




Speech By
Hon. Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 17 June 2021

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (4.54 pm): The Palaszczuk government governs for all Queenslanders, no matter where they live. We govern for all Queenslanders by providing the services, the frontline staff and the infrastructure and, significantly, by supporting the jobs that all Queenslanders deserve. This budget is proudly a Labor budget. It invests in jobs, infrastructure and services. It provides opportunities for Queenslanders and it builds stronger, better, safer communities. It also provides big investments across police, corrective services and fire and emergency services. I will return to those investments in a moment.

First and foremost, this budget makes big investments in the Morayfield state electorate, the great community that I represent in this parliament. In relation to the provision of health and hospital services, the Palaszczuk government is delivering a \$400 million redevelopment of Caboolture Hospital, including the construction of a six-storey car park. In addition, the Palaszczuk government is progressing the delivery of the Caboolture satellite hospital and an additional \$4 million for a 24/7 ambulance station for the community which will be located at Morayfield. All of these investments will support the employment of more doctors, nurses, health professionals and paramedics in our community.

There is also significant investment in education facilities and resources in the Morayfield state electorate. Across the Moreton Bay region, almost \$1.7 million has been committed for minor works at local schools and over \$5.1 million is allocated for local school maintenance. I am excited to see that this budget will progress over \$13 million of new classrooms at Caboolture State High School; finalise the delivery of new classrooms and a joint hall facility at Lee Street State Special School and a new hall at Morayfield State High School; and build a new safety security fence at Morayfield State School.

There is also investment in transport infrastructure, justice services, community safety, employment and training opportunities and, importantly, jobs for local people. The people of the Morayfield state electorate are big winners out of this budget, and I am very proud of what this budget will deliver for them.

Turning to my portfolio responsibilities, as I mentioned earlier, this budget supports big investments across the portfolios of police, corrective services and fire and emergency services. At this point, I would like to note that the Speaker has reviewed and approved my budget speech for incorporation. As such, I ask that the remainder of my speech is incorporated into the *Record of Proceedings*.

The speech read as follows—

Corrective services

In the case of Corrective Services, this budget delivers big time.

More than \$1 billion is allocated to Queensland Corrective Services for 2021-22, an increase of \$32.2 million on the last financial year.

A critical element of that allocation is a \$320 million investment in the Palaszczuk Government's second biggest infrastructure project—the new, expanded 1,000-bed Southern Queensland Correctional Precinct near Gatton that will boost prison capacity across the State.

The 2021-22 budget funding is part of a bigger, broader investment in the new facility, that totals more than \$650 million.

Stage Two of the Southern Queensland Correctional Precinct will transform the Lockyer Valley and deliver:

- More than 400 construction jobs over the life of the project and support up to 900 jobs at peak construction
- Over 500 permanent jobs when the new facility is operational

Speaker, this is the government building the vital infrastructure and creating the jobs that make Queensland the best place to be.

This is Queensland's plan for economic recovery in action.

With construction underway, this project is already delivering an economic boost to the region's economy, supporting the jobs of hundreds of tradies and a large number of local businesses, such as office suppliers, hardware and electrical stores, caterers, supermarkets and waste management services, all keen to benefit from this major infrastructure project.

As Lockyer Valley Mayor, Cr Tanya Milligan says:

"The funding allocated in the State Budget to continue the expansion of the Southern Queensland Correctional Precinct is testament to the State Government's ongoing commitment to job creation and economic stimulation in our region.

"Lockyer Valley residents have been reaping the benefits of the opportunity a large-scale project, right here in our own backyard brings to our community and I look forward to hearing positive stories that continue to unfold as construction progresses.

"There is no doubt this project is, and will continue to change lives—not just for those who tap into the project during construction, but for the workers who will be able to pursue a meaningful career here and the inmates who will be able to access the rehabilitation and support they need to realign their lives and reduce reoffending."

In other major infrastructure projects, the 2021-22 State Budget delivers \$20.6 million to complete the expansion at the Capricornia Correctional Centre in Rockhampton with refurbishment of the medical centre, kitchen and prisoner processing facilities.

And capacity will be further boosted with \$8 million this financial year to install up to 500 additional bunk beds in high security correctional centres across Queensland.

This budget also allocates \$2.4 million for business cases to examine and explore options to meet future capacity needs. Speaker, this is an important initiative. It is only by planning for the future that we can ensure Queensland has a Corrective Services network that is fit for purpose in future years.

The initiatives we are implementing are about enhancing safety and security across Queensland's prison facilities and they couldn't have come at a better time.

We will have delivered an extra 4,500 beds by the end of 2023.

Speaker, history beckons.

Within a matter of weeks, the Southern Queensland Correctional Centre will revert from private to public ownership.

This milestone means that all Queensland prison facilities will be publicly-owned and publicly-run for the first time in more than three decades.

Police

Speaker, when it comes to police, this government has a proud record of delivering.

We have delivered many hundreds of extra police already, and now on top of that we are in the process of making the biggest investment in the Queensland Police Service in 30 years, an investment that will deliver an extra 2,025 personnel over five years.

This week, the government delivered a record \$2.86 billion Police Budget for 2021-22 to support police in keeping communities safe across Queensland.

The Queensland Police Service has a total estimated budget in 2021-22 of \$2.86 billion, an increase of \$180.6 million or 6.7% from the last financial year.

This includes an operating budget of \$2.7 billion and a capital budget of \$156 million.

The record budget will equip the Queensland Police Service with the resources they need to do what they do best—frontline, professional policing that protects communities right across the State.

This government has delivered yet another record budget for our hard-working police backed up by tough laws that will strengthen their capacity to prevent and disrupt crime wherever it happens, whenever it happens.

This budget backs our frontline police and backs in the good work they do—protecting the community from COVID-19, keeping our vast road network safe, supporting the victims of domestic and family violence and bringing perpetrators to justice, taking tough action on outlaw motorcycle gangs and working side-by-side with other government agencies to turn youth crime statistics around.

From the dedicated officers in Taskforce Argos who rescue children from the clutches of the darknet, to the officers who conduct roadside drug tests to prevent road trauma and the officers involved in trials of metal detecting wands on the Gold Coast to disrupt knife crimes, we owe them and their police colleagues a great debt of gratitude.

Speaker, the Police Budget highlights include:

- \$156 million for police facilities, police vehicles and vessels, and equipment. This amount includes:
 - \$10 million for minor capital works across the State to enhance and modernise police facilities
 - \$1.4 million for new and replacement police QLITE tablets to enhance mobile capabilities
 - \$1.6 million towards the continuing roll out of 25 mobile police beats for a more visible police presence in communities
- Access to additional funding of up to \$68 million to support COVID-19 compliance activities to keep communities safe
- Extra funding of \$4.2 million over four years to expand and continue the Roadside Drug Testing Program to boost road safety;
- Funding to continue the electronic monitoring of adult offenders on bail;
- \$1 million for a trial of metal detecting wands on the Gold Coast to target knife crime;
- Increased funding of \$5.3 million over two years to support the tough new measures that build on the Five Point Action Plan and target the small cohort of hard-core recidivist youth offenders through the blitz on bail, the Youth Co-Responder teams and Community-based Crime Action Committees;
- \$4 million for new and replacement body worn video cameras; and
- \$4 million towards the purchase of integrated load-bearing ballistic vests for police officers—a first for Queensland.

Speaker, the \$156 million capital program will support quality frontline policing services across Queensland.

This program is important.

It's about building police infrastructure and that means jobs for workers at a time when jobs and job security are more important than ever.

Our Capital Program Highlights include:

- \$12.9 million to complete the replacement police facilities at Beaudesert, Biloela, Burketown, Nambour and Pormpuraaw;
- \$11.3 million to progress the upgrades of the Cairns, Dalby and Warwick police facilities;
- \$8.1 million to progress the new Cairns West and Ripley police facilities, complete the new Pimpama police facility and commence planning for the new Rosewood police facility;
- \$7.2 million to progress the replacement police facilities at Cooroy, Cunnamulla and Woree;
- \$6.5 million to complete the upgrade of the Aurukun police facility and commence the upgrades of the Mackay and Maryborough police facilities;
- \$1.7 million to progress the replacement police facilities at Clermont, Dayboro and Kirwan and the water police facility at Hervey Bay;
- \$40.6 million for new and replacement police vehicles;
- \$5.5 million for new and replacement police vessels;
- \$6 million for upgrades and replacements to air conditioning and closed circuit cameras at police facilities across the state;
- \$4 million for aircraft maintenance to provide aviation support for search and rescue, organ retrievals, natural disasters and police operations;
- \$10.5 million for Camera Detected Offence Program equipment; and
- \$11.3 million for information and communications technology.

Speaker, this is a significant investment in policing, an investment in community safety and an investment in the 12,000-plus police officers who work hard every day to protect us, no matter where we live in Queensland.

Fire and emergency services

This government backs all front-line emergency workers—the officers, the staff and the volunteers.

Fire and Emergency Services is being backed by \$800 million in funding.

This will underpin the disaster management capabilities of professional firefighters in the Fire and Rescue Service, Rural Fire Service volunteers and State Emergency Service volunteers.

Overall, a collective \$42.7 million over four years has been allocated towards bushfire mitigation, enhancing natural disaster predictive services, strengthening the planning, response and recovery from bushfires and disasters, along with land use and planning enhancements for bushfire management.

It's about keeping communities safe and nothing is more important than that.

Queensland experiences around 60 per cent of the nation's natural disasters and our first responders are being called on more and more to help Queenslanders when disasters strike.

Their hours are not nine to five, their job is often dangerous and for that we owe them our heartfelt gratitude.

The 2021-22 Budget includes more than double the funding from the last financial year for Rural Fire Service vehicles to provide volunteers with the state-of-the-art appliances.

Further, this budget delivers funding to provide more new vehicles for Fire and Rescue Service professional firefighters.

This marks the continuation of a six-year commitment that has delivered more than 620 Fire and Rescue Service and Rural Fire Service vehicles.

The SES will receive more than \$21 million, which is an almost 7% increase from last year and includes funding to assist with securing life-saving equipment, such as defibrillators, protective clothing and flares, and additional support for costs associated with purchasing and maintaining facilities and vehicles.

The additional \$1.4 million which is being provided to the SES will support a range of measures.

Every SES region will receive \$40,000 that can be used for operational purposes and incidentals, such as catering for volunteers and minor repairs, along with \$30,000 for SES Trainers and \$200,000 statewide for special training requirements.

\$350,000 has also been set aside for new and replacement defibrillators, with a priority roll out to ensure every SES group has a defibrillator in the first instance. Further, funding will be provided to equip every SES vehicle with a set of red and blue e-flares.

These budget initiatives are in recognition of the hard work and selfless dedication shown by SES volunteers across the State.

In addition, SES and Rural Fire Service volunteers will be further supported with the continuation of almost \$900,000 in grants.

These grants form part of the financial support volunteers receive to help them meet costs and secure the equipment they need to continue to keep communities safe.

When it comes to capital works, almost \$7 million has been allocated to complete the replacement of facilities at Gracemere, Longreach, Rainbow Beach and Rosewood, and at the new location in Mossman.

\$1.8 million will also go towards the completion of the new multi-agency complex at Maleny in the Sunshine Coast hinterland that will house Fire and Rescue Service professional firefighters, Rural Fire Service volunteers and SES personnel.

The new complex at Maleny will serve as an important hub for Sunshine Coast operations and to support swift responses to incidents.

More than \$13 million has been allocated to continue work on the construction of a new regional headquarters in Maryborough and Fire and Rescue Service facilities in Loganlea and Mt Cotton.

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services personnel will be supported with \$3.2 million in funding for operational hardware, including rescue equipment, protective clothing, communications technology and specialist tools to analyse hazardous materials.

The Palaszczuk Government backs our police, fire and emergency services, and correctives services personnel 100%. Labor Governments invest in these services and the people who deliver them on behalf of all Queenslanders. This budget does that. This budget is a very Labor budget.

I commend the Appropriation Bills and the 2021-22 Queensland State Budget to the House.