensland and health commuting takes a real toll on people in Pumicestone. Every day at dawn, elderly people with complex health needs get on the community bus at Bribie to travel to Brisbane for hospital appointments. Some make the trip multiple times each week. That is why a hospital on Bribie Island has been an aspiration of the community for many years and our Palaszczuk Labor government is delivering.

Not one but two satellite community hospitals for Bribie Island and Caboolture are just what the doctor ordered for the people of Pumicestone. Our satellite hospitals mean that people in Pumicestone will get more care closer to home, easing the pressure on our busy Caboolture Hospital. I am delighted that this budget backs in the planning and community consultation to select the services and sites for our satellite community hospitals with \$1.6 million in funding for 2020-21. I look forward to updating the Pumicestone community on all the details of when the consultation will begin and how they can get involved.

Before the 2017 election, our Premier promised that if her government were re-elected we would build a massive upgrade to Caboolture Hospital and that is exactly what we are doing. It is hard to believe that when the Premier announced that massive upgrade those opposite said that it was a political stunt and that it was not needed. That is right: the LNP said upgrading the Caboolture Hospital was a political stunt and that it was not needed. On this side of the House we are proud of Caboolture Hospital because Labor built it in 1993, Labor backed it and now Labor is growing it bigger and better than ever.

In this 2020-21 budget, over \$67 million is allocated to continue our expansion of Caboolture Hospital. We are adding a whole suite of new facilities and services, including 130 new beds, an upgraded special care nursery, a new cardiac unit, improved mental health services and an expanded emergency department. I could go on, but the list of new services and facilities at Caboolture Hospital is almost too long for this speech. As well, we are delivering upgrades that will make Caboolture Hospital more comfortable, more spacious and more welcoming to our community, such as a new entry, a new

visitors lounge and a new cafe. You only have to drive past Caboolture Hospital to see our Palaszczuk Labor government keeping its promises to the people of Caboolture and those from right across Pumicestone and the northern Moreton Bay area.

Pumicestone people are passionate about the road upgrades they need to get home sooner and safer. I am pleased to update the House that substantial upgrades to Bribie Island Road, in the order of \$30 million, are underway as we speak. The Old Toorbul Point Road intersection upgrade has been welcomed by the Pumicestone community because it will reduce congestion and deliver huge safety benefits. This budget includes over \$9 million to complete stage 1 of that vital work. Parents, teachers and kids from St Michael's College Caboolture, which is a great local school that I am really proud to be associated with, are especially enthusiastic about the upgrade. Although I know the works are tough on the school community as they negotiate pick-up and drop-off times, they will continue over the Christmas holidays and the new intersection will be well worth it. Recently I sought an update from TMR and can confirm that stage 1 of the works is on track to be completed on schedule early next year. That is fantastic news for the school community.

That is not the end of the good news for Pumicestone residents when it comes to our local roads. Prior to the election I negotiated even more funding for key upgrades to Bribie Island Road, including \$3 million to install signals at Regina Avenue at Ningi to improve access and safety for local residents and businesses. I also secured almost \$1 million for a business case, plus the first \$10 million of a \$20 million project to dual-lane Bribie Island Road from the Old Toorbul Point Road intersection all the way to the Caboolture interchange. Now I am calling on the federal government to come to the party and back the people of Pumicestone who need that all-important dual-laning to get home sooner and safer.

The Bribie Island Bridge is a huge issue in Pumicestone. I am really proud to have negotiated \$4 million to get started on the early planning and design required before a new bridge can be built. I look forward to delivering on that commitment. However, the very day that I was sworn in as the member for Pumicestone and even while I was giving an interview about the importance of the Bribie Island Bridge to the people of Pumicestone, what was the Leader of the Opposition doing? He was putting the LNP's own funding promise of \$3 million for the early planning and design of the new Bribie Island bridge on the chopping block. The Leader of the Opposition refused to confirm support for a new Bribie Island bridge. He was shaping up for a cut.

Is that because, having lost the seat of Pumicestone for the LNP at the election, those opposite are now giving up on the people of Pumicestone and what they need most? It certainly looks that way. Perhaps those opposite are giving up on the whole of the north coast region, all the way to Wide Bay. After all, we have seen the LNP give up on the northern Moreton Bay region when they stripped the member for Glass House of his shadow ministry. Certainly my new colleague the member for Bundaberg is adamant that those opposite have abandoned Wide Bay with the member for Burnett also relegated from the shadow ministry.

**Mr Hart:** Is there only one person who writes your speeches?

**Ms KING:** That must be it. This year's budget is not just a roads budget for Pumicestone; it is a jobs budget for Pumicestone. We have seen \$52 million allocated towards the massive \$662 million upgrade of the Bruce Highway between the Caboolture-Bribie Island Road interchange and Steve Irwin Way, a project that will create over 660 local jobs. That is the best possible news for Pumicestone. This budget is also proudly about community safety. There is a huge funding boost for more police in Pumicestone and for better and more up-to-date policing technology such as body worn cameras and QLITE iPads. Importantly, at least 150 more police officers will join our police district and they will be warmly welcomed.

It is the people of Beachmere to whom I am most looking forward to talking about what this budget means for community safety. From many conversations with Beachmere residents I know that they are keen to see more police in their communities more often. That is why it is great news that Beachmere and Bribie Island are getting one of the 25 new mobile police beats. Those new police stations on wheels will make our Police Service more agile, more responsive and better able to adapt to the needs of the community. Whether setting up proactively at a big community event or taking witness statements and collecting evidence at the scene of an incident, our new mobile police beat will make a big difference. The funding for our mobile police beat starts this very year, supporting community safety for Beachmere and Bribie Island.

There is a huge heart for education in Pumicestone and this budget backs our state schools with \$10.94 million for projects right across the electorate. That includes \$9.78 million to build Pumicestone State School's new two-storey learning centre, with a focus on STEM and robotics; half a million dollars to continue work on Banksia Beach State School's new car park; and \$280,000 to completely refurbish

the special education unit at Beachmere State School. There is also \$380,000 for maintenance and minor works across every state school in Pumicestone. I could not be more delighted about what that means for local jobs and upgrades to the local infrastructure of our state schools.

I stood shoulder to shoulder with parents, teachers and students to campaign for our state schools in Pumicestone to be fully air conditioned because I believe in removing barriers to education. That is why it is wonderful to see \$129 million in this year's budget to air-condition state schools right across Queensland and another almost \$51 million for installing solar panels to offset the energy costs and the emissions. I can update the House that, of the five state schools in Pumicestone, three—Banksia Beach State School, Beachmere State School and Pumicestone State School—now have air conditioning installed in every single classroom, every library and every staffroom. Bribie Island State School and Bribie Island State High School are expected to be completed next year. I pay tribute to our local P&Cs that worked so hard to fundraise for air conditioning and I am glad that the Palaszczuk Labor government could finish the job. Every state school in Pumicestone will join Bribie Island State High School in having solar panels installed by mid next year.

This is a jobs budget and, in Pumicestone, small business is a huge driver of jobs. As a former small business owner, it was a privilege for me to be able to support local small businesses through this difficult pandemic year. Some 73 small business adaptation grants have been paid so far to small businesses in Pumicestone, totalling almost \$600,000. Farmer Dave and Katrina of White Ridge Farm at Elimbah used their grant to advertise their fantastic farm experience far and wide. Despite COVID-19, they built their business's profile and they have never been so busy. Erin and Andrew of Ferryman Cruises, Bribie Island, used their grant to build their marketing and social media skills and repositioned their iconic local business for the future. I look forward to watching these vibrant local tourism businesses grow and thrive with support from the Palaszczuk Labor government.

When I was endorsed as the Labor candidate for Pumicestone, there was not one Skilling Queenslanders for Work program in the whole of Pumicestone, despite its proven success of getting Queenslanders into jobs. I worked closely with Gerry from the Youth Development Foundation to help turn that around, and now we have several strong programs underway that are already getting young people into further education and working in construction and business with local employers. It is a great outcome and it is all because this government backed Skilling Queenslanders for Work with over \$14 million in funding right across our region.

I promised that I would work hard to help make Pumicestone better for us, that I would work every day for infrastructure upgrades, strong public services and local jobs. I am proud that this is exactly what this budget does. I commend the appropriation bills to the House.