




Speech By
Kim Richards

MEMBER FOR REDLANDS

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APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) (2020-2021) BILL

APPROPRIATION (2020-2021) BILL

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (11.46 am): I am pleased to rise in this House to support the Palaszczuk government's 2020-21 appropriation bills. It has been a year like no other. COVID-19 has presented challenges we could never have imagined at this time last year. Our Palaszczuk government has led the way in our state's health response that has seen our state as the shining light in economic recovery. This was confirmed in data released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics that revealed Queensland's economy grew by 6.8 per cent between June and September. We have the fastest economic growth in the country and our Palaszczuk government, through the appropriation bill and budget, continues to deliver an economic response for both my Redlands community and for the people of Queensland.

I am a passionate and tenacious advocate for my Redlands community. We have seen record investment in Redlands over the past three years. In my maiden speech in 2018 I said that a measure of success in this place would be determined by the legacy ultimately left behind, and I am extremely proud to stand on the track record of our Palaszczuk government in delivering for Redlanders and I am honoured to have been returned to continue to build on these achievements.

For my Redlands community and more broadly for the people of Queensland, this budget delivers in spades. In roads and infrastructure our budget is delivering a record \$56 billion of infrastructure investment across the forward estimates. For Redlands in terms of infrastructure and roads, that is great news. We have \$110 million committed to delivering for our Cleveland Redland Bay Road corridor. The heavy gear is there and the works are well underway at the Anita Street intersection on the stage 1 duplication. This was a road that was neglected by the LNP and politicised for over a decade, with broken promises left, right and centre.

Dr Robinson: You've been in government!

Ms RICHARDS: I am proud to be the member who is seeing the work being delivered. I take that interjection from the member for Oodgeroo. I am actually delivering.

Dr Robinson interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Direct your comments through the chair, please.

Ms RICHARDS: The heavy gear is also on site at the Old Cleveland Road on-ramp for its upgrade and further down the road for the Eastern Transit Way. These roadworks make a huge difference to many commuters who leave the Redlands each day for work.

Ongoing access to COVID stimulus funding is providing for South-East Queensland local councils, and for Redland City Council this means a contribution to date of over \$7 million which is delivering for the Southern Moreton Bay Islands communities with \$2.5 million in road green sealing.

There is our investment in the \$34.1 million Southern Moreton Bay Islands ferry terminals, a project undertaken in partnership and co-funded with Redland City Council. Tenders are in the process of being awarded. These terminals will be transformative for our islands and create a world-class arrival experience. Our government continues to fund the free inter-island ferry fares to make sure that our island communities stay connected.

Creating jobs for today and into the future is at the heart of our Palaszczuk government's 2020-21 budget. It is targeted and it is future focused and it ensures we position for jobs now and into the future. In the Redlands, ongoing efforts to diversify our local economy and create jobs has and will continue to be central to the work I undertake and I will continue to provide that advocacy for my community. It has been fantastic that through programs that our Palaszczuk government has initiated and restored we are supporting these endeavours. In particular I want to talk about the regional jobs committee. This is a fantastic investment in our local community. It is a committee that is being led by our Redlands Coast Chamber of Commerce. They have undertaken a fantastic report with RPS to look at the gaps analysis and how we can make sure that we have the right skills, the right training and are positioning our community for investment attraction.

In March this year at the start of COVID-19 we saw how quickly and nimbly we needed to respond. Our small businesses have had significant benefit through the adaptation grants and the QRIDA loan scheme. I have spoken in this House on numerous occasions about the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program. It was a program that was cut by the LNP Newman government. It beggars belief that a government would cut a program that actually provides opportunity and pathways to employment. It has been fantastic in my local community. It leaves a community legacy whilst at the same time skilling people up.

On Macleay Island the Bay Island Community Services conducted a construction program. The local op shop was upgraded. If you are ever over on Macleay Island I can highly recommend checking that out. The clubhouse of our Redlands Rugby League Club was upgraded and it looks fantastic. I have been to many graduations at Running Wild. There is nothing more heartwarming than to see young people start out on their journey through Skilling Queenslanders for Work and then to see their confidence after completing the program. They have done fantastic work in the hospitality training space and also in conservation management.

Being a proud Queensland hydrogen champion I want to talk about our Palaszczuk government's investment in renewables. Queensland will remain at the forefront of renewable hydrogen with our Queensland government committing another \$10 million over the next four years to develop the renewable hydrogen industry in Queensland led by our hydrogen chief strategist Prof Ian MacKinnon and Michelle Gane at QUT. The minister and I had the opportunity to visit them at our Redlands research facility. They are doing incredible work out there with the pilot hydrogen plant.

Redlands is a big part of the Queensland hydrogen story. Our DAF Redlands research facility is currently home to QUT and international stakeholders. It is where the first export of Queensland hydrogen to Japan occurred and it is also home to the new pilot hydrogen facility that is nearing completion. It is where the rubber hits the road for hydrogen. It is where we take the research from academia and translate it into a pilot that takes it forward to our Gladstones and our Mackays. I am extraordinarily proud of the work coming out of that facility. Just like the LNG movement over a decade ago, the hydrogen industry has the potential to be a multibillion dollar industry. We are investing in the research and training to ensure that we have people with the skills and expertise ready to meet the global demand of the hydrogen industry over the coming years.

I want to touch on the comments of the Leader of the Opposition in his budget reply speech yesterday where he spoke of the need for investment in research and development in the agricultural space. I want to remind the House and the member for Broadwater of the track record of the Newman government at the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries Redlands research facility. They decimated it—there is no other word for it—in an attempt to position it for sale. The facility manager tells about the time all the staff were rounded up and told, 'It's your turn to go. It's your turn to go. It's your turn to go.' They left it on its knees. It was absolutely shameful.

Let me tell members what our Palaszczuk government has done in restoring and rebuilding what is today a vibrant and flourishing facility in agriculture, fisheries and renewables. We took members of the Redlands Coast Chamber of Commerce to the research facility to show all of our businesses what was happening. It is really exciting. We have QUT and UQ out there, along with a whole range of commercialising private sector stakeholders. They are undertaking cutting edge research from agricultural crop growing techniques and research to AgTech with its harvest robotics technology being developed out there. There is world-class research that looks at turf studies and trials for Wimbledon and FIFA soccer stadiums. Green Bio is working in the greenhouses developing state-of-the-art vertical

growing techniques and systems. Track record is everything and so I remind this House that on this side we invest in research and development versus those on the other side who want to cut, sack and sell.

I am deeply passionate about education and extraordinarily proud to be the chair in this parliament of the Education, Employment and Training Committee. I know how important education is. It is transformative. It is what makes the difference in what our next generation looks like and to ensure a prosperous future. In the previous three years the Palaszczuk government has delivered, and we will continue to deliver as we go forward with this budget, air conditioning and solar for all our Redlands schools.

Two years ago we completed the library upgrade at Victoria Point State High School. It looks fantastic. It went from having daggy lime green and bright orange paint to something that looks like a state-of-the-art learning space. We have completed the hall expansion just in time for graduation, which was fantastic. The parents, teachers and students were absolutely delighted. The performance space that has been provided in the expansion is extraordinary. We are also about to deliver in this budget on the security fencing. We know how important it is to provide safe and secure environments for our schools, so that is fantastic.

We have a science block refurbishment at Redlands District Special School. I have spoken a lot about that school. It has a very special place in my heart. The \$9 million new learning precinct that will deliver the best possible education for these very incredible students is well underway.

Over Christmas at Thornlands State School we will see the refurbishment of the administration building. We have delivered new classrooms at Redland Bay State School and Bay View State School. We are upgrading our after-school-hours care facilities at both Victoria Point State School and Redland Bay State School. Macleay Island is also getting a library and admin upgrade. We have new playgrounds for Russell Island and Macleay Island state schools coming.

Mr Power: There is so much going on!

Ms RICHARDS: There is so much going on in the education space. I take that interjection. Last year we opened the YMCA vocational school. This is another facility that makes a huge difference to the students in my community, making sure that we can take them on a journey that sees them as great citizens in the Redlands and provides them with the opportunity to go on and get employment. That is a fantastic program. We have also piloted, on Macleay and Russell islands, the KindyLinQ program, another fantastic investment in the young people of Redlands.

A lot of students in my electorate head to the Alexandra Hills TAFE. That is outstanding. I again remind the House of the track record of the LNP on the TAFE at Alexandra Hills. I do not think it was too far off putting the padlocks on the gates. It was brought to its knees. We are investing in nurses and the trades. There is free TAFE and we have upgraded that to under 25s. This is a fantastic opportunity for my community.

We have talked about track record a lot. The track record of those on the other side of the House when in government was to close the Wynnum Hospital and not think about what that meant for the capacity of our Redlands Hospital. In the last three years we have upgraded the emergency department and delivered a state-of-the-art maternity department and we are going to go on to do a whole lot more: a new intensive care unit and 32-bed ward, a new hospital car park, we have the detailed business study underway for the full hospital expansion and we have a new satellite hospital coming to Redland Bay. That will service my island communities. It will deliver for our growing region in the Southern Redlands and I know Minister de Brenni will agree it is a fantastic opportunity for the growing end of Southern Redlands.

We have provided new equipment and pilot services in areas such as mental health, renal dialysis and ophthalmology. I am really proud of the investment of \$170 million to deliver better palliative care for Queenslanders. We all know how important that is.

Across the state we are growing our police force with over 2,000 new police personnel and delivering the tools that they need to protect Queenslanders. In the Redlands we are set to get a new mobile police beat. I know that members in my community have called for a police beat so this is absolutely fantastic news. Our police will be getting additional QLITE devices and body worn cameras and we are continuing to fund very important programs like Project Booyah and RESPECT. These are great programs for our young people. This builds on the additional two police that we delivered for Russell Island, the new stingray vehicle that is out on our roads, and the police barge and new jet boat that actually make their response to our islands very rapid.

We are also delivering a new multimillion dollar fire station. Again I know how excited Minister de Brenni is about that, as it will be located very close to our boundary. Our Redlands community will be extraordinarily well protected. It will also provide better service and better comfort for my community on the islands, as they will know that they will have access to a world-class and state-of-the-art fire and emergency services response.

There is \$100,000 in funding to support the Donald Simpson Community Centre, an innovative seniors' centre. I know that the former minister, Coralee O'Rourke, loved how innovative the Donald Simpson Community Centre is. In the last term of government we provided funding of \$50,000 after funding was cut by the local council in its operational expenses. The Donald Simpson Community Centre has over 5,000 visitations annually. They have multiple innovative programs. They keep our seniors active and engaged in the community. I am extraordinarily proud of being able to support the centre.

We are also supporting our local sporting clubs. I give a big shout-out to the Redlands Rugby League Football Club and the Parrots, who will get \$150,000 for new change rooms. Tweet, tweet! That is awesome. The Sharks Junior AFL Club will receive funding to deliver new change rooms for our young girls who play junior AFL, which is very exciting.

To conclude, this budget will continue to build on the great work done in my Redlands community over the past three years and over the next four years it will ensure that we continue to prosper as a community. This budget delivers for our Redlands community. It delivers for all Queenslanders. I will be working hard to deliver on all of these exciting commitments for my Redlands community. I will always be a tenacious advocate to deliver more. I commend these bills to the House.