




Speech By
Joan Pease

MEMBER FOR LYTTON

Record of Proceedings, 18 June 2021

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (4.51 pm): I, too, would like to echo the words of many members in this House who have acknowledged the great Duncan Pegg and thank him for his dedication to our great Australian Labor Party, to his community and to his family and friends. He was a great colleague and a great advocate for everyone in his community and he worked tirelessly, so he will be sadly missed. Rest in peace, Duncan.

It is really great to stand today to speak about a great Labor budget. I want to begin by acknowledging and thanking the Treasurer and his staff because I know that such an undertaking is a big ask, so I thank him for the great work that he has done. The world is inching towards a new normal and 2021 is the year of the vaccination, and, like many, I have had my jab. Queenslanders have followed the expert advice, done the right thing and worked together. I saw my baysiders rally. We have connected, helped and supported each other and we are ready and stronger, and I thank them for this. The Palaszczuk Labor government gets it and we are on your side, and it is clear that the Queensland economic recovery plan is working. This plan recognised and acknowledged the issues that are important to all Queenslanders and all baysiders.

We also know that when we protect the health of Queenslanders then jobs will grow. The importance of exceptional health care and hospitals, schools that educate our kids for jobs of the future, safer roads and the importance of social and community support are the cornerstone of Labor values. This budget strengthens the core values of the Palaszczuk Labor government—health care, education, infrastructure, renewables and jobs. It is a true Labor budget. We are building more schools, we are building better roads and a workforce for tomorrow. We are equipping Queenslanders with the skills they need to succeed and unlocking the opportunities our state requires to grow and flourish. This budget is about jobs. It is about working with communities, businesses and industries across Queensland to create jobs and to recover. It is responding to the needs of Queenslanders setting out a clear economic plan—growing innovation, attracting investment and building infrastructure. It responds to the needs of Queenslanders and baysiders because everybody and every business matters.

With an eye to the future, the Palaszczuk government has allocated record education funding across the state, and bayside kids are really benefiting with Darling Point Special School receiving \$6 million and Manly State School receiving \$2.2 million for additional classrooms. Manly State School is also in line for a further \$500,000 for playground upgrades, with Manly West State School, Wondall Heights State School and Wynnum West State School all receiving funding for a range of projects including outside of school hours care amenities, playgrounds and other amenity upgrades. There is also \$850,000 allocated for maintenance across 11 bayside schools. This \$10.2 million commitment in the bayside to education will improve our education outcomes for teachers and students and create job opportunities for local tradies. It ensures that we are inspiring creativity, critical thinking and building resilience for every bayside student, and I reckon that report card is an A-plus, so thank you, Minister Grace.

I love the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program because I know how successful this program is and I am thrilled that this budget has announced \$320 million to continue the Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative. BABI, our fabulous youth and family services organisation, is one local provider that has delivered Get Set for Work in the bayside, and these programs have seen over 300 young people assisted. Let us not forget the wonderful free TAFE program which has assisted 322 baysiders, 64 of whom are now in an apprenticeship.

Lights, camera, action: star spotting has become a favourite pastime in the bayside. Following a bumpy year for Queensland film, television and games production, the Palaszczuk government is injecting a further \$71 million as part of the state's economic recovery plan to continue growing Queensland's booming screen industry. Our very own Screen Queensland Studios—or what we baysiders like to call 'Hollywood in Hemmant'—has been an amazing success, creating over 1,000 jobs for actors, hairdressers, crew, caterers, makeup artists, tradies, extras and so many more.

The Palaszczuk government is investing \$2 million in the screen finance program to create screen projects and career pathways. There is a further \$5 million investment to support growth of the post, digital and visual effects industry by offering one of Australia's most attractive incentives to generate expenditure and jobs. This is attracting interstate and international productions to Hemmant, creating jobs, stimulating our economy and upskilling our local industry. With productions like *Young Rock* and *Joe Exotic* as well as *Love and Monsters*—which, might I add, is an Academy Award nominee for the VFX award—it is no wonder it is such a sought after location.

The Palaszczuk government understands that your family and your family's health is important. The great news for Lytton baysiders is that the budget makes a \$22 billion commitment to Queenslanders' health needs. Casuarina Lodge, our fabulous facility at Wynnum West, is receiving over \$600,000 for construction projects to improve facilities. The past 18 months have shown us that Queensland's frontline services keep us safe. The Palaszczuk government recognises this and since 2015 has increased Queensland's number of nurses by 30 per cent and the number of doctors by 36 per cent because we are always looking to enhance our frontline services. I understand and sympathise with how the last 18 months has been hard on my community, because I get it and I am always on their side.

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

The speech read as follows—

Small businesses are the core of our economic recovery and jobs, the Palaszczuk Labor Government is responsive—\$140 million towards the Big Plans for Small Business Strategy, \$30 million allocated to increase small business capabilities through grants and other support and a revitalized Back to Work program to enable small business to employ people looking to re-enter the labour market. \$100 million is allocated to the Business Investment Fund to support small and medium size businesses to innovate and create more jobs and the facilitation of co-investment opportunities from \$2.5 million to \$10 million. Having previously owned a small business I know how crucial this support is to small business. Business owners have faced the challenge of the century and the Palaszczuk Government is helping them bounce back.

Building for the future, the Government is forging a wide range of infrastructure projects and delivering \$52.2 million, which includes \$40 million for Lindum train station for planning, accessibility upgrade and park 'n' ride. These capital works infrastructure projects are creating 46,500 jobs in Queensland.

In that bright future we need good and safe housing, so the Government has allocated \$1 billion for establishing a new Housing Investment Fund to boost housing supply and \$1.9 billion over four years by the Housing and Homelessness Action Plan through increased social housing supply. Baysiders have benefited with \$1,470,000 in funding being allocated to the Wynnum Community Rent Scheme and \$514,000 to Wynnum Homelessness Base—BABI.

Latest economic data shows that household spending, dwelling approvals, dwelling investment, construction starts, all growing faster than the rest of Australia.

Data just in from the Australian Bureau of Statistics in particular show that the Economic Recovery Plan is working. The unemployment rate in Queensland posted the largest fall in the nation, falling to 5.4%—now below its pre-COVID level.

Employment increased by 32,300 last month—more than 1,000 jobs created every day. Queensland is now 84,900 jobs above its pre-COVID level in March last year—the highest in the nation. And the Queensland labour market did all of this while the participation rate—the share of people in work or seeking work—increased to 66.6%, almost half a percentage point above the national average.

The Palaszczuk Government has added 337,400 jobs since we came to office. And our Budget continues that good work.

Our domestic economy by 3% over the past 12 months, one-and-a-half times more than the national economy at just 1.9%.

We have created more jobs since the depths of the pandemic than anywhere else in Australia. Queensland has added 253,200 jobs since May 2020—more than any other state or territory. There are 54,900 more jobs in Queensland now than there were before the pandemic—again, more than any other state or territory.

The Palaszczuk Government follows the advice of the medical experts and the advice of the Reserve Bank, understands Queensland and Queenslanders and responds with a clear and present purpose—let's get back to business, let's create jobs and let's look after each other. I commend the Bill to the House.