



Speech By
Jonty Bush


MEMBER FOR COOPER

Record of Proceedings, 24 June 2022

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

REVENUE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (3.15 pm): I rise to speak in support of the budget and the Appropriation Bill. I start by congratulating the Treasurer and his team for their detailed work in this year's budget. This is a budget that invests in the health of all Queenslanders, growing our economy, improving services and protecting our lifestyle. It is a budget that reflects the key issues that our state is facing right now—issues such as housing affordability and availability. This budget will unlock development and increase the supply of housing, in addition to injecting the largest concentrated investment in social housing in Queensland's history.

People need mental health support services that are responsive to their needs. \$1.6 billion has been allocated with a focus on substance abuse, suicide prevention and child and adolescent mental health. This funding will completely transform our mental health system. To provide certainty for the sector, we will also introduce a mental health levy of between 0.25 and 0.5 per cent to the one percent of businesses with annual taxable Australian wages of over \$10 million. That levy will raise \$425 million annually and will guarantee that the funding uplift in mental health services is sustainable. It is disappointing that both the LNP and the Greens political party have opposed this proposal, as outlined in their statements of reservation to the report.

Our government remains committed to ensuring that every child has access to quality education. I am thrilled that in this budget a total of \$2.8 million has been allocated across a number of our schools in Cooper. I want to give a particular shout-out to the Red Hill Special School. I have had the chance to get to know many of the staff, parents and students at the school. The children are beautiful. They turn up to school eager to learn and wanting to fulfil their potential. And why shouldn't they expect that? Every child in this state deserves our unwavering support and backing. That is why, on behalf of the school community, I have been pushing so hard for funding to progress the redesign and redevelopment of the school. I am thrilled to see funding allocated in this budget for that detailed planning and consultation to occur. I look forward to working with the school community to keep the redevelopment moving ahead.

This is a budget that considers what Queensland will be and what resourcing Queensland will need over the next decade, particularly as we approach the Queensland Olympics. Of course, delivering the Queensland of the future has already begun. We want to live in a state where its biodiversity is protected and celebrated. The South-East Queensland Conservation Strategy has been in place now for two years. It was introduced by the Palaszczuk Labor government. It outlines the strongest koala protections we have ever seen in this state. The strategy continues to be supported by a budget allocation of \$24 million. That will take the total budget for protecting our threatened species up to almost \$40 million.

I am a member of Save Our Waterways Now and a proud supporter of The Gap Sustainability Initiative, which are both wonderful local environmental organisations. We have been collaborating, along with other passionate locals, and have set ourselves quite a bodacious local environmental goal to see platypus return to our local creeks by 2032. That is going to take a significant community effort, but it is my hope that I am standing here in 2032, when the Olympics are rolling out, and sharing with the House the news that we do have platypus in Enoggera Creek.

We want a future Queensland where there is gender equity and where there is pay equity. We want a Queensland where women feel safe and actually are safe in their homes and in the streets. We want a Queensland where the discrete needs of women are recognised in the workplace.

While we have so far to go in changing community sentiments about the role of women in society and in the workplace, I am proud that the Palaszczuk Labor government leads the nation on prioritising women's issues. Queenslanders should feel proud—and the advocates and workers particularly should feel proud—of what we have achieved here together. Whether it is the landmark *Not now, not ever* report or the substantial backing to deliver the response to the first report of the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce, this government supports and backs Queensland's women.

Finally, Queenslanders dream of attending an Olympics event here in Queensland and watching Queensland athletes. Competing in an Olympics in your home state is potentially a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. We have an opportunity to invest in our local community and sporting groups, to invest in our athletes of the future. I am thrilled that there is funding in this budget to complete construction of the shared GPS and Valleys Cricket Clubhouse at Ashgrove Sportsground. These two clubs are some of Queensland's—not just Brisbane's—oldest and biggest sports clubs for their respective codes. Collectively, GPS and Valleys have a combined total membership of around 2,500 players and have delivered us some of Queensland's greatest sporting legends—from Allan Border and Matthew Hayden through to Wallabies such as Matt Cockbain and current GPS CEO Anthony Herbert, who is doing an absolutely stellar job out there with the club.

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

The speech read as follows—

This budget outlines a record health spend of \$23.6 billion, adding 2,200 beds across 15 facilities—including in Metro North over the next six years, and vastly reducing ambulance waiting times which is a concern people have raised with me. The dedicated cancer treatment centre at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital will be a game-changer for locals who have been diagnosed and are seeking treatment for cancer—and their families. This centre is an Australian-first concept, and will be a one-stop shop for the most sophisticated treatment that people need all under one roof. With one person in Australia diagnosed with cancer every four minutes this is an issue that touches us all.

Many people are attracted to our electorate for the wonderful schools we have here. I'm pleased to share that funding has been allocated for a number of our local schools, including:

\$900,000 for Petrie Terrace State School to upgrade shade sails and cover their walkways

\$450,000 for Ashgrove State School to upgrade their outdoor learning area which will completely transform how they're using that space!

\$200,000 for the Red Hill Special School to engage in the planning and design of future works on their Ithaca site. This is the first step in what we expect will be a complete overhaul for this school and its community and something I've personally advocated strongly on since elected.

\$194,000 for The Gap State High School to finalise their sports courts upgrades

This is of course in addition to the broader investment in education, teachers and teacher aides. And the recent announcement of \$40 million in new funding for two key programs—the School Transport Infrastructure Program which delivers improvements to the road infrastructure around Queensland schools, like new traffic signals, “stop, drop and go” zones, car park modifications, footpaths, buses and vehicle turnaround areas, pedestrian crossings and dedicated turning lanes—and the School Crossing Supervisor Expansion Scheme.

People have also raised with me the issue of community safety and the need for additional policing. I'm pleased to report a budget allocation of \$2.9 billion in policing—the biggest increase in police resourcing in 30 years—which will see an additional 2,025 police engaged by 2025. I've been working with the Minister on the need for a more agile police response in the Milton, Bardon and Paddington area—and am pleased to report that I will be doing an announcement on that shortly after budget week.

\$1.29 billion is allocated to the Cross River Rail project. Although this sits outside our electorate many of us use the train network to get around for work and socialising. This project will completely transform rail travel in Brisbane's inner city—with nearly 100,000 people using the trains each day and trains expected to be coming every six minutes between stations. Missing a train will be a thing of the past!

Funding is set aside for maintenance around the Enoggera reservoir and D'Aguilar forest. This year's budget also allocates nearly \$40 million towards protecting Queensland's threatened species including koalas. Brisbane is the only city in Australia with a koala population within 4kms from its CBD, its something to be proud of and something I'm glad we're prioritising in this year's budget.

Social and affordable housing is something we're all turning our minds to. We do have a very limited amount of public housing in our electorate and I'm pleased to see funding set aside for some enhancements to those properties. Unarguably the announcement that will make a difference in the area of social housing is the commercial arrangement with Brisbane Housing Corporation and the Queensland Investment Corporation to build 1200 social and affordable homes.

Nearly \$50 million has been allocated to upgrades to courtrooms—including to the Brisbane courts—specifically in relation to enhancing service delivery to victims of domestic and family violence. This announcement will certainly come as a comfort to anyone experiencing intimate partner violence. The upgrades will be trauma-informed and will include safe rooms, reconfigured registry counters private interview rooms and additional security.

I have been advocating for additional funding for our local sporting and community clubs, and I'm thrilled that funding has been set aside to complete the Ashgrove Sports Ground upgrade. I know how excited people are for this upgrade, which will include dedicated women's facilities, new public toilets (which I know will benefit locals who use this ground to train, like the Park Run mob), and space for community events. Deputy Speaker, having worked closely with our inner city sporting facilities now for over a year I would like to see additional investment in our inner-city sporting facilities. The demand pressures on these clubs are growing, and we need to find solutions to accommodate the growing numbers of young families, and competitors moving into the area.

On this point I commend the bill to the house.