




Speech By
Peter Russo
MEMBER FOR TOOHEY

Record of Proceedings, 4 December 2020

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) (2020-2021) BILL

APPROPRIATION (2020-2021) BILL

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (11.20 am): I rise to support the budget bills introduced into the House by the Treasurer on 1 December 2020. Just like the budget of 2019, this is a Labor budget that delivers on the infrastructure, skills and services that Queensland needs. As we all know, this has been an extraordinary year. Through the Premier's leadership we have averted the worst of the pandemic, and this budget builds on the groundwork of the Premier in keeping Queenslanders safe.

Our economy is bouncing back and that is thanks to our strong response to COVID-19 and the leadership shown by the Palaszczuk government. Building on our \$1.2 billion Queensland Health COVID-19 response plan, the \$360.5 million allocation for the 2020-21 year will support a range of critical services to ensure Queensland remains COVID-safe. The funding will continue the operation of fever clinics, contact tracing, 13HEALTH and aeromedical services, the facilitation of quarantine in government arranged accommodation as well as covering the costs of PPE. It also provides contingency funding for future COVID-19 public health directions, including any necessary border control measures and other restrictions. I think the title of my budget speech could be 'Pete delivers for Toohey'.

Mr Deputy Speaker, you have reviewed and approved my budget speech for incorporation. As such, I ask that the remainder of my speech is incorporated into Hansard.

The speech read as follows—

Health

Our health care workers were at the forefront of the fight to combat the pandemic. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the health care workers at the QEII Hospital. Throughout this pandemic, they have been there for us. I recall in the early stages, the queues for testing. As a result of the efficiency and hard work and commitment of the staff at QEII, they were able to process all those wanting to be tested efficiently, and helped Queenslanders unite in the fight against the pandemic. I am very pleased to see that this budget will help QEII continue to play its vital role in the health and wellbeing of Queenslanders. This budget commits to the Southside.

Under this budget, we see, across Brisbane and Redlands, 1 771 extra nurses and 580 extra doctors. We see a commitment to the QEII Jubilee Satellite Hospital—\$ 1 600 000 to commence planning across the Program for the delivery of 7 Satellite Hospitals to enable our acute hospitals to continue safely managing patients via alternative models of care, worth \$265 000 000.

We see a commitment to Metro South Internal Capital Projects—funds to complete delivery of internal capital projects and equipment purchases.

We also have the QEII Jubilee Hospital Interim Demand Strategy—\$12 100 000 to commence the re-establishment of a 24-bed ward on level 5 of the hospital.

There are the Installation of Ultraviolet Sterilisation lights across Metro South Hospital and Health Service facilities, to continue the installation of ultra-violet treatment lights across the South East.

We have funds for QEII Jubilee Hospital Lift Replacements to continue the replacement of four 5-stop traction lifts including motor room rectification, to complete the refurbishment of operating suites to rectify the heating, ventilation and air conditioning system and replace the end of life plant. As well as funds to complete the construction of two Chlorine Dosing Plants at QEII to provide testing and dosing to the facility.

Further, there is funds towards the end of life replacement of the mechanical services switchboards and associated exhaust fans on Level 3 and Level 6, to continue the installation of contemporary mechanical infrastructure to improve the high voltage and air conditioning systems in critical clinical and staff areas. Also funds to continue the replacement of the chillers, cooling tower, condenser pumps and associated mechanical services switchboards.

Forensic services

The Forensic and Scientific Services Coopers Plains performs critical roles for Queensland. Its biosecurity unit deals with Zika virus, Dengue, and over the last number of years has conducted research in the south east, working with the residents on the South Side, to collect larvae, and conduct analysis to determine mosquitos most likely to carry the viruses. This cutting-edge research is important. It is among many other important things the Centre does, and I am pleased to see a commitment in this budget to the security of that Centre: \$13 437 to complete the delivery of a new standalone CCTV system, to provide increased coverage and quality of security monitoring, worth \$1 300 736.

In this sitting there was a condolence motion to the late Hon. Tim Mulherin. During the motion Tim was acknowledged for his contribution to the State of Queensland. Tim was also responsible for the implementation of the Bio-security centre at Coopers Plains in his time as Minister. The Bio-security centre leads the way in such themes as peanut allergy. Also, research into new products before they are market tested. One of the projects is looking at the shelf life of avocados supporting our primary producers to export more fruit into overseas markets. On my many visits to the Bio security centre the staff always commented that they were grateful for the support that Tim had shown towards the centre.

Education

This budget commits to the front-line services—it commits to 1 623 extra teachers and 447 extra teacher aides across Brisbane. It commit funds to the School Infrastructure Enhancement Program for the refurbishment of the administration block; at the MacGregor State School—School Infrastructure Enhancement Programme for the refurbishment of H block for maintenance for 13 schools in the Toohey electorate in the 2020-21 year; works across 14 schools, funds to the Sunnybank State School Infrastructure Enhancement Program to repurpose the upper leave of A block to create flexible spaces (STEAM). Work is also continuing the Warrigal Road State School building project.

Housing

This budget commits funds to commence construction of 29 units of accommodation for the Joyce Wilding Centre. The Joyce Wilding hostel is an 18 room, 27 bed facility that provides short term accommodation for vulnerable women and children, meals and access to a range of health and social support. The hostel has been a long-standing accommodation refuge for vulnerable women and children since the 1970's. The centre is named after an activist for First Nations rights in Queensland. Joyce Wilding worked tirelessly in the 1950's and 1960's as a community worker.

As an established service in the Brisbane community, it is wonderful to see this commitment to the construction of 29 units and to the difference this will make the lives of women and children in need.

Police

This government is committed to keeping Queenslanders safe. This budget sees a commitment to provide 25 new mobile police beat vans across the state. Funds commitment to provide frontline police officers with an additional 1 400 QLITE mobile tablet devices; funds to continue the body worn camera program and to provide more effective and efficient policing services to the people of Queensland.

It commits funds to continue Project Booyah, a two year early intervention program for at risk youth and to expand the RESPECT program into schools.

It also invests in our people, to our Long-Term Police Personnel Growth with additional finding for 2 025 police personnel: funds to commence the 5 year 2025 police personnel commitment.

It commits funds to Safe Night Precincts as part of a commitment to support the continued presence of police officers in Safe Night Precincts, and it commits funds to the continuation of Major and Serious Organised Crime Operations police work—to permanently fund that Major and Serious Organised Crime Operations.

Justice and Attorney-General

This budget commits funds over 4 years to provide domestic and family violence services; for Women, Violence Prevention and Youth Services as part of a commitment over four years to improve the safety and wellbeing of victims and their children, particularly those in high risk situations.

Agriculture and Fisheries

This budget commits funds to eradicate fire ants, an invasive pest which impacts agriculture, the environment and social amenity. This includes recently approved acceleration of treatments in the 2018-19 to 2020-21 years. Fire ants are an issue in my electorate the suburbs of Salisbury and Coopers Plains making an appearance from time to time so I like to take this opportunity to thank the Departments quick action to treat the affected areas and I welcome the funds committed to the eradication of fire ants.

Employment, Small Business and Training

This budget invests in our Queensland workforce: it commits funds to assist people to get job ready skills through funds for Skilling Queenslanders for Work in the Brisbane region.

Transport and Main Roads

This budget commits funds to prepare costings for the intersection upgrade at Griffith Arterial Road, Kessels Road and Riawena Road.

It commits funds to upgrade the intersection upgrade at Griffith Arterial Road, Kessels Road and Troughton Road.

It commits funds towards the fixing of the intersection of Griffith Arterial Road, Riawena Road and Orange Grove Road.

It commits funds to cycleway construction at Veloway (V1) Cycleway, Levington Road (Gateway Motorway) to Kingston Road.

It commits funds to the cycleway construction at Griffith Arterial Cycleway (Granard Road Cycleway), Ipswich Motorway to Balham Road.

It commits funds towards cycle planning for Griffith Arterial Road, Balham Road to Logan Road.

It commits funds to construct additional lanes in the Stage 1 Ipswich Motorway Upgrade Rocklea to Darra.

It commits funds for planning to the Ipswich Motorway upgrade.

It commits \$1 709 000 of \$146M total cost to the Boundary Road (Coopers Plains) rail level crossing, improve safety, funding commitment. This has been 40 years in coming. This initiative is very welcome to the community and I look forward to the day when this project is completed: it will make a very important difference to the safety and amenity of my area and I want to thank Minister Bailey for his hard work, and determination, in getting this commitment.

It also commits funds to widen and extend the Pacific Motorway, Eight Mile Plains to Daisy Hill.

I commend the Bills to the house.