



Speech By
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MEMBER FOR KEPPEL

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APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation Bill

Education, Employment and Training Committee, Report

 **Ms LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (4.34 pm): I rise to speak to the committee report on the Appropriation Bill and the estimates process. In doing so, I thank the committee for their oversight throughout the estimates process. In particular I thank the committee chair, the member for Redlands, Kim Richards, for her work throughout the estimates process. I also thank the committee secretariat and also the Department of Education for their support throughout the process and for providing a robust and detailed response to all of the questions that were asked throughout the estimates process.

Reading through the transcript of the education committee's estimates report I think it is pretty clear that those opposite really had no interest in some of the big ticket issues for education across Queensland. We on this side believe in giving every child a great start. It is pretty clear that those opposite are not focused on the issues related to how we give every child a great start in this state.

There was nothing asked by those opposite about the national curriculum. There was nothing asked about solar panels, a massive program of work that we have delivered right across Queensland. There was nothing about teacher training and how we can improve the quality of teachers and teacher graduates. There was nothing about the federal government funding and the lack of support by the federal Morrison government over the years. There was nothing about outside school hours care, a critical part of our schooling system and a critical topic for working parents right across Queensland. There was nothing about new classrooms or halls or tuckshops. Those opposite did not ask anything about the new Dignity First rollout to all state schools and there were no questions asked about the GPs and psychologists we are recruiting in Queensland schools. There were plenty of questions and plenty of opportunities for questions to be asked by those opposite, but they were wasted on issues that are not relevant to providing a great start to Queensland children across our state.

I am enormously proud of the education budget and the manner in which it is being spent to deliver a great start for all students across Queensland no matter where they live. As the Assistant Minister for Education for the past two terms serving under education minister Grace Grace, I have been proud to be part of a government that has now delivered eight record education budgets with important spending on new infrastructure such as classrooms, learning spaces, tuckshops and playgrounds as well as improving the needs of staff and students. In Central Queensland alone, more than \$75 million is being invested in the 2022-23 budget to maintain, improve and upgrade schools as part of the record-breaking \$16.5 billion education budget.

Just recently education minister Grace Grace visited Rockhampton Special School and Keppel Sands State School where in these two schools alone nearly \$12 million will be invested. Rockhampton Special School will receive new classrooms and refurbished learning spaces and half a million dollars will be spent on new specialist classrooms at Keppel Sands State School. I know these upgrades are going to make a huge difference for the teachers and students at those schools. It was wonderful to hear from Principal Sam Conway about how needed those additional classrooms are at the Keppel Sands State School.

It is not just the big ticket projects that will make a difference though. For example, we are investing \$165,000 at Glenmore State High School and \$110,000 at Waraburra State School for access and amenities for people with a disability, which is going to have a big impact. Further west there is nearly \$10 million for new classrooms at Emerald State High School and \$1.7 million for new classrooms and upgrades at Springsure State School, \$600,000 for new shade structures at Emerald North State School and \$440,000 for new covered multipurpose courts at Denison State School.

I am proud that we are delivering 675 extra teachers and nearly 200 extra teacher aides in this budget as part of an ongoing commitment to employ more than 6,100 new teachers and 1,100 teacher aides right across the state. We are investing \$20 million in playground and tuckshop upgrades. There is the \$100 million four-year Go for Gold Fund for new and upgraded sports infrastructure for schools across the state. I know that my colleagues on this side are very excited about that program. There is also \$15.5 million for Respectful Relationships education, which I know is going to go a long way and will make a big difference to the way in which we work in our schools.

It is a great budget for Queensland and it is a great budget for Queensland schools. I commend the committee report to the House.