




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR PINE RIVERS

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APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) (2020-2021) BILL

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 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (9.10 pm): I rise to speak in support of the appropriation bill and I commend the Treasurer on this, his first, budget. In a year of turmoil and uncertainty, it has been said that this is a budget of no surprises. The unique circumstances of COVID and the state election in Queensland mean that Queenslanders have already heard and seen this budget. It was the platform that the Labor Party was elected on—indeed, it was the mandate that Queenslanders have already sent.

Our state has an optimistic and bright future. Our Premier resolutely followed the expert medical advice and has seen us through the first wave of COVID. This week, we have welcomed the opening of our state's borders—the removal of the barriers on state lines, the long-awaited reunions of families and loved ones, the reflection on the hard road we have collectively walked to get to this momentous action.

These are moments worth reflecting on but, as always, the focus of the Palaszczuk Labor government is firmly forward. This budget is the road map to our bright future as we continue to unite and recover. Queenslanders expect us to get on with the job of delivering for them. They want to continue to see the strong, dependable government that we have proven to be. Our community have sought certainty in the most uncertain of times. It is in the Palaszczuk Labor government that they continue to find it.

Our job of rebuilding our health system has been one of the key priorities of the Palaszczuk Labor government since 2015. It was a job that quite literally saved lives throughout the year—not only with our dedicated health professions but with the investment in bricks and mortar. One of the challenges that I was acutely aware of when I got elected was the lack of infrastructure for our community—in both a university that was accessible to locals and a hospital that was close to home. The University of the Sunshine Coast Petrie campus is the preferred site for our recently announced local satellite hospital, meaning we will need to travel less to access world-class services. Pressure will ease at local emergency departments and major hospitals as locals access our Pine Rivers satellite hospital. It will tailor the services to our community needs—be it renal dialysis, chemotherapy, wound care, minor injury and illness, be it ambulatory or simple day therapy services, or outpatient or community based health services for young people or the aged and frail in our community.

At first, we will measure this asset in jobs and construction dollars but its long-lasting impact on our overall wellbeing will be immense and immeasurable. Our satellite hospital will also provide the platform for innovative workforce models and virtual health opportunities, including a range of rapid access consults, care coordination, remote monitoring and patient literacy services.

Our investment in education will see every state school in my community provided with upgrades—from more inclusive and accessible schools to new learning spaces, playgrounds and classroom upgrades. These upgrades come on top of the air conditioning of every learning space and

the ongoing maintenance and replacement of air-conditioning units. Our Pine Rivers schools are seeing solar panels installed to reduce their footprints. The rollout has been extremely welcomed by our school communities. This good work will continue under a re-elected Palaszczuk Labor government.

Our kids depend on us in this place to provide them with opportunities for a bright and meaningful future. That is why we have seen the community embrace our policy to provide free TAFE training to people under 25—opening skills and training to people to provide a future that can deliver so much more.

One of the successes in our region has been engaging with and redirecting disengaged youth through Project Booyah. This budget will continue to run this early intervention program as well as expand the Respect program in schools.

Locally, I have lobbied the police minister to provide more mobile policing resources, and this budget continues to deliver more police beat vans across the state. Our officers will stay more mobile thanks to QLiTE tablet devices and will be more effective and efficient thanks to the continued funding of body worn cameras. What is more, we are delivering more boots on the ground, with our region welcoming a record investment in police personnel—an additional 150 new officers for our region.

Our region has seen 150 of our small businesses share in \$1.3 million in COVID relief funding to respond to the direct impact of the virus or to be able to pivot and increase capabilities in an uncertain time. Our government has also supported our small businesses through payroll tax relief, micro training and no-interest loans, just to name a few. The budget provides our Big Plans for Small Business package to our small business community so they can continue to increase their capabilities, continuing to provide good, secure jobs for the future and drive local economies. My community has a large and diverse small business community. As the minister so articulately stated in her ministerial statement when talking about small businesses—

They are the heart and hub of our local communities, they are our neighbours, our friends and our family members, they create jobs and they make our communities strong.

Previous budgets have made significant contributions in the justice space, including upgrades to the Pine Rivers Courthouse in Strathpine, and we continue that funding package today. It means that victims of family and domestic violence will have improved safety and wellbeing, particularly those in high-risk situations with children. As we continue to tackle the scourge of domestic and family violence and encourage victims to speak up, come forward and break away from dangerous situations, it is imperative that we have protections and safeguards in place.

Our COVID-19 economic recovery depends on delivering jobs quickly and getting money into our local economy, which is why I am so excited to partner with our local council to deliver long-lasting infrastructure for our community. I often worried that this was the project that I would never be able to fix, but thanks to Works for Queensland there will be appropriate and safe pedestrian infrastructure over the Private Percy Cash crossing of the South Pine River at Samford. No more will locals need to walk or ride horses, mobility scooters or other means of transport on the main road over the bridge. It is dangerous and completely inadequate for a busy road with a varied array of vehicles traversing over the river. I place on record my thanks to Councillor Darren Grimwade for working with me over what feels like a very long time to find a solution that would provide safety for our community.

Our commitment to the Pine Rivers BMX Club will invest in a state-of-the-art facility located at Nolan Park, Brendale. Already the club is home to national and world champions but, through this facility, we will play host to major competitions and support the growing club. Our state government contribution will provide for earthworks, stormwater management, irrigation and access roads. The club has considered all elements of the facility, from parking to the track surface. For years the club has been planning for the move and utilising grant funds on infrastructure that is relocatable. Our funding will kickstart this project over a year and council will see through its long-awaited completion.

The Pine Rivers Swans at Strathpine have had a season on the up and up. Despite the disruption of COVID and the loss of a club giant, they have built up their culture, with wins both on and off the field. I am so pleased to be able to partner with council to double the capacity the club will have at their home ground in their change rooms. It will mean that the thriving women's teams will be able to grow and expand. The club will be able to host more games at home and the facilities will be modern, purpose-built and suited to all.

The Pine Rivers PCYC are seeing through the completion of their new multipurpose shed which will be home to their gymnastics and KinderGym groups. Upon my last inspection, I found the facility is just about there and I promised I would take Evie P back to a class in the new year with other local Bray Park families to check out the new shed and enjoy the KinderGym program.

I am always advocating in our community to remove bottlenecks and improve our local road network, to spend less time stuck in traffic and have better quality time with those we love. I have run a lot of campaigns in the past to see significant investment in our community and, indeed, the adjoining

electorates, and this budget is no different. On the outskirts of my electorate work is progressing with planning for the full duplication of the Linkfield Road overpass, the Strathpine Road diverging diamond interchange and, to the north, local commuters are seeing the bottleneck at the Petrie roundabout removed and a signalised intersection introduced to reduce congestion and improve safety.

It is a matter of days until the Lawnton park and ride opens at the Lawnton train station, doubling the car park capacity. This is a project I have long advocated for as our community grows and thrives. The safety works have just started on Mount Glorious Road and Samford-Mount Glorious Road to improve travel along this dangerous windy road. This budget will see new money invested in the Samford Road and Camp Mountain Road intersection to make it safer and, really excitingly, it will see an investment of funds for Samford Road, from Lomandra Park to Camp Mountain Road, to improve safety. It is a stretch of road that has long been a concern for locals. I thank the community for their strong advocacy to get funding to make safety upgrades, particularly Jason McGarry, who has been a strong, persistent advocate each time there was an incident on this road.

There is new money inserted in this budget for our community to upgrade Eatons Crossing Road down to the intersection with Mount Samson Road. Detailed upgrades will progressively occur over time on this dangerous road. This is work that the community has strongly advocated for and work that will invariably save lives as traffic volumes have increased. We have money invested in improving safety on Mount Nebo Road, Jollys Lookout and we will be improving the intersection of Winn Road and Clear Mountain Road at Cashmere.

Our public transport capability will be significantly improved as we make upgrades to the essential bus station at the Strathpine centre, and my community has welcomed the recent announcement of a fare freeze for public transport throughout 2021.

Queenslanders know what they are getting with the Palaszczuk Labor government and in Pine Rivers there are not any surprises, either. Jobs, transport and infrastructure—these are the things that I commit to focus on and work to make better for our community every day, and this budget delivers these things in spades. Of course, the elements that I have detailed in my speech today are not the limit of what we deliver for Pine Rivers; it is only the start. At the heart of this budget is people, job creation and collective recovery. It is a budget that delivers on promises and sets up a bright, exciting future for us all. I commend the bills to the House.