



Speech by  
**Mr DENVER  
BEANLAND**

**MEMBER FOR INDOOROOPILLY**

---

Hansard 17 September 1998

**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL**  
**APPROPRIATION BILL**

**Mr BEANLAND** (Indooroopilly—LP) (8.37 p.m.): As other members of the Opposition have stated, this Budget brought down by the minority Beattie Labor Government bears a great deal of similarity to the former coalition Government's Budget which was introduced into this Parliament in May this year. At the outset, I want to refer to a couple of matters of great significance that have been changed. One of those matters involves my own electorate.

I refer to the Indooroopilly rail station park and ride. I notice that some of the park and rides have remained. Originally there was a \$500,000 allocation to provide park-and-ride facilities at the Indooroopilly rail station. This would have assisted the residents who live in those streets. A great number of cars are parked in the streets. This move would also assist small businesspeople who are missing out on business because of the large number of people who are parking in the streets around the rail station. As a result, the whole neighbourhood is suffering.

There is currently vacant property adjoining the rail station which would have been an ideal property to acquire for the purpose of a park and ride. Over the years other park and rides have been established on the western suburban line. Unfortunately, some years ago the former Minister for Transport changed the rail timetables. Even though the timetables have since been changed back, a lot of people who previously parked at such places as Chelmer, where there are adequate park-and-ride facilities, do not want to go back to those areas and are now accustomed to parking in the streets of Indooroopilly. Therefore, we have a major traffic problem.

I made a submission to the Minister upon the new Government taking office, but unless an allocation for this project appears elsewhere in the Budget it appears as if it has had the chop. I will take it up with the Minister again. The park and ride at Indooroopilly has been talked about for more than a decade. Some money was set aside, but that money has now been taken for other purposes. It may be that in time to come vacant land will not be available for this purpose. There will be a great deal of unhappiness if people find that their houses have to be acquired for this purpose. There are some rental properties in the area but people tend to not want to lose those properties. So while people continue to park there, we are going to experience those huge residential and small business problems. As I said, there is a good park and ride at Chelmer, which is about one third used, I suppose. Since the change of rail timetables some years ago, many people remain to be convinced to go back to that station where many of them parked previously.

I wish to talk about another matter which involves residents in my electorate, that is, stamp duty. It is disappointing that the stamp duty concessions which were introduced by the then Honourable the Treasurer, the member for Caloundra, in the former Budget have also been given the chop. They have been axed. The May Budget put in place stamp duty concessions for refinancing—whether it be business or household refinancing. The whole purpose of those concessions was to give home owners, families and many other Aussie battlers out there the opportunity to take advantage of the competitive finance market and to obtain concessions on transferring their loan arrangements and refinancing. I believe that one or two other members might have mentioned this issue, too. I wrote to the Treasurer

about it because I had received representations. However, that particular provision does not appear to be in this Budget.

**Mr Hamill:** What's that?

**Mr BEANLAND:** The stamp duty concessions in relation to refinancing.

**Mr Hamill:** I said that that was deferred until 1999-2000.

**Mr BEANLAND:** The point is that it has been deferred.

**Mr Hamill:** You hadn't worked out a timetable for it.

**Mr BEANLAND:** The point is that there was a timetable. I intend to quote from the document. I was going to do that before the Treasurer interrupted me and got himself into worse trouble over this matter.

The former Treasurer, the member for Caloundra, put in place a timetable from 1 January 1999. Our Budget documents stated—

"The exemption will take effect following consultation with industry, with a target implementation date of 1 January 1999. It is estimated that the exemption will cost \$8.3 million in 1998-99 and \$16.5 million in a full year."

**Mr Hamill:** A target.

**Mr BEANLAND:** The Treasurer talks about a target. That was a more realistic target than his 5% unemployment target. The Treasurer has caught himself out. He is a sad case. People should not trundle in where they should not do so.

What is discouraging and most disappointing about this Budget is that many ordinary folk out there would have had the opportunity to obtain refinancing at reduced rates had this Government put those concessions in place. It is certainly a jolt to the many small businesspeople who are going to lose through this. I notice that stamp duty revenue has increased by \$63m. Nevertheless, the fact is that this would have given those people an opportunity to refinance and, no doubt, in the case of some small businesses, to create more jobs.

Another issue that relates to jobs is land tax. Government members have said that land tax applies only to the rich. Of course, it does not apply only to the rich; it applies to many of the battling small businesses who have to pick up the bill for this. Those people have, for a long time, campaigned to get rid of this tax. The former National/Liberal Government was going to abolish land tax, and we had a 10-year program to do that. But that has also been given the axe in this Budget. Whether it comes back in a future Budget, time will tell. As I said, land tax relates to jobs. This will particularly hit the tourism industry, because many of the people who pay land tax are located along the coastal belt, where there have been considerable increases in land prices in recent times. This is a very important matter for small business as far as creating jobs and encouraging businesses to get out there and generate business. At the end of the day, only through generating business, growth and development, and creating opportunities to employ more people will we be able to reduce our unemployment rate.

I want to say a few words about the arts, which is a particularly important sector to this State. Unfortunately, I notice that in relation to the Queensland Cultural Centre 2000, for which the coalition provided \$10m in its May Budget as part of the design costs for the \$320m Queensland Cultural Heritage Centre and Gallery of Modern Art, Labor has wound that \$10m back to something like \$4m in this financial year's Budget, representing a reduction of some \$6m. I mention that particularly, because it was a commitment of this Government prior to coming to office. It said that it was going to advance an additional \$15m to that project.

**Mr Hamill** interjected.

**Mr BEANLAND:** The point is that there is no \$15m, there is no \$10m; there is only \$4m. From reading the Budget documents, I understand that Stage 6 of the Cultural Centre precinct is being reviewed and is currently under a cloud. There is no indication from the Government at this point in time—and it has been in office for some time, and it has made commitments prior to this—that the project is going to proceed. The project is of great interest to the arts community of this State. Many people have approached me and other members in an endeavour to ascertain whether this project is going to proceed.

I turn now to the Biennial Festival of Music, which has been reintroduced. It was formerly known as the Brisbane Biennial and will now be called the Queensland Biennial Festival of Music. There is some concern that the Government is contemplating changes in this sector. People are concerned about how this is going to affect the current festival arrangements. The Brisbane Festival, which I understand is concluding this weekend, has been extremely successful and well received. It is something to which people have taken. I can appreciate that, because it is an opportunity for the

community. It provides an opportunity to appreciate a broad array of music, dance and culture as a result of the coalition's support for the creation of that festival.

Many people from all over Queensland have had the opportunity to perform with some very highly regarded artists and students. For example, students from the Queensland Conservatorium of Music were invited to play with the Academy of St Martin in the Fields under the baton of Sir Neville Mariner—one of the finest orchestras in the world and one of the finest conductors in the world. These opportunities have been generated and created with the current festival arrangements. With the new proposals that have been announced, I trust that consideration will be given to ensuring that the current festival continues in its very popular format while the Government puts in place another festival that will be to the betterment and benefit of Queensland.

The arts sector contains a number of youth initiatives. This Budget has allocated some \$3.5m over four years for youth initiatives. Whereas that is good to see, we need to ensure that recognition is given to all forms of artistic endeavour when allocating this funding. I caution the Minister for The Arts, when he is allocating funds, because far too often the focus is given to contemporary art or multimedia. There needs to be recognition of the many forms of art out there. Of course, everyone in the community has their own preferences. The Minister must recognise that not all young people express themselves in this particular form of contemporary art and multimedia.

Under the arts development and museum development assistance programs, unfortunately, it is disappointing that additional funding has been slashed by 20%. In its May Budget, the coalition allocated some \$1.5m. This minority Labor Government has reduced that allocation to some \$1.2m. Further, Labor has indicated that funding in 1999-2000 will be just \$1.7m compared with the \$2m promised by the coalition. Perhaps the Minister might review this particular allocation, because it is a very important sector. Art companies right around the State benefit from this. As well, fledgling artists and professional artists will lose job opportunities through the proposed cuts in this Budget. I am sure that the new Minister for The Arts will have a look at that, because it is important.

We see the continuation of the coalition's Orchestral Services Task Force. Queensland has many talented musicians, but does not have a complete, professional symphony orchestra. The philharmonic orchestra has been struggling financially for some time. I am sure that members are aware of that. However, it does perform a very important role in, among other performances, accompanying performances at the Queensland Performing Arts Centre. The symphony orchestra is underresourced financially. In terms of human resources, it has been suffering in recent times. It has also had to face the issue of corporatisation, which I am also sure will present it with future challenges. I encourage the Government to continue to explore options for the ongoing viability of professional orchestral music in this State. It is a particularly important sector, one in which I know the Government has been working and one in which we need to ensure that all parties receive their fair reward.

As to the Families portfolio—it is heartening to see that the Seniors Card has been retained. I am sure that many of those seniors who received benefits under the coalition's May Budget, which was brought down by the member for Caloundra, will be pleased to see that the Labor Government has retained the Seniors Card. Many people across the State will benefit from its retention. The Government has also retained the commitment to the International Year of Older Persons funding and coordination. A great deal of work needs to be done in relation to that year as well as in the continuation of the community consultations on the draft Queensland strategy of the ageing. Those are important issues for our older citizens. Many people have been waiting for the benefits that flow from the Seniors Card.

Also in the Families portfolio, funding has been provided for a rural children's centre. Again, that commitment was given by the coalition Government and that has been retained by this Government, as has the Positive Parenting Strategy, an initiative on which the former coalition Government placed a great deal of emphasis. In many cases in this complex, modern society, many parents are not too sure how to rear their children, so we must ensure that we provide them with an opportunity to talk with people about what is needed to raise a family. The Budget allocates funding of some \$2m for 40 services under a continuation of the coalition's Family Support Worker Program. That is heartening to see, as is the continuation of the Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy, upon which the former coalition Government placed a great deal of emphasis. Of course, the Government is continuing the 1998 Youth Advisory Forums. They have been going for some time. Funding is again allocated for the continuation of them. The Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy is a very important initiative. We need to target those young people who are at risk of taking their lives. In Queensland we lose far too many of them, particularly young males.

Funding has been provided in the Families portfolio for juvenile justice, because there is a proposal for that responsibility to be transferred to that portfolio. A couple of juvenile justice initiatives that were commenced by the former Government are continuing. One is community youth conferencing. I am sure that the figures that come in from the study that is currently being done will show that that conferencing has been of great benefit to helping young people off the road of crime

and back into the community to play a very useful role. Community youth conferencing is an opportunity for juveniles to sit down with the victim, apologise to the victim, make restitution and enter into an agreement that they sign to that effect. Of course, they can have family members at that conferencing program. The coalition Government was very proud to instigate that initiative. I know that it will prove very successful over time in the State. Also allocated is the continuation of the funding arrangements for new juvenile justice detention centres that were allocated in the coalition's May Budget.

I turn now to the portfolio of the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice. I note that the Budget provides for a continuation of providing disability services at courthouses, including the provision of lifts. That is particularly important not only for that portfolio but also for the Families portfolio, which I now shadow. Through no fault of their own, many people are required to go to courts and registry offices, which in some country towns and provincial cities are the major focus of Government services. It is very important that people with disabilities are able to gain access to those buildings. This Budget provides for the continuation of the provision of court facilities at Doomadgee. A new Magistrates Court complex has been provided for, as it was in the previous Budget.

I compliment the incoming Attorney-General and Minister for Justice on the continuation and implementation of the introduction of the uniform court rules, which were nearly completed when we left office. In fact, the legislation is all in place. There is a little bit of tidying up to do. That will come into force at the end of this calendar year.

Also contained in the Justice portfolio is the continuation of the courts modernisation program. When I took over the office of the Minister of the Department of Justice, I was shocked to find that in all our courts around the State there was no such thing as computerisation of any real worth. In fact, most work was done by the typewriter method and card systems were still used in those courts.

Time expired.

---