



Speech by

DESLEY BOYLE

MEMBER FOR CAIRNS

Hansard 21 October 1998

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL

Committee (Cognate Debate)

Estimates Committee A

Report No. 2

Ms BOYLE (Cairns—ALP) (12.40 p.m.): I compliment the staff who provided support to Estimates Committee A and the Chairman, the honourable member for Logan, for conducting the proceedings with style. I am sorry, however, to follow the member for Surfers Paradise in this debate in the light of his unworthy remarks and his carping attempts to rain on Labor's parade. He will not succeed.

My compliments indeed to the Premier and Cabinet for the Premier's budget, which includes new initiative funding that will benefit the whole State, though of course I must make particular mention of the Cairns Esplanade funding—\$3m in this year's budget, a further \$2m next year and a further \$4m intended as required. That was secured thanks to the sterling efforts of the Mayor of Cairns, Councillor Tom Pyne.

I give recognition to the high profile being taken by the Crime Prevention Task Force and to the multiplicity of methods that we as a Labor Government will take not only to punish those guilty of crimes but also to prevent the crimes in the first place.

I give recognition, too, to the quite proper funding for Community Cabinet meetings. The first was held at Edmonton, just south of Cairns, and it was a resounding success, as others have been. The accessibility of Ministers for people to meet with and raise current issues was welcomed. More than that, it was a chance for locals to meet those really running the Government and to chat with them and get to know them. The Government did not stand aside at all from offering a public forum where questions of all kinds from the floor could be asked and answered.

I compliment Treasury on a very important initiative of this Government, that is, the Employment Secretariat, which will provide a focus for labour market research and regulated policy development. It reflects Labor's whole-of-Government approach to the problems of unemployment and to securing jobs, jobs and more jobs. It realises the imperative to be up to date with the latest research and with moves in other States and around the world to generate employment. Particularly, it recognises that direct attention by economists is necessary if we are to find a solution to unemployment. No longer can we treat unemployment simply as an outcome of low economic growth, as the previous Government did. Rather, unemployment deserves the priority and attention that the Treasurer and this Government are giving it.

I recognise the funding allocated for the National Competition Policy review, which is very important to those of us in the regions, where we believe there have been undesirable impacts from the National Competition Policy, particularly on employment and business.

I compliment the Minister for State Development for the progressive, and yet in a way obvious, initiative that is State development centres. These one-stop shops in regional centres such as Cairns will be welcomed. They will go much further than the methods of the previous Government, which timidly approached the issue. Instead, we will have, as we have already, an integration of Premier's with State Development, with economic development and trade, with regional development and with local business development.

I applaud several initiatives for Cairns and specifically mention the \$750,000 over three years that will be provided to the Cairns Regional Economic Development Corporation. Regions can use their own competitive advantages in knowledge to grow industries with a competitive advantage. The Government is working in partnership with CREDC and other similar organisations Statewide. That is definitely the way to go.

I particularly compliment the Minister on the \$10m set aside for the revitalisation of the Cairns CBD—not the Esplanade, not the city port, not that fringe of the city. It is a recognition that the broader area of the city centre needs assistance to develop a clear identity and to stimulate the business, recreational, residential, entertainment and tourist functions that a vibrant city such as Cairns should have. My compliments to all Ministers involved.
