




Speech By
Jason Hunt

MEMBER FOR CALOUNDRA

Record of Proceedings, 16 June 2023

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

 **Mr HUNT** (Caloundra—ALP) (11.58 am): I rise to make this contribution to the debate on the appropriation bills in my 'reply tie' from Chaps Menswear, Caloundra. What a cracking budget it is for Caloundra. It is a community safety bonanza for Caloundra, with a whopping \$7 million for our new fire station in Aura; another \$6 million for our new ambulance station; and another \$4 billion for our new police station. This is in addition to the extra police—thank you, minister—that have been delivered to the Caloundra station over the last two financial years. This government will double the number of police, fire and ambulance stations in Caloundra—but wait, there's more! There is free kindy for younger families and electricity rebates for seniors. Caloundra will be receiving a permanent MSQ officer to look after our beautiful Pumicestone Passage. Caloundra will finally have a permanent MSQ officer to supervise boating safety, boating speed limits and the navigation channels. This is a terrific outcome because, with our growing population, the passage is busier than ever, and growing up near the passage is an integral part of living in Caloundra.

As always with Labor governments, health and education are priorities. There is a cool million for our Caloundra hospital, which will see a significant upgrade to the kitchen facilities. A staggering \$21 million will be making its way to our magnificent Sunshine Coast University Hospital for ongoing expansion, continuing the excellent work they are doing at the brachytherapy suite and improving disability access at SCUH. Not long ago I spent a very worthwhile five hours touring the emergency department of SCUH and talking to the staff. I give a shout-out to Ben Close and all of the incredible staff that I met at the SCUH emergency department. A more dedicated and professional bunch of health workers you would be hard-pressed to find. I thank them for their time and for their hard work, and I remind them that this government will always back them and the LNP will always sack them.

Many of our terrific schools will be excited by this budget. I had to wonder at the member for Buderim complaining about a delay in the construction of a school in his community—from a party that delivered exactly zero schools on the Sunshine Coast last time around! I believe that the current minister has delivered six. Meanwhile, \$900,000 will make its way to Glenview State School to upgrade the admin building. There is \$440,000 for Nirimba State Primary School. There is an impressive \$5 million for Baringa State Secondary College for further learning spaces. I give a shout-out to Beerwah State School P&C President Kate and Principal Scott, whose genuine delight was a pleasure to listen to when I told them about \$450,000 coming their way to refurbish their library.

Then there is the incredible investment of nearly \$65 million delivered in partnership with the federal Albanese Labor government to upgrade and duplicate sections of the rail line between Beerwah and Nambour. Isn't it exciting to see this government's great announcement around passenger rail for the Sunshine Coast? There is another \$14 million on top of the \$6 million jointly funded by the state and Albanese governments. I quote—

This is good news for the Sunshine Coast ...

It is an—

... investment planning exercise ... building heavy passenger rail between Beerwah and the Maroochydore CBD.

...

This is the necessary next step.

...

... we have two tiers of government ... doing an investment planning study to take this idea forward. So it is the necessary next step. ... there was already a lot of business work done along the CAMCOS corridor ... all of that can be leveraged, which means we are now taking the project forward even further—looking at things like site investigations, surveying, staging options—

and saying to the government—

'Here's how you can invest, how much and where the sites would be.' So this was the next step we needed and I'm delighted that we have really two tiers of government now who have got skin in the game, allocated funding and dedicating resources to take ... a very pragmatic proposal forward.

So said Ted O'Brien, the LNP member for Fairfax. He understands, as the LNP pseudologues on the coast apparently do not, that 40 kilometres of greenfield railway is not like building Lego—a project that is doomed under the LNP because they cannot fund it.

By their own admission, they are targeting \$10 billion in pruning. Then they have to find another \$7 billion because they do not support the Treasurer's progressive coal royalties. They are \$17 billion in the hole before they even sack a single public servant. If you want to get on board with the LNP's cynical data-collecting exercise around passenger rail, please go to their website www.didntliftafingerforoveracentury.com or find them on Instagram with #wedidnothingingovernmentbutnowweareinoppositionitsurgent. This is a budget that ticks all the boxes, and I commend it to the House with alacrity.