



Speech By **Corrine McMillan**

MEMBER FOR MANSFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 10 September 2020

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (3.40 pm): I rise to make my contribution on the Appropriation Bill 2020. I am proud to be the local member for Mansfield and to be part of the Palaszczuk Labor government. Following the devastating impacts of COVID-19 on the lives and livelihoods of Queenslanders, Australians and the global economy, the Palaszczuk government has acted swiftly and is delivering a unite and recovery plan that is committed to (1) safeguarding our health; (2) backing small business; (3) making it for Queensland; (4) building Queensland; (5) growing our regions; and (6) investing in skills.

On top of the \$100 million investment in our local schools in Mansfield, the Palaszczuk government has committed an additional \$39 million for local schools as part of the Unite and Recover plan. This is in addition to the commitment to air-condition all classrooms by 2022 and ensure that solar panels offset the associated costs. This is in stark contrast to the paltry \$1.6 million promised by the LNP in my electorate of Mansfield and air conditioning not to be installed until at least 2028. We know that Campbell Newman, backed in by the Leader of the Opposition, the member for Nanango, with the LNP razor gang, devastated Queensland when they were last in power, sacking doctors, nurses and 1,400 public servants in my community. Those 1,400 public servants will not forget the Newman days.

Our resilience and past natural disaster experience has enabled the Palaszczuk Labor government to lead the state with a strong and concerted health response that is being recognised and acknowledged around the world during this global pandemic. Our response has allowed the Queensland economy to re-open more quickly, including in the Mansfield electorate small business community. I am delighted to share that, through the innovative Small Business COVID-19 Adaptation Grant program—and I thank the Minister for Small Business, Training and Employment—the Palaszczuk Labor government has funded more than \$1.6 million in my electorate to 177 small businesses to adapt and sustain operations and to build resilience during these unprecedented times.

In stark contrast with \$23 billion in unfunded promises and a commitment of no new taxes and no new debt, the LNP's only plan for Queensland is cuts. In these challenging times the last thing Queensland needs is more job cuts and greater uncertainty. The LNP does not have a plan but they do have a record—a cut, sack and sell record that members of my community of Mansfield remember all too well. Labor, on the other hand, has a record of delivering for Queensland since it was elected in 2015, and it has a real plan to get Queensland's economy on the road to recovery.

It is already underway. Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk and Queensland Labor's plan for economic recovery is clear: supporting, protecting and creating jobs is our No. 1 priority. We will do that by investing in building and construction projects right across our state. We will be supporting, protecting and creating jobs as our No. 1 priority. We will support small businesses in Queensland and give them the support they need to recover more quickly and strongly. We will buy more goods and materials

locally and ensure that Queensland businesses from small to large play an even bigger role in our economic recovery. By investing in Queensland's manufacturing industry we can ensure that Queenslanders use and buy more goods and services that are made right here in Queensland. Only the Premier and the Labor team have a plan of economic recovery that will not hurt Queenslanders by cutting services, sacking workers and selling assets. I commend these bills to the House.