



Speech By  
**Mark Robinson**

**MEMBER FOR CLEVELAND**

---

**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL; REVENUE AMENDMENT AND TRADE AND INVESTMENT QUEENSLAND BILL**

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Cleveland—LNP) (3.33 pm): I rise to speak on the government's budget handed down by the Treasurer on Tuesday, 4 June. First, let me congratulate my colleagues the Premier, Campbell Newman, and Treasurer, Tim Nicholls, on delivering a fiscally responsible and measured budget in the face of the difficult economic circumstances we as a government have inherited from the Bligh government as a legacy to all Queenslanders. I wish to commend the government on the proactive steps it is taking to reduce government expenditure in overall terms and to get the state's finances back on track. The fact is that, even with stringent economic measures as in the 2012-13 budget, there remains a \$7 billion deficit due to the already pre-obligated spending commitments of the previous government. The budget that was handed down by the Treasurer is a fine example of balancing the responsibilities of improving services and managing the inherent Labor government debt.

This LNP government has invested in the core front-line services of health, education, housing services, disability services, law and order, among other important areas. This government has not only maintained existing funding levels in these core areas; it has increased the funding. I congratulate the government for this and am thankful that the residents of Cleveland will share in these increases in funding: \$12.3 billion in health funding, a \$532.7 million or 4½ per cent increase from the last budget; \$11.4 billion in education funding, representing a \$707.4 million or 6.6 per cent increase in funding; \$932 million in housing services, a \$24 million increase; \$1.4 billion in disability services, a \$64.8 million increase; and \$4.1 billion for law and order, a \$129.6 million increase. I am proud to be a member of a government that understands the importance of investing in these essential government services while at the same time beginning to tackle the debt crisis that the former government left behind.

There was a lot of scaremongering from those opposite and the unions who were engaged in scare campaigns and prophesied that the government would cut to the bone and slash all services. It appears that, for all the talk of service cuts, they could not be further from the truth. The LNP has cut the waste and invested in front-line services for all its citizens—all this while still making the tough decisions in cutting government expenditure to pay off the debt that the previous government left behind. The people of Cleveland voted last election for change and for a government that would repay the debt while maintaining services, and we have done that in this budget despite suffering a \$4.5 billion drop in revenue. Land tax revenue is down 6.4 per cent for the first time in a long time and gaming revenue will be down 2.8 per cent. GST revenue has also slumped. These revenue losses make the challenge of getting the budget back on track sooner rather than later that little bit harder. The fact that the Queensland budget is projected to return to fiscal surplus in 2015-16 is indeed welcome news. Most Queenslanders will be aware of the wide-ranging reforms this government has embarked upon to reduce the debt and deficit, including the restructuring of the public sector. Although not always the easiest political decisions, they have been necessary in getting Queensland back in the right direction. The Newman government is being proactive in addressing the inherent

cultural and structural problems created by the previous administration. However, unlike it, the Newman government is determined to make the hard decisions to bring about a return to surplus and better times ahead.

In the 2012-13 budget, Cleveland received a considerable commitment from the LNP government to provide investments of \$7 million in capital works for local schools, including a new year 7 building at Cleveland State High School, \$6 million for disability services, \$6½ million for capital works and operational funding for the future of North Stradbroke Island, \$2 million for sports coordination and incentive programs throughout the electorate, and \$500,000 in home assistance for seniors. The 2012-13 budget proved that this government can invest in community programs, essential educational infrastructure and the future of North Stradbroke Island while reducing government expenditure. In this budget there have been some great announcements for the people of Cleveland. However, probably the greatest commitment by the government to Cleveland is the upgrade of Toondah Harbour. Last month the Deputy Premier, Jeff Seeney, visited Cleveland where he declared Toondah Harbour as a priority development area. The announcement of a major upgrade of the Toondah Harbour site has far-reaching implications to Cleveland residents and for those who live on North Stradbroke Island, and in fact all those who access the island for tourism and business. Redland City as a whole will benefit from the investment into developing Toondah Harbour. The harbour upgrade will create many jobs in construction, tourism and hospitality and retail; will improve transport facilities and services; will be a boost to the Cleveland CBD and local economy; and will support a more gentle transition to a non-sandmining economy.

The job opportunities created is good news for local residents, young and senior alike. A significant potential exists for future growth in the tourism and business industries that service North Stradbroke Island. For 30 years in the Redlands this key piece of infrastructure had merely been a pipedream. Members of parliament and councillors had dreamed of this development taking place. So I am proud to be part of a visionary government that is encouraging investments such as this in the infrastructure in Cleveland at Toondah Harbour.

The government is also committed to the future and preservation of North Stradbroke Island, with additional funding to maintain facilities and to manage the national park areas and to go towards the implementation of the Quandamooka Indigenous Land Use Agreement. These investments show that the government is dedicated to the future of the residents and businesses of North Stradbroke Island, both in preserving the island's parks and infrastructure and working to strike the right balance in recognising and supporting the island's local Indigenous population.

Disability services in the Cleveland electorate will receive \$6.5 million in direct funding towards a combination of respite care, individual assistance and community disability care. This funding is a boost for Queensland and confirms the Liberal-National Party's pledge in regard to the NDIS to those with disabilities. The boost for disabilities helps those who are most vulnerable in our community. The government has continued the funding of \$5.9 million for the palliative care services that are based at Redland Hospital. The continued palliative care funding will service the needs of people in the Cleveland and greater Redlands area. I was proud to join with the local community to advocate for this much needed service in the Redlands. I thank the government for its continued support of palliative care in my electorate.

In regard to education infrastructure, the Bay View State School multipurpose hall will be completed this financial year. This \$2.8 million project will service the school and the local community. It is a fantastic investment, as it provides a first-class facility to conduct first-class education and activities for the students of Bay View State School in Thornlands.

Law and order in the Cleveland electorate has not been overlooked in this budget. I again thank the government for responding to the demands that have presented themselves within my electorate. I am grateful for the new patrols of police, extended along the Cleveland rail line to Raby Bay to the Cleveland Railway Station. Within the electorate of Cleveland there are four railway stations—Birkdale, Wellington Point, Ormiston and Cleveland. An increase in security for commuters on the line is welcome as it is for those residents who live near the stations. The train line is a major means of transportation for not only those in Cleveland but also all who live in Redlands city. So an investment in the security on this rail line is another great win for the community.

In the last budget the Cleveland Railway Station received \$1.2 million for refurbishment and upgrade. I thank the Minister for Transport and Main Roads for that allocation. Unfortunately, owing to an accident at the Cleveland Railway Station, being a train running through the station, much of that good work was undone only months after it was completed. The reconstruction and repair of the

station has taken some time owing to the thorough investigations that were needed into the accident. But it is great news that the money has now been committed for the reconstruction of the railway station and that it can now get underway as soon as the tender process has been completed. I look forward to having a fully reconstructed and operational Cleveland Railway Station in the coming months. I know that the thousands of residents who use the station every day are also grateful to the minister for that.

The Newman government has not forgotten the need for investing in emergency services within the Cleveland electorate. The funding for the additional ambulance officers will bolster the emergency medical services that our ambulance crews already offer in the Cleveland electorate. The multimillion dollar reconstruction of the Cleveland ambulance station, which was destroyed in an arson attack, will soon take place. The temporary station has been acceptable to date. However, it is now timely that the Cleveland ambulance crews find their home in new premises. I know that the Cleveland ambulance crew and the local community are definitely looking forward to the increased and improved capabilities that the new station will bring in providing emergency services. The bigger and better station will be welcomed by the community.

Overall, this budget is good for the people of the Cleveland electorate. They have received substantial commitments in education, health, infrastructure, disability services and law and order. The budget delivers on key cost-of-living commitments and improved services. I commend the bills to the House.