



Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles


MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

Record of Proceedings, 23 June 2022

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

REVENUE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure) (12.10 pm): There is an hour of our lives none of us will get back.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Members, please leave the chamber quietly if you are doing so as a courtesy to the Deputy Premier.

Dr MILES: I am left feeling for the poor folk who watched live online on the Leader of the Opposition's Twitter feed—all three of them. Actually, I guess I was one of them, so all two of them. For the House's interest, 4,100 people tuned in to the Premier's ministerial statements this morning.

I rise to make a contribution to the Appropriation Bill 2022 and highlight some of the key initiatives supported across my portfolio and my electorate. Governing is about choices and with the choices you make you demonstrate your priorities. What the Leader of the Opposition has just done in his reply speech is demonstrate that Queenslanders are not the LNP's priority. For all their talk about health; after all of those press conferences criticising our hospitals, our health workers and our health response; for all those times they used the misery of ill Queenslanders for political theatre here and around the state, health is not a priority for the opposition. Health is just a political football for them.

He talked about caring, but they do not really care about the health and safety of Queenslanders; they never did. They did not while in government when they sacked all those nurses and fought with the doctors; they did not during the pandemic when they backed Scott Morrison and criticised our health response; and they certainly do not now.

They talk about wanting new and upgraded hospitals, but then the Leader of the Opposition comes in here and returns to type. He gets his speech notes written, authorised and sent to him by the QIRC; he looks at them long enough to take a glamour pick for his Twitter feed and comes into the parliament and speaks for the multinational coal companies. He chooses them—those coal companies—over nurses working in regional Queensland hospitals, nurses who deserve to work in new and upgraded facilities after everything they have done for Queenslanders.

He speaks for the top one per cent of big business—the biggest businesses—and not for Queenslanders with family members suffering from mental illness. He backs those biggest businesses over the majority of businesses who will get a cut in payroll tax. He did not support that. He did not speak for the small and medium businesses supposedly represented by those opposite; he backs the

multinational, online betting agencies making hundreds of millions of dollars without contributing their fair share to our state. He has chosen his mates over Queenslanders and over building new hospitals for Queenslanders, especially in regional Queensland.

This Health and Hospitals Plan is the plan Queensland needs and this budget is what funds it. You cannot support the hospitals and oppose the revenue. The \$22.36 billion operating budget for health will deliver the emergency care, elective care, specialist appointments and preventative health care Queenslanders need. It will employ more doctors, nurses, ambos and health professionals. The \$9.785 billion capital budget will build 2,509 extra beds in addition to the 869 being delivered and the 1,350 we have already opened since we came to government.

They are all hospital beds that would not exist right now if the LNP had been elected. It is a fact that the Leader of the Opposition conveniently ignores. Every single performance statistic cited by him would be much worse under the LNP. They planned no new hospitals or major expansions while in office. They committed to no new hospitals or major expansions at subsequent elections. They only opened and took credit for hospitals planned by previous Labor governments. There were no major expansions or new hospitals planned in 2015. Now they oppose the measures that will fund those new hospitals we will deliver through this budget.

They cannot have it both ways. Queenslanders will not be conned by the member for Broadwater. Opposing the revenue measures in this budget means opposing the new hospitals funded by it. They cannot have it both ways. It means opposing the new hospital at Bundaberg. What will the member for Burnett say about that? It means cutting the new hospital in Toowoomba. Will the member for Toowoomba North stand up for that new hospital? What about all those Gold Coast MPs? Will they fight for the new Coomera Hospital, or will they cop cutting it to keep the QIRC happy? I know the member for Gaven supports that hospital. Is she the only Gold Coast MP who will support a new hospital there?

Regional Queenslanders deserve the hospitals this budget funds. They deserve the hospitals in the Queensland Health and Hospitals Plan: in Bamaga, Pormpuraaw, Thursday Island, Cairns, Townsville, Cow Bay, Windorah, Mackay, Moranbah, Sarina, Blackwater and Rockhampton. Right across the state Queenslanders deserve those hospitals and they deserve the funds and services to support their family members suffering from mental illness—almost the most heartless thing the Leader of the Opposition opposed in his speech. They deserve representatives who will choose them over big business and who will build hospitals instead of sacking nurses.

After the member for Broadwater's speech, they deserve a lot better than the Leader of the Opposition, although I hesitate to call him that; he is no leader at all. He is just a puppet for his mates in the coal industry. He demonstrated he is too lazy to even read the budget. If he had, he would know that we are suspending GOC dividends this year, allowing those GOCs to reinvest those dividends—reinvestments that would not be possible if those opposite had sold off those GOCs. His ignorance underlines his laziness. He let the QIRC do his homework for him.

I now turn to my portfolio budget. I would like to take members back to 1994. Wayne Goss was premier, Paul Keating was prime minister and Jim Soorley was Brisbane's lord mayor. In my turf, the Moreton Bay City Council was still 14 years away from being formed out of the merger of Redcliffe, Pine Rivers and Caboolture. The Petrie Mill was an operating paper mill—nobody ever imagined that it could one day be a university. Queenslanders were fixated with the Skase chase in Spain and the efforts to bring him home for prosecution. We were all tuned in, watching the 1994-95 Queensland cricket team win their first ever Sheffield Shield. We watched, frozen with excitement, as the 40,000-strong Maroons crowd watched the decider at Lang Park, where Mal Meninga was denied the farewell match he deserved. Of course, he went on to win the Winfield Cup premiership with the Canberra Raiders. This was 1994. The iPhone was still 13 years away and I was finishing just high school.

Why is 1994 so relevant? Well, 1994 was the last time interstate migration into Queensland was as strong as it is now. Population data released recently by the Statistician's Office, showed that net interstate migration to Queensland grew by 40,000 in the year to September 2021—the largest increase in 27 years, since 1994. Why wouldn't people move to Queensland? Throughout this budget the government is providing infrastructure and services not just to meet the needs of the 5.2 million Queenslanders already living here but also for our future Queenslanders. It is crucial that Queensland has the housing, infrastructure and services to cater for this increase, especially when this growth gains momentum as we head towards the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

I am pleased to advise the House that infrastructure for a growing state is again the cornerstone of this budget across my portfolio, with \$1.267 billion allocated for a range of capital projects and grants supporting communities around the state. Almost \$350 million has been allocated for capital purchases and capital grants for my department. A further \$163 million has been provided to EDQ and \$10 million has been allocated for South Bank Corporation capital works. The QRA will continue its important work of supporting Queenslanders, with \$704.5 million to support disaster-hit communities.

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

Last week I was in Japan and met with a number of leading renewable energy organisations and our hosts were especially excited to see the clean energy work Queensland is doing, especially in the field of green hydrogen.

I was able to highlight the significant investment the government and private sector are making in this area.

Growing a thriving commercial scale renewable hydrogen ecosystem will not only power more jobs in more industries in Queensland but will also allow us to take advantage of the strong demand from markets around the world.

I was able to point to a number of innovative projects that have been supported through the government's \$35 million Hydrogen Industry Development Fund, including the recent announcement that up to \$5 million could see Gladstone home to the first renewable hydrogen powered passenger ferries.

This Budget continues to support Queensland's growing renewable energy sector.

It also includes a boost for Queensland's battery manufacturing sector with up to \$15 million to scale up the National Battery Testing Centre, at Banyo on Brisbane's northside.

This government aims to position Queensland as Australia's gateway for battery innovation.

The development of a responsible battery industry is paramount to Australia's carbon-reduction efforts.

Mr Speaker, the Budget will see the continuation of popular programs such as the regionally-focused Works for Queensland and the Resources Communities Infrastructure Fund.

As well as other targeted programs designed to address the surging growth in South East Queensland.

\$200 million has been allocated over three years to address housing land supply challenges in the South East.

Almost 50,000 residential lots are being unlocked in South East Queensland since the 2020 State election, thanks largely to targeted co-investment from the government.

The 2022-23 Budget also includes \$88.2 million as part of the \$1 billion Works for Queensland program to support councils in regional Queensland to undertake job-creating infrastructure works.

There's also \$46 million for the Resources Community Infrastructure Fund to support the post-COVID recovery of regional communities.

There's \$36.1 million for the Local Government Grants and Subsidies Program which provides funding for priority infrastructure and to deliver projects that will enhance sustainable and liveable communities.

\$24.8 million will go towards the \$200 million South East Queensland Community Stimulus Program to fast track South East Queensland councils' investment in new infrastructure and community assets that creates jobs and delivers economic stimulus.

And there's \$22.3 million as part of the \$120 million Indigenous Councils Critical Infrastructure Program to support Indigenous councils to implement projects and infrastructure works relating to critical water, wastewater and solid waste assets, and provide a basis for the long-term strategic management of essential assets.

Economic Development Queensland will deliver \$48.7 million for the development of the Gladstone State Development Area, \$35.8 million for the urban renewal development at Northshore Hamilton, \$20.0 million for the development of the Sunshine Coast Industrial Park, and \$15.8 million for the development of the Yeronga Priority Development Area.

There's also \$13.9 million for the development of the Currumbin Eco-Parkland, and \$9.7 million for the development of the Oxley Priority Development Area.

Other key portfolio priorities in the Budget include \$741 million over 3 years under the Resilience Residential Recovery Package to support Queensland homeowners to improve the resilience of residential property following significant flood events this disaster season.

We're also delivering additional funding of \$1.1 billion over 4 years under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements to support a range of recovery and resilience projects.

A commitment of \$15.5 million over 5 years will allow the ongoing implementation of The Spit Master Plan to ensure the revitalisation of The Spit on the Gold Coast.

And we will continue delivering the \$3.34 billion Queensland Jobs Fund, the Industry Partnership Program and associated industry development grant programs for sectors such as hydrogen, defence and aerospace and resource recovery.

Murrumba

Mr Speaker, in 1994 my electorate of Murrumba was radically different too.

Vast swathes of the electorate and the surrounding area simply didn't exist. The land was undeveloped, the homes not yet designed, some of the suburbs were basically empty.

But since 1994 our community has grown up, being one of Queensland's fastest growing areas even before this pandemic.

The same interstate migration I spoke of earlier that has placed enormous pressure across Queensland, is being felt especially in Murrumba.

With the region booming it's critical that the government invest in public services and give every resident every opportunity to succeed.

As we continue Queensland's plan for economic recovery we're investing in Queenslanders and creating good, local jobs. This budget will support around 2,600 jobs in Moreton Bay alone, building the infrastructure our region needs.

Mr Speaker, the Palaszczuk Government has always put the health of Queenslanders first, and this budget continues our proud record of health investment.

Mr Speaker, in beautiful Moreton Bay we're delivering nearly \$400 million to upgrade Caboolture Hospital, bringing more services and more beds online.

Redcliffe Hospital will get a dedicated paediatric department, keeping some of the region's sickest children closer to home when they need care.

The Pine Rivers Satellite Hospital is on track, with more money in this year's budget to deliver it.

It will join the other two Satellite Hospitals in Moreton Bay as a critical part of our health system, bringing more services closer to home for people in Moreton Bay.

In Dakabin the Palaszczuk Government will deliver the bulk of the funding for the Dakabin Family and Community Place this year.

We're building more learning spaces at Kallangur State School, as part of the Palaszczuk Government's plan to provide the best possible start for every Queensland student.

We're delivering on our election commitment to build a new fire station in North Lakes, with funding to commence construction of the Moreton Bay Central Fire and Rescue Station in this year's budget.

Every Queenslander deserves a roof over their head, and a safe place to call home.

This year's budget will ease the pressure on housing, delivering \$42.9 million to expand and improve social housing across Moreton Bay.

Queensland has a plan for economic recovery, and as we come out of this pandemic it is critical we stick to it.

This year's budget continues the hard work the Palaszczuk Government's already done, and puts us on track to emerge and recover from the pandemic stronger than ever.

Mr Speaker, I commend this Bill to the House.