



Speech By  
**Bart Mellish**

**MEMBER FOR ASPLEY**


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## **APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL**

### **APPROPRIATION BILL**

#### **REVENUE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (11.53 pm): The 2022 Palaszczuk government budget is a great budget for Queensland now and setting us up into the future. It is all about good jobs, better services and our great lifestyle. We are supporting good, secure jobs by supporting the industries of the future while backing our traditional industries. We are investing in the frontline services that Queenslanders depend on, and we are building the infrastructure that keeps Queensland the best state with a great lifestyle.

I congratulate the Premier and Treasurer for another great Labor budget. The centrepiece of our budget is our record investment in health infrastructure. Our Queensland Health and Hospitals Plan is an outstanding investment in the people of our state. I again congratulate the Premier and Treasurer for achieving both a budget surplus and an unprecedented investment in hospital upgrades in the same budget.

This budget does not shy away from making tough calls. Once our state's mineral and non-renewable resources are exported we will not get them back, so it is only prudent that we take steps at a time of unprecedented value for these resources—resources that the world needs from us right now—to maximise our advantage to benefit Queenslanders now and in the future. Queensland is the world's largest exporter of metallurgical coal. The global demand for steel is not receding any time soon and the world is paying through the roof for our metallurgical coal, so we would be doing future generations wrong if we did not seize this generational opportunity to set our state up for the future. This is driving improvements to our way of life here in Queensland.

We have a \$9.7 billion capital pipeline over six years in health and over 2,500 extra beds. In our part of the world on the north side that means a \$300 million project at the Prince Charles Hospital, delivering 93 additional beds. A little bit further north at the Redcliffe Hospital we have \$1 billion delivering 204 additional beds, and just to the south we have the dedicated cancer centre at the RBWH with 150 beds, a \$750 million project. These are all fantastic projects.

We have some great education investments in our area too. I was really pleased to see continued funding for Aspley Special School and Geebung Special School. These are \$16 million projects at each school. They are absolutely fantastic. I was at Geebung Special School last week, and you can really see the benefits those projects will deliver for many years to come. At Aspley State School we are refurbishing three learning spaces. At Aspley East State School we are refurbishing 10 learning spaces. At Craigslea State School we are refurbishing an existing outdoor learning area. At Craigslea state high we have a really exciting extension to the existing science building to include a marine science laboratory. I am really looking forward to that. Well done to Minister Grace for those projects.

Locally we have some really great transport outcomes. In coming weeks we will see the next stage of early works on Beams Road. This is about relocating the existing park-and-ride. The entry to that is dangerous for buses and cars, so this will allow the overpass project to proceed and make for a much safer journey. This is on top of the additional 200 car parks that were opened recently in the member for Sandgate's electorate just over on the other side of the tracks, which are making a difference to both of our electorates and congestion around that station. We are finally getting somewhere on the next stage. The council has held that up, but we are really looking forward to moving ahead with this project. I thank Minister Bailey for his leadership in this area.

For the Bald Hills park-and-ride I was really pleased to hear about up to 90 additional car parks on the southern side. The business case is underway now and construction will come in coming years. This is another great local transport project funded in the budget, and I am really looking forward to seeing this roll out.

I was particularly pleased to see a community centre base funding increase. This will mean almost a doubling to community centres, including the Zillmere centre over in the member for Nudgee's electorate, which has a much broader appeal on the north side. Many northside members—I see the member for Sandgate nodding—would know of the great work they do there.

More broadly, in the veterans' affairs space it is really fantastic that this year we have seen already more than \$1.5 million awarded from the first round of our Queensland Remembers grants, and that funding continues. Our annual grants program is set to open soon, and there will be many more veterans' initiatives that we are rolling out which are funded in this budget.

On broader revenue measures, I of course support initiatives to ensure that Queenslanders benefit from the astronomical higher cost of coal at the moment. This is being given back to Queenslanders through our investments in health and shoring up our fiscal state for many years to come. As the Treasurer has said, health is wealth. Sadly, those opposite do not support health funding or good fiscal management. Those opposite did not deliver a surplus in their last three years of government in Queensland or in their last nine years federally. They promised plenty of them. They even printed the 'Back in Black' mugs down in Canberra, but they delivered no surplus budget. They are zero from 12. I am a West Tigers fan, and zero from 12 would shock even me. You would sack the coach if your team was zero from 12, and they have had a few coaches over there. They are the party of cuts and economic mismanagement.

Over the last decade or so it has been really sad to see that the LNP in Queensland and the Liberal Party nationally have completely given up on good economic management. They are drifting closer to the Republicans in the US and Tories in the UK on giving up economic management completely, and that is pretty sad.

Their failure to support these revenue measures means they would have to cut. They do not support the coal royalty change so they must cut \$1.2 billion from the budget—presumably from the Queensland Health and Hospitals Plan. That means they would have to cut both the Prince Charles Hospital expansion, which is 93 beds, and the Queensland Cancer Centre at RBWH, which is 150 beds, to balance the budget.

**Mr Langbroek** interjected.

**Mr MELLISH:** I appreciate the member for Surfers Paradise's input. I had to remind someone earlier that he was actually a shadow Treasurer a few years ago. We did forget who the shadow Treasurer was during that 2015 to 2017 term. It was a very interesting trivia point. This is an outstanding budget and I congratulate the Premier and Treasurer.