



Speech By  
**Hon. Dr Steven Miles**  
**MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA**

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Record of Proceedings, 31 August 2021


**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL**

**APPROPRIATION BILL**

**Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)**

**Appropriation Bill**

**Economics and Governance Committee, Report**

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning) (3.32 pm): As much as I would love to allow the member for Maroochydore to keep shouting at the clouds, I will instead speak to the estimates report. I welcome the tabling of the State Development and Regional Industries Committee report into the proposed budget appropriations for 2021-22. I acknowledge the committee's recommendation that the proposed expenditure, as detailed in the Appropriation Bill 2021 for the committee's area of responsibility, be agreed to by the Legislative Assembly without amendment.

This budget is delivering on Queensland's COVID-19 economic recovery plan. Our world-class health response to the pandemic has provided us with an opportunity to attract and create jobs, grow our traditional industries and attract new industries to Queensland. This budget is a great example of how we will capitalise on those opportunities. As one of the few states in Australia not in lockdown, we are continuing to work to deliver more jobs, and our unemployment has fallen to its lowest levels since before the Newman LNP government.

Our flagship \$3.34 billion Queensland Jobs Fund is a game-changer for enabling job creation in Queensland. In this financial year alone, more than \$14.7 billion—one of the largest capital programs in recent years—has been allocated, with more than 60 per cent being spent outside Greater Brisbane. This is expected to directly support around 46,500 jobs—nearly 30,000 in the regions.

Queensland's councils have played a major part in keeping Queenslanders safe and helping deliver Queensland's economic recovery plan. Our government's signature \$1 billion Works for Queensland is helping councils deliver community infrastructure and improve livability right across regional Queensland. By the end of 2024, it is expected that Works for Queensland will have supported, sustained or created more than 25,000 jobs in regional Queensland.

The Palaszczuk government also committed \$200 million over six years to the South East Queensland Community Stimulus Program. So far a total of 113 projects have been approved, and councils estimate that around 1,455 jobs will be created or supported across South-East Queensland through these projects.

We are investing an additional \$70 million towards the Building our Regions program. This program has provided funding towards 271 projects across regional Queensland, supporting an estimated 2,770 jobs. These projects have attracted additional investment of over \$539 million from local government and other organisations.

Our government is supporting projects that deliver good, skilled jobs for Queenslanders. I think more secure jobs for Queenslanders is always a good thing, but at the committee hearings those opposite did not agree. They made it clear in the hearing—and the member for Maroochydore has just now—that they do not support best practice industry conditions. It does not matter if you are from the Far North or the south-east—all tradies have a right to a fair day's pay for a fair day's work. Those opposite do not think companies should prioritise local contractors or that tradies deserve a good wage or to come home safely at the end of their shift. In fact, they feel so strongly about it that the LNP demanded we ditch that policy for the 2032 Olympics, effectively demanding less secure, less safe jobs for Queenslanders. The member for Maroochydore should be ashamed.

**Ms SIMPSON:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mrs Gerber): Pause the clock.

**Ms SIMPSON:** I am being verbally by the Deputy Premier. I find it offensive and untrue and I ask that it be withdrawn.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Deputy Premier, the member finds it offensive. Do you withdraw?

**Dr MILES:** I withdraw. Delivering good, secure jobs for Queenslanders is at the heart of our infrastructure budget. I thank the committee for its consideration, parliamentary staff for all their work delivering the estimates, and my departmental and ministerial staff for preparing materials to inform the hearing.