




Speech By  
**Jimmy Sullivan**

**MEMBER FOR STAFFORD**

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Record of Proceedings, 16 June 2023

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

 **Mr SULLIVAN** (Stafford—ALP) (4.11 pm): I rise to support this fantastic budget. What a pleasure to be able to follow the Premier. I thank her, the Treasurer and the team for this fantastic budget that they are delivering today. It is a great budget for Queensland and it is a great budget for the Stafford electorate. This budget is based on our Labor values of social justice, responsible reform and responsible economic management that puts workers, families and local communities at its heart. This budget delivers cost-of-living support for Queenslanders with \$550 for households and even more for the pensioners and those capitalising on the state government's subsidy schemes. I am so excited about this budget's commitment for free kindy for all Queensland kids. I know what an improvement that will make for families and our great local kindergartens and daycare centres across my electorate.

On the north side, this budget delivers in spades. As people know, education and training are real passions of mine, and this budget delivers for local schools and training providers. This includes funding for the Wilston State School hall and we now have the MID approval for that project. It includes Somerset Hills State School sporting infrastructure upgrade that benefits the school community as well as community football and the swimming club. It is an absolute win-win. It also includes close to a million dollars for improvements and maintenance right across schools in our electorate.

In terms of health, there is funding to proceed with 96 new beds at the Prince Charles Hospital, an icon in our community. I was there just last week with the member for Aspley and the minister to see the short-stay beds are coming along really well and will be finished shortly. This builds on the previous Labor investment in this important institution: the children's ED, the expansion of general services, the fantastic medical research from The Common Good, the co-location of Jacaranda House, replacing the adolescent mental health Barrett Centre that the Tories cut with no replacement, and the RBWH specialist cancer centre.

In terms of Prince Charles Hospital, there is also the new car park that will remain owned by the HHS to make tough days a little easier for patients, family and friends and, of course, to support staff. It also takes cars off local roads, helping the residents of Chermside.

Speaking of taking cars off local roads, it was wonderful to have the Treasurer and the roads minister, as well as north side colleagues, out to announce a study into what we think could be the missing link, solving the problems of Gympie Road. There will be \$35 million invested in a comprehensive study. The tunnel itself is designed to help commuters, particularly those to the north of us. Importantly, in contrast to the LNP Brisbane City Council proposal that would have funnelled thousands of commuter cars onto already underfunded council roads, our investigation is seeking to link commuter traffic to the existing tunnel network, whether out to the airport, across the Gateway to head south, to the CBD or out to the west to Ipswich and beyond.

Locally, it is not so much necessarily about the use of the tunnel itself. Northsiders know that through Aspley and Chermside and Kedron down to Stafford, Gympie Road really is not the highway that it is to the north. It is actually a hub of our community for local businesses, our hospital, our shopping centres, our emergency services and our families trying to get kids to local schools. So, taking many cars off the road could help alleviate local road use, and I am really excited to see the investigation. This is on top of the investment we are making in public transport through the northern transit upgrade, supporting better car use and better public transport.

I want to take a bit of a sidestep and talk about one discrete part of the Leader of the Opposition's budget reply, that which was about the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council. The opposition leader tried to make a huge budget announcement that he would make an appointment to QSAC to represent victims. Ironically, I hope we can take this as the commitment that they will not scrap QSAC because that is exactly what his deputy leader did, the member for Kawana, under the Newman government. They literally abolished it.

Secondly, QSAC currently has very senior representation from the DPP—a silk, in fact—who sits on QSAC and built a career prosecuting cases on behalf of victims. More to the point, the words of the Leader of the Opposition were absolutely insulting in claiming the victims' advocates are not represented. He ignores the fact that a foundation member and continuing member is the CEO of knowmore, a leading victims' advocacy group, specifically for the most vulnerable of victims—children and survivors of child abuse. How dare the opposition leader claim that victims do not have a voice. What an insult to those victims themselves.

It is concerning the member would insult us like that and insult the organisation. It is concerning that the Leader of the Opposition is deliberately misleading or does not know, and either are very concerning. Really, I think it is concerning that the Leader of the Opposition and his team do not know how to use Google. It is on a public-facing website who are the current members of QSAC, including a nation-leading victims' advocate, and those opposite seek to either mislead or are deliberately ignorant. It is a discrete part of his reply speech. Why put it in the reply speech if he does not even know what he is talking about or he is deliberately misleading? It is sad, absolutely sad.

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-*

Free Kindy

Our government's free kindy program will help families of all types from Wilston in the south to Chermside and Craigslea in the north and everywhere in between: Kedron Heights Community Kindergarten, Emily Foord Memorial Kindergarten in Stafford, Grange community kindy, Craigslea Kindergarten, Alderley Kindergarten, as well as early education daycare services that provide the kindy experience for children of that age, like the extensive C&K network we enjoy across the Stafford electorate. I support all of them and this budget delivers for all of them.

SQW

The budget also continues our brilliant Skilling Queenslanders for Work program, of which I am such a supporter. I am very proud to have been part of the team that brought the program back after those opposite scrapped it, and I will continue to be an advocate for it locally. I look forward to the upcoming graduation ceremony of the program from the MCC in my electorate.

Housing

This government understands the difficulties our communities are facing when it comes to housing. That is why with the investment in housing in this budget since 2021 we have invested \$5 billion in housing. On the north side, we have recently opened social and community housing in Kedron, Windsor and Lutwyche, with work underway and more to come in Alderley, Chermside and Chermside West.

Renewables

This budget also invests significantly in renewable energy. It was wonderful to welcome new apprentices to the Stafford depot of Energex. They are preparing for the new and modern energy sector that we should rightly celebrate. This budget delivers significant investment in renewable energy development, including storage capacity and development in critical minerals and battery technology.

Coal Royalties

Which of these local projects would those opposite cut? They said they will vote for the budget bills this year but explicitly refuse to rule out scrapping that income in the future. So which kindy is going to lose out? Which road infrastructure is going to be cut? How many hospital beds will they cut? Which school upgrades will they cut? That is the question. Until they answer this question, Queenslanders know they can only trust Labor to invest in jobs, health and education.

Conclusion

Congratulations to the Treasurer and Premier for this budget. As I started, this delivers for Queensland and it delivers for Stafford. I commend the budget and the appropriation bills to the House.