



Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles
MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

Record of Proceedings, 23 February 2021


APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) (2020-2021) BILL

APPROPRIATION (2020-2021) BILL

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation (2020-2021) Bill

State Development and Regional Industries Committee, Report

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning) (12.43 pm): I welcome the tabling of the State Development and Regional Industries Committee report into the proposed budget appropriations for 2020-21. I acknowledge the committee's recommendation that the proposed expenditure as detailed in the budget bills be agreed to without amendment.

The 2020-21 Queensland state budget is a budget that will drive Queensland's economic recovery from the COVID pandemic. Crucial to this recovery is supporting projects that create jobs and support trade and our key industries. It now has been more than a year since we declared a public health emergency in response to COVID-19, but this time last year we were looking at modelling that showed that more than 12,000 Queenslanders would die by the end of the year. That is more than 20 times greater than the total number of cases we have seen. Our Premier's strong leadership has kept Queenslanders safe and we have avoided the devastating scenes seen overseas. As the US and the UK are struggling through their devastating winter, Queenslanders are settling into the new normal.

We always said that our health response would be the first stage of our economic response, and that prediction has proven correct. The Palaszczuk government budget is a jobs budget. The Building our Regions program continues to support local government infrastructure projects in regional and remote communities that create flow-on economic development opportunities and jobs. To date, the Building our Regions program has approved over \$348 million towards 271 projects across 67 local governments, supporting an estimated 2,770 jobs. We have also committed \$42.5 million to build the Bundaberg East flood levee to protect the people of Bundaberg and to support 679 jobs over three years of construction. With the help of our hardworking member for Bundaberg, we will continue to push the federal government to support this important project.

We are delivering \$200 million over two years for the COVID Works for Queensland program, empowering 77 local governments to invest in hundreds of local job-creating projects. We also are delivering \$100 million over four years for the South-East Queensland community stimulus package to fast-track investment in new infrastructure and community assets in the south-east corner. This is in addition to the \$200 million over two years for the third round of the government's signature Works for Queensland program that is delivering infrastructure and creating jobs across regional Queensland.

As the Minister for State Development, I will be working hard to ensure Queensland is doing all it can to lure new industries to Queensland. What better example is there than Rheinmetall at Ipswich? With the Premier and the whole cabinet, I visited its facility just last week. The Milvehcoe facility is the most advanced military vehicle manufacturing facility in Australia, built in partnership by the Queensland government with Rheinmetall—an initiative that has already created more than 300 jobs. We are also backing Queensland to be a leader in aerospace, space engineering and manufacturing. We are partnering with the Boeing Corporation on the Loyal Wingman project to develop the next generation of uncrewed aerial vehicles, Boeing's largest investment of its kind outside of the United States. These are the industries and the jobs of the future, and we want them to call Queensland home.

Since 2015, we have invested over \$50 billion in infrastructure projects. We are increasing our infrastructure spend to \$56 billion over the next four years—the highest spend over the past decade. This will directly support diverse employment and economic activity across all of our regions, with \$14.8 billion worth of infrastructure investment in 2020-21 estimated to support around 46,000 jobs. Queensland's economic recovery is well and truly underway. The government's vision is that we emerge from the global pandemic stronger and more resilient. We will invest, seize future opportunities, grow the economy, create secure jobs and build a stronger Queensland. I thank the committee for its consideration, parliamentary staff for all their work in delivering the estimates program, and my departmental and ministerial staff for preparing materials to inform the hearing.