

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

TUESDAY, 18 AUGUST 1964

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SECOND SESSION OF THE THIRTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

Appointed to meet

AT BRISBANE ON THE EIGHTEENTH DAY OF AUGUST, IN THE THIRTEENTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II., IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD, 1964.

TUESDAY, 18 AUGUST, 1964

OPENING OF PARLIAMENT

Pursuant to the proclamation by His Excellency the Governor dated 16 July, 1964, appointing Parliament to meet this day for the dispatch of business, the House met at 1.56 p.m. in the late Legislative Council Chamber.

Mr. Speaker (Hon. D. E. Nicholson, Murrumba) read prayers and took the chair.

The Clerk read the proclamation.

GOVERNOR'S OPENING SPEECH

At 2 p.m. His Excellency the Governor came in state to Parliament House, was announced by the Sergeant-at-Arms, received by Mr. Speaker at the entrance to the Chamber, and accompanied to the dais.

Honourable members being seated, His Excellency read the following Opening Speech:—

“HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY:

“You have been summoned to attend this, the Second Session of the Thirty-seventh Parliament of Queensland, to consider important business of concern to the people of this State, which arose during the First Session of the Thirty-seventh Parliament, and to consider legislative proposals which my Ministers have prepared for submission to the present Parliament.

“On my return from the United Kingdom last October, I was deeply impressed by the increased momentum in the development of the natural resources of the State, upon which the standard of living of the people of Queensland rests.

“The short tour I took in early May, to be present at the Mareeba Tobacco Festival, gave me the opportunity of renewing old friendships and of seeing something of this growing primary industry. Although the tobacco sold from the area is a record, there was disappointment that a percentage of this year's crop was unsold. I trust that, by constant improvement in quality of the tobacco leaf, a larger percentage of Queensland-grown tobacco will be used by the manufacturers.

“Later in the month, my wife and I visited Shires in the south-western district of the State. We were most impressed by the high morale of the people. Considerable progress in development in schools, housing and bridge making has taken place during the five years since my previous visit.

“My wife and I are looking forward to visiting Cape York Peninsula in September and renewing acquaintance with the Mission at Aurukun where such fine work is being carried out for the aboriginal people.

“During October, my wife and I propose visiting the Torres Strait to meet Islanders who live in the Eastern, Central and Western Island groups.

“My Ministers inform me that the financial year, 1963-64, resulted in a surplus of £221,000, which is the highest recorded since 1953-54 and the second highest in the whole of the post-war period.

“The revenue collected by the Railway Department was more than £3,250,000 in excess of the budget estimate. This was the biggest single factor in the overall Consolidated Revenue Fund receipts reaching an all-time record figure of £130,448,000 or some £5,000,000 more than anticipated when the budget was introduced.

"Trust and Special Fund receipts and expenditure were each £10,000,000 in excess of the 1962-63 figures and were reflected in the increased activities of those Funds recording major construction works.

"Loan raisings and repayments totalling £34,827,000 permitted £34,824,000 to be spent from Loan Fund on capital works of a varied nature.

"Loans approved to primary producers by the Agricultural Bank totalled £6,186,000.

"I am informed by my Ministers that the year 1963 saw the beginning of major projects associated directly with the State's industrial expansion, costing in excess of £100,000,000. In the current year, announced expenditure on additional projects totals £126,000,000.

"Industries in this latter connection include many basic to every developing economy, such as the automotive industry, chemical industry, gas, oil, cement and mineral extractive industries.

"Highlight of Queensland's remarkable industrial growth has been the discovery of oil at Alton, in the south-western region of the State. This has encouraged hopes that Queensland, which is already supplying oil to southern refineries from the Moonie field, will have Australia's second commercial oil field.

"The 1963-64 financial year closed with fifteen producing wells on the Moonie field, the commissioning of the nation's first major pipeline, and the marketing of our first domestically produced oil.

"A great advance has also been made in the search for natural gas. Developments to date have made possible the construction of a pipeline to link the gas-producing areas with centres of industrial development.

"My Ministers have given consideration to the possible effects of oil and gas discoveries on the use of other fuels in Queensland, and Dr. C. R. Hetherington, of Canada, has been engaged as consultant.

"At Mount Isa, the company's £50,000,000 expansion programme is due for completion in about eighteen months. Copper production again reached record levels.

"As the result of an agreement between the operators of the bauxite mining industry and some of the world's major aluminium producers, the production capacity of the proposed Gladstone alumina plant has been increased to 600,000 tons a year.

"The construction of a jetty and causeway at South Trees, Gladstone, is proposed for commencement in 1964-65 for the handling of products of the new alumina industry.

"In the first quarter of 1964, the total value of mineral production in Queensland was £12,200,000—£500,000 more than for the corresponding period of 1963. This increase was achieved despite the loss of uranium which in the January-March quarter of 1963 was worth £2,100,000.

"The total cost of the three new major power stations, Calcap, Swanbank, and Collinsville, will be £75,000,000.

"A completely new generating station is being established at Roma to utilise natural gas as fuel.

"A large programme of transmission and distribution works is also being executed throughout the State.

"The Governments of Queensland and Western Australia submitted to the Commonwealth Government a joint proposal for the establishment of a Northern Australia Development Authority. However, agreement was reached between the Prime Minister and the two Premiers that the most appropriate machinery for the development of closer co-operation and co-ordination of activities between the respective governments was the establishment of a new Northern Division within the Department of National Development.

"The Co-ordinator-General of Public Works is the Liaison Officer for Queensland.

"For the first time in nine years the cash collections of the Railway Department exceeded working expenses. It was also the first year in which the revenue of the Department had reached a figure of £40,000,000.

"The major bridge structure over the Burdekin River at Macrossan was opened for traffic on May 16, 1964.

"The new bridge replaces a structure which was opened for traffic in January 1899 and which was able to carry an 8-ton axle load only. The completion of this bridge eliminates what otherwise would have been an obstacle to the operation of larger rolling stock and heavier trains on the Townsville-Mount Isa railway.

"Approximately 1,167,000 acres of brigalow land in the Fitzroy River Basin have been acquired from existing tenants. Of this area, new leases over 732,000 acres, comprising 38 blocks, have been granted to the former lessees, and 624,000 acres—38 blocks—have been made available for selection.

"Scrub pulling has been completed on 102,000 acres of which 39,000 acres have been burned and planted with selected grasses.

"Some new settlers have erected homes on their land and several now have their own cattle depastured on their blocks.

"My Ministers advise that in the current year all acquisitions of land and the opening of blocks under the Scheme will probably be completed.

"Near Tully, King Ranch is pressing on with the work of timber treatment and the conversion of tropical scrub and forest to introduced pasture for coastal fattening. During the year a "pilot" scheme for the development along similar lines of an area of about 9,500 acres of wallum type soils near Caloundra was put in hand with a view to testing and furthering present data now available from the work of the scientist.

"Sites have been granted for industrial land in the Hamilton and Hemmant districts near Brisbane, at Garbutt in Townsville, and at Gladstone and Cairns.

"The Department of Primary Industries has made a major contribution to the Fitzroy Basin Brigalow Development Scheme.

"Further brigalow research is being undertaken at the Department's 9,000-acre Brigalow Research Station, about 30 miles from Theodore. This includes research on brigalow ecology, land usage under pasture and crop, soil conservation run-off, and cattle husbandry problems.

"As a result of work on improved pastures, producers are sowing greater acreages for stock feeding in coastal, subcoastal and inland areas, and close attention is being given to development of brigalow, gidyea and mulga scrubs.

"The year under review has been one of important progress in irrigation development. Borumba Dam which ensures constant supplies of water for irrigation development in the Mary Valley as well as for the City of Gympie, has been completed and is overflowing; reports on investigations into water resources have been submitted to the Government on the Bowen-Broken Rivers, Upper Burnett River and the Burdekin Delta; and approval has been given to the construction of Wuruma Dam for irrigation and the Eungella Dam for water for the Collinsville Power Station and for irrigation. Construction of Leslie Dam in the Warwick district is expected to be completed by June 1965.

"During the year £2,977,000 was spent out of Trust and Loan Funds on investigations and construction of water conservation and irrigation projects including improved farm water supplies.

"Many landholders are taking advantage of the technical advice and financial assistance available under the Farm Water Supplies Assistance Acts. Advances totalling £458,000 were approved to 181 landholders and £312,000 was spent on advances. Since the inception of the Scheme in 1958 advances paid total £1,003,000.

"The Warrill Valley Irrigation Project by the end of 1964 will extend the benefit of assured supplies of irrigation water from Moogerah Dam to an additional 66 holdings.

"Approval has been given to the construction of Wuruma Dam on Nogo River in the Upper Burnett area. The dam which is estimated to cost £2,257,000, will have a storage capacity of 150,000 acre feet and is the first stage of the Upper Burnett River Project. Stage 2 will be the construction of Gayndah Weir at an anticipated cost of £478,000.

"Callide Dam which is being built under contract to supply water to the Calcap Power Station, is expected to be storing water by December, 1964.

"The channel and pipeline distribution system of the Mareeba-Dimbulah Scheme has been extended to a total of 174 miles. The reservoir at Tinaroo Falls Dam, the main storage for the project, is at full supply level and 549 farms are now being supplied with water. Tobacco sales for 1963-64 exceeded £7,000,000.

"The Queensland sugar industry has entered upon an exciting era. It has quickly taken up the challenge of an expansion programme unprecedented in a century of development.

"The Gibbs' Inquiry Committee Report has enabled official imprimatur of plans for—

- a target of 2,430,000 tons of 94 net titre sugar by 1970-71;
- an additional 150,000 acres to be assigned for cane growing purposes;
- the introduction of about 1,000 new growers into the industry;
- extensions to bulk sugar terminals costing over £6,000,000;
- developmental work at the various Queensland sugar ports.

"The financing of this tremendous development has been fortuitously preceded by a period in which world "free" market prices have been such as to provide a record sum of over £105,500,000 for distribution to Queensland producers of the 1963 season crop. Out of this temporary situation farmers and millers were able to share an amount some £21,000,000 in excess of that available from the previous season.

"The availability of a crop which will produce almost 2,000,000 tons of raw sugar in 1964—a record—reflects the determination of the sugar industry to reach the goal set for it.

"The total area of forest plantations now exceeds 110,000 acres. During the year £1,790,000 was spent on reforestation, providing direct employment for 1,413 men.

"After a comprehensive review and reclassification of the State's road network, the Main Roads Department assumed responsibility from July 1, 1963, for more than 24,000 miles of road.

"Expenditure from the Main Roads Fund during 1963-64 was £21,774,000, compared with £17,633,000 during the previous financial year. Of this amount £12,893,000 was spent on permanent works and £3,253,000 on maintenance.

"In addition, £1,995,000 was spent from special funds appropriated for the development of Beef Roads in the Gulf and Channel Country, and on roads in the Fitzroy Brigalow Basin.

"At Normanton, Thursday Island, Birdsville, Duchess and Mt. Isa, five new primary schools of modern design have been built so that children in these remote areas may enjoy educational opportunities equal to those enjoyed by children in more populous areas.

"Enrolments in State High Schools rose to 65,000 at the beginning of this year. Fifteen new high schools were opened to meet the situation and secondary departments were established in 21 new country centres. The Department also instituted more than 100 new transport services and extended existing services to enable greater numbers to attend secondary schools.

"A committee appointed by Cabinet in 1963 to investigate apprenticeship training and to revise "The Apprentices and Minors Acts, 1929 to 1954," has submitted its report. Advisory committees in Engineering and Chemistry are considering the scope of possible full-time courses in these fields at both certificate and diploma levels.

"The largest building programme for technical education ever undertaken in this State is being planned for 1964-65. The Commonwealth Grant for Technical College buildings and equipment will greatly enhance the generous State Government allocation.

"Aboriginal Wards of the State are demonstrating the benefits of the education and training being provided for them.

"A Committee has been engaged in investigating progress achieved and drafting new legislation to fit the present day needs of these people. Such new legislation will probably be introduced in the coming Session of Parliament.

"The Queensland Government Co-ordinating Committee on Alcoholism has completed its first year of operation with most gratifying results. The major projects for 1964-65 will be intensification of public education, programmes on alcoholic education in secondary schools and of professional training for those involved in the management of the alcoholic and his family.

"Total expenditure by the Department of Works during 1963-64 on buildings was £10,106,000. Of this amount £6,219,000 was spent on educational buildings, which represents 61.5 per cent. of the total.

"New primary schools were completed at six centres and additional classroom accommodation was provided at a number of other primary schools.

"The first sections of several new High Schools have been completed or are under construction.

"The erection of the new Health and Welfare building in George Street, is expected to be completed during the early part of 1965. Work was completed during the year on the erection of the Chermside Neuro-psychiatric Hospital and its associated Clinical and Administration Block.

"A new Maternity Hospital was opened at Kingaroy during the year.

"Significant achievements by the Department of Health during the year were the commencement of open heart surgery, the opening of the Neuro-psychiatric Unit at the Chermside Hospital, and the establishment of

a Cytology Department at the Brisbane Women's Hospital which has as its primary object the detection and early treatment of cancer in women.

"As open heart surgery is now being successfully undertaken at Chermside it is no longer necessary for patients with hole in the heart and certain other serious heart ailments to proceed to Southern States for treatment.

"The completion of the Neuro-psychiatric Unit at Chermside and the anticipated early completion of the additions to Lawson House at Brisbane General Hospital give practical effect to the Government's policy for the integration of psychiatric services within the General Hospital structure.

"The Deputy Director of Psychiatric Services, Dr. G. S. Urquhart, is on an official visit to England, the Continent of Europe and North America so that this State may be kept aware of progress and new methods in psychiatric treatment overseas.

"Major works completed in country centres include new hospitals at Camooweal, Taroom and Point Vernon and the Maternity Hospital at Kingaroy. The new Surgical Block at Toowoomba, the Redcliffe Hospital, the new hospital at Tara and the new Maternity Hospital at Maryborough are expected to be completed within the year.

"Dr. R. Milton, a Fellowship holder of the Department, is undertaking a course of study at Georgian Clinic, Alcoholic Rehabilitation Service, Atlanta, Georgia, U.S.A., for six months. On his return he will direct the medical aspects of the control of alcoholism in Queensland.

"Legislation to control the amount of pollution in air has been introduced and the necessary staff, equipment, and building are being obtained.

"The new Children's Dental Hospital, the first of its kind in Australia, has now commenced to function.

"Collections by the Queensland Government Tourist Bureau last year totalled £2,214,000 which represents an increase of £259,000 over the previous highest figure which was attained last year. The benefit of this spending spreads to every section of the tourist industry.

"The Queensland Police Force celebrated its centenary in April 1964.

"A building at North Quay has been acquired to replace the present Roma Street Police Station and a new Water Police Station has been provided.

"In the last financial year the number of migrants arriving in Queensland was the second highest of the post-war period.

"A system of tape recording of evidence in the Magistrates Court has been investigated, and the first installation will shortly be made in the Coroner's Court.

"The Queensland Housing Commission completed 1,876 house units and at the close of the year had 861 units under

construction. Of the house units erected since April 1945, 17,716 or 59.4 per cent. are home ownership.

"Loans have been approved for 71 applicants to assist them to purchase existing houses which were vacant or becoming vacant.

"In 1963-64 1,068 houses were provided through building societies from funds made available by Government loans and Government guaranteed loans.

"The high rate of construction of water supply, sewerage, stormwater drainage and swimming pool projects by Local Authorities continues to be maintained.

"There are now under construction 227 water supply proposals and 84 sewerage proposals estimated to cost £18,373,000 and £21,957,000 respectively.

"The works and services involved in the departmental activities upon which I have spoken reflect the wide and varied nature of the State Public Service of which the several Government Departments form an integral part.

"The conditions of employment in the Public Service have enabled the recruitment of sufficient staff at the requisite degrees of qualification for the effective performance of public service in its many fields of operation, and officers generally are serving the State loyally and efficiently.

"HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY:

"Among the legislative measures which you will be asked to consider this Session will be—

A Bill to promote the well-being and progressive development of the aboriginal inhabitants of the State and of the Torres Strait islanders.

A Bill to promote, safeguard and protect the well-being of the children and youth of the State through a comprehensive and co-ordinated programme of child and family welfare.

A Bill with respect to an agreement between the State of Queensland and Ampol Refineries Limited and for purposes incidental thereto.

A Bill to make new provision for the control of lotteries, raffles and art unions and certain public amusements, and for other purposes.

A Bill to provide for the superannuation of permanent employees of local authorities and for other purposes.

A Bill to amend the law relating to the recovery of tenements and for that purpose to repeal "The Summary

Ejectment Act of 1867," and to amend "The Landlord and Tenant Acts, 1948 to 1961".

A Bill to amend "The Traffic Acts, 1949 to 1962," "The Main Roads Acts, 1920 to 1963," and "The Local Government Acts, 1936 to 1963".

"HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY:

"I pray that the blessing of Almighty God may rest upon your counsels."

His Excellency then left the Chamber.

Mr. Speaker announced that the sitting would be continued in the Legislative Assembly Chamber, where he took the chair at 2.36 p.m.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

Hon. G. F. R. NICKLIN (Landsborough—Premier): I move—

"That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 11 a.m. tomorrow."

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 2.39 p.m.
