




Speech By
Jim Madden

MEMBER FOR IPSWICH WEST

Record of Proceedings, 15 June 2023

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

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (10.59 pm): I rise to speak in the debate on the Appropriation Bill 2023 and the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2023, but I will focus my contribution on the Appropriation Bill 2023.

I thank Treasurer Cameron Dick, Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk, and all of the other Queensland cabinet ministers for a great budget. The Acting Speaker has reviewed and approved my budget speech for incorporation and, as such, I ask that the remainder of my speech be incorporated into the *Record of Proceedings*.

The speech read as follows—

But as the Treasurer said in his first reading speech, all over this country, Australians are feeling cost-of-living pressures in ways they have never felt them before. Whether it be increased housing costs, supermarket costs, health costs or vehicle expenses, cost-of-living expenses just keeping going up.

But as Queensland continues its remarkable transition out of the Covid Pandemic, for all those Queenslanders facing cost-of-living pressures, this budget means relief is on the way.

With the 2023 budget, the Queensland government will deliver greater cost-of living relief than any other government in Australia, state or federal. No matter where householders live in Queensland, they will receive cost-of-living relief through a variety of measures.

This budget also commits our government to the biggest building program in our state's history, which we call The Big Build. This will deliver more hospitals, more public housing, more roads, more trains and more schools, with the cost will not be met from the revenue stream and not from borrowing.

This is a Budget that will be very much in the black and will deliver a surplus of \$12.3 billion, the largest budget surplus ever recorded by any Australian state or territory government. It is a surplus that will be used to retire state debt, thereby substantially reducing our state's annual interest bill.

The number one priority of this budget is to provide cost-of-living relief for Queenslanders.

So, I was pleased to see that every one of the approximately 2.2 million Queensland households will receive an Electricity Cost of Living Rebate of \$550, jointly funded by the Queensland and Federal governments, while Seniors and Concession Card Holders will receive a higher Cost of Living Rebate of \$700.

This \$700 is in addition to the \$372 rebate under the Queensland Electricity Rebate Scheme, which means Queensland's Seniors and Concession Card Holders will receive total annual electricity rebate of \$1,072.

This means that many low-income Queensland households, such as pensioners, may pay nothing for electricity bill next financial year.

The budget also provides for free kindergarten for Queensland children with the program commencing in January 2024.

An amount of \$645 million over four years is provided in the budget to fund 15 hours each week of free kindergarten for all four-year-old Queensland children. Over the course of a year, this means an average saving of \$4,600 for Queensland families.

Another aspect of the budget that provides financial relief to Queensland families is the \$4.8 million SwimStart program that will run over two years. The program will provide 30,000 vouchers valued at up to \$150 for eligible children under the age of five to learn to swim.

Small business owners will also receive relief in the budget by way of a \$650 rebate on electricity bills for the approximate 205,000 eligible Queensland small businesses, cutting their cost of doing business in Queensland.

I know that Health Services is a major concern for the residents of my Electorate of Ipswich West, so I was pleased to see that the budget will provide \$25.8 billion in funding for the Health Department in 2023-24, which is a 9.6 per cent increase in the health operating budget from 2022-23, the largest annual increase in the health budget in Queensland's history.

We learnt from the Covid Pandemic that we need a health service ready to react to unforeseen health emergencies such as the Covid Pandemic.

The government's record \$9.8 billion Hospital Construction Program, will see new or expanded hospitals right across the state including in Cairns, Townsville, Mackay, Bundaberg, Hervey Bay, Toowoomba and in South-East Queensland.

In Ipswich, the new \$92.4 million Acute Mental Health Unit will be completed later this year after which work will begin on the \$710 million Ipswich Hospital Expansion Stage 2 expansion, which is part of the Queensland Government's Health Department Capacity Expansion Program.

The Ipswich Hospital's redevelopment includes a new Emergency Department Building, on the site of the current Acute Mental Health Unit located at the corner of Churchill Street, Warwick Road and Chelmsford Avenue.

The redevelopment will specifically address ambulance ramping and the hospital's emergency department wait times.

I would like to thank the Chair of the West Moreton Health Board, Michael Willis, and the Chief Executive Officer of West Moreton Health, Hannah Bloc, for their relentless advocacy in securing the funding for this redevelopment.

The Budget provides funding of \$72 million for 200 more paramedics across Queensland, \$28 million for new and replacement ambulances and \$22 million in a cost-of-living allowance for nursing and midwifery students living in regional, rural and remote Queensland.

Our government also recognises the distances that some Queenslanders must travel in a state as large as ours to get to the medical care they require. That is why this budget provides \$70 million over four years to increase accommodation and fuel subsidies for the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme.

Like the rest of Queensland, the Electorate of Ipswich West is facing a housing shortage. This shortage has mainly been caused by a shortage of tradesmen and disruption to the building materials supply chain caused by the Covid Pandemic. But it is estimated that interstate migration into Queensland is approximately 100,000 significantly adding to the housing crisis. It is estimated that we need to build an extra 77,000 homes just to keep pace with demand.

To address this issue the Queensland Government has created the Housing Investment Fund, providing housing both in south east Queensland and in regional Queensland. This year's budget provides an additional investment of \$1.1 billion into the Fund.

This budget provides \$322 million to build 500 more social homes, which builds on the previous record \$3.9 billion investment for social and affordable housing that will help to deliver 13,000 homes.

As with other Queenslanders, the residents of the Electorate of Ipswich West expect to feel safe in our homes and when we go about our business in our communities. This is something many Queenslanders take for granted, but the state government recognises increasing community concerns about youth crime. So, the budget delivers an additional investment of over \$440 million over five years to help boost police resources and tackle the complex causes of youth crime.

Managing youth crime involves a range of government agencies and not just the Queensland Police Service, Correctional Services Queensland and the Court system. Our government is taking a whole of government approach to the problem of youth crime so that we meet community expectations.

We are introducing Youth Responder Teams and the budget provides \$96 million for this program that aims to engage with young people to break the cycle of youth crime.

We also want seniors and pensioners to feel safer in their homes, so the budget provides \$30 million in funding to make their homes more secure.

For the Queensland Police Service, the budget will deliver a record operating budget of \$3.281 billion in 2023-24. This includes \$101.6 million to boost police resources and combat youth crime, \$87.5 million for police recruitment initiatives, and \$56 million for PCYC initiatives and infrastructure.

In Ipswich, the budget will provide funding of \$4 million for the new Rosewood Police Station as well as \$25 million for new Ipswich Police District Headquarters at Ripley.

I would like to acknowledge the dedication to policing shown by the Superintendent of the Ipswich Police District, Dave Cuskelly, the Officer in Charge at Rosewood Police Station, Sgt Travis Ehrich, Officer in Charge at Marburg Station, Officer in Charge at Karana Downs Police Station, Lee Fortune, Officer in Charge at Yamanto Police Station, Senior Sergeant Michael Collett and Sgt Anthony Garland, Officer in Charge at the Marburg Police Station, who was recently awarded the Commissioner's Certificate of Notable Service after rescuing a woman from flood waters at Minden during the February 2022 floods.

The budget also provides funding for other first responders.

A new Ambulance Station will be built at Ripley with the budget providing funding of \$10,899,830.

I would like to acknowledge the exemplary service of the Officer in Charge at the Rosewood Ambulance Station, Matt Varney, the Officer in Charge at the Ipswich Ambulance Station, Alyssa Woodford and the Support Officer in Charge at the Ipswich Ambulance Station, Ross Hodges.

The budget provides for an astounding \$50 billion for an Infrastructure Guarantee over the four years 2023-27, The Big Build.

The Big Build will accelerate works for the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan, the Queensland Health and Hospitals Plan and also takes into account anticipated higher costs for construction wages and building materials.

The Budget also provides funding for planning for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, with \$1.9 billion over the next four years to commence delivery of venue infrastructure.

With the Queensland Rail Network, the budget provides an ongoing pipeline of rail infrastructure investment to continue delivering its vision for more frequent, reliable, and accessible rail journeys for Queenslanders.

The investment in the Queensland Rail Network is part of the Palaszczuk Government's \$32.1 billion Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program (QTRIP) 2023-24 to 2026-27 which will continue to support an average of 25,200 jobs across the state.

QTRIP 2023-24 to 2026-27 will provide \$9.6 billion towards rail infrastructure.

The state government's investment in the Queensland Rail Network continues to deliver on key priorities set out in South East Queensland Rail Connect—the Queensland Government's blueprint for preparing the South East Queensland rail network for the future.

This investment will deliver new trains and improved rail infrastructure. It will lay the foundations for a modernised network, including critical track upgrades, signalling improvements, and station upgrades.

The investment in rail will continue to drive our economic recovery, supporting jobs and delivering on previous project commitments while promoting economic confidence and responsible project delivery.

Water infrastructure is vital to the Queensland economy and the budget includes more than \$150 million to complete construction of Rookwood Weir, as well as planning and early works for upgrades to the Burdekin Falls Dam, to Paradise Dam near Bundaberg and to the Awoonga Dam near Gladstone.

\$13 million is provided in the budget for the Toowoomba to Warwick water pipeline and over \$548 million for the Fitzroy to Gladstone water pipeline.

The budget provides a record \$17.8 billion for education and early childhood (8.8% increase from 2022-23 budget), which includes \$17.3 billion for school education and \$529.3 million for early childhood education

In my Electorate of Ipswich West, the Budget provides funding of \$16.2 million for major education infrastructure projects at Rosewood State High School, Leichhardt State School, Walloon State School, Amberley District State School and Ipswich State High School.

I am continually impressed by the hard work, compassion and dedication of the State School Principals in the Electorate of Ipswich West. They include Kelli Harvey—Amberley District State School, Dallas Schmidt—Ashwell State School, Bruce Robertson—Brassall State School, Emily Robinson—Haigslea State School, Kim Brewitt—Ipswich North State School, Simon Riley—Ipswich State High School, Megan Hill—Karalee State School, Maja Bogicevic—Leichhardt State School, Russell Napier—Marburg State School, Emma McBain—Mount Marrow State School, Georgia O'Shea—Rosewood State School, Nicole Sherlock—Rosewood State High School, Kylie Wells—Tivoli State School and Lisa Noonan—Walloon State School. All wonderful State School Principals.

Like previous State budgets, with this budget the proportion of spending directed to Regional Queensland will exceed 60%. With this budget it rises to a record 65.5% (\$13.3 billion) outside of South East Queensland.

As well, an additional \$6 billion in funding will be provided to our government owned corporations for priority infrastructure projects including energy, water and ports.

The budget will also provide \$6 billion over the next four years for the \$14 billion Borumba pumped hydro project.

As well, the budget will provide \$594 million for the CopperString 2032 project, \$213 million for CleanCo Queensland to develop solar and wind farms, \$673 million for Stanwell Corporation to develop the Wambo and Tarong West Wind farms and \$312 million for CS Energy to develop Central Queensland wind farms and large-scale batteries.

The budget includes spending of \$152 million in funding to enhance Queensland's disaster recovery and resilience. This initiative is jointly funded with the Australian government, from efficiencies in Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.

The budget also provides \$8 million to enable the Rural Fire Service to improve its capability and ensure a sustainable volunteer model across Queensland.

We're backing our State Emergency Service (SES) with record funding of almost \$60 million. This will fund more staff, more training, more equipment, more resources so our Orange Angels can continue to be there for us in times of disaster.

We are also providing funding of \$3 million in 2023-24 to enable the State Emergency Service to enhance its volunteer capability.

The budget will provide \$39 million over four years to ensure that we progress agreements and relationships that promote respect, culture, rights and active co-stewardship of country as provided for in the Path to Treaty Bill, passed by the Queensland Parliament during its recent sitting in Cairns.

As well, the government is providing increased funding of \$50 million over four years for the continuation of the expanded Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger Program, which has doubled ranger numbers to 200.

While we have magnificent National Parks in Queensland, they must be accessible. Which is why the budget provides increased funding of \$38 million over four years to build new visitor trails in national parks and to revitalise existing ones.

As well, the budget is also providing an additional \$5.8 million over three years for investment into infrastructure improvements in Queensland's precious World Heritage areas.

I have been listening intently to the speeches by the members of the Opposition and it concerns me greatly that none of these members have said that they support the progressive the coal royalties introduced by the Palaszczuk government, which are

currently delivering \$7 billion in revenue to the State budget. This raises the question as to how do they intend to make up this \$7 billion shortfall in State revenue without significant cuts to frontline public servants?

In closing, I note that over the last decade our State of Queensland has faced significant challenges that included natural disasters of all kinds, droughts and the Covid Pandemic.

But now we face the economy nightmare of inflation, both domestically and internationally, the War in Europe and the uncertainty of international relations in Asia.

Despite all this, through good management by the Queensland Government the status of the Queensland economy is so healthy, that this year's State Budget will deliver a surplus of \$12.3 billion.

Once again, I thank the Treasurer, Cameron Dick, the Premier, Annastacia Palaszczuk, and all of the other Queensland Cabinet Ministers for a great budget for all Queenslanders.

I commend the Appropriation Bill 2023 and the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2023 to the House.