



Speech By
Bruce Saunders


MEMBER FOR MARYBOROUGH

Record of Proceedings, 23 June 2022

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

REVENUE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (7.51 pm): I rise in support of the appropriation bills for 2022-23. This is a great Labor budget that is delivering for health, roads, schools and neighbourhood centres in my electorate and right across the board. This is a traditional Labor budget.

I want to talk about what is happening in the great electorate of Maryborough. There is money in the budget for the train manufacturing facility at Torbanlea. There is money in the budget for the first lot of trains for Cross River Rail. I know those across the chamber do not like Cross River Rail but no-one can tell the people of my city that they do not like Cross River Rail because in my area it means jobs—it means a lot of jobs. While people down here talk about how they do not want Cross River Rail, I am a big supporter of it because it means employment for my people. In my area it means apprenticeships for young men and women who will have a career path with a great train manufacturing facility at Torbanlea, about 25 kilometres north of Maryborough City.

I want to talk about what is happening in my electorate in the area of health. The Hervey Bay Hospital will be getting an upgrade. There are a lot of people who live on the coastal strip of the Maryborough electorate. There will be upgrades at the Maryborough Hospital. We are getting 19 new paramedics across the Fraser Coast.

Mr Harper: Hear, hear!

Mr SAUNDERS: I take that interjection from the member for Thuringowa. Who would think that he was a paramedic? Who would know? This is the first time that I have found out that he is a paramedic! This budget will deliver right across Queensland. It is delivering in spades for health. We hear so much from those opposite. You can imagine them at the Queensland Club, smoking cigars with the mining barons. The Bentleys would be parked out the front. You can just see it. They would be saying, 'Don't worry about health care in Moranbah, boys; it's all right.'

Honestly, this is one of the best budgets I have ever seen delivered and I have been around politics a long time. I have been around since the Goss era and this is probably one of the best budgets that I have seen for people right across Queensland. No matter where you live, from the cape to Coolangatta, everyone is getting a share. Do you know the funny thing, Mr Deputy Speaker? I listen to those on the other side of the chamber moan and whine, but the resources belong to the Queensland people. They belong to Queenslanders. I am talking about the average Queensland, which is what I am. Why should we not be part of that? Why should not resources help fund our health care, our neighbourhood centres, our schools, our roads and more paramedics right across Queensland? Why shouldn't that happen?

As I said, you can picture the Leader of the Opposition down at the Queensland Club tonight. They will all be panicking about \$1 billion. That will make absolutely no difference to them given the price of coal, but I can tell the House what it will do. It will make a big difference to the lives of people in this state. It will make a huge difference to the people of Moranbah, Maryborough, Hervey Bay, Bundaberg and Gympie.

Mr Harper: A budget for the people.

Mr SAUNDERS: I take that interjection; it is a budget for the people. As a Labor government we should be very proud to bring in a budget that is for all Queenslanders. Not matter where you live and for whom you vote, everyone is a winner in this budget. Just like at the sideshows, everybody is a winner. That is what I say about this budget. Everyone will be dancing around at the next show.

Mr Harper: There is a sideshow over there, member for Maryborough.

Mr SAUNDERS: I take that interjection; there is a sideshow going on. I want to refer to some of the things that are happening in my electorate. For a long time I have been lobbying for upgrades to my special school. I thank the minister for that. My special school has great people and a good cohort of teachers. The school will be upgraded. We have Tinana State School and St Helens State School. Finally, St Helens is getting sewerage because of the investment of a Labor government.

The other day on ABC radio I said that a lot of people will be upset because there will be so much roadworks going on in the electorate. If I were to stand here and tell people about all of the roadworks then we would be here until midnight and I do not want to hold up everyone. There are a lot of roadworks happening in my electorate and I am grateful to the minister for that. I see that the health minister is here and I thank her for those 19 paramedics and for the other upgrade to the Maryborough Hospital that we will announce very shortly. It will be a game changer for my electorate. The 35 beds at Hervey Bay will make a huge difference on the Fraser Coast.

The Maryborough Neighbourhood Centre was tremendous during the floods. They were at the forefront of our flood response. I am pleased to see them being recognised with extra funding to put more services on for migrants coming in to my community and to put on classes for people in my community. This is what a good Labor government does.

This budget is one of the best budgets I have ever seen. I cannot get my head around the opposition criticising it all the time. They have plenty of things to say. We heard the member for Coomera talking about the hospital that is coming. We have heard about the roadworks that are coming and the train stations that are being upgraded in their electorates. It goes on and on. This Palaszczuk Labor government has spread the money right across Queensland, no matter where you live. No matter what electorate you live in or the colour of your shirt—blue, red or orange—this government has spent the money wisely and this government has looked after all Queenslanders. This budget will always be remembered as a budget for all Queenslanders. I thank the Premier, the Deputy Premier and the Treasurer for making sure that not one Queenslanders has been left behind in this budget. I commend the bills to the House.