



Speech by  
**Mr DENVER  
BEANLAND**

**MEMBER FOR INDOORROOPILLY**

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Hansard 28 October 1999

**APPROPRIATION BILL**

**Estimates Committee G**

**Report**

**Mr BEANLAND** (Indoorroopilly—LP) (3.33 p.m.): I place on record my thanks to the committee members, the chairman of the committee, the staff and the research director, who has already been mentioned, Mr David Thannhauser. Mr Thannhauser showed every courtesy to all members of the committee and certainly to me. He showed that he is very efficient in the way he goes about his work. We owe a debt of gratitude to him.

It is interesting to note the range of interest groups and others opposed to this Beattie Labor Government Budget. One aspect I found most alarming about the Budget itself, particularly in relation to the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care and the Disability Services portfolio area, related to the Ministerial Portfolio Statements. It appears—and the Minister indicated this to the committee—that various parts of the Ministerial Portfolio Statements were misleading. There is opportunity within the portfolio statements to put various notations that need to be put to ensure that the correct information is being supplied. However, in many cases, that did not occur, the statements at the top of the pages were inaccurate or wrong and the veracity and the validity of the document were found wanting. Many important parts of the document in relation to outputs and other aspects were plainly incorrect. I hope that in future those Ministerial Portfolio Statements can be correct, because there can be no excuse for this. A great deal of care needs to be exercised in the preparation of them so that the information supplied to Parliament and to the members is correct. Not only members read the portfolio statements; a range of people take as the truth the information that they find within those Ministerial Portfolio Statements. To find out later that parts of the statements are incorrect is simply not good enough.

I asked a question in relation to the break-up by electorates of grants paid to community organisations and other non-Government bodies during the 1998-99 financial year by the department. For the interest of members, I point out that the Minister did advise me in great detail of the various grants to the various electorates. I thank her for that. I took the trouble to work out the actual percentage of the total funds and the number of seats. I found it rather interesting that the Independents and One Nation Party received 10.28% of the funds and have 13.48% of the seats. The Liberal Party received 6.89% of the funds and has 10.11% of the seats. The National Party received 16.75% of the funds and has 25.84% of the seats. The Labor Party received 65.76% of the funds and has just over 50.56% of the seats. For what it is worth, that is a breakdown of those particular figures. Various members will make out of those figures what they want to make out of them for themselves.

In relation to the Budget overall, I think it is most disappointing that all departments were hit again this year by the particularly large Budget deficit of \$1,235m highlighted in Budget Paper No. 2 on pages 93 and 94. It reminds one that, with such a large debt, under this Government we have already started to head down the road of John Cain, Victoria's famous Premier for debt, and South Australia's former Labor Premier, John Bannon. The Budget deficit is there in black and white. In future, all Government departments will have to pay the penalty for that.

The same applies to the Beattie stealth tax, equity return tax, asset tax or whatever terminology one might like to use. This time around it was funded by the Treasury, but in future years the departments will have to make some cutbacks in order to find funding to pay for that asset tax imposed by Treasury on all departments. The Department of Families, Youth and Community Care is the last department that can afford to give up that sort of money, which will no doubt run into millions of dollars if it were to undertake a future capital works expenditure.

One alarming aspect is the fact that Premier Beattie does not trust the Minister. That came out on page 8 of his Budget Speech, where the child protection shortfall was blamed on the Minister and the bureaucracy. I do not think the Premier's saying those types of things and thinking in that particular direction augurs well for the department and the Minister. It is quite concerning that jobs, jobs, jobs is not at the forefront of this Minister. The capital works allocation was not spent.

Time expired.

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