



Speech By
Jessica Pugh


MEMBER FOR MOUNT OMMANEY

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APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

REVENUE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (12.36 am): It is budget week and I will give you one guess what I want to talk about first. Of course, it is the Jindalee bridge on the Centenary Motorway. It is good to see lots of fans of the Centenary Motorway in the House tonight. This project is one of the most complex in Queensland's history. Since this time last year, the department has become well advanced in selecting the right proponent to build this vital infrastructure.

This project will soon be getting underway. We have come a long way since my budget pitch to get the funding across the line with the Treasurer. I went into my pitch meeting with a few options. The first was the project as we see it in the budget papers today: a wonderful bridge, brilliant active transport facilities and a brand new merging lane at the dreaded Jindalee onramp. The second proposal was much cheaper. I proposed a boom gate under the Sumners Road overpass on the Centenary Motorway which I surmised would really reduce congestion in my electorate. I did, however, hold grave concerns that my good friends the members for Ipswich, Jordan, Bundamba and Ipswich West would never speak to me again because, while it would have fixed the traffic in my electorate, it probably would have completely ruined the traffic in theirs.

Mr McCallum: Your concerns were founded.

Ms PUGH: Indeed, member for Bundamba. I was joking, of course, but the point I made was very clear: this bridge is of regional significance and it desperately needs an upgrade. I got my point across and we got the money in the budget. I thank the Treasurer very much for that.

The good news does not stop there for the south-west corridor. I thank the members for Ipswich, Bundamba, Jordan and Ipswich West for working with me as a team to secure federal funding for planning from Darra to Toowong along the Centenary Motorway and from Darra to Yamanto, alongside our hardworking federal MP Milton Dick. This motorway has sustained a dramatic increase in traffic over recent years due to the growth in the south-west, and it is the No. 1 issue that people raise with me in my community. But wait, there's more! We also secured money for planning for the Ipswich Motorway Darra to Oxley stretch. This is all about future planning for our community, and it is so great to see.

There are also some amazing classroom upgrades and new builds happening in my local schools. Corinda State High School has been allocated \$200,000 for tennis courts in this year's budget and Darra will be getting a total of \$7 million for additional classrooms, which is really exciting for this small but growing school. Oxley State School is getting \$675,000 for equity upgrades like ramps and other amenities. It is all good news in Mount Ommaney.

Ms Grace: A great local member!

Ms PUGH: Thank you very much, Minister for Education, I will take that interjection. One of the things I am most excited about in this budget has to be the allocation of funds to build the Corinda State High School STEM lab. The students in my community have spoken with me about the strong focus that this school has on STEM—it is a STEM school of excellence in our community—and how their current STEM labs are actually some of the oldest buildings in the school. I understand some of them are pretty close to being as old as the school itself. I thank and place on the record here in the House tonight my thanks to the current and former P&C presidents, Stefano and Jenise, and the current school captains and principal of the school, Helen, who have advocated really hard for this upgrade alongside the school community.

A few years ago the STEM lab at Centenary State High School—which my daughter now attends—was completed. It is really fantastic for me as the local member to say that in a few years both of my fantastic state high schools will have state-of-the-art STEM facilities for our students to learn in. Over the coming year we will see planning works underway at Corinda State High School. I know that with the input of the school community the buildings will not just be state-of-the-art; they will be full of heart too.

Finally, can I mention how happy I am to see that my Vietnamese Community Centre has received an increase to their funding. This year it is \$126,220. They do a great job looking after our significant Vietnamese community in my neck of the woods and I know that every single dollar will be spent wisely, just like in this cracker of a budget. With those few words I commend the bill to the House.