




Speech By
Joan Pease

MEMBER FOR LYTTON

Record of Proceedings, 3 December 2020

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) (2020-2021) BILL

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 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (6.04 pm): It is always a pleasure to sit through one of the member for Everton's blustering and bumbling efforts. It had very little substance as usual. He talks about people being delusional. The only deluded people here are the people sitting on that side of the House. When will they finally get through their heads that Queenslanders voted for Labor because they know we have a good economic plan that we will deliver. It is already in place and it is already delivering. I would not be trusting my economic future with the likes of those on that side of the House because he is a gentleman who cannot even count to six. Let us not talk about that.

The year 2020 has been a year we will not forget. We have all faced a worldwide pandemic and a global recession. For Queenslanders and people all around the world, it has been challenging. At times it has been frightening. When the going gets tough, the tough get going. That is certainly what I saw in my community. When the seriousness of COVID-19 sank in, people stepped up. Baysiders joined the Care Army, looked after their family and neighbours, supported local businesses and helped me make phone calls to check in on vulnerable people. They were genuinely checking in on them and not, as the member for Everton outrageously alleged, threatening them. That is a disgraceful allegation. Most importantly, Queenslanders followed the expert advice and did the right thing in our fight against the virus. They worked together and we always work best when we work together.

This budget is based on that principle. It is unashamedly pro growth and is about working with communities and industry across the state to drive job creation and continue our recovery. We just have to look around the world to see that the pandemic is not over. We cannot be complacent. Thanks to our strong health response and the efforts of Queenslanders, we have had no community transmission in nearly 80 days. That means we can stay focused on the economic recovery and our plan for jobs.

Queensland's future economic prosperity depends on having a skilled workforce, and that begins in the classroom. Giving every child the best possible education is something I am passionate about and this government is passionate about. A record \$14.2 billion in education funding has been allocated by the Palaszczuk Labor government, including a \$1.9 billion infrastructure spend so that all Queensland children will benefit from world-class facilities at school.

In Lytton, we have shovel-ready commitments for local schools, including upgrades at Wynnum State School, Brisbane Bayside State College and Moreton Bay Environment Education Centre. World-class school facilities are important, but, most importantly, world-class teachers can change lives. My son is a high school teacher at Aviation State High School. I am very proud of him and the great work that he does in that sector. The bayside's teachers and teacher aides always inspire me, but their efforts, particularly during the height of the pandemic, were especially extraordinary. To them I say thank you. Our government will employ more than 6,100 teachers and 1,100 teacher aides over the next four years to make sure every Queensland child gets the education they deserve.

I am thrilled to deliver the \$40 million allocated for the upgrade to Lindum station combined with the \$5 million park and ride facility. I look forward to the scoping and planning work beginning in 2021. This will deliver on the recommendations of the Lindum precinct technical report. I particularly look forward to the next stage of the Lindum precinct study which will deliver a detailed pre-investment planning and costing document that will include technical advice for the Brisbane City Council on upgrading the precinct's BCC controlled roads.

Small businesses are the engine room of our economy, and I want to pay tribute to the shopkeepers, the cafes, the hairdressers and every other business owner. I myself have been a small business owner. I grew up in a family of small business owners, with my mother owning and running a small business. I understand some of the challenges of running a small business, but I also know that nothing compares to what business owners have faced this year.

Through the COVID-19 pandemic, we have provided \$2.3 billion in tax relief, grants, electricity rebates and loans that have kept 334,000 Queenslanders in work. In Lytton, more than 130 small businesses received grants of up to \$10,000 including South Passage, The Collective Store, Fun Fit Play, Keid In Electrical and Cambridge Lane cafe. We back small business which is why we have introduced a target of 25 per cent of all government purchases to be from Queensland small and medium size businesses.

Many small businesses and larger business owners actually came to me and said thank you for the great work that the Palaszczuk Labor government has done in supporting them. Unlike the member for Everton, who is claiming that no-one came up and said that, I can state categorically that I had a significant number of people who came up to me and said, 'Please pass on my thanks to the government for the great support that you have given me.' It was not a one-off occasion. That happened often. Many of them actually made an effort to come to my mobile offices and say to me how fantastic it is to have a government that is actually helping out small businesses.

This budget builds on that work, with a \$140 million Big Plans for Small Business Strategy. To create Queensland jobs, we are investing in businesses that have significant growth potential to help them expand and turbocharge our recovery. We are making the Small Business Commissioner permanent to ensure small business owners always have someone in their corner. We will help manufacturers innovate and expand across traditional and new industries, such as Marine Composites in my electorate who specialise in state-of-the-art fibre composite marine piles.

I do not want to damage the member for Everton's glass jaw, but perhaps he might need to look at the chess board a little bit more. He is moving from side to side, backwards and forwards, in his shuffle to make it to the front row. Maybe he needs to watch *The Queen's Gambit*—it is a great Netflix series—to give him some strategies about how to play the game of chess, particularly in this chamber.

The Deputy Speaker has reviewed and approved my speech on the budget for incorporation. As such, I ask that the remainder of my speech be incorporated in *Hansard*.

The speech read as follows—

This is a Budget of no major surprises. We told Queenslanders our plan before the election, and now we're putting it into action. We're following the crystal-clear advice from the Reserve Bank: Invest to create jobs and boost the recovery. The \$56 billion capital works program is the largest in over decade, with a \$14.8 billion infrastructure spend this financial year supporting 46,000 jobs. The Budget delivers on our election commitments, invests in frontline services, and will help our manufacturing, tourism and small business sectors bounce back stronger than ever.

But the economic plan contained in this Budget isn't just about creating jobs, it's also about giving Queenslanders the skills and training to secure those jobs. On the Bayside, our Government's programs like Get Set for Work are already making such a difference. This Budget goes even further, delivering an investment of more than \$1 billion for training and skills initiatives to prepare Queenslanders for the jobs of the future. I'm especially proud that this Budget extends Free TAFE and Free Apprenticeships to Queenslanders aged under 25 and delivers \$100 million over three years to upgrade TAFE campuses.

This pandemic has proved beyond a doubt just how vital our frontline workers are, and this Budget delivers on our commitment to boost those services. Over the next five years an additional 2,025 police personnel will be hired, and an additional 25 police beats will be established. An extra 357 firefighters will be employed to keep Queenslanders safe from bushfires and other emergencies.

Queensland's health workers have been our heroes this year. They've helped keep us safe from the deadliest pandemic in a century and I know every Queenslanders is grateful. If this year has demonstrated anything it's how vital a strong, well-resourced health system is to Queenslanders and the economy. The Palaszczuk Labor Government will keep investing in the health system, to maintain our strong response to COVID-19 and ensure every Queenslanders can access quality public healthcare. Over the next four years, we'll hire an extra 9475 frontline health staff including 5,800 nurses, 475 paramedics, 1,500 doctors and 1,700 allied health professionals. This budget also allocates \$50.5 million for a major parking upgrade and new ward fit-outs at Redland Hospital which so many Baysiders rely on.

This Government is laser-focused on creating jobs for Queenslanders. We have a clear plan to maintain Queensland's strong health response and continue our economic recovery and that's what this budget reflects.

I'm ready to roll up my sleeves and help get it done. I commend the Bill to the House.