



Speech By  
**Cynthia Lui**


**MEMBER FOR COOK**

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Record of Proceedings, 17 June 2021

## **APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL**

### **APPROPRIATION BILL**

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (9.00 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2021. Before I do I would like to pay tribute to my dear friend Duncan Pegg, Pegg, Peggy or DP, as I called him. It is different this budget not having him around to cheer me on. Duncan loved budget speeches. I loved how he would walk in with his scribbled notes on a piece of paper, multiple pages of past speeches and newspaper articles with sections highlighted and sometimes looking somewhat disorganised. Then he would get up and deliver the most structured speech mixed with passion and humour. As much as I miss not seeing him in action this budget, I know he is up there somewhere making commentaries about the proceedings in the House. I send my condolences to DP's family, his parents, Graham and Lindsey, and his brothers.

I would like to acknowledge the Treasurer, Cameron Dick, for delivering an outstanding budget, a good, strong budget that delivers directly to the heart of Queensland. This budget demonstrates the Palaszczuk government's strong commitment to Queenslanders through our strong health response and plan for economic recovery. This is a sensible budget that comes off the back of this government's strong health response to the global pandemic. Unlike those opposite, we on this side of the House have a plan for economic recovery, and this budget proves it is working. I echo the Treasurer's words that when you protect the health of your people, jobs will grow. This budget recognises the need for growth in the wake of the pandemic, and we are investing in vital infrastructure and services to support jobs now and into the future as we continue to recover economically.

When I was first elected in 2017 to represent the Cook electorate I made a promise to my community that I would fight hard to represent them in parliament. It is wonderful to see investment allocated in this budget to support services and deliver better roads and vital infrastructure projects. The vastness of my electorate highlights just how critical it is to deliver quality health care and how important it is to have the right infrastructure and resources in place to meet the ongoing needs and demands of every community in the most remote parts of Queensland. The presence of COVID-19 in any one of my vulnerable remote communities would have been devastating.

This record health budget delivers for Queensland and, more specifically, it delivers for Cairns and for Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service. I welcome the \$1.81 billion investment for the Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service, which covers Mareeba and Mossman in my electorate, representing an increase of 62 per cent. The Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service will receive \$250 million, representing an increase of 45.5 per cent. This is a far cry from the devastating track record that Campbell Newman and the LNP left behind: 14,000 public sector jobs, including nurses and doctors, cut with no second thought to the impact on service delivery. Those opposite like to come in here and make a lot of noise about health, but one thing is for certain: Queensland will never forget the LNP legacy of savage cuts to our health sector jobs.

When it comes to health, we not only talk the talk; we walk the walk. In the Torres Strait we are building a brand new primary healthcare facility on Mer Island with upgrades to primary healthcare centres at Masig, Poruma, Ugar, Dauan, St Pauls and Thursday Island. Not too long ago work commenced on the redevelopment of the Thursday Island Hospital, which I had the pleasure to visit recently with the Minister for Health, Yvette D'Ath. In the northern peninsula area, our health investment will allow for the replacement of the existing roof and associated infrastructure at Bamaga Hospital. This budget allows for the implementation of a remote building management system that monitors generators, vaccine fridges, morgue fridges and the incoming power supply at Northern Primary Health Care Centre. The Weipa Integrated Health Service will receive much needed funds for the refurbishment of a birthing suite, bringing maternity services closer to home as well as compliance and redundancy works for the chiller and heating, ventilation and air-conditioning system that will enhance service delivery. I visited the Weipa Integrated Health Service back in March where I got to meet with health staff and patients alike. I got to hear how this wonderful, world-class facility is contributing to staff and patient health and wellbeing across the board.

Our children deserve quality education no matter where they live in Queensland. This government investment of \$51.2 million for the Far North Queensland region will give schools greater capacity to maintain, improve and upgrade their facilities. I am delighted with the \$16.78 million education budget into schools in my electorate, demonstrating this government's commitment to deliver quality education to children in regional and remote areas. We on this side of the House know that by investing in our children we are investing in our future. From the Torres Strait to Cape York, Mossman to Mareeba, we are prioritising upgrades and refurbishments, maintenance costs, additional amenities and learning spaces; improving water supply; and installing disabled amenities and accessible walkways.

Who can resist talking about roads? Roads is one topic that has grown on me over the years, knowing how critical it is to deliver safe and reliable roads for road users travelling the vast region of Far North Queensland. While on the subject, I would like to acknowledge the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Mark Bailey, for his support in delivering vital road projects in my electorate. I would also like to acknowledge his ministerial staff in the department for the wonderful way they support the work that I do in my electorate.

The Speaker has reviewed and approved my budget speech for incorporation and, as such, I ask that the remainder of my speech be incorporated into the *Record of Proceedings*.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Hart): I confirm that the Speaker or Deputy Speaker has approved your speech for incorporation. It will be done.

*The speech read as follows—*

Speaker, when it comes to housing, I am absolutely delighted with this government bold announcement of \$1.9 billion over 4 years. People in Queensland want safe and affordable housing options, people in Cook want safe and affordable housing options. This record housing budget shows that this government is listening and delivering directly to housing needs of the most vulnerable in this state.

The \$203.3 million investment for Social Housing and \$14.5 million for homelessness services in FNQ will ensure that we continue to support the most vulnerable in our community with strong housing outcomes. I am pleased that places like Kowanyama, Mapoon, Napranum, NPARC, Pompuraaw, Torres Shire and Torres Strait Island Regional Council will now be able to deliver housing outcomes for their community.

Community Organization like Mareeba Community Housing will continue to support individuals through programs such as HomeStay and Street to Home, that are designed to deliver specialist homelessness services.

When it comes to local government jurisdictions, I have the absolute honor and privilege to work across multiple local government areas of both Indigenous and non-Indigenous councils.

Works for Queensland would have to be the most popular amongst my councils, with my Mayors constantly expressing their support for this program. Works for Queensland allows council greater capacity to deliver minor infrastructure projects in their local communities.

I am thrilled that \$49.4 million has been allocated for regional councils in FNQ to undertake 111 minor infrastructure and maintenance projects. This is a big win for councils in my electorate, giving them more capacity to deliver local outcomes in community.

That's not all. We are seeing huge investments into community safety, small business, training and the arts, creating opportunities that will have long lasting impact on the lives of people in regional and remote areas.

Speaker, I commend this bill to the house.