



Speech By  
**Julianne Gilbert**

**MEMBER FOR MACKAY**


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**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL (NO. 3)**

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**BETTING TAX AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (8.18 pm): I support the bills as they support Queensland's strong fiscal position. My electorate has gone from strength to strength under the Labor Palaszczuk government. In 2015, there was high unemployment, empty shops, empty cafes and about 2,000 empty homes. It has taken a Labor government to rebuild the Mackay region to a robust economy, bursting with lots of opportunities for the future. There are a lot of businesses moving to Queensland because they have confidence in this Treasurer and what this government is doing, with an eye on the future.

My region is going to lead the state when it comes to green energy. I know that the member for Condamine had a lot to say about it earlier, but green energy is what industries want. They want a guarantee that they can access green energy before they put their roots down and set up business in our great state. It is only this side of the House that has a vision for the future and is attracting big businesses to our state. Brand new businesses want to set up here. We need green energy.

My area will have the largest pumped hydro scheme in the world. The member for Condamine needs to get on board and back this in, unlike those on the other side of the House and One Nation that are dead against it. Some \$35 million will be spent on the studies that need to be done to make sure we have everything right before we get started. This is great for my region. The naysayers opposite should come to my region, talk to the kids in my schools and tell them that they want to take away their future and take away the 2,000 jobs that will come from this from our community. They need to tell them what they are going to put there instead. Do they want to put nuclear in my region? We do not want it. There is a lot of support—

**Mr KRAUSE:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The member for Mackay is talking about an initiative that was announced after the end of the 2022 financial year. This is a supplementary appropriation bill and there is no relevance.

**Mrs GILBERT:** I am responding to the member for Condamine.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Martin): I understand, member for Mackay. I will get some advice and respond to the point of order. Member, if you can relate what you are saying back to the appropriation bills it will be completely fine.

**Mrs GILBERT:** In the forward estimates there is \$35 million allocated for the studies, as I mentioned, so it is very relevant. This is relevant to the industries that are relying on this green power. GW3, the Resource Industry Network, the engineering sector and the business sector in my region are applauding this project.

The sugar industry has a bright future in my area as well. It has the support of this government. At the QUT laboratory on the grounds of Racecourse Mill there is a company called Mercurius that has a state government grant—in case the member for Scenic Rim is worried about it—and they are developing aviation fuel. They are also developing biodiesel. Carl Seck and his team are there running the trial projects. With this project we could see planes flying across Queensland, across Australia and across the world fuelled by Queensland sugar. We need green energy to keep these businesses in our region.

In Mackay we also have a trial of two bioethanol buses. That bioethanol is being produced at Plane Creek Mill in Sarina—a local mill. The buses are driving around town wrapped in murals of sugar cane to show that they are lean and green. The buses were made on the Gold Coast. We are bringing manufacturing back to Queensland. Those opposite have no idea about where to go in the future.

We are also developing another trial that we will need green energy for. That is producing protein from sugar so we can replicate egg whites. This is going to be a great boon for the food industry. Work was started on this back in the days of then minister Jones and is continuing. Great things are going to happen in my region because of this Labor government and the great Treasurer who supports it.

The budget allocated a lot of money to health. In my region, like most other regions across Queensland, we have seen an increase in the budget for health. In Mackay funding has increased to \$562 million—an increase of 9.2 per cent. This will fund new infrastructure at Mackay Base Hospital and two brand new wings to fit in the 128 new beds. This will provide 610 construction jobs. The tenders for the Moranbah Hospital should go out in the near future. I know that everybody in Moranbah will be excited to see shovels in the ground. They have been excited about this for some time. Sarina Hospital has started. It is on a site that is near an aged-care home. This will be a fantastic health precinct. It will add to the little community down in Sarina.

We do so many things in Queensland. Sport and tourism is also getting a boost in the area with the Great Barrier Reef Arena. I visited the arena recently with Minister Hinchliffe. It is fantastic. Large numbers of people have been coming into Mackay already because we have been able to attract AFLW games, Big Bash games and international cricket matches. Wildcat catamarans was allocated funding of \$1 million. They won an award at the recent tourism awards. They are out there developing our tourism industry which took a hit under the Newman government.

All roads to lead to Mackay. That is why the spend on our roads is absolutely fantastic. Minister Bailey was in Mackay on Melbourne Cup Day looking at the six-lane upgrade of the Bruce Highway northern access. It is a fantastic road that makes access to Mackay-Bucasia Road a lot smoother. We have a huge network of shared pathways for cycling and walking. People can go east, west, north or south. The paths connect our city to our beaches. Mackay is a flat place so it is a great place in which to get moving.

The Walkerston bypass is on the way to being completed. There is a lot of work happening out there. That is something that the township of Walkerston has been asking for for many years. Congratulations to the road action group that lobbied for this. This road will take all of the heavy vehicles—the fertiliser, explosives and oversized vehicles—out of the township of Walkerston, making it so much safer.

There are so many opportunities coming from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund in my area. Broken Ballerina, which is a domestic violence service, bought a car so that they can pick up women and children and take women safely to their court appearances. Our sports clubs have been recipients. The BMX club got sensors for their wheels so that they can electronically give people their best times. The BMX track has been resurfaced. Meals on Wheels has been able to buy new equipment. Sinkers swimming club is going to hold the masters swimming championships next year. I expect to see all members in their Speedos racing up and down the lanes in Mackay.

Under the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program we have a lot of people gaining skills so that they get into work. We have young dads with babies getting their first jobs so they can be role models for their children with ongoing work. We have had women do pharmacy assistant courses. It is a fantastic program.