



Speech By  
**Hon. Shannon Fentiman**


**MEMBER FOR WATERFORD**

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Record of Proceedings, 18 June 2021

## **APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL**

### **APPROPRIATION BILL**

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (12.04 pm): Before beginning my contribution to the debate, like so many others I want to put on the record my heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Duncan Pegg, and especially to his Stretton community. Duncan built and united his community in a way that was lauded by MPs from all political divides. He was a true champion of multiculturalism in this state. Rest in peace, Duncan.

Our community of Waterford is set to grow because of the government's commitment to economic recovery. If we want to invest in our future, we must invest in our schools. That is why it is so fantastic to see half a million dollars for the Loganholme State School outside school hours care. I know it is an incredibly busy service and they are thrilled to be able to expand that for so many families in our growing community. There is almost \$5½ million in this budget for new classrooms and refurbishments at Waterford West State School. This is another growing school which is struggling with ageing infrastructure, like so many of our schools across Logan. It is wonderful that they will be able to get new classrooms and refurbishments.

There is also \$1½ million for planning for a new secondary school in Logan Reserve. When out in the community, this is something that families talk to me about regularly. We are investing in additional classrooms—\$15½ million for Mabel Park State High School and another \$6½ million for Marsden State High School. It does not matter which school you go to in my electorate, there is construction underway and it is wonderful to see.

Work on the M1 is continuing, with \$1 billion invested in the Daisy Hill to Loganholme upgrade. There is \$800,000 for a business case for upgrades to the busy Brisbane-Beenleigh Road. There is more than \$1 million for improvements to the Waterford Tamborine Road and Easterly Street intersection. This is very welcome news, particularly for those families during pick up and drop off at Canterbury College. It is fantastic to see more than \$3.3 million to continue the work on the new Fire and Rescue Station at Loganlea. This is something that our local fires championed for many years, and I am very pleased that we are delivering that new station for them.

Women's safety was a key priority for the Palaszczuk government in this budget, with an investment of more than \$155 million to tackle violence against women in the next year. I would like to take this opportunity to correct the member for Whitsunday. In her contribution she consistently stated that our government has only committed \$7½ million each year for the next four years. I repeat again that in the next financial year we are committing more than \$155 million. The \$7½ million is a continuation of the COVID-19 money. Rather than simply extend that, we have now lifted the base funding for these services so they can employ additional staff for the next four years, which is great funding certainty. I acknowledge that this is a system under pressure. I do note that the member for

Whitsunday also welcomed the contribution from the federal government. Again, I say that that came about because of huge lobbying, particularly from our Premier who has placed this issue on the national cabinet agenda.

I now go back to the \$155 million commitment, which includes: more than \$138 million to respond to domestic and family violence and sexual violence, including counselling and crisis responses, perpetrator interventions, court support, shelters, mobile support, awareness and prevention, and sexual assault support; \$8.1 million to continue and enhance specialist domestic and family violence courts, and I am very proud that Queensland was the first state to introduce these specialist courts; \$3½ million to enhance the capability of community justice groups in 18 discrete Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander communities to support them to work with our specialist courts and to continue to support families experiencing domestic violence; and \$670,000 to continue the provision of legal advice and representation to sexual assault victims.

Importantly, the budget also provides \$160 million in the next financial year for housing and housing support services for vulnerable Queenslanders. Almost a quarter of all Queenslanders who reach out for housing support in this state are experiencing domestic and family violence. That is why I welcome the contribution to housing in this year's budget.

We also have almost \$800,000 over three years for the Working Women's Service here in Queensland to continue to provide free advice on work related issues and we are investing in the economic recovery for Queensland women. There is \$320 million over the four years for the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program coupled with \$140 million over four years for the revitalised Back to Work program. There is \$5 million for programs to support women in custody who are involved in the justice system to transition to a safe environment, and \$65 million for women's health, breast cancer screening and other services.

I am also very proud of the commitment in this year's budget to my justice portfolio: \$1.4 billion on delivering frontline justice services. Importantly, there is \$4.9 million over four years for the establishment of the second coronial registrar team in the Coroners Court. They work incredibly hard and it is very difficult work. I am very pleased we have committed this funding, including \$1.4 million to support the coronial inquest into the very tragic death of Hannah Clarke and her three children, which will begin later this year.

Importantly, there is an additional \$4 million over four years to Victim Assist Queensland. They can continue to provide advice and financial assistance to Queenslanders impacted by crime. I know the president of the QCAT was very pleased to hear of the \$7 million additional for QCAT, a very hardworking part of our justice system; there is \$7 million over two years. They had a huge backlog during COVID. They are working through it and that will certainly help curb some of the demand pressures that QCAT have experienced.

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

*The speech read as follows—*

Justice + Covid

The justice system was also impacted by COVID-19 and the legal profession and our courts responded in a timely manner and adapted quickly to ensure Queenslanders could still access the law.

The use of technology assisted proceedings through COVID and we are investing \$7.4 million in expanding and upgrading existing audio-visual capacity in the justice system, which includes video conferencing and in-custody appearances.

This will provide for the streamlining of some matters, enabling cost savings in both time and resources.

There is a further \$13.04 million over four years to strengthen timely access to justice for Queenslanders including \$4.39 million to support the Government's response to domestic and family violence through the rollout of further critical frontline DFV support services and perpetrator interventions in specialist court locations.

This budget is about providing for the safety and security of Queenslanders across the state.

The Government will spend \$14.42 million to maintain the current child protection litigation model for a further 12 months, and \$4.56 million has been allocated over four years to continue an additional part-time specialist Childrens Court magistrate, support staff, security and legal advocates to increase the case volume heard in the Childrens Court.

Liquor and Gaming

We are invested \$2.78 million in 2021-22 for the department to continue delivery of key initiatives of the government's Tackling Alcohol-Fuelled Violence (TAFV) policy. This is for continuation of inspection work, for example in relation to responsible service of alcohol, ID scanning, general liquor licensing requirements.

Half a million dollars to fund operational aspects of Safe Night Precincts such as security guards and taxi marshalling services while evaluation of Safe Night Precincts is ongoing.

Conclusion

I commend this Budget to the House.