



Speech By
Corrine McMillan

MEMBER FOR MANSFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 23 June 2022

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

REVENUE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (10.53 pm): I think the member for Everton has just granted the Palaszczuk Labor government one of the greatest gifts. I thank the member for Everton.

I am proud tonight to rise to speak in support of the appropriation bills delivered by the Hon. Treasurer, Minister for Trade and Investment and member for Woodridge. I congratulate the Treasurer and his team. What a great budget it is for the Queensland we serve and for the good people of the electorate of Mansfield.

This great Labor budget addresses the challenges in our health system, the result of the global COVID-19 pandemic and nine years of neglect by the federal LNP government. This budget creates jobs, setting out a clear economic plan, attracting investment and building infrastructure—building the economy for the future. It is a budget that delivers the health and education infrastructure for the future success of young Queenslanders and for the prosperity of our great state.

As a former school principal and still a passionate educator, I know the importance of investing in teachers, the teaching and learning process and school infrastructure for my community. Our community is known across Brisbane as a hub of educational excellence. The reason many young families flock to our electorate every month is to access our high-performing schools. It comes as no surprise that I have worked hard to secure \$31.2 million for local schools in the Palaszczuk government's 2022-23 budget. This includes \$11.56 million for Mansfield State High School to build additional classrooms and learning spaces to replace old demountables; \$6.03 million for Rochedale State High School to build a new hall as part of my 2020 state election commitment; \$1.05 million for Rochedale State High School to refurbish seven learning spaces; \$4.91 million for Rochedale State School to build additional classrooms and learning spaces; \$4.9 million for Wishart State School to build additional classrooms in an existing building; \$50,000 for Upper Mount Gravatt State School to complete the multipurpose sports facility; and more than \$1.08 million for maintenance of state schools across our entire community.

Since being elected in November 2017 I have delivered more than \$180 million to our local schools. I congratulate the Minister for Education for her commitment to the children of Queensland. The Palaszczuk government has a clear vision for education. We believe that a quality education transforms lives. It is the best investment we can make for the future of Queenslanders and for the future prosperity of our great state.

Through my work as chair of the Community Support and Services Committee and its recent parliamentary inquiry, the 2022-23 budget also commits \$125.6 million over four years and nearly \$19 million ongoing to help address social isolation and loneliness and support neighbourhood and

community centres throughout Queensland. I thank our great minister for her support. This is an outcome that I know my entire committee is proud of, regardless of their political association. This will result in an increase for our Mount Gravatt Community Centre's operational funding to \$233,000 per annum, up from around \$126,000. Further, the Mount Gravatt Community Centre will receive \$148,950 in 2022-23 for the continuation of the Ways to Wellness program—a world-leading program supported by the University of Queensland.

To address the challenges in our health system, the Palaszczuk government has delivered the largest investment in new hospitals and new beds in Queensland's history. I congratulate our health minister for her wonderful work. The 2022-23 state budget provides additional funding of \$9.78 billion over six years including for a new cancer hospital. For our community this means a new satellite hospital at Eight Mile Plains, the expansion of QEII Hospital with 112 new beds, and 249 new beds at the PA Hospital.

One in two people in Queensland will suffer a mental illness in their lifetime. Our government will do what Labor governments do. We will not leave behind those families suffering mental illness, with \$1.6 billion provided for mental health services over five years to address issues around mental health, addiction, substance abuse and suicide. I commend you, Deputy Speaker Kelly, for the work you led around the mental health report. This funding will focus on rehabilitation care, additional community care units, adolescent day programs and step-up step-down services to help people transition from hospital. This is the biggest investment in mental health services in Queensland ever.

I commend the Treasurer on his values based decision to levy the one per cent of very large multinational Queensland businesses with annual wages of more than \$100 million a 0.5 per cent levy. Further, in the year to March 2022 coal companies saw the value of their exports increase by \$24 billion. Our government will introduce three new progressive royalty tiers to help Queenslanders share in these profits from natural resources and to ensure this mental health funding is sustainable for many years to come.

This act is really a statement of values rather than about figures and economics. This decision reflects so clearly the deep and strong Labor values held so dearly by the Treasurer and this Labor caucus. This is something that we all can be proud of. The LNP has not said one word to support the revenue measures in the budget. Their failure to support these revenue measures means they must cut. Does this mean they will sack 1,360 public servants from my electorate of Mansfield just like they did last time? My community has not forgotten what those opposite did. They will never forget.

It has been an honour to work with Minister de Brenni to deliver a new Rochedale bus station and park-and-ride. This new infrastructure costs approximately \$750 million and will make a real difference by cutting commuting times for families living in Rochedale. This project includes 485 vehicle parking spaces, including nine accessible spaces and charging bays, undercover storage for 30 bikes, kiss-and-ride bays and pedestrian and bike connectivity. This is part of the Eight Mile Plains to Daisy Hill upgrade and is estimated to support 721 jobs over the life of the project.

The Mansfield electorate is passionate about sport and so am I. I have secured \$8 million over three years for the Hibiscus Stadium to expand the basketball courts. The Mount Gravatt Youth and Recreation Club will receive \$825,000 of \$1.5 million for their stage 2 development. Like most Brisbane suburbs, including your electorate of Greenslopes, my electorate experiences a shortage of green space. To address this, \$507,773 is committed to Rochedale State High School and \$423,000 for Mount Gravatt East State School in the 2022-23 budget to light their ovals. The amount of \$25,000 has also been committed for the cricket nets at Mansfield State School.

The 2022-23 state budget ensures a progressive Queensland will be one more educated, more critical, more healthy, more mobile and better prepared for the ongoing economic challenges that lie ahead. This will be the work of one government, a Labor government, and the result of only one party, the Australian Labor Party. Deputy Speaker, you have reviewed and approved my budget speech for incorporation. As such, I ask that the remainder of my speech be incorporated into the *Record of Proceedings*.

The speech read as follows—

The Palaszczuk Government platform of jobs, health and education continues to guide our Government in every decision we make.

Education

A quality education transforms the lives of individuals, families and whole communities. When I was elected to this Parliament, I vowed that I would strive to ensure the Mansfield Electorate became a hub of educational excellence. I am proud of the schools in my Electorate, and the quality education they provide. Our \$16.5B for education in 2022—23 delivers on our election commitment to employ 6,190 new teachers and 1,139 teacher aides from 2020. 675 teachers and 195 teacher aides will join our great schools across Queensland in the next 12 months.

Free period products will be made available to every Queensland state school. Queensland charity Share the Dignity will be provided with funding to expand our initiative and install vending machines with free tampons and pads at every Queensland state school that needs one. Access to free period products can make a real difference to children, especially students whose families are doing it tough, have unstable accommodation or are fleeing domestic and family violence.

Health

Queensland's health response to this global pandemic has drawn accolades globally—on behalf of my community I thank the Premier, the Minister for Health, the Deputy Premier, Dr Young and Dr Gerrard our Chief Health Officers for their courageous and decisive leadership.

The delivery of 7 Satellite Hospitals, one locally in Eight Mile Plains, to enable our acute hospitals to continue safely managing patients via alternative models of care worth \$265 000 000 is welcomed by my community.

Forty-five additional Ambulance Officers will be allocated to Metro South Region over the next two years, including to our local Wishart Ambulance Station.

Communities and Housing

Social isolation and loneliness is a well-documented and researched new world issue identified prior to the pandemic, but which has been exacerbated since Covid-19. Since my election in 2017, I have worked closely with the University of Queensland, School of Psychology and Sociology, the Mt Gravatt Community Centre and the Queensland Community Alliance to proactively address this important issue in my community. The employment of social workers locally (known as link workers) as part of our Nation leading Ways to Wellness Program which has attracted \$505 016 by the Palaszczuk Government. I am proud of this program, the international interest it has attracted and the significant outcomes achieved to date for our local people. I am equally honoured to have chaired the Parliamentary Committee who conducted a State wide inquiry into this important social issue that significantly impacts the lives of Queenslanders and the future economic prosperity of our State.

I am delighted to announce:

- \$292 000 for Southside Community Care
- \$591 000 to INSYNC Mt Gravatt to deliver specialist homelessness services
- \$735 000 will further enable the Mt Gravatt Community Centre to continue their tremendous work supporting our most vulnerable through the Home Assist Secure Program.
- \$14 418 over the next two years will support my much loved Meals on Wheels service

Mr Speaker it is also pleasing to see a continued strong commitment by the Palaszczuk Government to free TAFE for Queenslanders under 25. This is valued immensely by the young people in my community.

Further, Over \$1 million has been budgeted for the training and training infrastructure of the Mount Gravatt TAFE in this year's budget.

The Back to Work and Skilling Queenslanders for Work Programs since 2020 have afforded 48 people in my community the dignity of work. The Mt Gravatt Community Centre deliver many of the certificate courses to assist disadvantaged locals which is part of these \$472 million Palaszczuk Government signature programs.

More than 43,000 Queenslanders have secured a job as a direct result of their participation in the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program since 2015.

Police

And we're keeping Queenslanders safe.

The Palaszczuk Government will deliver from 2020 an extra 2,025 police personnel over the next 3 years.

Transport and Main Roads

We are delivering another record investment in road and transport infrastructure, \$29.7 billion over 4 years supporting 25 200 jobs for Queenslanders.

- Upgrades to M1 Pacific Highway—one of the state's busiest roads. The Pacific Motorway Eight Mile Plains to Daisy Hill upgrade will continue.
- \$5.4B for Cross River Rail
- \$3.5 billion rail project pipeline as Queensland's population booms.
- \$1M for the Prebble St Bike Way at Rochedale as we partner with the Brisbane City Council

Further, a \$500,000 commitment to begin the Priority Safety Upgrade to Ham Road for Mansfield State Primary and High School—this funding we expect will be matched by the Brisbane City Council under the Local Road Improvement Program.

Small Business

Small Businesses play an important role in my community. Our strong health response has meant that we can get back to business as usual. Many small businesses in my Electorate have benefited from the interest free loans, 4 of the small businesses in my Electorate have received recent Palaszczuk Government Covid-19 Adaption Grants totalling \$52 000 and will continue to access other supports when required.

\$39.1 million is being invested to support our small business growth across the State and \$50 million to support Queensland manufacturers over two years.

Environment

Almost \$40 million is also committed to help protect Queensland's native animals at risk across South-east Queensland, including \$24.6 million to support the South East Queensland Koala Conservation Strategy 2020—2025. This will also include koala fencing to prevent koalas crossing Cavendish Road at Mount Gravatt TAFE. I thank our local environment groups whom I share an enduring and special relationship as together we care for our community.

Our strong health response in Queensland has ensured the foundations for the best possible economic recovery. The Palaszczuk Government's plan for economic recovery from COVID-19 continues with investing for job creation. The greatest investment any Government can make is in the people they serve.

We're focusing on growth sectors like renewable energy, wind, solar and hydrogen, cobalt and vanadium.

This budget strengthens the core pillars of the Palaszczuk Labor Government: healthcare, education, infrastructure, renewables and jobs.

It is a true Labor Budget: we are building more schools, better roads and a workforce for tomorrow, equipping Queenslanders with the skills they need to succeed and unlocking the opportunities our state requires to grow and flourish.

This is what Labor Governments do, and this is exactly what the people of Queensland elected Labor to do!

Mr Speaker, the Palaszczuk government's strong health response has put us on the road to economic recovery.

My community understands that strong and proven community leadership, and a good strong, stable government is what is needed at all times, but especially in times of a global economic and health pandemic.

I am proud to stand part of a Queensland Labor Government led by our Premier who has a vision for this great State of Queensland.

The 2022/23 State Budget ensures a progressive Queensland will be one more educated, more critical, healthier, more mobile and better prepared for the ongoing economic challenges which lie ahead. This will be the work of one Government, a Labor Government and the result of only one party—The Australian Labor Party.

I commend this Bill to the House.