




Speech By
Jason Hunt

MEMBER FOR CALOUNDRA

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APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

 **Mr HUNT** (Caloundra—ALP) (12.35 am): I rise to speak in support of the appropriation bills for 2021-22. What a marvellous budget our Treasurer has set before the people of Queensland. The Queensland economy is in excellent condition because that is precisely where the Palaszczuk Labor government has positioned it. Growth of 3.25 per cent is double the national growth figure. Considering where we were 12 months ago, that is incredibly impressive. We have seen more jobs created than ever before and, lo and behold, the unemployment rate has dropped 0.7 per cent to be back where it was pre COVID, at 5.4 per cent. Again I remark: what a beautifully crafted plan for the future this is.

This is not luck. This is not coincidence. This is not chance. This is the result of the Premier standing firm and making all the correct calls in the face of ill-informed and often asinine criticisms from many quarters, the Queensland LNP and our Prime Minister chief among them. We could not forget that the LNP petitioned to open the borders mid pandemic. We will never be able to forget the advertisement that read 'We flattened the curve. Stop flattening the economy' as they sought to disregard the science—over and over again. By far the most ridiculous cart-before-the-horse logic that I hear repeated time and time again by the LNP is the torturous line that 'COVID numbers are small; therefore, it can't possibly be having an impact on QHealth or the budget'. COVID-19 numbers in Queensland are small because we have directed so much time, energy and money into combating the pandemic and will continue to do so as long as the health and wellbeing of Queenslanders, especially our older Queenslanders, is at stake. This seems to be lost on the LNP.

Queensland's health response has been so comprehensive and so magnificent that we are now outperforming the national economy and the economy of the other larger eastern seaboard states. Indeed, the residents of many other states are voting with their feet, in line with the voting intentions of Queenslanders in 2020. They are backing this government's handling of both the pandemic and the economy and are flocking here in droves.

Access to a good quality and comprehensive education is quite simply a golden stairway to opportunity. It can lift those from even the most modest backgrounds into a better place and leads to a cascade of opportunity for successive generations. As far as investment in education goes, this Labor government has absolutely outdone itself in the electorate of Caloundra. There will be over \$50 million in education spending in the seat of Caloundra. I say that again: \$50 million of investment in education in the electorate of Caloundra.

The brand new school in Nirimba is to be accompanied by upgrades to almost every state school in the electorate. I mention Golden Beach State School tuckshop and prep rooms. Special congratulation goes to Kellie Morris from the Golden Beach P&C for her advocacy in this space. Caloundra State School will have the first allocation of funding for a brand new school hall. Baringa State Secondary College will get a new visual arts facility, a new three-storey general learning block

and an expansion to the science block. There will be further upgrades for Glenview State School, Beerwah State High School, Beerwah State School and Landsborough State School, not to mention funding for the planning of the proposed ambulance station in Caloundra South.

I have heard from the LNP that there is in fact no money in this budget and that the cupboard is bare—smoke and mirrors, we are being told. That being the case, I look forward to welcoming the Minister for Education to Caloundra in the coming weeks to show her the imaginary schools that she has caused to be built and the imaginary upgrades that have started in the other schools.

I further look forward to meeting the Minister for Transport and Main Roads as we tour the works of the imaginary Bells Creek Arterial Road and, if we have time, I will show him the imaginary traffic lights at Ridgewood Road—a set of traffic lights that, imaginary or otherwise, the LNP could not deliver despite 116 years representing the electorate. Over a century and traffic lights were apparently too much to ask. Most of all, I welcome the massive cash injection matching the Mooloolah River interchange—that is, \$160 million to match the federal spending. Not only is that a fantastic investment in the Sunshine Coast; it has the dual function of demonstrating how very little the LNP did in this space of road infrastructure on the Sunshine Coast when last in government but, when it cut \$1.6 billion from the road and transport budget, that is hardly surprising.

I hear LNP members on the Sunshine Coast chatting about the lack of attention to their respective electorates, so I feel compelled to mention the gigantic effort they put into Caloundra in 2012. On the verge of winning the greatest majority in the history of Queensland, so great was their commitment to Caloundra that they almost delivered a closed circuit television camera for the Caloundra CBD—almost, but not quite. That was Caloundra's reward for voting for the LNP for 110 years—a near miss on a CCTV camera.

In closing, I cannot help but comment on the Gordian knot of the LNP's own making, a position so contrary it almost defies description. According to the opposition, we need to borrow more money for Queensland while simultaneously borrowing less money for Queensland. I cannot help but mention the LNP's incredible logic when it was looking at the overcrowding in Queensland's jails. As it started to spike in 2012, its incredibly intelligent solution was to close a jail because nothing solves the problem of lack of bed space like creating a lack of bed space. It is like a bad script from a bad sitcom. This budget has delivered for Caloundra and has certainly delivered for Queensland. The economic indicators tell the tale. I commend the Appropriation Bill to the House.