




Speech By
Hon. Leanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

Record of Proceedings, 15 June 2023

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

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Treaty, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister for Communities and Minister for the Arts) (6.09 pm): I rise to support the Appropriation Bill 2023, and I offer my congratulations to the Treasurer and the Premier on delivering a budget that has the needs of Queenslanders at its heart. I want to start out by saying how underwhelmed I was by the thoroughly uninspiring budget reply delivered by the member for Broadwater.

Ms Bates: He said something nice about you.

Ms ENOCH: I was not talking about you. It is not all about her.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Walker): Pause the clock, through the chair, member for Algester. Thank you, Minister.

Ms ENOCH: Last month when the member for Broadwater supported this government's Path to Treaty legislation it appeared the Leader of the Opposition had turned a corner. Despite the right wing of his own party heaping the pressure on him, he supported a path to treaty, and I congratulate and I acknowledge that. However, what we have seen since that moment is a total retreat by the Leader of the Opposition back to the safety of the far right of the LNP. It seems you just never really know which version you will get with this leader.

What we got earlier today was, at best, lip-service—no real substance, just the usual slogans and half-truths we get from the LNP, no depth whatsoever, no vision. Today when the Leader of the Opposition had his chance to frame up his vision, what did he do with it? He used his platform to dismiss a member of the Sentencing Advisory Council because she is an artist. If he had any depth to him at all, if he had done any kind of research, he would have known that the person he was dismissing is an Indigenous woman. In fact, she is the granddaughter of the late Eddie Koiki Mabo, a long-term worker at Sisters Inside who manages youth programs that support criminalised and imprisoned girls and young women. She is a woman who is more than qualified to be a member of the Sentencing Advisory Council on every level. Is this how the Leader of the Opposition views First Nations people? He should, in my opinion, apologise. There is no depth, no thought; it is the fundamental lack of respect that is in his DNA.

This is someone who sat around Campbell Newman's cabinet table and signed off on sacking 14,000 public servants, yet he now promises he will rebuild the Public Service. As if! No doubt the LNP focus groups are telling them that Queenslanders just do not trust them when it comes to the Public Service. It is right that Queenslanders should not trust the LNP because on top of sacking thousands of people, the LNP spent \$100 million preparing for asset sales. They set up a special consultants unit to prepare state owned ports and energy and power firms for privatisation, and now we are meant to believe they want to get rid of consultants.

The LNP has no credibility when it comes to the Public Service. The only certainty is that under an LNP government there will be more cuts and sackings in the Public Service. The LNP has no credibility on infrastructure, only empty promises. The only significant infrastructure they built when in office was 1 William Street. This is in stark contrast to the Treasurer's outstanding budget, which will fund new and improved infrastructure the length and breadth of our state. Rebuilding trust requires more than empty promises, more than motherhood statements and more than empty slogans gleaned from focus groups. It requires strong leadership that is sadly lacking from the member for Broadwater.

Cost-of-living pressures are being felt in household budgets right across the country and we know that families are doing it tough here in Queensland. That is why the 2023-24 state budget tackles national cost-of-living pressures with the largest household relief package anywhere in the nation and an increased investment in frontline community services. All of this is only possible because we own our public assets and we are making sure Queenslanders, especially those in our regions, are getting a fair share from current high coal prices. The question must be asked: will the opposition support our progressive coal royalties and, if not, what will they cut, sack and sell?

The \$492 million annual budget for the Department of Treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Communities and the Arts includes a \$3 million boost to food relief services, including \$315,000 in additional funding for Foodbank Queensland and almost \$2.7 million over two years to expand the popular School Breakfast Program. I have seen firsthand how the healthy meals provided by school breakfast programs make a real difference to the wellbeing and education of the children who need it most. By expanding the School Breakfast Program our government is ensuring Queensland schoolchildren get the best possible start to their day while helping to ease some of the pressure on struggling families.

This budget is also continuing to deliver significant funding for neighbourhood and community centres, which our government delivered in last year's state budget, particularly the construction of new centres and upgrades to existing centres. Importantly, this budget further supports Queensland's Path to Treaty. An amount of \$4.6 million over five years has been allocated to support the repatriation of ancestral remains and sacred objects belonging to Queensland's First Nations peoples and countries. The Queensland Museum Network has been returning remains as well as secret and sacred objects to community and country since 1990 and is recognised by the Australian government as Queensland's peak body for repatriation. Over the past three years the Museum Network has experienced a marked increase in the number of skeletal remains and significant cultural heritage items in its care due to public surrender and returns from international and interstate entities. Repatriation is fundamental to progressing treaty as it forms part of the truth-telling process, and this funding boost will ensure it continues and is led by First Nations peoples with the establishment of five identified positions.

This is my sixth budget as Minister for the Arts and I am proud to say that in addition to supporting vulnerable Queenslanders, the budget also delivers boosted investment in Queensland's arts and culture, which is a job-creating industry in this state. Over four years we will invest \$51.4 million to secure Queensland's cultural calendar and futureproof the state's premier cultural infrastructure ahead of Brisbane 2032. This includes \$13.4 million over three years from 2024-25 to lock in World Science Festival Brisbane as well as blockbuster exhibitions at Queensland Art Gallery and the Gallery of Modern Art from 2025-26, which boost Queensland's economy and support local jobs. The budget includes a \$9 million commitment to a further three years of World Science Festival in Brisbane, including regional programming, which will ensure the festival builds on the almost \$40 million in economic impact already delivered by this exclusive-to-Queensland event.

In my electorate of Algester this year's budget is supporting schools, families and small businesses. In particular, the budget will deliver a new three-storey learning centre at Pallara State School as well as upgraded and refurbishment works at Watson Road State School and \$500,000 towards the Southern Suburbs Rugby League Football Club's Mortimer Road precinct. This is in addition, of course, to the electricity rebates being provided to all Queensland households and free kindy, which will be welcome news for the families of Algester.

Mr Deputy Speaker, 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—

Community Services

The Palaszczuk Government's continued investment in Neighbourhood and Community Centres includes the \$4.5 million we previously committed to build Rockhampton's first neighbourhood centre, as well as 20 additional specialist community services workers for neighbourhood centres to support vulnerable Queenslanders.

As well as providing a space for ongoing community activities, neighbourhood and community centres often provide essential frontline services for vulnerable people. The continuation of our investment in these centres is further evidence of our government's commitment to supporting struggling Queenslanders.

Boost to diversionary services

We're also investing in harm minimisation by providing more funding for public intoxication services in Mount Isa.

This investment of \$6.1 million over two years includes \$4 million to expand the local diversionary centre to better meet the needs of women accessing the centre.

These services support community members at-risk of harm due to intoxication in public places.

Arts Cultural infrastructure

Speaker, returning to the Arts portfolio, the Palaszczuk Government is securing the state's key cultural infrastructure and collections for future generations.

\$28.8 million will be invested in the management and conservation of the heritage-listed Queensland Cultural Centre and the delivery of a flexible performance space at the Queensland Performing Arts Centre (QPAC). A further \$6.9 million will enhance the storage and accessibility of the state's extensive cultural collections and improve access to library services for vision impaired Queenslanders.

As our state grows, and as the 2032 Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games draw nearer, we are investing in, and preserving, our state collections, and future-proofing our cultural infrastructure.

In addition, by injecting \$9 million over three years into World Science Festival Brisbane, we will continue to engage Queenslanders in the wonders of science, attract visitors to the state and boost the state's leadership in the global knowledge economy. Since the Palaszczuk Government commenced our investment in World Science Festival Brisbane for the 2016 Festival, it has attracted 1.2 million visitors in both Brisbane and at regional programming in Toowoomba, Ipswich, Chinchilla, Gladstone and Townsville.

This is a remarkable outcome, especially given the interruptions the Festival has experienced in recent years as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and 2022 South East Queensland flooding event.

Similarly, the Palaszczuk Government's commitment to ongoing support for Blockbuster exhibition funding to the Queensland Art Gallery and Gallery of Modern Art will continue to realise important economic and social outcomes for Queensland. Blockbuster funding, which was cut by the Newman Government, and restored through the leadership of Premier Palaszczuk, has delivered countless memories for many thousands of Queenslanders and visitors to our state.

At a time when Australians were unable to visit the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York to view works by some of the finest European masters, our investment ensured that QAGOMA could bring a mind-blowing collection of the Met's priceless masterpieces to Queensland.

Innovative programming supported through Blockbuster funding such as Marvel: Creating the Cinematic Universe and The Motorcycle: Design, Art, Desire, attract whole new audiences to QAGOMA.

Importantly, blockbuster investment has enabled the Gallery to deliver exclusive exhibitions of scale, boosting visitation to Queensland and supporting strong cultural tourism and economic outcomes for the State.

Since 2016, the Palaszczuk Government's investment of \$22.8 million in blockbuster funding has delivered more than \$140 million to Queensland's economy, boosted interest in visual arts among countless Queenslanders and supercharged Queensland's global reputation as a cultural tourism destination of choice.

That's why the Palaszczuk Government restored blockbuster funding to QAGOMA, and that's why we are supporting this as a permanent fixture through the 2023-24 budget.

First Nations

The Budget will also support self-determination and economic empowerment for First Nations peoples. We're investing \$1.4 million over four years in a new whole-of-government First Nations Economic Strategy being developed and planned for release in 2023-24.

The strategy will be progressed in a partnership approach to ensure First Nations peoples and communities are at the forefront in building new pathways to jobs, skills and training, education and business development opportunities in urban, regional and remote areas throughout the state.

Algeria Electorate

Deputy Speaker, the Palaszczuk Government is also continuing to deliver services and cost of living support to people in my electorate of Algeria. It starts with our commitment to make kindy free for all Queensland families. In doing so, this \$645 million budget boost will save families around \$4,600 per year.

This is significant, not just because of the impact of childcare costs on a household budget, but also because the early years are so crucial in the development of young people.

Some of those children may go on to attend Pallara State School, which will also benefit from this budget with the construction of a new 3-storey learning centre.

Or some of them may go on to attend Watson Road State School, where they will benefit from an \$800,000 commitment in this budget to refurbish Block E, as well \$448,000 in upgrades to playground infrastructure and tuckshop facilities.

This Budget also sees a \$2 million investment in Algester for new social housing construction, providing more homes for vulnerable Queenslanders.

Importantly, the 2023-24 Cost of Living Rebate on Queensland energy bills will be increased to more than three times the size of last year's rebate. This is a real cost of living investment that will have a real impact. Just last week, I met Joan, a constituent from Acacia Ridge who spoke with me about the rising cost of energy and what she does to conserve money from her pension. Joan is an early adopter of rooftop solar. She was quick to get on board with clean energy, knowing it will push down the cost of her electricity bill, and we agree. That's why the Palaszczuk Government will be working with stakeholders to identify and design solutions to make the benefits of solar energy available to more Queenslanders, including renters.

Conclusion

Speaker, this Budget will help ease national cost of living pressures impacting Queensland, while investing in infrastructure and services for our growing state. All of this is only possible because we own our public assets.

This is a budget that will support all Queenslanders, and I commend it to the House.