



Speech By  
**Adrian Tantari**

**MEMBER FOR HERVEY BAY**

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## **APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) (2020-2021) BILL**

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#### **Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)**

##### **Appropriation (2020-2021) Bill**

##### **Economics and Governance Committee, Report**

 **Mr TANTARI** (Hervey Bay—ALP) (12.27 pm): I rise in support of report No. 3 that has been tabled on the estimates hearing of the Economics and Governance Committee. Being my first estimates hearing that I attended as a new member, I was impressed by the level of detail in the responses to the hearing's questions by the Premier, the Treasurer and the minister in covering their budget 2020-21 service delivery statements. It was abundantly clear in reading the report that the Premier's leadership in responding swiftly to meet the challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic through the government's strong economic recovery plan ensured the greater community responded swiftly to meet the threat to our way of life in Queensland.

The initiatives outlined in the report were supported by a robust and appropriate budget that was led and drafted by the excellent work of the Treasurer in working across government to develop the COVID-19 response measures and the delivery of the economic recovery initiatives. A number of those initiatives have had a huge impact on moving our state forward—in particular the electorate of Hervey Bay—towards a strong economic recovery by supporting investments in Queensland's capacity, by supporting frontline services in health, education and community services, and by investing in our schools and in more jobs.

The Economics and Governance Committee were further informed about how under the government's Unite and Recover for Queensland Jobs plan Queensland and Hervey Bay have begun bouncing back by creating more jobs like those in local governments. These are local jobs that are keeping families safe and strong. These program initiatives alone show how the Palaszczuk Labor government has targeted its focus on the things that really matter in these unprecedented times—that is, returning people to work quickly and safely.

For instance, in the Hervey Bay electorate the Treasurer noted programs like the COVID Works for Queensland program have accelerated the creation of much needed jobs by upgrading recreational facilities and renewing community infrastructure so badly neglected by those opposite when they were last in government. Further initiatives like the Back to Work regional employment package have supported around 1,019 jobs in my area through funding of over \$10 million to date, with further commitments in the 2020-21 budget year for the Hervey Bay electorate and the Fraser Coast.

On the health front, the government's Building Better Hospitals initiatives was a key priority for the Palaszczuk government which will help address growing demand by enhancing public hospital services in adding to the delivery of new health infrastructure in Hervey Bay.

Tourism has an enormous impact on the financial wellbeing of Queensland and, as noted by the minister during the estimates hearing, is one of the top employment sectors. Tourism is vital to the future and long-term growth of the Hervey Bay electorate. Many small businesses rely on tourism to survive. This report outlines many initiatives that the Palaszczuk government will roll out to support this vital economic sector for Queensland and the Hervey Bay electorate.

Initiatives supporting the tourism industry's recovery through targeted initiatives include a \$25 million Growing Tourism Infrastructure Fund and a \$25 million Queensland Tourism Icons Program as well as a \$15 million Aviation Recovery Fund, part of which has planes flying into Hervey Bay from Sydney again. This has come online just in time for our world famous whale-watching season. I would like to thank the minister for his earlier supportive words around this.

Other areas of the report highlight many more initiatives including the safe return and restart of play in the areas of sport and recreation. Many further initiatives came out of the report that are driving strong economic recovery in Queensland, and I will highlight just a few: delivering and implementing the COVID-19 fiscal and economic review and the 2020-21 and 2021-22 Queensland budgets; and delivering the \$7 million Growing Indigenous Tourism in Queensland grant fund and Our Country Indigenous Tourism Development Service. There was also collaboration on options to achieve the government's 50 per cent renewable energy target and on-water security measures as well as implementing payroll tax deductions to help stimulate business in regional Queensland, assisting many businesses across the state of Queensland. Other initiatives included: administering COVID-19 tax relief messages for payroll tax and land tax, which was critical in keeping businesses in the Hervey Bay electorate afloat during the pandemic; and supporting major private sector investment by providing tailored project facilitation services.

In closing, I would like to thank the committee chair, the member for Logan; the committee deputy chair, the member for Mermaid Beach; the committee members; and in particular the committee secretariat for their tireless and diligent work in preparing for the estimates process and ensuring the appropriate level of accountability and scrutiny was applied to these hearings.

Finally, I would like to congratulate the Premier, the Treasurer and the Minister for Tourism Industry Development and Minister for Sport for their work on their portfolio areas and for ensuring that the 2020-21 budget delivered for the people of the Hervey Bay electorate and for the people of Queensland at a time when they need it most. The Palaszczuk government is keeping Queenslanders safe and, as outlined previously, this means job creation is continuing—

*(Time expired)*