




Speech By
Jessica Pugh

MEMBER FOR MOUNT OMMANEY

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APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (2.27 pm): Madam Deputy Speaker, it is budget week and I will give you one guess what I want to talk about first. Of course it is the Jindalee Bridge on the Centenary Motorway. After announcing the project with the Premier and my good friend Milton Dick, the member for Oxley, last year, it was great to get an update on the project recently from Transport and Main Roads engineers. This project will cost over \$244 million in total. It is a fifty-fifty state and federal project. Of that total funding envelope, over \$20 million has already been spent by the Palaszczuk government on the business case and the detailed design work. The \$112 million of funding coming from the state government will be forthcoming over the coming years and construction is due to start next year. My community cannot wait! I know that the suburbs all the way through to Ipswich are equally excited about this project.

As I have said before, the western suburbs, in addition to being a wonderful place to live, are also an employment hub—from advanced manufacturing, innovation and light industry through to food like Bhuja snacks. That is right—those fantastic Bhuja snacks are manufactured in the electorate of Mount Ommaney. I know members would be familiar with them because you can buy them in most major retail stores. There are so many great jobs in Mount Ommaney. It is no wonder our motorway needs upgrading. Many of the jobs in private industry are also due to the fact that these companies are sometimes Queensland government suppliers. In fact, over 90 per cent of product for Transport and Main Roads projects, like the Centenary Motorway, in Queensland are manufactured in Queensland, keeping locals in my electorate in jobs.

I previously mentioned the Spacer Company, a local company in my electorate that supplies many Transport and Main Roads projects right throughout Queensland with little devices called spacers. The Spacer Company is just one of the many Mount Ommaney businesses that benefits from our Buy Queensland policy, of which I am an unashamed promoter and supporter. I understand that every year the Queensland government spends well in excess of \$100 million on procurement in the electorate of Mount Ommaney. That is an awful lot of spacers.

Buy Queensland is the Palaszczuk government's commitment to put Queenslanders, Queensland workers and Queensland businesses first—businesses like Photograde, which has had a Queensland Mines Inspectorate contract for over 10 years. Through the QTenders portal, any Queensland business can, and should, sign up to supply the Queensland government with their products. The Queensland government is the largest procurement agency in Queensland. Wherever possible, our dollars should be spent with Queensland businesses. This policy creates jobs. It means Queensland businesses need to put on more staff, helping the Queensland economy build back better after COVID-19. Yesterday we got the truly wonderful news that the Queensland unemployment rate has dropped to 5.4 per cent—way ahead of where we had hoped to be at this time. This is against the

backdrop of a global pandemic and an increased participation rate. The Palaszczuk government is also helping businesses grow with grants like the Ignite Ideas Fund, Made in Queensland and our fabulous Buy Queensland Procurement Policy.

I will conclude my contribution today by reflecting on the \$200,000 in funding that was allocated to Kuraby State School. As members would be aware, this is not in my electorate; it is in fact in the electorate of Stretton, represented until last week by my very good mate, Duncan Pegg. I visited this particular school with Duncan when he was newly elected and I was his assistant electorate officer. Duncan loved visiting schools. On this day we visited the school assembly and he handed out certificates to the kids. He was really proud to do so, and he was so proud of their pride in their fantastic state education. He was proud because their efforts showed how proud these kids were of their school. I know that Duncan cared so deeply about his community and worked so hard every single day to get what was best for his community. He never stopped.

I know that towards the end he thought about who the best person would be to continue this hard work in Stretton. I know that he believed his great mate, James Martin, would do a wonderful job in hitting the ground running because he has been working in the Stretton community for years. I want to say congratulations and well done to Duncan for securing that funding. I commend the bills to the House.