




Speech By
Kim Richards

MEMBER FOR REDLANDS

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APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL (NO. 2); APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 2)

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (3.18 pm): I rise in the House today to support the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) and the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) in relation to unforeseen expenditure by the parliament and government departments. I have had since lunchtime to reflect on the contributions of those on the other side, and you just have to go ‘wow!’ In the three short years they had, the destruction they caused left over a decade’s worth of damage to attempt to claw back. When you listen to the shadow Treasurer’s contribution to this debate, their track record is everything. When you look at their infrastructure legacy, by and large most of this appropriation money is going into accelerating infrastructure for all Queenslanders. You only have to look out the window: the only thing they left behind is 1 William Street.

Mr Powell: Which is allowing Queen’s Wharf to be developed, which the minister crowed all about this morning.

Ms RICHARDS: 1 William Street. That is all you have left.

Mr Powell: Built by the construction industry superannuation.

Mr Whiting: That’s a pretty long bow you’re drawing.

Ms RICHARDS: No, it’s not actually. We have heard a lot about what the opposition think about fiscal literature and fiscal planning. We do not hear much about their game and their story in terms of fiscal plans. We know they are sitting on a very big multibillion dollar black hole of unfunded promises. They do not talk about their fiscal plan because they know it is the same old LNP playbook. It is that cut, sack and sell. Campbell Newman said it himself this week. We cannot trust the LNP when it comes to financial management.

With regard to the appropriation bills for the unforeseen expenditure, it was good to be part of the committee that reviewed that. I thank the secretariat and Queensland Treasury that gave us the briefings. With regards to the Legislative Assembly and the Parliamentary Service, funding was there for technology improvements for our electorate offices and for the relocation of new offices and also for determinations made by the Queensland Independent Remuneration Tribunal. The bills also relate to the accelerated expenditure on programs that are absolutely about improving Queensland—from congestion busting on roads to delivering world-class education.

We know that Queensland is all too familiar with disasters—from droughts to floods, cyclones and bushfires. We have seen them all frequently occurring. Our government has been here to support people. When these disasters have occurred, we have tried to get things back to normal as quickly as possible in the rebuild process. There is funding within there that supports our community in that rebuild process. The bills further seek approval of supplementary appropriation for unforeseen expenditure incurred by eight departments. The Department of Transport and Main Roads, the Department of Education and the Department of Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs take the lion’s share of that unforeseen expenditure.

Our Palaszczuk government is focused on congestion busting and delivering on a record infrastructure investment for Queensland. We are focused on getting Queenslanders to work quicker and home sooner and we are focused on Queenslanders being safer on their journeys on our roads. The majority of this expenditure was the result of the accelerated delivery of capital programs, including Commonwealth funding for the Gateway Upgrade North project and the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing, as well as Bruce Highway upgrades, Pacific Motorway upgrades and the state funded contribution to the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing. It has been really surprising to hear the contributions from the other side considering that significant amounts of this money actually go to making the lives of their constituents better through improving access to better roads. It is astounding.

Mr Hunt: Not in Nicklin.

Ms RICHARDS: Read them. I had a rough look at the numbers, and it is about 70 per cent of your side, my friend.

Mr Hunt interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Weir): Member for Nicklin!

Ms RICHARDS: Have a look at the numbers.

Mr Hunt interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Nicklin, that is enough.

Ms RICHARDS: Our government is committed to tackling congestion on the Gold Coast by accelerating our \$2.3 billion program of M1 upgrades, including the M1 merge and Varsity Lakes. The completion of the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing means that our world-class exports can get to their destinations faster. This is great for truckies on those roads too.

The acceleration of these projects brings \$441 million of Palaszczuk government investment ahead of schedule. This is not a budget blowout. When you can do more, you should do more. If we can bring projects forward and create jobs faster, that is exactly what we should be doing and that is exactly what these funds are being used for. Our government has also delivered \$58 million in the maintenance of roads ahead of schedule and added \$27 million in new maintenance on Queensland roads.

I am passionate about education and our Palaszczuk government is passionate about education. We are committed to ensuring every Queensland child gets the best start through a world-class education, and that includes the infrastructure and the environments that our students learn in. We are delivering more new schools than ever right across the state, including North Shore State School in Townsville, Picnic Creek State School in Coomera East, Yarrabilba State School in Logan, the Cairns State Special School and Bellmere State School. We have opened eight new schools this year—that is unprecedented—and we have another five coming. Education is the cornerstone of creating brighter futures, and we are certainly focused on that. Building on the acceleration, the Palaszczuk government's 2019-20 budget includes a massive \$1.5 billion worth of school infrastructure investment. This includes the completion of the eight new schools.

While I am on my feet, I would like to thank Minister Grace for her acknowledgement of my region. I know that in terms of my two predecessors their eyes were not on education and giving the best to students in our community. In two short years, through our hard work and through working with the principals and the departments, we have been able to get some fantastic outcomes in the Redlands. Russell Island State School has received \$1.2 million in refurbishment, and Victoria Point State High School has had a \$1 million library upgrade. We just had \$1.6 million worth of new school classrooms put into Redland Bay State School, as well as \$700,000 worth of new classrooms into BayView State School and \$400,000 worth of new classrooms into Redlands District Special School. Cleveland District State High School has received a new multipurpose hall and a new manual arts building, as well as \$9 million worth of new classrooms. At the moment, we have under way a \$2 million expansion for Victoria Point State High School and \$9 million for new learning precincts at the Redlands District Special School. Our government is absolutely focused. As I said, where we can do more we should be doing more to make sure we can give our community the infrastructure and the amenities they need and deserve.

The Palaszczuk Labor government supports local communities and our councils in tough times. As I said, we have seen a lot of them. When disaster strikes, we are there ready to help them rebuild. The Department of Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs's share of the appropriation bills was \$257.2 million. That related to getting grants out to Queenslanders quicker. Together, the Department of Transport and Main Roads, the Department of Education and the Department of Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs accounted for 87 per cent of that appropriation bill.

Our Palaszczuk government is a government of action. When we can bring projects forward and fast-track them, we will do that for our community. We are delivering on that. These funds go towards creating more jobs for more Queenslanders. I commend the appropriation bills to the House.