




Speech By
Cynthia Lui

MEMBER FOR COOK

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APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL; REVENUE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL; STATE FINANCIAL INSTRUCTIONS AND METWAY MERGER AMENDMENT BILL

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (10.34 pm): It is no secret that Queenslanders right across the state have been doing it tough with high cost-of-living pressures. The ongoing financial stress is forcing many Queenslanders to go without. I am excited to speak on this budget because it will deliver for Queensland. In this budget we will deliver the biggest cost-of-living relief package in Queensland's history as well as big infrastructure investments in health, education, the arts and training in Cook. I want to congratulate and thank the new Premier and Treasurer for delivering a phenomenal budget—a budget that speaks directly to Queenslanders. The Miles government knows and understands that Queenslanders are doing it tough. We listened and now we are delivering.

When it comes to health, the Miles Labor government is absolutely committed to delivering quality health care for Queenslanders. I want to acknowledge and thank the Minister for Health, Shannon Fentiman, for her support for health in my electorate. I am proud that in this budget we will invest \$200 million to redevelop the Cooktown Multipurpose Health Service. The Cooktown Multipurpose Health Service was built as a temporary facility in the 1980s. This government is all about providing world-class health care, and this investment means that we continue to deliver a world-class service to Cooktown and surrounds in a facility that we can all be proud of.

That is not all. This government supports quality health care no matter where people live. The Pormpuraaw community will benefit from a brand new primary healthcare centre, while redevelopment work at the Thursday Island Hospital will continue with funding allocated in this budget. St Paul's on Moa Island will benefit from public health community centre rectification work worth \$8.7 million.

To attract the right health professionals to work in our facilities, we need the right infrastructure in place to support the workforce in the most remote communities in Cook. There is funding to deliver health accommodation upgrades in Hope Vale, Pormpuraaw and Laura as part of the Building Rural and Remote Health Program. We are committed to removing barriers when it comes to providing continuity of care in remote communities. We are not only focused on the immediate and short-term plans for attracting health professionals to the region; we are investing into our future workforce, with \$2.5 million to construct a health hub at the Thursday Island TAFE. This will open up opportunities for more locals to access health training locally and create even greater opportunities for locals to enter the health sector workforce in the future. Whether it is in the Torres Strait or elsewhere, it is certainly an opportunity that many local people will benefit from.

Who does not love art? In Cook we have art centres and we have talents. Coen in Cape York is that community, being home to world-renowned artist Naomi Hobson. The community has been calling for funding to build a new art centre and I am thrilled that funding has been allocated in this budget, with \$6.7 million to construct a new Coen art centre. This is fantastic news for my community of Coen and it will certainly support more local talents and create opportunities for the next Naomi Hobson to break

into the arts on the global stage. I give a massive thank you to the Treasurer for seeing the potential in this small community. This investment will certainly influence social, economic and cultural long-term benefits for the community.

Education is the key for future success and I am proud of our government investment into education in Cook. State schools in Mareeba, Mount Molloy, Chillagoe, Mossman, Daintree and Aurukun and 13 campuses of Tagai State College in the Torres Strait will benefit from our government's massive investment into improving infrastructure. Some of these schools are so remote but they deliver the best education for our kids. Investment into our schools is investment into our future.

Local sporting clubs such as the Mareeba Tennis Club and the Mareeba United Football Club are set to receive vital funds to improve their facilities to support local sports on the Tablelands. The Northern Peninsula Area will benefit from a \$4.2 million investment for the Bamaga fire and emergency services complex. There is also \$2 million allocated in this budget for the Rocky Point Community Youth Precinct in Weipa.

I want to again thank the Premier and the Treasurer for delivering a good, strong budget for all Queenslanders. I know that my community will benefit greatly from our government's cost-of-living measures such as the electricity rebate of \$1,000 plus the additional \$300, the 20 per cent off car registration, no stamp duty for first home buyers up to \$700,000, free kindy, free TAFE and \$200 FairPlay vouchers. These are measures that I know will go a long way to help Queenslanders deal with cost-of-living pressures. This government will always stand up for Queensland and this is a good, solid budget. I commend the bills to the House.