



Speech by

Hon. M. FOLEY

MEMBER FOR YERONGA

Hansard 21 October 1998

**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL
Committee (Cognate Debate)
Estimates Committee B
Report**

Hon. M. J. FOLEY (Yeronga—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts) (4.13 p.m.): This Budget delivers upon the election promises of Labor and boosts jobs in the areas of Justice and the Arts. We promised to boost Legal Aid by \$5m per annum and we have delivered on that promise, with \$2.5m in this current financial year and \$5m in each subsequent year. We promised to boost assistance to victims of crime by an extra \$1m, and we have delivered on that promise in this Budget. We promised to find the funds to review the impact of the Criminal Code on women, and we found those funds. We promised to boost regional arts, and we found the money to boost regional arts through the Regional Arts Development Fund, from \$1.5m up to \$2m—fully a one third increase. We promised to revive the biennial that was scrapped shamefully by the previous coalition Government, and we delivered on that promise, with \$2m. And we did not just confine it to Brisbane; we have extended it to Mackay and also Townsville, which is delivering some of the benefits into regional Queensland.

We promised to do the right thing by young people in the arts in respect of delivering jobs—for example, in radio traineeships and in music mentorships. I mention in passing the great success of Regurgitator and Savage Garden at the ARIA Awards. They are really helping to put Queensland music on the map. We are helping, too, through the half a million dollars in this Budget and the million dollars in subsequent Budgets dealing with youth arts. We found the funds to appoint another judge to the Court of Appeal and in so doing to boost the Director of Public Prosecutions by a further \$400,000, with a further \$300,000 to Legal Aid.

We have set in place a public art agency to work out the mechanics of applying our policy of 2% for public art, which will generate jobs for art workers across the length and breadth of this State. Against that background, we have invested heavily in capital works projects. Let me just mention Townsville in particular. We have allocated over \$16.3m for the completion of the Townsville Museum of Tropical Queensland. Importantly, that means jobs and it means jobs in Townsville.

We have inherited problems. The honourable member for Indooroopilly does not want to talk about the empire building and the \$7.5m that was designated as a recoverable loan by the previous Government, which has left a very significant financial problem to be dealt with by the current Government in addressing that issue.

Mr Beanland interjected.

Mr FOLEY: It is significant also that the honourable member for Indooroopilly, who so loudly complains——

Mr BEANLAND: I rise to a point of order. If the Minister wants me to participate, I am only too pleased to do so.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr Reeves): Order! There is no point of order.

Mr FOLEY: This is the very man who promised to build the Brisbane Magistrates Court at Queensland Place. There was only one thing missing—\$114m! \$2m was provided for. It is a \$116m project. It was not in the previous Government's Budget. It was not provided for in its Forward Estimates. It is such an embarrassment that the current shadow Attorney-General, the member for

Warwick, has to be reduced to the indignity of having to say, "Let's go and find funds from the private sector", because he has been left with the shocking embarrassment that the former Attorney-General announced that without having funds provided for in the Budget. That is why it is so important that proper planning has been put in place to deliver in the area of justice and the arts. It is important for the jobs of Queensland. It is important for the strength of our justice system and it is important for cultural life and creativity. The shadow Minister for The Arts blithely overlooks the boost of over \$47m in consolidated funding for the arts. This represents a serious commitment from this Labor Government—a serious commitment to jobs and a serious commitment to regional Queensland.

Time expired.
