



Speech By
Brittany Lauga


MEMBER FOR KEPPEL

Record of Proceedings, 23 June 2022

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

REVENUE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Ms LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (12.16 am): I appreciated when the member for Bancroft travelled to Rockhampton last year to celebrate Beef Week. He spent several nights camping in a tent in Central Queensland. I do appreciate when South-East Queensland members come up to regional Queensland and see just what it is like to live there and see the great lifestyle we have in regional Queensland.

The member for Hinchinbrook's contribution was of great interest. I am pleased that he supports a number of the measures in the budget that we are debating this evening. I am very pleased that the Katter's Australian Party supports the measures in the budget to ensure that some of the record profits the big coal corporations are making currently go back into the royalties which flow back into our record health and education budgets that this budget is delivering.

Can I correct the member in terms of his contribution regarding water and this budget and how we are delivering water projects right across Queensland? In particular, I am very pleased, as a result of the advocacy of the member for Rockhampton, that Mount Morgan will be receiving \$40 million in this budget towards a pipeline from Gracemere up to Mount Morgan which will deliver that security of water supply that Mount Morganites desperately have been calling for. No money from those opposite. No money from the federal LNP government during their term. Only state Labor has been able to deliver that \$40 million which delivers that security of water supply to Mount Morgan. I congratulate the advocacy of Mayor Tony Williams from Rockhampton Regional Council as well.

I congratulate the Premier and Treasurer on this landmark budget, an historic budget that delivers amazing outcomes for Queenslanders right across this state. It really truly is a budget that delivers so much for us right across Queensland. In terms of delivering good jobs, better services, this is what Queenslanders expect of their government. They want good jobs. They want a government in Queensland that has their back, and they want to continue this great lifestyle that we all enjoy right across Queensland.

It is no wonder that people from right across the country are moving to Queensland in droves. Over 50,000 people moved to Queensland in the 18 months between June 2020 and September 2021 quarter, and we are seeing so many people moving to Queensland which is putting all sorts of pressure on our education systems, on our schools and on our hospital services. However, this budget delivers and responds to those pressures, particularly at a time when we are experiencing a global pandemic as well.

I congratulate the Minister for Education, Grace Grace, on delivering another record education budget. It is the eighth time I have been able to stand in this place and talk about a record education budget that this Palaszczuk Labor government is delivering. I am just so proud to be part of a

government that is so dedicated to delivering quality education to students right across Queensland no matter where they live. That is what those of us on this side do. We care about giving all children a great start, engaging young people in learning, creating safe and inclusive workplaces, and investing in communities for a stronger Queensland.

I am particularly proud that under the education budget the Department of Education will continue to employ additional wellbeing professionals, mostly GPs and psychologists, supporting 50 state schools to provide free GP services to secondary students at schools over three years from 2021-22 through the \$106.7 million Student Wellbeing Package. That includes a number of psychologists as well. We have made a lot of progress through the Youth Engagement Strategy by investing almost \$50 million over four years for a range of initiatives to re-engage children and young people who have disconnected from study or work, and we are continuing to invest in delivering world-class educational facilities under the \$3 billion Building Future Schools Program with new schools to open each year from 2023 to 2026. That is in addition to the continuation of the delivery of additional and renewed infrastructure in Queensland state schools.

Wherever I go in Queensland there are schools that have new classrooms, new halls, new multipurpose facilities, new amenities and new tuckshops. I am proud that that is as a result of the Palaszczuk Labor government delivering record education budgets but particularly investing in capital infrastructure. In my electorate of Keppel I am very pleased to have been able to tell the principal of Keppel Sands State School recently that they will receive \$458,000 to construct additional specialist classrooms. Sam Conway, the principal there, is incredibly pleased about that. Rockhampton North Special School will receive almost \$10 million and Yeppoon State High School, \$9.6 million for a new applied learning centre.

There is a whole range of initiatives in this budget that will deliver for the people of Keppel as well as for people right across Queensland. That is what good Labor governments do: we deliver for the people of Queensland no matter where they live. I look forward to celebrating and rolling out these projects as this budget comes to fruition over the next 12 months. I commend the bills to the House.