



Speech By  
**Julianne Gilbert**

**MEMBER FOR MACKAY**


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Record of Proceedings, 23 June 2022

**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL**

**APPROPRIATION BILL**

**REVENUE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (5.46 pm): I would like to start by thanking Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk, Treasurer Cameron Dick and the combined cabinet team who assisted in the development of a budget that will continue to keep Queensland in the strong fiscal position this government has been leading since 2015. It has been Labor governments that consistently deliver on a balance of needs and wants for the whole state by delivering good jobs, better services and supporting our great Queensland lifestyle.

The budget has delivered on our state's present needs and put in place the infrastructure and strategic goals for industry-building projects that will build the growth of tomorrow, most importantly in my region of Mackay. This budget is an historic health budget. Our health facilities are being rebuilt, expanded and refurbished, delivering quality health care to regional Queensland. Our schools are also getting extensive renewals with maintenance and upgrades. We have a massive roads program that is continuing to provide modern, safe roads and a pipeline of jobs for local families.

One thing the pandemic has taught us is that we all need to be prepared for uncertain times. With this budget, Queenslanders will be confident that Queensland will continue to be agile when thrown curveballs by the universe.

The resources sector and associated services industries will be leading economic growth in my region for many years to come. There is still a strong reliance on metallurgical coal for the production of steel. The Bowen Basin, west of my electorate, produces some of the highest grade coal in the world and will continue to export to the world.

The Resources Centre of Excellence, a state government 2017 election commitment, has become the leading underground mine facility for training and research in the Southern Hemisphere. The research facility is used by companies like Vayeron, East West Lighting and CSIRO to test prototypes in real-life mining conditions. Strip lighting, conveyor sensors and drones are just a few of the products that have been tested and enabled on their path to commercial manufacture and export.

Stage 2 of the centre of excellence is to be called the Future Industries Hub. It will deliver jobs of the future to meet the change in demands for the resource sector and beyond. The hub will also provide environmental, social and governance education. Activities proposed for the Resources Centre of Excellence stage 2 Future Industries Hub include: critical mineral testing and commercialisation; advanced mineral processing research and development; rapid prototyping and advanced manufacturing; establishment of an advanced robotics collaboration facility; space manufacturing research and development; circular economy mapping, evaluation and implementation; and a biofutures startup hub.

New critical minerals are being detected in the overburden piles of some of the coalmine pits in the Bowen Basin. There may be a re-mining of dormant mines for critical minerals needed for new technologies and energy. I am looking forward to my region potentially being a leader in the development of lifelong batteries and the emerging electric car industry.

The engineering and resource sector is not the only economic show in my region. We have a very well established agricultural industry with many opportunities to diversify into high-value food commodities. The Future Foods BioHub business case is funded in this budget. The hub has the potential to contribute to food security, deliver higher dividends to our food producers and create new manufacturing industries for Queensland.

Export transport is vital to our traditional, new and emerging industries. The Mackay port and the Dalrymple Bay coal port are both state owned ports and are part of the NQBP group of ports. They have both had major upgrades in recent years. The Mackay port had more hard set-down sites, a biosecurity wash-down station and the introduction of roll-on roll-off freight facilities by changing the edge of some wharves. The largest cargo ships in the world now use the Mackay port, delivering a range of oversized mining and engineering equipment, vehicles and break-bulk cargo. There was \$7.6 million for maintenance and upgrade and to support studies for hydrogen trade for the ports.

The health and wellbeing of Queenslanders is front and centre of the budget. The budget delivers an historic program of infrastructure, with a \$9.785 billion spend over six years across Queensland. Mackay and region, covered by the Mackay HHS, has a bonanza of new builds, upgrades and extensions of our hospitals. The shovels are already in the ground at the site of the brand new \$30 million Sarina Hospital and accommodation in Brewers Road. This is a purpose-built, state-of-the-art facility, bringing health care closer to locals.

The first patients have already used the new CT scanner at the Bowen Hospital. Locals from Bowen and Collinsville will no longer need to be transported long distances for scans. The Proserpine Hospital will have upgraded clinical assimilation training area, clinical assessment rooms and an acute primary care centre. The Moranbah Hospital will also undergo a rebuild and renewal under the Building Rural and Remote Healthcare Program. The hospital is a vital facility in the heart of our many local mines. Every project and upgrade within the footprint of the Mackay HHS takes pressure off the largest hospital, the Mackay Base Hospital.

When the new Mackay Hospital was officially opened in 2015 by the Palaszczuk government, extension plans in place were for 25 to 30 years in the future. The region has grown so quickly that the planned future wing of 128 additional beds has been bought forward to cover unprecedented demand. There is \$250 million front and centre in the budget to bring this project forward by decades. The Premier and her health ministers Yvette D'Ath and Steven Miles and chief health officers kept Queenslanders safe during COVID. Our commitment to health is backed up in this budget.

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

*The speech read as follows—*

Deputy Speaker education opens doors for our young people giving them choices and opportunities post school. Students deserve to have learning spaces that allow them to learn in well maintained environments with the necessary modern equipment that will be conducive for students to reach their full potential.

The students at Mackay North State High School under the guidance of Cathy George and her music and performance faculty, consistently win local, state and national awards for their efforts. Their programs are so well regarded, they have grown out of their current facilities due to demand. \$200,000 will enable the school to start designing and consulting for future upgrades and rebuild of the performing arts centre and hall used by the performance students to create our future stars.

Pioneer State High School have had recent upgrades to science and robotics teaching areas. Now the Home economics kitchen and dining areas are set to get a \$1.7 million upgrade to bring their kitchens up to commercial standard. Modern teaching and learning space built to certification standard readies students for the workforce and further study in their chosen field of employment.

Mackay SHS school offers course of excellence in a range of areas including sport academy, Creative Arts Academy, Academic Excellence, and Marine studies also our only Clontarf Academy. Marine students will have a dedicated learning space with funding to go towards a specialist space. Living on the edge of the Great Barrier Reef, marine studies opportunities gives student the ability to pursue many of the marine career choices on our door step.

There are many school maintenance projects to be undertaken under in this budget, upgrades to tuckshops, playgrounds, classroom renewal to keep local schools in good repair. Our schools are inclusive places, having a disability should not be an impediment for any student or teacher accessing classrooms. I am pleased to report of our schools are upgrading to equitable access devices, lifts or ramps which ever the most appropriate.

Roads

Speaker all roads lead to Mackay or it seems that way with the continuation of multi million dollar road projects continually being rolled out across the region. The final access upgrades for the Mackay Ring Road are being finalised. The planning is underway for the \$350 million Mackay Port Access Road previously know as stage 2 of Mackay Ring Road. The long awaited Walkerston

Bypass has begun, jointly funded with the federal government. This road will make the township of Walkerston a much safer place with road cargo for the Bowen Basin diverted away from business, homes, and schools. A business case and planning for upgrades to the Mackay Bucasia Road will investigate the best solution to ease pinch points at the busy traffic times of the day.

We have a great outdoor lifestyle in Mackay. Our already extensive network of cycle and shared paths are well used by locals of all ages, for transport, exercise and relaxation. This budget allocates funds for networks to be extended and improved across our region. The busy intersection of River and Sydney Streets is a popular crossing for cyclists and pedestrians, this budget is delivering a safe crossing upgrade.

There has been a lot of discussion by local bus users about the Caneland bus stop, a new bus stop will be constructed on Mangrove Road improving the accessibility for the bus drivers and passengers with expansion of vehicle lanes for everyone's improving the efficiency of the services.

When state government grants funds to local council to carry out small projects, locals are employed, and pressure is taken off councils bottom line for their budget in delivering infrastructure to our community. Works for Queensland (W4Q) \$4 million commitment is funded in this budget. I am looking forward to seeing the projects put forward by Mackay Regional Council.

Speaker this budget delivers for my region and it delivers for every region across Queensland, I support the bill.