




Speech By
Corrine McMillan

MEMBER FOR MANSFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 16 June 2023

**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL; REVENUE
LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (2.00 pm): I am proud to rise today to speak in support of the Appropriation Bill delivered by the honourable Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment, the member for Woodridge. I congratulate the Premier, the Treasurer and his team. What a great budget it is for the Queensland that we serve, for all Queenslanders regardless of where they live, and for all Queenslanders who live in my electorate of Mansfield. This great Labor budget addresses challenges in health, housing and cost of living impacted by the global COVID-19 pandemic, mass interstate migration, labour shortages, increasing interest rates, record inflation and nine years of neglect by the federal LNP government. This budget creates jobs, setting out a clear economic plan, attracting investment and delivering infrastructure—the Big Build—building the economy of the future. This budget delivers health and education infrastructure for the future success of young Queenslanders and cost-of-living measures for the prosperity of our great state.

All Queenslanders will receive a \$550 cost-of-living rebate off their electricity bill in the next financial year. As a former school principal and still passionate educator, it comes as no surprise that I have worked hard to secure more than \$22 million for our local schools in the Palaszczuk government's 2023-24 budget. Like most suburbs in Brisbane, my electorate experiences a shortage of green space. To help address this, \$1.6 million will light every school oval in the Mansfield electorate, and I thank the Minister for Sport for his support. Free kindy from the beginning of 2024 will save local families \$4,600 per year. The early years is the most important time for cognitive development and learning. Our government will ensure that every child will be afforded the opportunity of early education regardless of their postcode.

The Palaszczuk Labor government can deliver this record investment in education because of our courageous revenue initiatives through ensuring Queenslanders get paid for the resources they own. I have not heard from the opposition whether they will continue progressive coal royalties should they win government in 2024. We know that if they do not it will leave a significant black hole in service delivery and the BIG Build the Palaszczuk government has planned for Queenslanders.

We know that during the time the LNP was in office they tried to privatise cleaners in schools, for example. I know at the time I had 35 cleaners working in my community who were all fearful of losing their jobs. We know that they tried to put every school principal in Queensland on a contract—1,250 of us—and there is certainly not one cleaner or school principal who would ever vote for the LNP in the future. In fact, 1,460 people in my electorate lost their jobs from 2012 to 2015, and there is not a day that goes by in my community where I am not reminded of those people who lost their jobs. We know that when people lose their jobs they lose hope, they lose dignity. We know that our government acknowledges the dignity of work. We know there will be significant cuts in services, jobs and certainly in the Big Build that the Palaszczuk government has planned for Queensland.

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

The speech read as follows—

Education

A quality education transforms the lives of individuals, families and whole communities. When I was elected to this Parliament, I vowed that I would strive to ensure the Mansfield Electorate became a hub of educational excellence, the reason that many young families flock to our Electorate every month is to access our high performing schools. I am proud of the schools in my Electorate, and the quality education they provide.

As a former school principal and still a passionate educator, I know the importance of investing in teachers, the teaching and learning process and school infrastructure for my community.

\$22 million for local schools in the Palaszczuk Government's 2023-24 Budget.

This includes:

- \$10.1 million (of \$16.2 million) for Rochedale State High School to deliver a new hall facility as part of my 2020 Election Commitment;
- \$9.8 million (of \$11.1 million) for Wishart State School to build new classrooms;
- \$600,000 for Rochedale State School to refurbish their Administration Block.
- \$450,000 (of \$508,000) for Rochedale State High School to support the Rochedale Academy of Sport and
- \$400,000 (of \$424,000) to install oval lighting at Mount Gravatt East State School.
- \$361,000 (of \$650,000) for Upper Mount Gravatt State School to renew the carpark; and
- \$940,000 for maintenance of State Schools across our entire community.

Free period products will be made available to every Queensland state school. Queensland charity **Share the Dignity** will be provided with funding to expand our initiative and install vending machines with free tampons and pads at every Queensland state school that needs one. Access to free period products can make a real difference to children, especially students whose families are doing it tough, have unstable accommodation or are fleeing domestic and family violence.

The Palaszczuk Government platform of jobs, health and education continues to guide our Government in every decision we make.

Since being elected in November 2017, I have delivered more than \$200 million to our local schools.

I congratulate the Minister for Education for her commitment to the children of Queensland. The Palaszczuk Government has a clear vision for education, we believe that a quality education transforms lives, it is the best investment that we can make for the future of Queenslanders and for the future prosperity of our great State.

Acting Speaker, as said, the Palaszczuk Labor Government can deliver this record investment in education because of our courageous revenue initiatives through ensuring Queenslanders get paid for the resources they own.

This act is really a statement of values, rather than about figures and economics, this decision reflects so clearly the deep and strong Labor values held so dearly by the Treasurer and this Labor Caucus, something we can all be proud of.

I've been listening to the speeches of those opposite and I haven't heard them say that they would keep progressive coal royalties, which are delivering \$7 billion to this budget. How can they support projects in their own electorates if there is going to be a \$7 billion hole in the budget?

They've already announced they want to cut \$10 billion from infrastructure.

This means they will have no choice but to cancel the Big Build and cut frontline staff across Queensland, just like Campbell Newman did. In fact 1360 people across my Electorate lost their job during these years. My community has not forgiven those opposite and they will never forget!

Communities and Housing

Social isolation and loneliness is a well-documented and researched new world issue identified prior to the pandemic, but which has been exacerbated since Covid-19. Since my election in 2017, I have worked closely with the University of Queensland, School of Psychology and Sociology, the Mt Gravatt Community Centre and the Queensland Community Alliance to proactively address this important issue in my community. The employment of social workers locally (known as link workers) as part of our Nation leading Ways to Wellness Program which has attracted ongoing funding by the Palaszczuk Government. I am proud of this program, the international interest it has attracted and the significant outcomes achieved to date for our local people. I am equally honoured to have chaired the Parliamentary Committee who conducted a State wide inquiry into this important social issue that significantly impacts the lives of Queenslanders and the future economic prosperity of our State.

Through my work as Chair of the Community Support and Services Committee and its parliamentary inquiry, the 2023/24 Budget also commits \$125.6 million over 4 years and nearly \$19 million ongoing to help address social isolation and loneliness and support Neighbourhood and Community Centres throughout Queensland. This is an outcome I know my entire Committee is proud of regardless of their political association.

This will result in an increase for our Mount Gravatt Community Centre's operational funding to \$248,024 per annum, up from around \$126,000. Further, the Mount Gravatt Community Centre will receive \$145,131 in 2023-24 for the continuation of the Ways to Wellness program.

Health

To address the challenges in our health system, the Palaszczuk Government has delivered the largest investment in new hospitals and new beds in Queensland's history, with the 2023-24 State Budget providing additional funding of \$24.15B for our health and hospital system.

Queensland's health response to the global pandemic has drawn accolades globally and has ensured a strong economic response.

The delivery of 7 Satellite Hospitals, one locally in Eight Mile Plains, to enable our acute hospitals to continue safely managing patients via alternative models of care worth \$265 000 000 is welcomed by my community.

This budget allows for the recruitment of a further 200 ambulance operatives state-wide, bolstering services within the Metro South Region and providing increased frontline ambulance services and greater access to emergency health care.

One in two people in Queensland will suffer a mental illness in their lifetime. Our Government will not leave behind those families suffering mental illness with \$733,774 in 2023-24 out of a \$2.8 million over 7 years to provide Mental Health Funding Program services, addiction, substance abuse and suicide. This funding will focus on rehabilitation care, additional community care units, adolescent day programs and Step-Up Step-Down Services to help people transition from hospital. This is the biggest investment in mental health services in Queensland—ever.

Sport

The Mansfield Electorate is passionate about sport and so am I. I have secured \$8 million over three years for Hibiscus Stadium \$3m in 2023-24 of \$8m to expand their basketball courts.

The Mt Gravatt Youth and Recreation Club will receive \$750,000 (of \$1.5M) for their Stage 2 Development.

TAFE, Training and Employment

Acting Speaker it is also pleasing to see a continued strong commitment by the Palaszczuk Government to free TAFE for Queenslanders under 25. This is valued immensely by the young people in my community.

Further, \$850,000 in 2023-24 is allocated for ongoing maintenance investment in training infrastructure at Mount Gravatt TAFE.

The Back to Work and Skilling Queenslanders for Work Programs since 2020 have afforded 63 people in my community the dignity of work. The Mt Gravatt Community Centre deliver many of the certificate courses to assist disadvantaged locals.

\$17.6 million is allocated in 2023-24 to fund more training opportunities and increase workforce participation through the Skilling Queenslanders for Work Program.

More than 43,000 Queenslanders have secured a job as a direct result of their participation in the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program since 2015.

Police

And we're keeping Queenslanders safe.

The Palaszczuk Government will deliver from 1 July 2020 an extra 2,025 police personnel over the next 5 years. In this year's budget full time equivalent QPS positions are set to rise from 17,549 in 2022-23 to 18,350 in 2023-24.

Transport and Main Roads

We are delivering another record investment in road and transport infrastructure, \$32.1 billion over 4 years supporting an estimated average 25 200 jobs for Queenslanders.

- Upgrades to M1 Pacific Highway—one of the state's busiest roads. The Pacific Motorway Eight Mile Plains to Daisy Hill upgrade will continue.
- QTRIP 2023-24 to 2026-27 invests \$9.6 billion towards rail infrastructure.
- Cross River Rail \$6.3b
- \$1M was allocated in 2022/23 for the Prebble St Bike Way at Rochedale partnering with the Brisbane City Council. Further, a \$500,000 was also made at this time to begin the Priority Safety Upgrade to Ham Road for Mansfield State Primary and High School—this funding was supposed to be matched by the Brisbane City Council under the Local Road Improvement Program. It is disappointing that this bikeway and the Priority Safety Upgrade has still not been delivered by the BCC to date.

It's been an honour to work with Minister Mick De Brenni to deliver a new Rochedale Bus Station and Park 'n' Ride.

This new infrastructure costs approximately \$750 million and will make a real difference by cutting commuting time for families living in Rochedale.

The project includes:

- 485 vehicle parking spaces (including nine accessible spaces and charging bays);
- undercover storage for 30 bikes;
- kiss 'n' ride bays; and
- pedestrian and bike connectivity.

This is part of the Eight Mile Plains to Daisy Hill upgrade and is estimated to support 721 jobs over the life of the project.

Small Business

Small Businesses play an important role in my community. Our strong health response meant that we got back to business as usual. Many small businesses in my Electorate have benefited from the interest free loans and the recent Business Basics Grants.

Environment

\$17.3 million is allocated in 2023-24 to extend and accelerate conservation of koalas in Southeast Queensland, part of the Southeast Queensland Koala Conservation Strategy 2020-2025.

I acknowledge Minister Farmer for the recent koala fencing to prevent koalas crossing Cavendish Road at Mount Gravatt TAFE. I also thank our local environment groups whom I share an enduring and special relationship with as together we care for our community.

Our strong health response in Queensland has ensured the foundations for the best possible economic recovery. The Palaszczuk Government's plan for economic recovery from COVID-19 continues with investing for job creation. The greatest investment any Government can make is in the people they serve.

We're focusing on growth sectors like renewable energy, wind, solar and hydrogen, cobalt and vanadium.

This budget strengthens the core pillars of the Palaszczuk Labor Government: healthcare, education, infrastructure, renewables and jobs.

It is a true Labor Budget: we are building more schools, better roads and a workforce for tomorrow, equipping Queenslanders with the skills they need to succeed and unlocking the opportunities our state requires to grow and flourish.

This is what Labor Governments do, and this is exactly what the people of Queensland elected Labor to do!

Mr Speaker, the Palaszczuk government's strong health response has put us on the road to economic recovery.

My community understands that strong and proven community leadership, and a good strong, stable government is what is needed at all times, but especially in times of global economic headwinds.

I am proud to stand part of a Queensland Labor Government led by our Premier who has a vision for this great State of Queensland.

The 2023-24 State Budget ensures a progressive Queensland will be one more educated, more critical, healthier, more mobile and better prepared for the ongoing economic challenges which lie ahead. This will be the work of one Government, a Labor Government and the result of only one party—The Australian Labor Party.

I commend this Bill to the House.