



Speech by

PHIL REEVES

MEMBER FOR MANSFIELD

Hansard 18 September 1998

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

Mr REEVES (Mansfield—ALP) (12.14 p.m.): It gives me great pride to rise and speak in support of the first-class Budget that was delivered by the Treasurer on Tuesday. I congratulate the Treasurer on that, and I also congratulate him on his birthday today.

Mr Palaszczuk: How old is he?

Mr REEVES: Forty-one, to be exact. This is such a good Labor Budget that I would be happy to rest my political career on it. It is a Budget for jobs, jobs, jobs. The unfortunate thing—although perhaps it is fortunate for the Opposition—is that I will not get a chance to sell the Budget at an election until the next one in the year 2001.

This Budget is good news for Mansfield, because it means jobs for the people of Mansfield. I would like to examine a number of great initiatives contained within the Budget and how they will affect the people of Mansfield.

Health problems affecting young people include drug and alcohol abuse, eating disorders, depression and suicide. Those issues will be addressed by nurses employed in State secondary schools. I will be lobbying the Health Department and the Minister to ensure that my electorate of Mansfield benefits from the provision of some of those nurses.

I am also pleased that we finally have a Government that has not only put honesty back into the issue of waiting lists but is also willing to make extended efforts to reduce waiting times at hospitals, especially at the QE II Hospital. The provision of 995 extra health workers will have a major impact on the provision of services for my constituents. The record \$177.3m allocated to the budget of the Queensland Ambulance will allow for the provision of 44 new on-the-road ambulance staff, with over \$14.7m to be spent on ambulance communication over five years. This initiative will ensure that my constituents will benefit from a reduction in response times of the Ambulance Service. A major part of the Budget, which truly illustrates the difference between a Labor Government and the privateer cowboys opposite, is the allocation of free ambulance services to the aged. The former Government only ever wanted to take from our elderly. Now, that significantly large proportion of my electorate can rest assured that they have a Government that truly cares.

While this Government did not cause the problems in legal aid, it is willing to tackle the mess. Legal aid will receive an extra \$5m a year in State Government funding. Once again, this Government has to fix up the problems caused by the funding cuts made by the Howard Liberal Government. This Budget shows that the Government cares about the victims of crime support group, with an allocation of \$1,475,000 to that group. That illustrates that we understand the traumas that those people go through. Funds of \$700,000 have been allocated to expand the Police Shopfront program, to get the police to where the people are—in the community. To this end I have begun lobbying the Minister and his department to gain a police shopfront for my electorate. I am confident that this can-do Minister will carefully consider my proposal.

I commend the Government for including a Goss Labor Government pledge to provide a \$35m boost to community sport and recreation facilities. I have worked closely with the Community Centre, Mansfield and District. I will ensure that we present a proposal to access some of those funds, and hopefully gain a youth community centre for Mansfield.

The Transport and Main Roads component of the Budget will have major positive impacts on the people of Mansfield. The acceleration of the Brisbane busways project and the introduction of integrated ticketing will mean that more people will use public transport, thus alleviating traffic snarls in the local area. The Pacific Motorway upgrade project will ensure not only jobs but also relief for many of the constituents of Mansfield when travelling to and from the coast. The development of a long-term strategy for the State and national road network will ensure that problems such as the Mt Gravatt-Capalaba Road are addressed and that real long-term solutions are achieved.

This Labor Budget is about redressing the high levels of unmet need in the disability sector. There is \$126.2m over four years for the provision of additional family support services, adult support services and the commencement of a local area coordination pilot. In this Budget we have not forgotten a group that, by tradition, is usually left out—our young people. This Budget will ensure that initiatives will focus on the prevention of youth suicide and self-harm, as well as facilitating young people's input into the design and management of accessible public spaces.

This Budget is a Mansfield friendly Budget. It delivers on the No. 1 problem—jobs and job security—for the people of my electorate. It also addresses many of the other areas that I spoke about earlier, such as health, in that there will be a reduction in waiting times and the provision of nurses in our schools. In respect of community development, there is funding for community and recreation centres. In respect of combating crime, there is increased funding for police shopfronts and Police Beats. In respect of Main Roads, we are planning for the future and addressing major traffic problems.

This is a truly traditional Labor Budget. I can be proud to sell this to the people of Mansfield. Over the next three years I will make my best endeavours to ensure that my electorate gains some of the great initiatives released in the Budget. I wish to once again congratulate the Treasurer on this first-class Budget and praise each Minister for ensuring that our promised initiatives are delivered to the people of Mansfield and Queensland as a whole.

As I stated earlier, this would be a Budget that I would be happy to sell at an election. However, the best part about all this is that there are still two more Budgets to come before I and my colleagues have to stand for re-election. In that time, the people of Mansfield will see that we do not just talk big but match our words with action by delivering. In the year 2001 this Government will be regarded not only as a "can do" Government but also a Government that matches its words with actions.
