




Speech By  
**Melissa McMahon**

**MEMBER FOR MACALISTER**

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Record of Proceedings, 15 June 2023

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

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (5.28 pm): I rise to make a contribution in relation to the budget. This year's budget is a Labor budget through and through, and I am proud to present it to my community. It is a budget that supports our first responders and provides state-of-the-art facilities and capacity for them to deliver world-class services to Queensland. In this year's budget we will see the planning work for the new Mount Cotton Road permanent fire and rescue station come to fruition with \$8.2 million of a \$10½ million spend to bring this contemporary emergency response facility to life. Not only will it provide a first-class futureproof facility for our firefighters with capabilities to cover the urban, suburban, semirural and nearby island communities; it provides peace of mind to that part of my community that is at risk during bushfire season.

Our local ambos are also big winners in this year's budget. Beenleigh Ambulance Station, one of the biggest outside of Brisbane, will receive a brand new station to support the growing demand for health services. I spoke to the station OIC earlier today and he was over the moon to provide his staff with a facility to meet their growing workforce. When I attended Beenleigh Ambulance Station only last month to inspect one of their newly delivered vehicles, I was amazed at the number of staff who operate out of that station, and it will only grow as we increase our QAS workforce and QAS fleet. On top of my 2020 commitment to build a new justice precinct for Beenleigh, the police, fire and ambulance services in Beenleigh are undertaking generational renewal under this Palaszczuk Labor government.

Education in Macalister is also another winner in this year's budget. In just over a month's time the new Beenleigh State High School hall will be completed and, with that, the next wave of educational infrastructure renewal will commence. Mount Warren Park State School is the home of an Early Childhood Development Program which services my electorate as well as parts of the Springwood and Waterford electorates. For those who do not know what an ECDP is, it is basically an early intervention program for those young children diagnosed with disabilities to help prepare them for school life in either a special school or a mainstream school. This is an extremely important service to make sure that these wonderful and vulnerable children have a chance for a good start to their schooling career. Beenleigh State School and Windaroo Valley State School will also receive amenity and facility upgrades.

Some serious road bottlenecks will also be targeted in this budget for Macalister residents. Kicking off the 10-year Beenleigh Better Roads project is an upgrade to the City Road-Logan Street intersection—one of only two access intersections into Beenleigh off the M1 at exit 34. Traffic frequently backs up onto the roundabout, previously known as the 'Bin Chicken Bayou', and onto the northbound lanes of the M1. The upgrade will see an increase in turning lanes for traffic coming off the roundabout and onto the Beenleigh ring-road. The funding in this year's budget will see the design, consultation and land acquisition commence for the intersection upgrade.

I have always spoken about Beenleigh's potential. I spoke about it in my first ever speech in this House. Beenleigh is a peri-urban centre halfway between Brisbane and the Gold Coast on the M1 and on the express train line, so I was proud to see a number of tourism-based investments in Beenleigh in this budget—yes, tourism in Beenleigh. Watch this space.

What is taking shape in the Distillery Road precinct is groundbreaking. Capitalising on the work that Kenton Campbell and Zarraffa's are doing with the Distillery Road Market, the government will invest in food tourism with new kitchen facilities at the Beenleigh Rum Distillery. Yes, eating is cheating, but pairing good food with rum is a winner in my books. Just down the road we are joining with the Logan City Council to build the Logan Riverine Discovery Centre. We will be contributing \$950,000 this year for the design, construction and fit-out of the centre, which will activate stretches of the Albert River with adventure activities and educational facilities.

There are so many winners for my electorate in this budget. There are the cost-of-living electricity rebates but more importantly for my young families is the free kindy. Free kindy will give my families the head start that these kids need. So many times I have spoken to principals who see their preppy students start who have never engaged in any formal education. This will make it possible. This will give them the start that they need. I know my principals are absolutely thrilled to see what this will bring in terms of student development and grade improvement over the next four years. This will change Queensland lives. That is just the start with this budget. I could stand here all night but, instead, I will commend the bill to the House.