




Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

Record of Proceedings, 26 October 2022

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Federal Budget

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.32 am): Last night's federal budget delivered on much-needed cost-of-living relief for Queensland families including: a \$4.7 billion package to deliver cheaper child care for more than 1.2 million families across the country; a \$530 million boost to paid parental leave, increasing by six weeks to six months from 2026; free TAFE places with 180,000 starting next year and 20,000 more university places; and an historic investment in housing with a National Housing Accord to target one million homes across the nation. The \$10 billion Housing Australia Future Fund has been locked in with an initial \$350 million for another 10,000 affordable homes. The National Housing Accord will be backed by our government's \$2 billion Housing Investment Fund. Importantly, there is another \$200 million for remote Indigenous housing. Q Shelter has said—

Both the federal and state government have listened to the many voices of people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

The budget backs good Queensland jobs in renewable energy, manufacturing, medical manufacturing, agriculture and critical minerals with a \$15 billion National Reconstruction Fund. There is another \$204 million to protect our iconic Great Barrier Reef. Regional projects include: a Townsville hydrogen hub, nearly \$72 million; a North Queensland simulation park in Townsville to support the defence industry, \$32 million; support for the Lansdown Eco-Industrial Precinct, \$22 million; the Cairns Marine precinct and CQU's CBD Cairns campus, \$200 million; a new Services Australia Cairns Smart Centre with 100 staff; and \$600 million for Paradise Dam.

There is \$2.1 billion in new transport infrastructure and more than \$1.4 billion for New South Wales. I will say that again: there is \$2.1 billion in new transport infrastructure—and more than \$1.4 billion for New South Wales—including: \$866.4 million in Bruce Highway upgrades; \$400 million for the inland freight route; \$400 million for beef corridors; and \$210 million for the Kuranda Range Road upgrade. I am disappointed that there are delays to some transport projects and I will absolutely be discussing that with the federal government.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members to my right. The debate on that budget will happen in another chamber, not this chamber.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Despite these delays there is more funding for Queensland—

Mr Power interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I am sorry, Premier. Member for Logan, you are warned under the standing orders.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The budget delivers \$2.5 billion to fix Australia's aged care system, taking pressure off our hospitals. There is \$235 million for urgent care clinics to reduce the pressure on our emergency departments. There is funding to improve primary care in rural and regional Australia.

Another \$375 million is committed to fund half of the Queensland Cancer Centre. The extension of the COVID-19 response funding until the end of the year and other adjustments mean an extra \$1 billion in health funding to Queensland than under the Morrison government. I repeat: \$1 billion more.

Honourable members interjected.

Ms Boyd interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, member for Pine Rivers. Members to my left will cease their interjections or I will start naming members.

Ms PALASZCZUK: There is more work to do at National Cabinet when it comes to funding the health system, but the Albanese budget delivers more for Queensland's hospitals and primary care. I will continue to advocate for fifty-fifty funding for public hospitals and lifting the 6.5 per cent cap on federal funding for activity.

I expect more to come for Queensland in future budgets. The budget flags future funding for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. We are just starting detailed discussions on funding support for the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan. The Prime Minister has been very positive in the discussions I have had with him on building new pumped hydro energy storage dams. Queensland will benefit from the \$20 billion Rewiring the Nation fund and the \$15 billion National Reconstruction Fund. We welcome those funds.

We are continuing to work on a funding partnership to connect Townsville to the North West Minerals Province and to progress the Hughenden irrigation scheme and support the proponent. All of those projects will mean more investment in Queensland's regions and good jobs. I will always put Queensland first and make sure that future funding stays in our regions.

The federal budget sets out a pathway to navigate through the challenging global conditions and waves of inflation that lie ahead of us. There is welcome cost-of-living relief for Queensland families and support for more good jobs in emerging industries. We have always advocated for more funding for Queensland and we will not stop now.

Honourable members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am happy to talk about the budget later in question time. Ask away. There is a very stark contrast between Morrison and Albanese—a very stark contrast.