




Speech By
Hon. Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 16 June 2023

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

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (11.37 am): The Palaszczuk government is building a bigger, stronger, more prosperous, better Queensland. Through this Labor budget, we are delivering critical support to all Queenslanders. Underpinned by our strong decision to introduce progressive coal royalties, we are delivering unprecedented cost-of-living measures to assist all Queenslanders with their electricity bills. There are record investments in health, delivering new hospitals, and state-of-the-art facilities like the new planned spinal unit. There are record investments in social housing to give Queenslanders what they need and deserve—a roof over their head. On this side, we will always work in the interests of all Queenslanders to ensure every Queenslander gets their fair share. In my local community, that is exactly what is happening.

Budgets are about people, and this budget comes at an important time for the people of the Morayfield state electorate. Budgets are about people and priorities, and this is a solidly Labor budget that responds to the challenges facing Queenslanders. This budget focuses on assisting with cost-of-living pressures, delivering enhanced healthcare services, addressing housing affordability and supporting safer and more secure communities.

The Palaszczuk government's response to these priorities is significant and considered and will be embraced by many people, including the people of the Morayfield state electorate. Local people will be pleased to hear that important cost-of-living relief will be rolled out right across the Morayfield state electorate with every household set to receive an electricity bill rebate of at least \$550 with pensioners to receive more than \$1,000. Extra financial support for housing and homelessness services, for eligible children to participate in learn-to-swim lessons and for the School Breakfast Program to be expanded and extended to more schools is also very welcome news for the Morayfield state electorate.

A Big Build Labor budget for Queensland means a Big Build for the Morayfield state electorate, especially in the areas of health and education. The Big Build supports economic activities, creates jobs and delivers critical infrastructure for growing communities like those of the Morayfield state electorate. This Big Build budget supports the opening and operation of the brand new Caboolture satellite hospital. This state-of-the-art facility is expected to operate from 8 am to 10 pm seven days a week and provide services which include an oral health clinic, mental health supports, an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health hub, a sleep clinic and a minor injury and illness clinic for walk-in urgent care for common conditions such as simple fractures, simple infections and allergies, sprains, strains and burns.

This Big Build budget will also deliver a brand new and additional ambulance station at Morayfield for the growing local community. First raised by the Burpengary Community Association and its president, Ed Nixon, and backed in with strong advocacy by me, the state member for Bancroft and the state member for Kurwongbah, there is much support and excitement for this critical infrastructure project which is due to open within the year.

In addition, this Big Build budget will also see the Caboolture Hospital redevelopment and expansion take a huge leap forward with the opening of extra beds, extra services, new facilities and new car parking. This outstanding and collective boost in public health services in the Morayfield state electorate supported by a Big Build Labor budget is further evidence of how Labor governments deliver for local people and local health needs.

The Caboolture TAFE and schools throughout the electorate will also be recipients of this Big Build budget with increased funding for new facilities, upgraded facilities and maintenance.

Further upgrades of the Bruce Highway, Morayfield Road, Beerburrum Road and other local transport infrastructure are also a key feature of this year's budget. Connected to this I would once again like to acknowledge the advocacy of my colleagues, including the member for Kurwongbah, for advocating for a major upgrade of Burpengary train station, which sits on the border of our two electorates. That upgrade received significant funding in this year's budget and I look forward to construction commencing shortly.

The progress for a new PCYC at Caboolture will soon reach an important milestone with planning approvals underway and funding locked in. I have been a strong advocate for this project and I am pleased to see we are now on the home stretch. A new PCYC at Caboolture will fundamentally enhance the level of supports and services available to local young people and it is all part of our Big Build.

As the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services, I can say that we are delivering record budgets in these portfolio areas. The record budgets support very significant infrastructure delivery, enhanced service delivery and additional support for the front line. The support is extensive. In fact, it is almost 2,000 words extensive. Mr Deputy Speaker, I now give you notice that the Acting Speaker has reviewed and approved the incorporation of the remainder my speech into the *Record of Proceedings*. I commend the budget to the House.

The speech read as follows—

Take Queensland Corrective Services.

A record \$1.408 billion 2023-24 Queensland Corrective Services operating budget.

A capital budget on top of that will deliver Stage two of the Southern Queensland Correctional Precinct—\$341 million allocated for completion of main construction.

Here's another example.

\$20 million for pre-commencement design works, site investigations and other preliminary works for the future Townsville Correctional Precinct expansion.

Speaker, then there is police.

A record operating budget in 2023-24 of \$3.281 billion.

Additional funding is earmarked for the replacement of the North Queensland Police Academy as part of the new Kirwan Police Precinct in Townsville.

And there's funding to build a new police training centre at Wacol to replace the Oxley Police Academy.

In addition, there's \$50 million for new and upgraded PCYC facilities in centres across the state.

Speaker, this is a very significant investment.

It will benefit communities right across the state, providing young people with the mentoring and activities to set them on the path to a better life.

Then there's Queensland Fire and Emergency Services.

A record QFES operating budget will boost fleet, fire stations and community safety initiatives.

A record \$923 million QFES operating budget.

A record \$125 million capital works budget with a focus on new facilities, new equipment and new vehicles.

Record funding for the Fire and Rescue Service with almost \$90 million allocated for new and upgraded Fire and Rescue Service stations, vehicles and equipment across Queensland.

Record funding for the Rural Fire Service with more than \$30 million allocated for new and upgraded Rural Fire Service facilities and for new RFS vehicles across Queensland.

Record funding for the State Emergency Service with funding for more State Emergency Service vehicles, staff and capital grants.

Then there's community safety initiatives including the Bushfire Safety Campaign and Road Attitudes and Action Planning program.

Those important programs receive a combined \$7.6 million funding over four years.

And there's funding to uplift Queensland's aerial firefighting capability during the bushfire season.

Speaker, we are building a stronger, safer, more resilient Queensland.

For example, the record police budget will also progress a \$101.6 million Youth Justice Investment.

This investment will boost police resources to tackle youth crime, as part of the government's total funding package of \$446.4 million over five years.

Included is funding for extreme high visibility police patrols, a new specialist youth crime rapid response squad, Youth Co-responder Teams, additional early action groups and Police Liaison Officer high visibility proactive patrols.

Speaker, specifically the \$101.6 million over five years includes the continuation and expansion of the Youth Justice Investment to boost police resources, tackle the complex causes of youth crime, and support community safety via Fast-track Sentencing, Youth Crime Taskforce, Police Extreme High Visibility Patrols, Cairns Safer Streets and Midnight Basketball, Police Online Engagement and Intelligence Team, Police Liaison Officer High Visibility Proactive Patrols, Specialist Youth Crime Rapid Response Squad and Stronger Communities Initiative: Early Action Groups.

Speaker, underpinning the efforts of police, a major investment in police recruiting has already been announced with \$87.5 million committed to drive a range of new police recruitment strategies over the next five years.

Speaker, our police perform very challenging duties on a daily basis.

They deserve to be safe.

The government has committed additional funding of \$6.2 million to expand the Queensland Police Service fleet of armoured vehicles.

And police deserve the best facilities and infrastructure we can provide.

The record 2023-24 police budget will progress new and upgraded police facilities at:

- Cairns
- Caloundra South
- Clermont
- Cooroy
- Cunnamulla
- Dalby
- Dayboro
- Hervey Bay
- Kirwan
- Longreach
- Mackay
- Maryborough
- Palm Island
- Proserpine
- Rainbow Beach
- Ripley
- Rosewood
- Warwick
- Winton

And in addition, there will be new police accommodation at Mount Isa and Tara.

Speaker, as part of the further enhancement of frontline response capabilities, the government is providing additional funding of \$27 million in 2023-24 to continue the commitment to establish an integrated volunteer marine rescue service.

And there is \$7.3 million for the Marine Rescue Queensland vessel replacement program.

Our volunteers selflessly give of themselves for the benefit of their fellow Queenslanders.

They deserve every support.

Also, the government is providing increased funding of \$16.5 million in 2023-24 to progress the transfer of Disaster Management functions to the Queensland Police Service as part of the government's commitment from the Independent Review of Queensland Fire and Emergency Services.

This forms part of the government's total funding package of up to \$578 million to enhance emergency services capability in Queensland.

Speaker, Queensland Corrective Services plays a critical role on the frontline of public safety.

Their vital work often goes unheralded, but the government knows just how important it is.

Speaker, a record \$1.408 billion 2023-24 Queensland Corrective Services operational budget will support the safe management of Queensland's prison population.

It will also enhance supports to protect the community and staff, and deliver programs to reduce recidivism.

Stage two of the Southern Queensland Correctional Precinct, where more than 1,500 beds will be available when it opens in 2024, has been allocated \$341 million capital funding for completion of main construction.

The modern, purpose-built centre will focus on health and rehabilitation to reduce reoffending, and support more than 800 good, secure jobs giving the local Lockyer Valley economy a boost.

A \$20 million allocation will enable pre-commencement design works, site investigations and other preliminary works for the future Townsville Correctional Precinct expansion to manage the demands of a growing prison population.

A \$10 million allocation will enable pre-commencement design works, site investigations and other preliminary works for the establishment of a new Wacol Precinct Enhanced Primary Health Care facility located at the Brisbane Correctional Centre to reduce the need to access community-based hospital and health facilities.

Installation of additional bunk beds in high security correctional centres across the state will also progress, with \$1 million of a \$8 million program committed in the 2023-24 budget.

Over the next four years, \$46.3 million will be invested to support essential healthcare, including installing information technology infrastructure in correctional centres enhancing the provision of health care and psychological and disability support services around the state.

This includes responding to recommendations of the Queensland Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce report Hear her Voice to support the health and rehabilitation of women in custody.

\$1 million to complete the refurbishment at Princess Alexandra Hospital Secure Unit.

Parole Board Queensland's operations will be enhanced with \$23.5 million over the next two years to ensure timely and community-safety focused consideration of parole matters.

The management of serious sex offenders will also be enhanced with an additional \$2.2 million over the next two years used towards staffing and programs to keep the community safe.

The QCS 2023-24 budget also includes:

- \$4.1 million towards upgrades to Woodford Correctional Centre's intercom system to keep staff, as well as visitors and prisoners, safe and secure,
- \$3 million towards plant and equipment at Southern Queensland Correctional Precinct—Stage Two, including for prison industries, and for video conferencing facilities to support enhanced virtual visits for prisoners' families,
- \$63.0 million towards infrastructure works and maintenance and replacement programs,
- \$14.6 million towards other property, plant and equipment.

Recognising the critical work of front-line staff and volunteers, the Palaszczuk Government has provided Queensland Fire and Emergency Services with a record \$923 million operating budget.

In addition, a record \$125 million capital works budget for Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) will ensure the State has the best facilities and equipment available.

The 2023-24 QFES budget includes a total of more than \$20.7 million on vital new infrastructure including Fire and Rescue Service stations in the rapidly growing areas of Caloundra South, Mount Cotton Road, Moreton Bay Central and Greater Springfield.

There is also \$5.8 million set to be spent on upgrades and refurbishments to auxiliary Fire and Rescue stations including the country centres of Boonah, Imbil, Mitchell, Emerald and Allora.

Included in the budget is \$17.9 million for the acquisition of land for future Fire and Emergency Services facilities at Hervey Bay, Atherton, Highfields, Beerwah, South Townsville, Wulguru, and Bundaberg East.

Fire and Rescue firefighters will benefit directly from \$18.7 million worth of new and replacement FRS trucks and more than \$12 million of new and replacement operational equipment including firefighting gear, scientific analysis and detection devices, breathing apparatus, and rescue equipment.

The Rural Fire Service will also receive a significant investment of \$16.1 million towards new and replacement trucks, in addition to \$2.6 million on new operational equipment, and \$1 million to continue the retrofit of existing rural fire trucks with potentially life-saving cabin deluge systems.

The State Emergency Service (SES) will receive \$3 million for support vehicles and \$11.2 million in capital grants to be dispersed among the state's 76 SES units. In addition, the SES will receive additional funding this year to employ additional staff.

The State Government has also made a significant investment towards continuing valuable QFES community education programs as part of the 2023-24 State Budget.

Funding of \$2.6 million over the next four years has been approved to enhance the delivery of the Road Attitudes and Action Planning (RAAP) program. The program involves experienced operational firefighters presenting practical road safety advice to young Queenslanders, to educate them about safe driving practices. This funding will assist with expanding the program's delivery into various youth settings in the community, as well as conducting regional tours to reach young drivers across the state.

The Bushfire Safety Campaign, which delivers critical safety and preparedness advice for Queenslanders consider for the annual Bushfire Season, will receive a total of \$5 million in funding over three years, to design and advertise a new campaign.

Speaker, our progressive coal royalties and our strong economic recovery, underpin Queensland's big build—our investment in infrastructure, facilities, resources and our people.

Speaker, those opposite don't support giving Queenslanders their fair share.

Not surprising—as one pundit put it recently.

“Crisafulli has established just one thing: He complains about everything but can’t be remembered for anything.”

Speaker, that’s the cul de sac, the political dead end you find yourself in, when you are not authentic, when you are not committed to a real cause.

That’s what happens when you’re not committed to giving Queenslanders their fair share.

Speaker, on this side of the House we are committed to delivering Queenslanders their fair share.

And that’s exactly what this week’s budget does.

Unprecedented cost of living assistance.

Record health funding. Record investment in social housing. Record police budget.

Record Fire and Emergency Service budget.

Record Corrective Services budget.

That’s what a good government that governs for all Queenslanders does.