




Speech By
Shane King

MEMBER FOR KURWONGBAH

Record of Proceedings, 4 December 2020

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) (2020-2021) BILL

APPROPRIATION (2020-2021) BILL

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (5.43 pm): Today I am proud to speak to this year's appropriation bills introduced by our Treasurer, the Hon. Cameron Dick. This is my sixth year supporting a strong Labor budget, and what a year it has been! These bills follow the appropriation acts we passed in September and are the next step in our plan to unite and recover across Queensland. I thank the Premier, the Deputy Premier and the Treasurer; returning and new ministers; and the hundreds of ministerial and departmental staff who have worked hard to deliver this piece of legislation so quickly after the election. It truly is a massive feat.

For those few detractors who kept peddling mistruths during the campaign that Queensland was the only state that had not delivered a budget, I just want to point out that the only Australian state or territory to hand down a budget before our election was Western Australia and our budget follows a week after Victoria's and two weeks after that of New South Wales.

Thank you again to everyone involved in preparing this budget. We can now give businesses and consumers certainty about our plans and, with that, more confidence to make their own plans heading into 2021.

COVID-19 knocked us all for six this year and its impacts extend to this budget. Just like many of us refinance our homes in tough times or extend our assets or make home improvements which add more value, our government will be targeting our spending to stimulate the economy and reap maximum benefits for Queenslanders through our state's recovery.

It is nothing new to say that the health of Queenslanders remains one of our top priorities. This budget sees the further safeguarding and strengthening of our health system to the tune of \$21.8 billion. This includes the beginning of planning for our innovative new satellite hospitals. These hospitals will give many South-East Queenslanders, including my constituents, more care options closer to home and, as a consequence, free up space in hospital emergency departments.

While we are talking about emergency departments, last financial year saw work start on the \$400 million redevelopment at Caboolture Hospital. While Caboolture Hospital is in the neighbouring Morayfield electorate and a source of great pride for my colleague the Hon. Mark Ryan MP, it is also the closest major hospital for many of my constituents, most notably the growing communities of Burpengary and Narangba. This redevelopment is great news for them. By 2023 the project will deliver a new five-storey clinical services building, 130 new beds, expanded health services and a multistorey car park. There is also more funding in this budget for Redcliffe Hospital, which also services my constituency.

This budget marks the start of our investment in hiring an additional 5,800 nurses, 1,500 new doctors, an extra 475 paramedics and 1,700 new health professionals over the next four years. Some \$100 million over three years will be invested to employ 464 additional wellbeing professionals in

Queensland state schools and to trial the placement of GPs in up to 20 schools. In a matter close to my heart, \$171 million has been committed for a Queensland Health palliative care strategy funding package through to 2025-26.

Mr Harper: Hear, hear!

Mr KING: I take the interjection from the member for Thuringowa on that. Like all Labor budgets, this budget reflects our commitment to quality education in Queensland, with a record over \$14 billion investment on the table, and I have heard many members in this place talk about the education benefits they are getting from this budget. This includes a commitment to employ more than 6,100 teachers and 1,100 teacher aides over the next four years plus a \$1.9 billion infrastructure spend, adding to our pipeline of jobs for tradies and ensuring every Queensland child has access to world-class education facilities.

In my electorate alone, our commitment includes \$700,000 for a new security fence at Petrie State School, and I understand that work will commence on that during these schools holidays, and the first instalment in a whopping \$8.3 million for a new admin block, bringing better disability access to Lawnton State School—something I have been fighting alongside the school community to secure since I became its elected representative in 2017. Lawnton State School is over 50 years old and it really has needed some TLC. I am so pleased to build on our delivery of a new hall with this awesome new funding news.

The roll out of air conditioning and solar for all our state schools continues in this budget. I am sure there are teachers and students out there this week wishing the air conditioning was already done, and luckily in some schools it is. For those still sweltering, hang in there. It will happen over the next school year and a half.

Families in Burpengary on the border of my electorate and the Bancroft electorate will also be pleased to see planning start for a new school in Burpengary East. I want to give a shout-out here to the fabulous work that the team at Burpengary State School does. In fact, its P&C has just taken out the P&C of the Year award for the second year running.

Mr Whiting interjected.

Mr KING: It is. This budget also gets the ball rolling on a funding program that will deliver \$50,000 for disability access at Narangba State School and \$200,000 for outdoor learning and general upgrades at Jinibara State School—great commitments I was able to make during the election period.

The good news continues. For those who have finished school or are on vocational education journeys, there is more than a billion dollars in the 2020-21 Queensland state budget for training and skills initiatives. We are committed to preparing Queenslanders for the jobs of the future, and this has never been more important than now as we recover from this global pandemic.

As an electrician by trade, I know how important it is to fund a range of pathways to jobs. That is why I am proud to say that we are investing \$21 million to extend free TAFE and free apprenticeships to Queenslanders under 25; over \$32 million over two years for the TAFE Priority Skills Fund; \$25 million over two years for pre-apprenticeship support; \$8 million over two years for the Social Enterprise Jobs Fund; \$5 million over two years for the First Nations Training Strategy; \$5 million in 2020-21 for the Workforce Transition Support Program; \$16½ million for the establishment of Manufacturing Skills Queensland; and \$100 million in TAFE facilities across the state.

Labor has always believed in a strong TAFE system and this budget reinforces that. I have said this before and I will say it again today: in my electorate of Kurwongbah there are infrastructure projects everywhere you look. Thanks to strong investment across the past five Labor budgets, the Lawnton park and ride is almost open; the long awaited Petrie intersection upgrade project tender will soon be awarded; we have delivered safety improvements along Dayboro Road, including at the Vores Road intersection in Whiteside; and we will soon have a new \$41 million Dakabin Station—yay!

In Burpengary work is full steam ahead on the Bruce Highway interchange at New Settlement and Deception Bay roads, and I know my colleague, the member for Bancroft, is as excited as I am about that. This is a project that locals have been waiting a long time to see. I have also said this before, but it is worth putting on the record again: because of the cuts in the Newman LNP government—cuts that we are still recovering from—funding for this highway project was taken out of QTRIP so when federal members in my area describe this project as overdue I could not agree more. It took a state Labor government to finally fund the state component, with further funds included in this budget.

We have also committed to upgrading the Burpengary train station—news that has made my constituents very happy. That is another very old station. I thank the Minister for Transport for helping me to achieve this upgrade for local commuters. I look forward to seeing the planning work start on this project soon. This budget also locks in funding for many of our Works for Queensland commitments

and our Unite and Recover Community Stimulus Package. In my area we have scored well. We have new amenities for Narangba Rangers footy club; an upgrade and extension to Ron Thomason Park in Lawnton; and new tennis courts at the Harris Avenue Sports Complex in Narangba.

Further, this budget provides the remainder of funding for new change rooms for the mighty Pine Rivers Bears. I know the club is really looking forward to seeing this project become a reality. I thank the Moreton Bay Regional Council for partnering with us here. These infrastructure projects are creating hundreds of jobs, putting money back into our local economy and helping us to unite and recover for Queensland.

The Deputy Speaker has reviewed and approved my speech for incorporation so I ask that the remainder of my speech is incorporated into the *Record of Proceedings*.

The speech read as follows—

Jobs.

Speaker, The creation of jobs is one of our most important tasks as a government, and it was great to hear recently that 205,000 jobs lost at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic have come back online since May. That is a remarkable recovery in Queensland. And part of this success must be attributed to our government's investment in helping small business pull through with: \$1 billion in interest free/low interest business loans; payroll tax relief; a Backing Queensland Business Investment Fund to support businesses that need capital to create jobs; \$400 million in land tax relief; \$196 million for Small Business COVID-19 Adaption Grants, including up to \$10,000 each for 50 small businesses in my electorate of Kurwongbah; \$100 million in electricity bill rebates; And we've introduced a target of 25 per cent of all government purchases to be from Queensland small and medium size businesses from July 1, and a target of 30 per cent by June 2022.

This budget continues our commitment to the sector through a new \$140 million Big Plans for Small Business strategy.

Other initiatives.

The final points I want to touch on today are funding commitments that mean a lot to our communities. In fact Speaker, in some cases this funding might be the difference between life and death. That is: \$12m for new police in line with our 2025 more police personnel by 2025 commitment; \$4 million for new police resources; \$680,000 to begin the rollout of 25 new mobile police beat vans across the state; over \$4 million to continue Project Booyah, an early intervention program for at risk youth; and to expand the RESPECT program into schools; \$5 million for Safe Night Precincts; almost \$1 million for Meals on Wheels; \$152 million for Women and Violence Prevention; more than \$1 billion to tackle housing and homelessness issues; \$18.9 million for Neighbourhood and Community Centres; over \$1.9 billion to the NDIS; over \$1.4 billion for Child Protection; \$36 million over four years to Surf Lifesaving Queensland; and \$858 million for Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, with priorities including: increasing frontline capacity by more than 15 per cent over five years; new fleet equipment; new fire stations in high growth areas.

My wife is a volunteer firey and with bushfire season upon us already, I'm relieved to know that this investment means all of our fireys can protect us with more of the resources they need to do their jobs as safely as possible.

Conclusion.

Speaker, our government has a plan to unite and recover across Queensland. We will continue to protect Queenslanders, partner with business (big and small) to drive investment in our state and we'll fund job creating, economy boosting projects. Across my electorate of Kurwongbah, projects with new or continued funding in this budget are already creating and sustaining thousands of jobs. I look forward to building on this momentum as we farewell the year of the 'rona' and welcome in 2021. While the risks of this virus are still real and we only have to look south for the proof of that we won't take our foot off the pedal when it comes to our economic recovery. And Speaker we absolutely won't compromise when it comes to protecting the health of Queenslanders, especially our most vulnerable. I am proud to be part of a re-elected Palaszczuk Labor government. And I am proud to give my support to another strong Labor budget. Speaker, I commend this bill to the House.