




Speech By
Lance McCallum

MEMBER FOR BUNDAMBA

Record of Proceedings, 3 December 2020

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) (2020-2021) BILL

APPROPRIATION (2020-2021) BILL

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (6.26 pm): May I acknowledge this very special moment personally for me as a First Nation member to rise and speak to a First Nation Speaker.

By keeping COVID-19 out of our state we have been able to open our economy, and now we are perfectly positioned to return to strong growth. If we continue to work together, Queensland can lead the nation and the world out of the pandemic. We are the only state to have recovered all jobs lost during the pandemic, and we have added more. Since May, more than 205,000 jobs have been recovered or created across the state. We are keeping Queenslanders safe and in work, we are creating jobs and supporting skills, and we are investing in bricks and mortar.


This budget delivers a fair go for Bundamba. Locally, we will have record essential frontline workers like nurses, doctors, teachers and police. That means a continued commitment to world-class education for our rapidly growing community. It means upgraded schools and education infrastructure from Goodna to Bundamba and everywhere in between.

At Bellbird Park State Secondary College it means \$12.23 million for new classrooms. One of Queensland's newest secondary schools, Bellbird Park opened in 2017 and its first intake of year 12 students will graduate in 2022. Our Bundamba State Secondary College will benefit from three refurbished amenities blocks, improved student safety and supervision. The Collingwood Park State School prep block will be reconfigured to provide our kids with improved learning spaces and outdoor experiences. A new building with eight general learning spaces and a hospitality kitchen will be delivered at Goodna State Special School, a near \$7 million investment.

Kruger State School will see a modernised teaching space in block 2 to better support our Queensland curriculum, and car parking at Redbank Plains State High School will be upgraded to the tune of \$400,000. I know that this announcement has already been warmly welcomed by parents, staff, motorists and surrounding residents. Likewise, a new-look outdoor learning arena at our iconic Redbank State School has the full support of the Raptors community. Riverview State School's B block will be refurbished and reconfigured to create more modern and functional learning spaces for its students and staff.

We are also funding general maintenance and minor works totalling almost \$1 million at schools across the local community, and our \$1 billion investment in skills and training includes more support for our Bundamba TAFE. Back in March we committed \$2 million to upgrade the metal trades training facility, and this budget confirms a further \$7 million for a state-of-the-art metal trades manufacturing and robotics centre.

While our ongoing investment in education, skills and training will support the development of future generations of Queensland leaders, our commitment to health care is all about community wellbeing. This budget includes \$40 million of a total \$146.3 million to continue the Ipswich Hospital stage 1A expansion. This historic project will deliver new mental health facilities for adults and the elderly.

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (7.31 pm), continuing: This historic project will deliver new mental health facilities for adults and the elderly, a new 26 inpatient bed ward and an MRI suite to grow clinical capacity. We are also investing \$2.5 million as part of a further \$46.5 million of further upgrades at the hospital addressing increased service demands at the emergency department and maternity, gynaecology, renal dialysis and nephrology services. Safety and security management systems will be boosted at Ipswich Hospital and West Moreton Health's The Park mental health facility in Wacol. We are also funding a series of general maintenance works at the hospital.

We are keeping our local Bundamba community healthy and we are also keeping it safe, as part of the biggest investment in Queensland policing in more than 30 years. This budget means a new mobile police beat van will hit the streets in Ipswich—one of 25 across the state. Our five-year police personnel commitment means we will welcome 150 additional police to the community by 2025, and they will also be fully resourced. This unprecedented investment includes more QLITE mobile tablets—a \$2 million funding win in this budget—and a further \$2 million for body worn video cameras to provide more effective and efficient policing services for all Queenslanders.

The Project Booyah and Respect programs—both highly successful in our local Bundamba community—will continue to support our Queensland youth with a \$4.2 million commitment. Safety also comes in the form of secure, suitable and affordable housing, and I am proud to announce more than \$4 million to continue the construction of 18 units as part of the Housing Construction Jobs Program. The completion of two public housing units has been funded, along with the commencement of a further 20. Importantly, we have committed \$11.65 million to continue the construction of another 54 units, providing housing opportunities for those in need. Homelessness has also been supported, with more than \$370,000 for our local Goodna Youth Services, who do a wonderful job, to continue to deliver their specialist services, and a further \$352,000 for the Ipswich Accommodation Support Service—and both are incredibly important to our community.

That community support extends to our green spaces and sports facilities. The Moodai Reserve—a popular park in the suburb of Bellbird Park—will benefit from enhanced drainage and improved water quality thanks to a \$150,000 funding commitment in this budget. Rugby League players based at Goodna's Richardson Park will hit the field supported by a new-look change room. The \$55,000 upgrade will replace the ageing ceiling, floor and walls. That is all part of our wonderful Works for Queensland program.

The Palaszczuk government's commitment to our renewable energy boom is in full swing. Renewables make not only environmental sense but also economic sense. They create jobs. They lower prices. They grow the economy. We have supported \$8.5 billion in renewable investment, increasing generation capacity by more than 4,600 megawatts and supporting over 7,000 Queensland jobs. An affordable, reliable energy supply underpins our economic plan for a post-COVID recovery, and renewables now play—and will continue to play—a critical role. Renewables currently make up just over 20 per cent of Queensland's energy mix, and that figure will more than double over the next decade as we aim for 50 per cent renewables by 2030.

We have also committed a further \$145 million to unlock three renewable energy zones in North Queensland, Central Queensland and South-West Queensland. These zones will coordinate and foster renewables by supporting the delivery of transmission infrastructure and attracting industrial energy users to create more jobs. Queenslanders will be able to own a stake in our renewable revolution thanks to this budget investing \$500 million to support the development of renewable energy projects. Our publicly-owned energy businesses CleanCo, Stanwell, CS Energy, Energy Queensland and Powerlink now have the opportunity to share in the half-billion dollar fund to build, own and operate renewable assets and transmission infrastructure that will drive jobs in the clean energy sector and deliver cheaper, cleaner energy to households and businesses.

I have mentioned our proudly publicly owned energy assets. These businesses were also mentioned in the financial papers of the last LNP government. Businesses listed for sale, lease or privatisation—writ large on page 6 of Strong Choices—included CS Energy, Stanwell, Powerlink, Energex and Ergon.

Mr Hart: Rubbish.

Mr McCALLUM: I take the interjection. The member might want to go and have a look at page 6. CleanCo was not around back then, but if it had been you can bet it would have been either sold off or wound up—just like the Office of Clean Energy was and support and public investment in clean energy was brutally cut. The Strong Choices document—the LNP privatisation manifesto—in addition to cutting services and sacking frontline public service workers is of course their answer to debt. It turns out that it was not so much a ‘strong choice’ as it was a ‘wrong choice’—a wrong choice that was utterly rejected by the people of Queensland.

Since being elected in 2015, the Palaszczuk government has proudly led a remarkable boom in renewables—including public renewables—that has delivered cheap, clean power right across our great state. Lower power prices boosts our economy, ensuring more competitive sectors like manufacturing that in turn delivers jobs. Queensland is uniquely positioned to manufacture renewable technologies right here at home. We can continue to develop our renewables boom to underscore a vibrant and advanced manufacturing sector to grow the economy and deliver jobs, particularly in regional Queensland. We are backing renewables, we are backing Queensland know-how and we are backing Queensland jobs in the industries of now, like renewables, and the industries of the future, like hydrogen.

We are poised to make Queensland a global leader in both renewables and hydrogen. We have one of the best locations in the world for renewable hydrogen investment, with the highest direct solar intensity and world-class wind resources. Hydrogen produced from renewable energy is widely considered to be the ultimate clean fuel and presents a unique opportunity to export Queensland’s sunshine and wind energy to the world while using and storing our renewable energy at home.

The Palaszczuk government released our hydrogen industry strategy in May last year ahead of the National Hydrogen Roadmap. Our Queensland strategy included a \$15 million Hydrogen Industry Development Fund. In the time since then, QUT and the University of Tokyo have demonstrated that hydrogen can be generated from solar energy and exported to Japan. This budget ensures that Queensland will remain at the forefront of renewable hydrogen with a further \$10 million investment in the industry. This increases our industry development funding commitment to \$25 million, delivering secure and skilled jobs, developing a domestic and export hydrogen market and reducing our carbon footprint.

I was reflecting on the member for Broadwater and his budget reply when he mentioned his search for inspiration, a search that took him back to the future. He jumped in the DeLorean, fired up the flux capacitor and went back to 1957 to see Frank Nicklin. While there is no doubt we must always respect and acknowledge our past, when it comes to the future economic prosperity of Queensland, those of us on this side of the House are firmly focused on the future—a future where Queenslanders are safe and in work and receiving the benefits of record investments in frontline staff and public services, a future where we all work together for a shared prosperity. The future is looking good.

Yesterday’s national accounts figures revealed that Queensland has dragged Australia out of recession. Our economy grew by 6.8 per cent between June and September, and that means the fastest economic growth in the country and it means our plan for a strong and safe recovery is working. Queensland is the only state to have recovered all of the jobs that we lost during COVID-19 and we are also the only state to be producing more output than we did before COVID-19.

We now have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to work together to position Queensland for the long term. With our clear plan for a strong and safe recovery, underpinned by this budget that was soundly endorsed by Queenslanders at the election, our best days are ahead of us. I commend the bills to the House.