




Speech By  
**Nikki Boyd**

**MEMBER FOR PINE RIVERS**


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

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (12.59 pm): It is a real pleasure to rise this afternoon and support the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) and the Appropriation Bill (No. 2). As a committee member who examined these bills through the process, I want to take some time to acknowledge the work of our outstanding chair, the member for Logan, and all of the committee members who put some hard work, some fine work, into preparing this bill. Of course, I acknowledge the fantastic work of the Deputy Premier and Treasurer in handing down a fine Labor budget this year. The purpose of these bills is to play a little catch-up, which is very common, in terms of the budget cycle to ensure we have formal authorisation to be covering off the unforeseen expenditure—

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (2.59 pm), continuing: Appropriation Bill (No. 2) shows that the majority of the allocations for unforeseen expenditure is in the Department of Transport and Main Roads, the Department of Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs and the Department of Education. In terms of the projects in the Transport and Main Roads space, I particularly want to acknowledge the money brought forward for the extra lanes on the Deagon Deviation which has absolutely reduced the bottleneck for northsiders when using the Gateway, as well as the money brought forward for the upgraded Nudgee interchange. While some may observe that this is a fair way from my electorate of Pine Rivers, it is a critical artery for my community. My community and I as commuters often utilise this space. It has well and truly opened up this section. The traffic is free flowing in nature. It is an absolute breath of fresh air.

It would be fair to say that for many years we have looked longingly at the south side in terms of the road infrastructure they have with the Gateway Motorway. It is so nice as a northsider to see that replicated at the Deagon Deviation and the interchange at Nudgee. It is money very well spent. I know that it will increase safety, increase productivity and decrease motorists' frustration as they are travelling about.

The other key point I wanted to pick up on which I think is important is the additional funding in the transport space that has gone into bus driver wage parity. It is something that we did not spend too much time exploring in the committee process. In terms of fairness, the professionalism of bus drivers is worthwhile putting on the record here today.

The Education portfolio has seen unforeseen expenditure come forward in terms of the urgency in which we have needed to build new state schools in our communities. I know that the member for Logan is particularly excited about the school in Yarrabilba. The new schools are scattered across our great state. They are essential pieces of infrastructure. I watched with great excitement the first day of school this year, as the Palaszczuk Labor government opened eight new state schools. I have been talking with MPs from electorates where they have had significant growth who were opening schools in their communities. There is an absolute sense of excitement. I know that that excitement will continue throughout the year for all of those school learners.

The drought assistance package was another component in the Agriculture and Fisheries portfolio. I also wanted to give a shout-out to my husband, Reece, who worked on the fire ant eradication program and on securing funding for that. I do not think a lot of the population really appreciate how dangerous these little critters are. I know that he does. He worked tirelessly in lobbying the Invasive Species Council to ensure that funding got to where it was needed—funding that was cut under Campbell Newman.

**Mr Krause:** It was not.

**Ms BOYD:** Yes, it was. I take that interjection from the member for Scenic Rim. It was absolutely cut under the Newman government, and we saw the spread of fire ants in that time. It is good to see that funding reinstated and particularly the federal government's intervention in identifying that fire ants are an issue. A lot of states are also coming to the table to ensure that they are investing in the process of eradicating fire ants.

There has also been infrastructure investment in energy. We were recently in Townsville at the regional parliament. The Townsville water security enhancement project was one of those projects where we saw some funding brought forward. That was offset by the reallocation of some of the solar thermal plant contributions to Treasury. I know in terms of the locals I talk to in Townsville how important that water security is to them. It is great to see the project go ahead. It is also great to see some of the much needed funding going forward to the Coal Mine Workers' Health Scheme.

What we have seen through this process is a lot of myths put out there by the opposition. We saw them in the statement of reservation on the bills where they say that the 2018-19 budget was 'one of increased debt and taxes'. That is certainly not right. In Queensland we pay \$686 per person less than the rest of Australia—\$700 less than Victorians and \$1,000 less than New South Wales residents. Our debt-to-revenue ratio, which the rating agencies pay particular attention to, is actually lower than it was under the LNP administration.

The LNP in their statement of reservation go on to say that there is 'less infrastructure and jobs' in this budget. That again is a myth. We are supporting over 41,500 jobs this year alone in this budget. Since the Palaszczuk Labor government has come to office, we have 235,000 jobs—more than half of which have been full-time. I think that is a tremendous legacy of this Labor government here in Queensland.

The LNP claim that five new taxes were introduced 'which are ripping \$2.2 billion out of Queensland's economy'. That is not true. The Palaszczuk government has delivered tax cuts in the latest budget including our \$885 million payroll package.

The LNP state that Queensland is the 'jobless capital of Australia with the most bankruptcies'. The unemployment rate under Labor is less than it was under the LNP. The Palaszczuk Labor government has also reduced the unemployment rate by 0.5 per cent. Under the LNP, unemployment increased more than one percentage point.

In terms of the contribution from the member for Bonney earlier, there was quite an exchange in the *Hansard* when we were talking to Treasury officials about the trains being built in Maryborough which is one of Labor's key election commitments. It surprised me to hear those comments from the member for Bonney today because they are not reflective of the transcript and the conversation that was had. It was clear then in the committee process that that money was being brought forward so we could build trains here in Queensland, here in Maryborough, rather than having them built in Mumbai, India.

In terms of the supplementary appropriations, the statement of reservation states that they are 'eight times higher than the unforeseen expenditure under the previous LNP government'. The LNP handed back \$10 billion in lapsed appropriations—money it did not know how to spend when it was in government. When they were sacking 14,000 public servants, I am sure it would have been difficult to find those investments when their ideology was so warped and twisted. As I said, these are fine bills—money spent in all of the right places. I commend the bills to the House.