



Speech By
Jason Hunt


MEMBER FOR CALOUNDRA

Record of Proceedings, 23 June 2022

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

REVENUE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr HUNT** (Caloundra—ALP) (11.33 pm): I rise to speak in enthusiastic support of the 2022-23 state budget. How could I not support a budget of this rolled gold quality? Indeed, I am wearing my new gold tie that I bought from the iconic Caloundra business Chaps Menswear just to celebrate this budget.

'You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today.' So said American president Abraham Lincoln. This Premier, this Treasurer and indeed this entire government has seen the responsibility of tomorrow—namely, the health and wellbeing of Queenslanders—and they have comprehensively taken steps to ensure it is in the safest hands and the best possible condition. Every single Queenslander will be able to look back at the philosophy that underpins this budget and know that this is a government that cares and has that care as its absolute highest priority. They will know this because every single Queenslander now and for generations to come will benefit from this transformative approach to health.

Without exception, every Queenslander will, at some point in their life to greater or lesser extent, need to access the services of our state's health system. They will be able to access a larger, better funded, more comprehensive healthcare system than any previous generation of Queenslanders. If the LNP is against this budget or the funding model that is its foundation, they should very simply be up-front about it and tell us exactly which services they will cut. At a local level, Caloundra will benefit from a further \$24.6 million towards the advancement in the very exciting field of brachytherapy and a new linear accelerator for the treatment of cancer patients. Almost \$1 million will go to the Caloundra Hospital, getting it ready for a brand new solar energy fit-out.

It does not end there. The first injection of \$1 million has secured one of my election pledges from 2020 which is a brand new, state-of-the-art ambulance station for Caloundra to be located in Caloundra South. This is a terrific outcome for the health and safety of my community. The community will be even safer thanks to this budget with the delivery of funding to lock in two further election commitments. There is funding for our new police station in Caloundra—a station that will bring in the single biggest increase in policing numbers Caloundra has ever seen. There is funding for a Fire and Emergency Services station also in Caloundra South. Again, this will mean a doubling of resources for the Caloundra community.

That is a community safety hat-trick for my community—something the LNP was never able to achieve in the proceeding 116 years. Indeed, let me summarise the entire contributions from Sunshine Coast LNP members. They have used their speeches on the budget to argue that this government is not contributing enough funding to projects that they never funded at all or in many cases did not even start.

Education is always a priority for Labor governments and this year we have prioritised it yet again. This government has delivered three new schools in three years for Caloundra. Again, that is something Caloundra has not ever experienced before. The educational spending keeps on coming. I look forward to seeing the continuing work on the Caloundra State School hall as it gets \$1.6 million towards a \$3.2 million upgrade. Almost \$4 million will be making its way to our oldest primary school at Glen View.

There is a very welcome \$1 million for Golden Beach State School for their new security fence. When this news hit my community, I got a very simple but genuine message from the P&C president that simply read 'OMG we are getting the fence. We cannot thank you enough.' Golden Beach State School, you are very welcome because this government values the education of our children.

That is not even the highlight. Matt, Sam, Emma, Fiona—the amazing leadership team at Baringa State Secondary College—will be delighted to learn that a very tidy \$26 million is coming their way to fund their new performing arts block. I cannot wait to join the Aura community watching the first school production in the new facility.

I can also highlight this government's tremendous initiative, partnering with Share the Dignity, to provide period products for our state schools. This is an important step in addressing period poverty and ensuring our young women have all that they need when they need it.

The record rail and road spend goes on unabated on the Sunshine Coast. The rail duplication and the Bruce Highway are all supported in this budget. For me, the highlight is the \$22 million for the mighty Bells Creek arterial road that will benefit all of the electorate as it will open up infrastructure, jobs and give Caloundra two entry and exit points on the Bruce for the first time in the history of our town. It will also provide another route into our beautiful hinterland communities and it simply cannot come quickly enough.

I could go on because that is not the end of the good news for Caloundra, but for now I can only offer my strong support for this budget. It focuses on the health and safety of Queenslanders, continues the incredible work of the Palaszczuk Labor government that guided us safely through the pandemic and is now guiding us to a healthy and economically strong future. On that basis, I commend the bills to the House.