



Speech By
Hon. Mark Ryan


MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 23 June 2022

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

REVENUE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (4.19 pm): I rise to speak in favour of the Queensland state budget 2022-2023 and put on the record my support for the appropriation bills. This state budget supports numerous excellent initiatives in the areas of health, education, transport and community safety. All of these initiatives highlight the government's great work to support good jobs, better services and a great lifestyle. However, it is disappointing to hear that members of the opposition do not indicate support for the very reasonable and fair revenue measures which will underpin an historic and massive boost in mental health and health resourcing. Let's be very clear about this: if the LNP does not support the revenue measures, then the only way that the LNP could fund extra mental health and health resourcing is through cuts. We all know that the LNP love to cut. If they do not support the revenue measures, then they will, in the example of this budget, need to cut \$1.2 billion from the Queensland Health and Hospitals Plan and \$400 million a year for mental health initiatives.

If the LNP had their way again, because they have done it before, then my community would not get the Morayfield ambulance station, it would not get the additional services planned for the Caboolture Hospital and it would not get the Caboolture satellite hospital health facility. If the LNP had their way again, they would have to sack hundreds and hundreds of nurses and midwives, just like they did last time.

There is a choice here to support the additional investment in health and mental health, and then there must also be support for the very fair and very reasonable revenue measures in the revenue bill before the House.

I would like to firstly touch on some of the initiatives which we will see in the Morayfield Caboolture area. It is very exciting, and I know that these initiatives will make a big difference in people's lives, enhance services and enhance opportunities. We will be seeing further work done on the Caboolture Hospital expansion—a doubling of the hospital, a \$400 million project, which is a fantastic development for the Caboolture region and a fantastic investment in health services. We will also see construction continue on the Caboolture satellite hospital which will deliver some really key services. I am very excited to see that some of the services confirmed for that facility will be dental services as well as mental health support. They will be really good services for my community. As I mentioned in my opening remarks, we will also see a new ambulance station built for my community at Morayfield which is very exciting.

We will also see some new facilities built at Morayfield State High School and Caboolture State High School. They are getting some new learning spaces and skills and training facilities. A new playground for Minimbah State School will be exciting to try out. One of the highlights is a brand new school for the region, a brand new school at Caboolture West, planned to open in 2025. That is very exciting.

I would like to acknowledge the advocacy of my colleague, the member for Kurwongbah, Shane King, for advocating for an upgrade for Burpengary train station which sits on the border of our two electorates. That upgrade is also ticked off in this budget and we will see works start on that in the next financial year. There are also numerous major road upgrades and a contribution to the new PCYC to be built at Caboolture. We are in very exciting times.

It is no mean feat to set records, yet in the portfolio areas for which I have responsibility, the Palaszczuk government has struck the trifecta. Our Queensland community will be made safer, jobs will be secured and our way of life enhanced by record budgets for Police, Corrective Services and Fire and Emergency Services. This government realises that the hard work and dedication shown time after time by firefighters, emergency services volunteers and personnel, police and corrective services officers and all employed in those agencies must be backed up by quality resources which this government is funding in this budget.

The record budgets of more than \$3 billion for the Queensland Police Service, \$1.17 billion-plus for Corrective Services and more than \$900 million for Fire and Emergency Services reflect the Palaszczuk government's commitment to the health, safety and security of Queenslanders.

A careful reading of the budget, as unfortunately the Leader of the Opposition in his budget reply speech this morning showed he did not do very well, shows the outstanding management of staff numbers during very difficult times by the Queensland Police Service, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services and Queensland Corrective Services. The key here is that when making comparisons on a year-to-year basis, as the Leader of the Opposition has purportedly done, it is essential to compare apples with apples. To do otherwise is disingenuous or, worse still, deliberately misleading. Contrary to what the Leader of the Opposition has said, there has been significant growth in employment numbers in frontline agencies in recent times. We see that everywhere—the graduations in Police, for Fire and Emergency Services and Corrective Services. We have significant volumes of employment growth happening in those frontline agencies. It is not just me who says it. Right there in black and white on page 121 of Budget Paper No. 2, we see further employment growth numbers budgeted for all of these agencies once again. For example, the Queensland Police Service is expected to grow by over 600 positions in this next budget year.

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

The speech read as follows—

We are committed to jobs and resources for the frontline of community safety.

And this budget supports the further rollout of community safety jobs, including:

- 2,025 police personnel jobs over five years commencing 1 July 2020, which the Police Commissioner has said will include a minimum of 150 police officers per police region;
- 900 construction jobs at its peak during construction for the expanded Southern Queensland Correctional Precinct at Gatton with 600 ongoing operational jobs at the new correctional centre;
- 357 extra firefighters over five years commencing 1 July 2020; and
- extra personnel for the State Emergency Service to support the outstanding work of SES volunteers.

What's more, this budget underpins a significant infrastructure investment in community safety facilities and resources, including

- new and upgraded police facilities at Aurukun, Burketown, Cairns, Cairns West, Caloundra South, Clermont, Cooroy, Cunnamulla, Dalby, Dayboro, Hervey Bay, Kirwan, Longreach, Mackay, Maryborough, Palm Island, Proserpine, Rainbow Beach, Ripley, Rosewood, Warwick, Winton and Woree, as well as new police accommodation at Mount Isa; and
- new and upgraded Queensland Fire and Emergency Services facilities servicing Airlie Beach, Caloundra South, Drayton, Greater Springfield, Gympie South, Hervey Bay, Loganlea, Lowood, Maryborough, Moreton Bay, Mount Cotton, and South Townsville.

And, of course, there is the Palaszczuk Government's huge commitment to the new corrective services facility at Gatton, for which additional funding has been allocated in this budget for an extra 500 beds on the original plan—taking it to over 1500 beds.

Speaker, the new jobs and the new and improved infrastructure, also emphasises this Government's commitment to the regions.

This is not a city-centric nor electorate-centric Government and the same statement applies to this budget.

Many of our new police personnel and our new firefighters will be in the regions.

Jobs created by the massive infrastructure build at Gatton will be in that region.

New and improved infrastructure builds will create jobs...in the regions.

This budget also highlights that the government is entirely committed to the health and safety of the personnel work on who in community safety agencies on behalf of the people of Queensland.

The security and safety of correctional centres and custodial officers will be improved with a collective investment of more than \$230 million over four years to improve electronic security systems and for maintenance and minor works.

This includes through the installation of safety hatches in older style cell doors and the purchase of additional body-worn cameras for staff.

The record budget also invests \$3 million to continue the installation of additional bunk beds in high-security centres across the state, \$6.6 million to complete the upgrade of the intercom system at the Woodford Correctional Centre and \$1.3 million to complete refurbishment of the Princess Alexandra Hospital Secure Unit.

The police budget includes funding for the further rollout of new body-worn cameras, QLITE tablet devices and integrated load bearing ballistic vests.

QFES' frontline—firefighters and fire and emergency services volunteers and staff—can continue to safely and effectively respond to a wide range of emergency incidents, which often require specialist training and equipment.

This budget allocates funding for additional specialised firefighting equipment, scientific analysis and detection, breathing apparatus, severe weather response and rescue equipment.

Speaker, the initiatives in this Budget, to ensure the lifestyle we have come to expect in Queensland, are many.

Further highlights of the Police, Corrective Services, Fire and Emergency Services budgets include:

In the Fire and Emergency Services Budget:

- The Palaszczuk Government is supporting Queensland's future single integrated marine rescue service with a vessel replacement program, that includes the delivery of the first new vessel in the program to Thursday Island.
- The government is continuing the nationally renowned If it's Flooded, Forget It campaign with further funding.
- To support our ability to respond to natural disasters, this budget funds a technology refresh and enhancement of the ICT and audio-visual equipment at the State Disaster Coordination Centre at Kedron.
- In addition, the Palaszczuk Government has committed to increased funding of \$20 million in the 2022-23 financial year for the SES to enhance operational capability and risk management. This includes 33 positions in addition to the extra seven positions we've already recently announced and a capital boost for new equipment, including new SES flood boats and upgraded facilities for the Lowood SES Group.
- An additional \$8 million has been committed to marine rescue services next financial year, to support operational capability and accelerate the replacement of rescue vessels.
- A further \$10 million has been committed next financial year for new RFS facilities, including funding for a new facility for Rural Fire Brigades in the Maryborough region.

In the Corrective Services Budget:

- Measures previously announced to better resource the Parole Board Queensland by increasing the number of parole board teams will be further extended, with \$18.3 million to continue the temporary fourth and fifth teams for a further two years and appoint a temporary sixth team for 12 months.
- The record budget also enhances the efforts of officers and staff with a more than \$66.9 million over 4 years commitment to upgrade the Integrated Offender Management System along with expanded end-to-end case management, increased cultural liaison support, front-end recruiting and training and additional psychological and disability support services.

In the Police services budget:

- \$2 million to support work on the business case for the relocation of the Oxley Police Academy to the Wacol police precinct, which currently already includes the world-class Bob Atkinson Counter Terrorism and Community Safety Training facility.
- Funding for an Australian first trial of anti-hoon camera trailers as part of a Road Safety Anti-Hooning Maximum Saturation Deterrence Strategy and complements Queensland's nation leading anti-hoon laws with tough penalties including vehicle confiscation, hefty fines and potentially jail-time for the worst hoon offenders.
- Additional resources to deliver better services by streamlining processes and digitising records at Weapons Licensing and to start the process for a new Weapons Licencing management system with work commencing this year.

Speaker, this is a budget for all Queenslanders.

A budget which supports good jobs, better services and a great lifestyle for Queenslanders.

I commend the State Budget to the House and I encourage all members to support it.