

Jeff Seeney MP eNewsletter 2016 - edition 7

Welcome to the latest edition of my eNewsletter. I trust this eNewsletter is informative and of interest to you.

Topics covered in this issue include; Labor spends less on Wide Bay region, the ballooning bureaucracy, Labor buying land for national park and Labor's infrastructure plans still unfunded

Labor short-changes Wide Bay on vital infrastructure projects

- **Palaszczuk Labor Government rips off Wide Bay region on infrastructure spend**
- **Infrastructure spend in Wide Bay falls \$1459 per person under Labor than under LNP**
- **Wide Bay being left behind by out of touch Labor Government**

New analysis shows the Wide Bay region is missing out on vital projects, with the Brisbane-centric Palaszczuk Labor Government slashing infrastructure investment by almost \$1500 per person.

The 2016-17 Budget has revealed Wide Bay is receiving less per person than the state-wide average, and far less than when the LNP left office.

While the average infrastructure spend per person across Queensland for the 2016-17 year is \$2232, in Wide Bay it's just \$2211.

Not only are Wide Bay residents getting less than other Queenslanders, the infrastructure spend has declined dramatically under the Labor Government.

Infrastructure spending has been slashed by more than \$400 million, when compared to the LNP's last budget, which is \$1459 less going into vital infrastructure projects, such as flood mitigation, for every man, woman and child in the Wide Bay region.

As the people of Wide Bay miss out, the Palaszczuk Government is happy to invest more than half of its own infrastructure fund in one project in Brisbane.

It is clear the Palaszczuk Government has no plan to deliver vital infrastructure for regional parts of the state.

Labor spent \$2 billion less than allocated for infrastructure last year, which indicates how little priority they place on transformative, job-creating projects, almost one in five young people in Wide Bay can't find a job.

It is clear the people of the Wide Bay region are being left behind by the Brisbane-centric Palaszczuk Government.

Key facts:

- Infrastructure spend per person Queensland 2016-17: \$2232
- Infrastructure spend per person Wide Bay 2016-17: \$2211
- Infrastructure spend per person Wide Bay 2014-15 (LNP): \$3670
- Infrastructure spend total for Wide Bay region 2016-17: \$639 million
- Infrastructure spend total for Wide Bay region 2014-15 (LNP): \$1.05 billion

***All figures are based on 2016-17 State Budget Papers and were prepared with the assistance of the Queensland Parliamentary Library*

Labor attempts to hide ballooning bureaucracy

- **Labor's budget includes hidden details about public servant numbers in Queensland**
- **Labor is changing the way it counts public servants to avoid scrutiny**
- **Same old Labor, living beyond its means while Queenslanders pick up the tab**

The State Opposition has called on the Palaszczuk Labor Government to come clean on public servant numbers after it was caught out changing the way it counts its ballooning bureaucracy to avoid scrutiny.

In typical Labor fashion, the government had attempted a cover up on how much its complete mismanagement of the state's finances was costing Queenslanders.

The Palaszczuk Government has taken Queenslanders for fools by trying to hide its massive increase in public servant numbers.

This looks very much like an attempt to conceal Labor's ballooning public servant numbers.

It has already been revealed in this budget that public service expenses grew at almost six times the population rate in the current year, and for next year public service numbers are forecast to grow at almost twice the population rate.

Now we're seeing the government trying to rig the numbers by changing the way public servant numbers are calculated.

Since Labor delivered its last budget 20,000 full-time jobs had been lost in Queensland, youth unemployment has sky-rocketed in cities like Cairns and Townsville, but the government's only plan for jobs was to create more for public servants.

It is the same bad old Labor, living beyond its means and expecting Queenslanders to pick up the tab.

Key facts:

- Employee expenses have jumped a whopping 7 per cent in this year's budget
- Labor's growth in public servants will cost Queenslanders more than \$3 billion

Where is Labor's money to manage Springvale Station?

- **Labor buys 560 sq km Springvale Station, but can't explain how it will be rehabilitated and managed**
- **Palaszczuk Government already failing to manage existing national park estate**
- **Rural sector also concerned Labor has poor record of locking up land with no effective management**

The LNP Opposition has called for the Palaszczuk Labor Government to outline its management plans for Springvale Station near Cooktown following its \$7 million purchase this week by the State Government.

Labor has a poor record of expanding the area of land under national park but failing to allocate sufficient funds to manage it.

All Queenslanders want to see the Great Barrier Reef protected for future generations, but that won't be achieved by simply buying up a property and locking it up..

Labor has spent \$7 million of taxpayers money to buy Springvale Station for conservation purposes but hasn't provided any detail on how it will rehabilitate the country to decrease sediment runoff, or how it will control pests and weeds.

Minister Steven Miles needs to explain his plans to rehabilitate Springvale, what the costs will be, what money has been allocated and under what timelines.

Far too often Labor makes these decision to win green votes, and then grossly under-resources the management of these properties causing big problems for neighbouring landholders.

Rural groups like AgForce have already expressed concerns about this purchase and is asking how much money has been set aside for its management – the LNP shares its concerns.

The purchase of Springvale Station and all other land for environmental purposes must be backed up by proper planning to ensure conservation goals are met.

Queenslanders need to see active management of our National Parks to ensure the money invested on their behalf actually achieves the conservation and environmental outcomes promised by Labor.

A simplistic 'hands off, lock it up approach' more often than not leads to poorer environmental outcomes with respect to weed outbreaks and pest explosions.

Labor's one dimensional, short sighted approach might please green supporters, but outbreaks of feral pigs and weeds will ultimately threaten our native wildlife.

Labor's miracle infrastructure plan still unfunded

- **Labor promises no new projects or funding in infrastructure pipeline**
- **Labor's super raid still not enough to pay for infrastructure**
- **"In-principle" commitments don't deliver jobs**

Queenslanders have paid \$20 million for another glossy brochure from another Labor bureaucracy that contains no new major projects or funding.

What we have is typical Labor infrastructure spin –glossy brochures, pie in the sky plans, "in-principle" funding commitments, but no actual money to fund its already failing infrastructure plan for Queensland.

Even after it raided \$4 billion from public servants' superannuation, the Palaszczuk Labor Government still can't fund \$8.5 billion worth, or more than 80 per cent, of projects listed in its glossy brochure, or the jobs it keeps promising will flow from them.

Each week Labor seems to come up with a miracle plan to deliver infrastructure, but they simply don't have any means to fund it.

How much longer will Queenslanders have to wait for this asleep at wheel government to actually build something?

Labor is promising projects it can't deliver."

Key facts:

- Labor has cut the State's infrastructure program to record low levels, 1.6 per cent of the Queensland economy.
- Labor failed to deliver 20 per cent or \$2 billion of infrastructure in last year's budget, costing Queenslanders 6,000 jobs.