



Speech By  
**Bruce Saunders**


**MEMBER FOR MARYBOROUGH**

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Record of Proceedings, 17 June 2021

**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL**

**APPROPRIATION BILL**

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (5.33 pm): I rise to support the appropriation bill, the fantastic budget brought down on Tuesday by the Treasurer. This budget is a massive budget for the Maryborough electorate. We will start off talking trains. Everyone knows I love talking trains. There is \$600 million to start the first batch of trains for the Cross River Rail project. We hear those from across the other side saying, 'Cross River Rail is no good,' but when you talk about the Cross River Rail trains, there is a supply chain right throughout regional Queensland. There are jobs being created in regional Queensland—in Townsville, Rockhampton, Maryborough and Ipswich. That is what this train is all about. It is a Queensland train manufactured in Maryborough. Unfortunately, those opposite do not get it. They do not get that the Cross River Rail project is very good for regional Queensland. There is \$600 million to start it off and also a train manufacturing facility. The Palaszczuk government has made Maryborough the train-building capital of Australia. We build the best trains in Australia, if not the world. There is a great skill base in Maryborough to build the trains.

It is like the old Hedgehoppers Anonymous song, 'It's good news week ...'—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Lui): Order!

**Mr SAUNDERS:** I will continue. I will talk about the new train station, a \$12.4 million investment at Maryborough West. This is brilliant for the whole of the Fraser Coast because when you come up on the tilt train, made in Maryborough, to go on holidays at the Fraser Coast, you will be able to get off at a brand new rail station which will be delivered by the Palaszczuk Labor government. That is what we are doing; we are reinvesting in regional Queensland. The whole of this budget is about making sure that we are keeping jobs in regional Queensland. It is all about jobs in regional Queensland.

The education minister could be the 'Queen of Maryborough' when we look at what is happening with education in Maryborough. Albert School is a very special school, being one of the oldest schools in Maryborough. The Governor went to the Albert School; his father was the principal there. The minister is giving money to upgrade Albert School. Aldridge State High School, Brooweena State School, Granville State School, Parke State School—these are all small schools. The minister has listened to me and we are investing money in these smaller schools, including Tiaro State School, St Helens State School and the Tinana State School.

We care about education on this side of the House, and we make sure that the facilities are up to standard. That is what this education minister has done. We are giving the teachers the wherewithal to turn out the children for the next jobs in this state; that is what we are doing. I would like to thank the minister on behalf of the Maryborough community and particularly the P&C associations I talk to, that are very happy with what is happening with education in the Maryborough electorate.

Then we talk roadworks. I might be here for the next hour because we are talking about a lot of roadworks—a lot of roadworks in the Maryborough electorate! You know when your government is good when people are pulling you up and saying, 'Hey, tell that minister to stop doing roadworks, please.' We have a lot of roadworks happening! The roadworks outlined in this budget are absolutely phenomenal for the electorate. We start with the Tiaro bypass. There is money there to start the consultation and the design work. The minister has listened. We had to drag, and I mean physically drag, the federal member to talk to the Deputy Prime Minister to get the money. We still do not know when the money is coming. We know they have promised it, but we do not have a date. We have put the money in this budget to start the planning and consultation about the four lanes around Tiaro, which is great.

We also have money for the Pialba-Burrum Heads Road intersection, an intersection that is probably the busiest in the Wide Bay. We will start working with the federal government. The federal member for Hinkler said to me, 'I am giving you the money—2024.' I said, 'No, come on, mate. We need that money a bit earlier. This intersection now is very busy.' He is thinking about bringing the money earlier for us, but at the moment it is in the 2024 federal government budget. Our money is there now to start work. I ask both federal members, while they are in Canberra, to go and knock on some doors and get some money and bring it forward for both the projects.

A record health budget once again with \$724 million for the Wide Bay Health and Hospital Service. As we have an ageing population, we thank very much the health minister for working with the member for Bundaberg to make sure we have adequate health services across the WBHHS. There is more good news today—

**Ms Boyd:** It doesn't stop!

**Mr SAUNDERS:** I will take that interjection from the member for Pine Rivers. It does not stop for the Maryborough electorate because this Palaszczuk government is delivering for regional Queensland in spades.

Minister de Brenni today announced energy rebates to support regional farmers and employers. The biggest foundry on the east coast of Australia is in the Maryborough electorate. I have worked well with the minister. He has done a fantastic job. I had meetings with him, he listened, he spoke to the foundry people, he spoke to the other stakeholders and the AMWU who represent the workers, and the result is a good result for Maryborough with 125 jobs to stay in the city. The foundry will stay. This is what this government does—we listen. The minister is in the House. The minister's door was open all the time for me. Every time I approached the minister, he sat me down, we talked and looked at it, and he understood the value of this foundry to my community. Thank you, Minister, I really appreciate the work you have done for the workers at the foundry.

Quite obviously, this is a great budget. It is very good for the Maryborough electorate. It is very good for Queenslanders. I hear those on the other side say that no-one in Queensland wanted it. They should get out of their rooms and start getting onto the streets. I commend the bills to the House.