




Speech By
Nikki Boyd

MEMBER FOR PINE RIVERS

Record of Proceedings, 18 June 2021

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (4.43 pm): It is an absolute honour to rise this afternoon to speak in support of this fantastic Labor budget. I start by commending the Treasurer on such a fantastic job. This budget delivers for Queensland from end to end. You know it is a really good budget when those opposite are tying themselves in knots trying to figure out why it is a bad one. It could just be that they fundamentally cannot comprehend debt reduction without actually sacking people, without decimating people's lives, without putting them out of house and home. It could just be that they do not understand how future funds work. I hear members opposite, even this afternoon, still asking questions about this, still putting questions to the minister, despite asking the same questions every single question time, multiple times this week.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms BOYD: The answers are sufficient. I recommend that those opposite think a little more about how budgets work. If they simply looked up the definition of 'budget' they would find—Investopedia I think had the best explanation; I really liked it and I think it is easy for those opposite to comprehend—that it is 'an estimation of revenue and expenses over a specified future period of time and is usually compiled and re-evaluated on a periodic basis'. That is exactly what this budget is doing. While those opposite say that it is smoke and mirrors, that it is just guesses, that it is full of holes, if they think back to what a budget is they will realise that it is based on estimates that Treasury make. We have economic managers—specialist experts—working in Treasury who figure this stuff out and provide it to government, and we figure out expenditure from there.

Those opposite should look at the facts in relation to the economic position Queensland is in right now. Queensland is creating more jobs than other states. Our employment is the fastest growing employment in the nation. Queenslanders today are paying less tax than the average Australian. We have lower property stamp duty than any other state. This budget delivers for all of Queensland.

I want to talk specifically about some of the health infrastructure in my electorate of Pine Rivers. This budget starts off our satellite hospital. I commend the Premier, the Deputy Premier and the Minister for Health, the member for Redcliffe, on this fantastic, exciting initiative. It will free up our local hospital beds. It will ensure that people can access health services closer to home. My community is embracing it wholeheartedly. The satellite hospital, with the preferred location of the university campus at Petrie, will be a game changer for health service delivery in my local community.

The Prince Charles Hospital is our major hospital. The publicly owned car park will be a transformative piece of infrastructure at that facility. I have spent a lot of time in that hospital car park over the last few months. I know how expensive it is and I know what a burden that is on households right across my community. That is a fantastic deliverable in this budget.

The Pine Rivers community health building in Strathpine is receiving funding for major works to infrastructure, mechanical services, air conditioning and electrical infrastructure, along with the Caboolture Community Health Centre. The ambulance station in Petrie is being relocated to Gympie Road in Lawnton. It is a far better site—a site the Ambulance Service is already using for some particular services. I went and thanked those frontline service workers after the COVID pandemic had its peak. The workforce there—the officers and paramedics—are well and truly keen to move into the new facility in Lawnton.

This is a budget for education. We invest in education. We invest in our future generation. I thank the minister, the member for McConnel, for this education budget. There is an exciting build in my electorate at Bray Park State High School, which she visited only a few short weeks ago. We are putting in a new innovation centre. With additional classrooms and custom-made learning spaces, it will be a fantastic addition to Bray Park State High School which I know the growing school community absolutely needs. At Bray Park State High School we are delivering a new outdoor learning centre and refurbishing STEM classrooms. At Dayboro State School we are starting to build accessible pathways. We will also be building a new senior playground there. At Pine Rivers Special School we are putting in a new administration building and additional classrooms and at Strathpine West we are refurbishing the prep block as well as expanding the outside school hours care, something that it so desperately needs.

Road infrastructure is always important in my electorate given its size and diversity. I want to thank the member for Miller for his investment and his continuing work on some of these projects that we just have to tweak. The budget delivers for road and transport infrastructure right through our community—from the upgrade at the Strathpine Shopping Centre bus facility through to the park-and-ride at Ferny Grove. The member for Ferny Grove is in the chamber and I know that the minister has worked hard to achieve this project, one that members in the Samford community will absolutely benefit from. There are roadworks at Mount Nebo, Mount Glorious, the Samford Road upgrades and safety works along Eatons Crossing Road. The member for Aspley has worked hard, along with the member for Sandgate, for the Gympie Road arterial upgrades on Strathpine Road and Linkfield Road.

I want to thank the member for Morayfield, our police minister. He is investing in a new Dayboro police station. We are going to kick off the consultation soon. Dayboro is a really special community. We want to make sure the facade of that police station is right and the interior is fit for purpose for Sergeant Ken and the team. I also want to thank the member for Sandgate and the Deputy Premier for the investment that they are making in the Nolan Park track. It is a Pine Rivers BMX track that we are relocating for the community. It is a fantastic partnership program—one that will have a world-class facility for our local community right in the heart of Brendale.

In the couple of minutes I have left I want to thank the Treasurer and the Premier for this fantastic budget. I also want to recognise the member for Stretton. Although he is not here today, my Facebook memories showed a four-year memory where I delivered my speech on the budget and he was actually up the back, up to his usual mischief. It put a big smile on my face. He asked me to make a condolence speech for him, so I will do that at a later date. He is very dearly missed this sitting week and I pass along my condolences to his friends and family and his wonderful community that will miss him terribly.

The Deputy Speaker 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—

The Palaszczuk Government's 2021/22 Budget delivers for local governments and for jobs across our State.

From Torres Strait Island Regional Council and Torres Shire Council in the North to Burke Shire Council and Bulloo Shire Council in the West to Gold Coast City Council and Goondiwindi Regional Council in the South, we're delivering for Queenslanders wherever they live.

Through our signature \$1 billion Works for Queensland program, the 65 councils outside the South East corner are benefiting enormously through building and maintaining community infrastructure.

Across every council we are funding shovel-ready projects that are making a real difference in local communities and creating and supporting local jobs.

This latest \$200 million round of Works for Queensland includes funding for an Olympic standard 50 metre swimming pool in Bundaberg which I was pleased to announce with the Member for Bundaberg and Bundaberg Mayor Jack Dempsey just last week in Bundaberg.

This round will see councils build pump tracks in Hervey Bay, Maryborough and Mackay, a new nature-themed playground at Rockhampton Botanic Gardens and a new national level skate park in Townsville.

The decking around the Cairns lagoon will be replaced, upgrades at the Gladstone Aquatic Centre, the Airlie Beach Lagoon and the Gympie Saleyards, significant road upgrades in Yeppoon and a new multipurpose community and events space delivered in Mount Isa.

Council buildings are getting upgraded in Yarrabah, Aurukun, Charters Towers and Mapoon, smart water meters are being installed to save water and find leaks in Burke and Douglas Shires, new campgrounds in Lockhart River and the Stanthorpe Netball Club is getting a new clubhouse.

This 2021-24 round of Works for Queensland will help deliver 333 projects, which councils estimate will create or support more than 3600 jobs. These are real projects that will improve liveability in regional community and support local jobs.

We also have the hugely successful Building our Regions program which helps councils deliver major infrastructure projects, including water and sewerage infrastructure, with almost \$350 million already approved.

Since being appointed Assistant Minister for Local Government, I've spent a lot of time speaking with Mayors and Councils about their priorities, about what makes their communities unique, about what the important issues are in their communities and how we can work together to solve them.

In speaking with councils and the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ), the issue they raise with me the most is water and sewerage. Almost every rural and regional council faces one challenge or another regarding their water and sewerage infrastructure.

These are long-standing issues that require genuine partnership to solve and that's why I'm so proud that as part of this Budget the Palaszczuk Government will support regional councils to improve water supply and security with a new \$70 million round of Building our Regions dedicated to water and sewerage infrastructure.

Regional councils will be able to bid for \$70 million in funding over three years to improve their water and sewerage systems.

This builds on the almost \$1.9 billion committed by the Palaszczuk Government to bulk water infrastructure like Rookwood Weir and Haughton Pipeline since 2015.

For most councils though, what they need is funding to improve or upgrade their water treatment plants, reservoirs and sewage treatment plants.

This round of Building our Regions entirely focused on water and sewerage will deliver critical job-creating projects in regional communities that will not only improve water supply and water security but will improve the liveability and economic conditions in rural and regional communities.

It's just another way in which we are supporting local councils to build better, stronger communities and create and support local jobs.

Adding together all our funding programs including Works for Queensland, Building our Regions, our \$120 million Indigenous Councils Critical Infrastructure Program, the \$200 million COVID Works for Queensland program, and the \$200 million South East Queensland Community Stimulus Program, we have committed more than \$2 billion in capital funding to our local councils.

All of this is about genuine partnership with local councils to build stronger local economies, more liveable communities, and more secure, long-term jobs in every Queensland community.