



Speech by

**GRANT MUSGROVE**

**MEMBER FOR SPRINGWOOD**

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Hansard 21 October 1998

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

**Committee (Cognate Debate)**

**Estimates Committee B**

**Report**

**Mr MUSGROVE** (Springwood—ALP) (4.02 p.m.): In relation to the arts, the member for Indooroopilly has been whining and trying to claim credit for initiatives provided for in this Budget. One thing that was not in the Budget presented by the previous Government was the Youth Arts Program. I am very proud that the Attorney-General has chosen to support that program. Half a million dollars will be made available for the Youth Arts Program.

**Mr Schwarten:** Instead of wasting money on the Connolly/Ryan inquiry.

**Mr MUSGROVE:** Indeed. The allocation of \$500,000 will be used to provide 30 youth radio traineeships, subsidise rehearsal spaces and provide affordable entertainment for young people. In addition, 100 young people over three years will benefit from the music mentorship program.

I turn firstly to the area of Police and Corrective Services. I was particularly pleased to see that, for the first time in this State's history, Queensland will benefit from the protection provided by a total of 7,000 police. That is a magnificent effort and many Queenslanders will feel much safer because of it. The member for Broadwater showed some encouraging signs of moderation during the Estimates committee hearings. I was particularly pleased to hear his question about the relationship between the homosexual community and the Queensland Police Service. That was an encouraging and progressive sign from the member for Broadwater, who has been historically somewhat further to the Right. Perhaps with the advent of One Nation in this place some new ideological ground has been found that the member for Broadwater can occupy. I congratulate him on that.

I was somewhat amazed to hear the member for Western Downs criticise the Roma watch-house. He attacked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services over the delivery in the Budget of a so-called \$320,000 cruel blow to the Roma watch-house. I was interested to learn through the committee that that watch-house is in fact finished. The watch-house, which is in the member's electorate, is sitting there waiting to be opened. For the member to raise issues in the media about a cruel blow to his own electorate when all he had to do was walk down the street and see a brand spanking new watch-house was certainly enlightening to me. I was pleased that the Minister gave an undertaking to take the member to his own electorate to see the new watch-house first-hand.

**Mr Roberts:** Maybe he thought it was only a sample.

**Mr MUSGROVE:** Maybe, but I understand that the new watch-house is bigger and better than that promised by the coalition Government. An additional \$500,000 was expended and it is a fantastic project for the people of Roma. I am sure the local member will be delighted when he finds out that it is there.

I was also delighted that 2,000 direct jobs years will result from the \$178m Capital Works Program. However, I was disappointed to see the correspondence from the member for Broadwater which was in the report. He asserted that the committee agreed unanimously that Hansard was wrong. That is certainly not my recollection. My recollection is that we agreed that the chairperson could raise

that matter with the Minister, which, in my opinion, is distinctly different from agreeing that Hansard was wrong.

I turn to the portfolio of Emergency Services. It was great to see in the State Budget that 850,000 Queenslanders will benefit from the program to provide free ambulance services for pensioners, Seniors Card holders and their dependents. Of course, the bad news that was outlined by the Honourable Minister, Merri Rose, was the tragic neglect of the trust fund by the former Minister and the forecast debt of \$118m. It is no wonder that we have had to prop up the QFRA. The previous Minister was aware of this crisis in May 1997 at the very latest, but he did nothing. It is no wonder that the previous Government's Budget did not go through the Estimates process. Coalition members did not want to go through the Estimates process, because they did not want the Labor Opposition to uncover facts such as the looming \$118m debt and the fact that the Minister was doing absolutely nothing about it.

I congratulate the staff of the Estimates committee, who served us very well. I congratulate the chairman on the magnificent job that he did. He was very impartial and even-handed, in the true spirit of the Estimates process.

Time expired.

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