




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR MOUNT OMMANEY

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APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) (2020-2021) BILL

APPROPRIATION (2020-2021) BILL

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (9.39 pm): It is a pleasure to speak on the appropriation bills. There is so much good stuff happening in the western suburbs. It is a bit like Christmas has come early, as members can tell from my outfit. During recent months it was a pleasure to stand with the Premier and Minister for Transport and Main Roads and share the design work for the Centenary Motorway upgrade of the Jindalee bridge along with a commitment to fund the project alongside the federal government under a fifty-fifty cost-sharing arrangement. This project will cost \$244 million in total, with \$20 million of that already spent by the Palaszczuk government on the business case and detailed design work. Some \$112 million of that funding will come from the state government over the coming years and \$16.4 million is in this year's budget.

This project has been a long time coming. The Centenary Motorway in my neck of the woods has not been substantially upgraded since it opened to great fanfare approximately 50 years ago. Since then, we have seen the rapid expansion not just of residential communities in Ipswich, Springfield and beyond but also in the amazing business communities with both smaller local manufacturers like GMG in Spine Street, Sumner, to bigger manufacturers like Volvo in the Premier's electorate and Rheinmetall in Redbank Plains.

As I have said, the Centenary suburbs, in addition to being a wonderful place to live, are also a burgeoning employment hub—from advanced manufacturing through to light industry and more—and that means that we need to support this jobs growth with roads growth and infrastructure growth so that staff can get to work and home again sooner. It is wonderful to be partnering with the federal government on this critically important project. I know that my federal counterpart the member for Oxley, Milton Dick, fought just as hard as I did for this project and we are both so proud to be delivering this upgrade for our community as fifty-fifty partners.

Darra park-and-ride will receive another 180 car parks and over 30 bike parks at the well-loved Darra train station. Pre COVID, you could not get a car park at Darra park-and-ride after 7.30 in the morning. Commuters come from my local electorate in the Centenary suburbs but also from as far away as Springfield to get a park at this express station. This means that people are getting to work much earlier than they need to in order to secure a park, and that is time away from their families. That is why Darra was one of a number of strategically selected stations that will be expanded to cater for increasing commuter numbers. I should note that during COVID the station obviously was not as busy. However, when I stood there at election time, it was once again starting to rebound in numbers.

We want to encourage as many people as possible to catch public transport rather than drive, and that means ensuring our park-and-rides can cater for the demand at these regionally important stations like Darra. Darra is an express station and you can get from the Darra train station to the city in under 25 minutes. You cannot beat that commute time, so we need to ensure that there is parking

available so Darra locals can have their streets back and commuters do not miss the train as they look for a park. I was very excited that construction has started on this fantastic project. Darra is a thriving community full of families, fabulous Vietnamese restaurants and amazing businesses like Gutsy Ferments, which makes and manufactures fermented goods right in the heart of Darra.

The Sumners Road overpass will cost a total of \$80 million and work is blazing ahead on this amazing interchange. It will be six lanes in total, traversing the Centenary community over to Darra. This upgrade is needed in no small part due to the thriving business communities in Darra and in Spine Street, Sumner. The Sumners Road overpass is a lynchpin for the local business community as well as commuters from Centenary needing to use the Darra train station, and I know that the completion of construction cannot come quickly enough for us. I thank the wonderful locals like the Jamboree Residents Association led by Wayne Williams, who supported my campaign to get this built, as well as the Bicycle User Group and Chris Cox, who championed the additional \$15 million for the significant cycling upgrades that were added post election in 2017.

When I first became a candidate in 2013, this overpass was the No. 1 issue raised with me in Darra and the lower Centenary suburbs like Riverhills, Middle Park, Sumner and Jamboree Heights and now we are nearly there. The Oxley to Rocklea section of the Ipswich Motorway will get a total of \$400 million, and again that is a fifty-fifty partnership with the federal government. It is one of the big success stories of this project that the girders for the new bridges—and in fact for the Sumners Road overpass—are manufactured locally in my electorate. In fact, I understand that generally speaking over 90 per cent of product for Transport and Main Roads projects in Queensland is manufactured in Queensland, keeping locals in my electorate in jobs. I have previously mentioned in this House a local company in my electorate, the Spacer Company, and it is current suppliers of TMR for many of its projects throughout Queensland. The Ipswich Motorway Rocklea to Darra upgrade is now nearing completion of stage 1 from Rocklea to Oxley, and it is looking fantastic. The higher roadways are allowing cars to come home even during torrential downpours, which have previously cut the road during adverse weather events. This section of road is well and truly on its way and should be done around Christmas time.

That is a little bit about local infrastructure, but I am equally excited about some of the statewide programs being undertaken, like the \$196 million in small business adaptation grants. White Lies Brewing used its grant to create hand sanitiser and gin; the Piggy Back Cafe used its grant to help cover costs—

A government member interjected.

Ms PUGH: It is good gin if you want to try some. The Piggy Back Cafe used its grant to cover costs—

A government member interjected.

Ms PUGH:—I have heard—during shutdown and Westside Seafood cafe in Seventeen Mile Rocks was also successful. Teaz Hair in Jamboree Heights also got a grant and used it to receive business coaching for the next two years in a bid to grow its business. I am really excited to see what it does with this coaching. It is already a fantastic local business in our area. It has beautiful decor. Its clients are beautifully styled. It will be great to see how its business benefits in the long term from this grant.

What is great about these grants is that I have already seen them circulate through our local economy many times over. Local businesses like Culture Doctor have been employed to provide advice and businesses like Flex PR have not received the grants themselves but have received contracts from successful businesses and benefited by providing services to businesses that have received them, so this means that the money is circulating through our local economy multiple times over, which is brilliant. It is supporting local families and keeping our local economy going during these tough COVID times.

As a former small business manager, I really appreciate the importance of supporting small business during tough times like we have seen this year and I have heard over and over again from my local businesses how important these grants were for sustaining local businesses during the height of COVID. Now that Queensland is open for business, these businesses are better positioned to take advantage of the visitors who will be flocking to Queensland to see family and friends. There is no doubt in my mind and in the minds of Mount Ommaney locals that these adaptation grants were money well spent.

Our government is also investing in the future of the Oxley community, turning the essentially unused former Oxley secondary school site into a beautiful community space with housing, aged care, early childhood education and more than 50 per cent retained as open and parkland spaces. Some of

the highlights from the \$15.5 million allocated in this year's budget is the complete rejuvenation of the bushland which abuts Canossa retirement home. The site has been lovingly tended by our local Bushcare group, but we will be handing it over to BCC in top condition after creating walking trails and removing pest and weed species.

The government will also be remediating the hillside land that backs onto the homes on Blackheath Road to ensure the stability of the land into the future. The land will be preserved for community use and include a mini park and preservation of beautiful old native trees, keeping the stunning outlook for residents, new and old alike. There will also be a community hall and the Yuingi kindy, which has been located on the site since it was a school, will move up the hill to a flood-free location to ensure locals never again have to clean up after a flood on that site.

I thank the wonderful parents at Yuingi for their engagement on this issue. I was really proud to work alongside them earlier this year and secure a larger piece of land for the new kindy to give the kids even more play space. I also thank the Oxley Community Panel led by Theresa Rich Hoyle which has worked tirelessly on this plan for years. It has provided such a great body of work to support its vision for the site and I thank it once again for its ongoing commitment to getting the best possible outcome for Oxley.

I also congratulate my amazing P&Cs on their hard work over many years to air-condition our local Mount Ommaney state schools. The Palaszczuk government is finishing the job, committing \$477 million over five years to Cooler Cleaner Schools, which not only air-conditions the classrooms but also invests in solar to bring down the cost of electricity in the hot summer months.

I am also incredibly excited about the creation of the Metro South satellite hospital. I know better than most right now that sometimes when you need to get to hospital every minute counts. This \$37.5 million investment in local health care will ensure that local services—potentially maternity, wound care and more—can be offered locally depending on community demand. I urge the people of the western suburbs to get involved in the consultation around what this facility could provide. It is our community facility and we have an opportunity to shape the services that it offers. I know what I will be asking for. I will leave my contribution there, suffice to say that this is a budget that delivers for Queensland and I am proud of what it delivers for Mount Ommaney.