




Speech By
Hon. Patrick Weir
MEMBER FOR CONDAMINE

Record of Proceedings, 27 June 2025

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

 **Hon. PT WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (7.31 pm): I rise to deliver my speech to the budget handed down by Treasurer, the Hon. David Janetzki, on Tuesday afternoon. Let me begin my contribution with the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill which provides total funding of \$146.5 million for the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service for the 2025-26 financial year. This is a net increase in total funding of \$14.5 million from the 2024-25 budget. The majority of additional funding approved for 2025-26 will be directed to a range of significant capital programs not only within the parliamentary precinct but also electorate offices across Queensland.

Some of the headline projects will include: \$28.1 million over four years to deliver the remaining stages of the Parliamentary Annexe refurbishment program, following the completion of the tower floors in 2024. Planned works will focus on levels 3, 5 and 6 of the Annexe, together with external spaces on level 3. These works will deliver modernised functional work spaces for parliamentary staff and also deliver improved security and visitor management processes on level 3 of the Annexe.

Some \$2.9 million over four years will go towards upgrades to electorate office security and access control systems to improve reliability, support and remote integration. Some \$11.2 million over three years will be allocated to deliver priority electorate office relocation and refurbishment projects. This program will target approximately 31 electorate offices to deliver contemporary and suitable work spaces following the introduction of an additional staff member in 2024 and provide improved compliance, fit-out and security design standards. Some \$1.6 million will go towards replacing the existing AV broadcast system that supports public distribution of parliamentary proceedings and various committee hearings via the internet. I am sure we all look forward to these improvements being rolled out in the parliamentary precinct and in the electorate offices.

I would like to make a few comments on the Appropriation Bill 2025, with particular focus on the parts that will affect the seat of Condamine. All in the Toowoomba area and surrounds would have welcomed the Treasurer's commitment to the new Toowoomba Hospital. There have been concerns in the community that the design was being scaled back, but locals can now be assured that that is not the case. One of the glaring omissions in the previous plan was a lack of ophthalmology services. The fact that these services were not to be included was a source of great concern in the district. It would not be possible for me to inform the House how often this has been raised with my office. Our elderly residents currently have to travel to Brisbane or Ipswich to have procedures performed, away from their homes, family and friends. In recent discussions I had with Darling Downs Health Chair Dennis Campbell, I was told discussions are happening as we speak for these services to be included in the new build—

Mr Nicholls: It is in the plan.

Mr WEIR: It is in the plan—likewise, the Equestrian Centre of Excellence at the Toowoomba Showgrounds. While this was announced in the 100-day review on the Olympics, it was great to see funding allocated to this project. There is a real sense of excitement around the upcoming Olympic Games since these announcements have been made, including from my next-door neighbours. A young family lives next door to me and they have three young children—two young girls and one young boy. Like a lot of young children, they have been running around the backyard with broomsticks with a horse's head stuck on it, jumping over hurdles and so forth. A horse float suddenly appeared. I was talking to my neighbour about a week ago as he was building a new shed. I said, 'Is that shed for the horse float?' He said, 'Yes, it is.' I said, 'Your girls would be very excited about the Olympics coming up.' He said, 'They are determined they are going to compete in the Olympics and they will be old enough to drive themselves there!' So, the dreams are already starting.

I welcome the increase in funding for fire ant management—\$24 million over two years. As members would be aware, there have been some fire ants found in the Condamine electorate in a few locations. Fortunately, it seems they have been found in time and have been eradicated, but this has highlighted that we are not immune to this threat.

I also welcome the funding of \$27 million for upgrades to the Toowoomba-Cecil Plains Road at Troys and Heinemann roads and the very busy roundabout at Torrington. I understand that these works are going to begin as early as next week. Locals will welcome the funding for the installation of a staggered intersection where the Jondaryan-Mount Tyson Road crosses the Toowoomba-Cecil Plains Road. We have seen fatalities at this intersection. It is good to see some funding finally allocated to this dangerous intersection.

The Goombungee State School's parents and teachers are very appreciative of the commitment of \$401,000 to upgrade playground equipment and the tuckshop. Both were in dire need of upgrades.

I note funding in the budget for a water treatment plant in Toowoomba to service four communities. As dull as that might sound, this will pave the way for more housing development in Westbrook, Wyreema and Cambooya. The lack of capable water treatment has been one of the big impediments to growth in these areas.

I commend Treasurer David Janetzki on this, his first budget. There are many aspects that will benefit not only the electorate of Condamine but also all of Queensland: the investment in health, police resources, early intervention and rehabilitation, social housing and home ownership, Play On! vouchers, schools and the Olympics, among many others.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I conclude by thanking you and all the Panel of Temporary Speakers. It has been a long and tiring week and emotions have run a bit high at times, but you have all done a great job. My thanks to each and every one of you. I commend the bills to the House.