



**Speech by**

**GEOFF WILSON**

**MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE**

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

**Committee (Cognate Debate)**

**Estimates Committee F**

**Report No. 1**

**Mr WILSON** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (3.17 p.m.): It is with great pleasure that I rise to speak in this debate on the report of Estimates Committee F. This is a beaut Beattie Budget. We will see more of that over the remaining months of this financial year and it will be repeated in years two and three of this term and in subsequent terms of the Beattie Government. This has been the first occasion on which I have had the opportunity to experience the Estimates committee process, and it was quite an eye opener.

I express my appreciation to the two Ministers who so excellently reported to the committee on the expenditure allocated to their portfolio areas. I commend the departmental officers on the work they did and the support they provided for the benefit of the committee, or those of the committee members who were willing to listen rather than talk at the committee table—those who actually wanted to learn more about what the Government proposes to do for Queensland in the areas of education, training and jobs, as opposed to those who are preoccupied with defending their sensitivities in regard to their failure of the people of Queensland when they were in charge of certain portfolio areas in the recent past.

I wish to commend the Government on a couple of key areas within the portfolios of Industrial Relations and Education. I will then return to a key area of concern to me. I commend the Government on the work that it sets out to do in relation to workplace health and safety. Only people such as I and others on this side of the Chamber, who know what it is like to work in industry, know how important it is to defend and promote workplace health and safety. We are delighted to be providing the funds for another 15 workplace health and safety officers throughout Queensland.

I am also delighted that we are going to restore the TAFE system to the central training provider status that it had in the past but which was not observed by the coalition. We are now going to restore TAFE to that central role, and we are going to build the sort of alliances that are needed between it and industry to deliver real on-the-job training for the workers who need jobs here in Queensland. That brings me to the apprenticeship and traineeship system, for which we are also going to lift the funding, and the 10% rule for trainees on Government projects.

As to education, I commend the Government for its focus on behaviour management control within the schooling system; the funding for students with disabilities and learning difficulties; the 685 increase in teacher numbers; and the abolition of the Leading Schools program, which was the greatest threat to the key principle of any Labor Government, that is, equity within the education system. Praise be to the Labor Government for abolishing that iniquitous system!

I turn now to the Salisbury skills centre, which has been the subject of some adverse comment by members opposite. That excellent training skills centre in the suburb of Salisbury is a joint venture between TAFE and industry. Its board was appointed in 1994-95 with a manager, and it involves a bipartite relationship between a number of key representatives from industry and TAFE. In that centre, which is receiving \$4m from this budget, a number of brilliant training initiatives are being undertaken, and they deserve the bipartisan support of all members in this place. I commend the Government's

initiative in assisting the funding of that centre. Plant operator trainees and scaffolders are being trained there.

**Mr Purcell:** Builders labourers.

**Mr WILSON:** And builders labourers. Those people are being trained in many trades and related skills. That centre has been commended by industry, and companies such as Thiess, Hollands, Barclay Mowlem, McIlwains, the Abbey group, Civil & Civic, Bechtel and Concrete Constructions have contributed \$170,000 to developing the infrastructure associated with that skills centre.

Time expired.

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