



Speech By
James Martin


MEMBER FOR STRETTON

Record of Proceedings, 23 June 2022

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

REVENUE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr MARTIN** (Stretton—ALP) (4.00 pm): I rise to support the Palaszczuk government's record-breaking investments for Queenslanders in this year's budget. Queensland has led the nation in its health and economic response to COVID-19, and we are building on our recovery by delivering good jobs, better services and a great lifestyle. This certainly rings true for Stretton, which is a fantastic place to be. We have great schools, great people, great businesses and wonderful community organisations that tie together our multicultural area. Of course there is never a shortage of delicious food, but it is investment in health, education and infrastructure that help Stretton thrive.

There are a few important projects in this budget that will improve the day-to-day lives of people in my community. They include removing the Kuraby level crossing and building an overpass at the Beenleigh Road level crossing site; building a brand new satellite hospital at Eight Mile Plains and providing hundreds of extra hospital beds, including 112 at QEII, 112 at Logan Hospital and 249 at the PA Hospital; a new turnaround facility and bus stops at the Stretton Gardens Retirement Estate and Stretton State College in addition to new bus stops and extending the 130 bus route; upgrading the busy Beaudesert Road and Illaweena Street intersection; expanding the Stretton State College sports hall; additional funding for the Kyabra Community Centre in Runcorn; and continuing our commitment to first class education with all-important upgrades at Runcorn Heights State School, Runcorn State High School, Kuraby State School, Kuraby Special School and Calamvale Special School.

Importantly, the budget also provides \$6.8 billion in concessions for individuals and families to ease cost-of-living pressures and reduce costs for businesses. This includes a payroll tax cut for small and medium businesses, a saving of up to \$26,000 a year for eligible businesses. I am also pleased to see a record \$3 billion in the police budget.

Over the past few years the world has been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic, and we all know just how important it is to have a strong health system. That is why the 2022-23 budget is delivering the largest capital investment in health in Queensland's history. We are delivering more hospitals, more beds and more services than ever before. Our record \$23.6 billion health infrastructure will fund over 2,500 hospital beds; a new Queensland cancer centre; expand the QEII, Logan and PA hospitals; employ over 9,400 extra health staff in this term of government; and expand on our commitment to seven brand new satellite hospitals.

One of these satellite hospitals will be built right next to the RACQ building on Levington Road in Eight Mile Plains. It is a great block of land in a fantastic location halfway between the Logan and QEII hospitals. I recently inspected the site with the new Chief Health Officer, John Gerrard, and I am excited to see construction beginning later this year. It will create over 100 jobs. There will also be plenty of ongoing secure jobs for doctors, nurses and health professionals right in my local area.

Our community will have access to convenient care closer to home with reduced pressure on major hospitals. This program is a \$265 million Australian-first initiative that will provide community healthcare services, ambulatory and low-acuity day therapy services such as renal dialysis, chemotherapy, complex wound management, urgent care for minor injury and illness, as well as outpatient activities.

An important part of the Queensland Health and Hospitals Plan is providing new beds. The QE II Hospital will be getting 112 new additional beds, part of a \$465 million expansion plan. The Logan Hospital will also be getting 112 additional beds, part of a \$530 million expansion plan. The PA Hospital will be getting 249 additional beds as part of a \$350 million expansion. That is over a billion dollars in funding for the south side.

Another key element of this budget is the Queensland Rail revolution. On top of our huge investment in Cross River Rail, the Palaszczuk government is delivering \$3.5 billion worth of rail projects that will transform our train network and support our growing state. Importantly for my local area, this includes the removal of the Kuraby level crossing on Beenleigh Road and an upgrade to Kuraby station as part of the \$1.2 billion Logan to Gold Coast Faster Rail Project. I know that residents are tired of being stuck in traffic at level crossings, and plenty have spoken to me about removing the Kuraby level crossing. The complete removal of this level crossing with grade separation is excellent news for people who use Beenleigh Road every day to get to work or drop off the kids to school.

As part of the project the track between Kuraby and Beenleigh will be duplicated to support faster and more frequent trains. With an extra 1.2 million people expected to live in South-East Queensland by 2036, these services are very important. Infrastructure Australia has listed improvements to this rail line on its priority list since 2018, and the Palaszczuk government is delivering. Thank you to the Kuraby community for your strong support of this project. The upgrades will reduce traffic congestion, improve road safety and create a more efficient local transport network.

Acting Deputy Speaker, the Deputy Speaker has reviewed and approved my budget speech for incorporation, and as such I ask that the remainder of my speech be incorporated into the *Record of Proceedings*.

The speech read as follows—

Intersection Upgrades

Our rail network isn't the only thing being upgraded Mr Speaker. Construction is about to start on the Beaudesert Rd & Illaweena St Intersection as part of a \$30million upgrade. It was great to have Transport Minister Mark Bailey visit the Member for Algeester and I last week at the intersection to see first-hand just how much traffic goes through this area—highlighting the need for an upgrade.

Works on the intersection will provide 6 lanes to the motorway on-ramp, an extension of the right-hand turn lane from Beaudesert Rd onto Illaweena St, signalised left turn lanes, upgraded bus stops nearby, a dedicated bikeway, and safer pedestrian access. It is fantastic to see works commencing on important local road projects such as this. Busting congestion and making sure that people are able to get home to their families quicker and safer is part of the Palaszczuk Government's commitment to delivering for the Southside.

Stretton Bus Turnaround

Further down the road on Illaweena St, there have been even more transport network improvements! In fantastic news for residents of the Stretton Gardens Retirement Estate, a new bus stop is now operational right outside the Stretton Gardens village. This means that elderly residents no longer have to walk an extra 15 minutes up the hill to get to the bus. Instead, they can jump on the 130 bus every ten minutes right outside their door. I want to recognise the hard work of residents at Stretton Gardens, who campaigned for this bus stop for many years with our dear friend Duncan Pegg. There has been massive support for this project, and it is a huge win for our community. Thank you to Transport Minister Mark Bailey for listening to the concerns of Stretton Gardens residents. I am proud to have worked with the Minister, the community and Duncan to deliver this important service.

Students at Stretton State College will also soon have access to a bus stop right between their junior and senior campuses on Gowan Road, meaning they too can hop on a bus right outside their school. Works on the Stretton State College bus stop are due to be completed soon, along with the new bus turnaround facility along Gowan Road. The works will provide signalised pedestrian crossings on Illaweena St, safety improvements to the line marking, improved cycling facilities and a new signalised left turn onto Gowan Rd.

These bus works are a \$4.8 million investment that will make life easier for our fast-growing Stretton community with better access to public transport and improved connectivity.

Other Upgrades

I would also like to mention other works that will be occurring such as the \$2m upgrade to the Beaudesert Rd & Kameruka St intersection, as well as further Gateway Motorway upgrades northbound from Eight Mile Plains to Nudgee and southbound from Eight Mile Plains to Daisy Hill.

Education

The third major aspect of this year's budget is investment in Education, which is vital for our future. Societies with higher rates of education are generally healthier, more economically stable, and more equal. Last month I was very proud to read that Sunnybank Hills State School was the top performing primary school in Queensland for NAPLAN testing. This reflects the exceptional quality of teaching in our area and the hard work by parents, carers, and of course, the kids!

The Palaszczuk Government's 2022-23 budget is providing record investment in education. It includes \$16.1 billion for school education, \$361.5 million for early childhood education and \$108.9million for infrastructure projects at special schools. Several schools in the Stretton Electorate will be getting upgrades. Kuraby State School's F Block will be getting a \$450k makeover Runcorn Heights State School is receiving \$1.1million for the conversion of prep to administration, as well as \$300k to increase its Outside School Hours Care capacity.

Runcorn State High is getting a \$2.5million upgrade, including a brand-new science block, Kuraby Special School is receiving \$200k for renewal planning and Calamvale Special School will undergo a huge \$20 million transformation with new buildings and learning spaces.

Under the Palaszczuk Government, children with special needs will never be left behind. Every young student deserves to be afforded with the best education opportunities possible. That's what Labor is about Mr Speaker.

For our older students looking to get real world qualifications, TAFE is a great pathway. I am thrilled at the new Federal Labor Government's plan to provide fee-free TAFE to deliver a Future Made in Australia. The Acacia Ridge TAFE is a fantastic education facility that provides opportunities for apprentices and trainees to upskill, fill skills shortage gaps and create jobs of the future. The Acacia Ridge TAFE is receiving \$1.4 million of investment for training infrastructure in this budget so that it can continue to provide fantastic education services to our community.

Stretton State College Sports Hall

Stretton State College is one of the fastest growing schools in Queensland, with people coming from far and wide to enrol their kids at SSC. Because of the rapid growth of the school, upgrades to the Sports Hall have become necessary, and the \$200k budget commitment this year for renewal planning is the first step towards extending the Sports Hall. Design and consultation will soon begin so that we can be ready to go when the time comes to start building. I look forward to seeing the continued growth of Stretton State College, it is a fantastic local school.

Olympics—Go For Gold

Another big event to look forward to is the 2032 Brisbane Olympic Games.

Hosting the Olympic Games is a once in a lifetime opportunity for Brisbane. It is a transformational event that will bring about enormous benefits, both social and economic. The Games will deliver tens of thousands of jobs and accelerate infrastructure projects that are needed for sustainable growth across Queensland. Living in Brisbane will be made even better, with the tourism industry set to boom as Brisbane becomes a global destination. There will be enhanced sporting outcomes for our young athletes, and so much opportunity for our next generation of stars to shine.

In my community of Stretton, I am especially looking forward to seeing the growth and emergence of the next wave of Badminton stars that will hopefully deliver a gold medal for Australia on the Olympic stage.

Going for Gold is also part of this year's budget. We want to make sure Queensland dominates the 2032 Games with home-grown talent. That's why we're investing \$31.4 million in the Queensland Academy of Sport to ensure Queensland athletes will be able to compete with the best in the world.

Social Services

Mr Speaker, it wouldn't be a Labor budget without investment into helping vulnerable Queenslanders. This budget includes record investment in neighbourhood and community centres across the state with the single greatest increase to operational funding the sector has ever seen.

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to providing services and assistance for the most vulnerable members of our community, and this budget sees funding increase by \$115 million over the next four years. One of the many fantastic neighbourhood and community centres we have in QLD is the Kyabra Community Centre in Runcorn, who will be receiving increased funding of \$20,000 per annum, with total funding of over half a million each year. David O'Toole and the Kyabra team do such amazing work helping people with disabilities, those experiencing violence, homelessness, and social isolation, as well as those impacted by disasters and financial stress. The Kyabra Centre is undoubtedly one of the most important parts of our local community and it is great to see that their important work will continue.

Conclusion

Mr Speaker, the Palaszczuk Government's 2022-23 budget will deliver on the key areas of health, education, and transport for Queenslanders. Investment projects will create thousands and thousands of new jobs, which is so important. As we learned last week, 3 quarters of all jobs in Australia were created right here in Queensland. We only have 20% of the population, but we're delivering 75% of the jobs. It sure is great to be a Queenslanders!