



Speech By
Adrian Tantari

MEMBER FOR HERVEY BAY

Record of Proceedings, 16 August 2022


APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation Bill

Economics and Governance Committee, Report

 **Mr TANTARI** (Hervey Bay—ALP) (12.12 pm): I rise to speak on the Economics and Governance Committee report No. 30, *2022-23 budget estimates—Appropriation Bill 2022*. The recommendation of the committee is that the proposed expenditure as detailed in the bill be agreed by this House without amendment. The estimates hearings brought into focus the continuation of the great work done by the Palaszczuk Labor government in bringing Queenslanders through one of the most difficult periods in our collective memories. They highlighted the ongoing commitment of the government in working to ensure that the state of Queensland leverages its strong health response by driving our recovery and our growing economy. It gives me great pleasure to say that the report emphasises the strong leadership shown in the state from the Premier, the Treasurer and the Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics and Paralympics Sport and Engagement. This came through in the estimates hearing and in the detail in the estimates report that we are now considering.

Estimates showed how this budget is steering our state to great economic prosperity as we work our way out of the COVID period that we found ourselves in over the last 2½ years. The Premier, the Treasurer and other ministers have delivered a budget that continues to move Queensland forward and in particular regional Queensland, including my electorate of Hervey Bay, through planned expenditure on the right things that matter. They are the jobs, infrastructure and health service programs that are needed at this time and well into the future. It is the right response at the right time—measured, thoughtful and on the mark.

As outlined in the estimates report, the budget has delivered a record investment in health totalling \$23.6 billion which is the largest health budget in Queensland's history. The Palaszczuk Labor government has delivered new hospitals and expanded existing hospitals like the Hervey Bay Hospital and will fund the recruitment of more doctors, nurses and frontline health workers as well as better health services for rural and regional centres.

The Economics and Governance Committee report shows clearly where the focus is with this government. It is about ensuring that the work that has been done in the last two budgets continues to roll over into this year and beyond, underpinning more jobs in more industries such as renewable energy, new economy minerals, advanced manufacturing, biomedical technology, agriculture, tourism and education services and can attract more creative and design industries that will help grow our skilled workforce and attract more overseas investment into Queensland.

Obviously with any budget process there is disappointment, and this is no different this year. The opposition's statement of reservation contained in this report is again just what we expect from the other side of this House. Yes, the opposition has agreed to pass this excellent state budget, but as always it makes no real contribution to the budget process in its statement of reservation other than statements laced with fiction and full of mistruths with no factual basis, highlighting the policy void and laziness on the other side and its inability to acknowledge the current situation, tin eared to its local communities and not listening to what Queensland communities are asking. My community was clear at the last election and it is clear now: it wants a government that has a strong economic recovery focus based on continuing a strong health response and it saw through the attempts made during the estimates process by those opposite to misrepresent the facts and spin reality. The last time the LNP was in power what did it do with its budget? It chose to cut vital services, sold everything it could get its hands on and sacked thousands of frontline nurses, doctors and public servants. That is what we got under an LNP budget. That is the way that that side of the House does budgets in this state: it cuts, it sells, it sacks. It will never be any different under it.

I must thank the chair, the member for Logan, for his patience and skill in managing to keep the estimates program and the opposition on track in the best interests of the people of Queensland. Well done, member for Logan, even though those opposite again chose to use their time to disrupt and grandstand in an attempt to discredit the estimates process. We have already heard from speakers on the other side rolling out their tired old lines that the estimates process is broken. It happens every year. It really does reflect their inability to understand the budget estimates process whatsoever.

These estimates clearly outlined a focused economic recovery plan that will take Queensland well into the future by providing the jobs and services needed in Queensland and in Hervey Bay. I am proud to be a part of a Palaszczuk government that has a targeted budget that delivers jobs, health and education services, infrastructure and housing; that works to keep Queensland safe and to keep the electorate of Hervey Bay safe; and continues to make our future strong. Keeping Queenslanders safe and delivering a strong economic plan is what this Palaszczuk Labor government is all about. While those on the other side dither, we on this side will always work to ensure that all Queenslanders have the opportunity for good jobs, better services and a great lifestyle. I support the recommendations before the House.