



Speech by

Hon. K. LINGARD

MEMBER FOR BEAUDESERT

Hansard 28 October 1999

**APPROPRIATION BILL
Estimates Committee F
Report**

Hon. K. R. LINGARD (Beaudesert—NPA) (2.32 p.m.): If it is that we are to look at accrual accounting, and if it is that we are to look at the strategic planning that is involved and the budgeting and the performance management that is to be needed, and if we are to look at community needs and Government outcomes in both priorities and services in certain sub-outputs, then certainly we would be looking at the fact that the Education Department has to consider that capital is a means to an end, not a means in itself. We have to look at the capital projects that are to be identified. We have to look at the expansion that is to be included there, and we have to look at the implications, that is, the acquisition cost and depreciation cost.

I am disappointed that the Minister for Education spoke before me in this debate, because I would have liked him to answer why it is that, in the budget that has been presented in capital works, there is no provision for schools in the year 2001. There is no doubt that schools for the year 2000 are identified. Page 18 of Budget Paper No. 5 mentions Bentley Park as a new school to open in 2000. The sum of \$44.6m has been mentioned in relation to the Building Better Schools program. There is no doubt that the budget identifies \$26m for Building Better Schools in the primary school area and \$18m in the secondary school area. But nowhere is it identified which schools are to be built in the year 2001 and how much money is allocated to that. All other budgets that I have seen in previous years always identified the schools for the next year—which are obviously under a building program now—and then the schools that are to be proceeded with for the year after that, that is, the year 2001. One would think that, certainly, capital has to be put aside now in this year's budget for those schools that are to be built in the year 2001.

Surely, in some cases, there will be acquisition of land. Surely, in most cases, there will be pre-planning that must be done. The tender documents have to be prepared. But in this budget there is absolutely no statement about that. When we look at the accrual budgeting procedures, there is no doubt that there has to be provision for capital works under Managing for Outcomes, which the budget mentioned. So it worries me that the schools for the year 2001 may have been put on hold. After the Budget was presented, I said to the Minister outside this Chamber, "What about the schools for the year 2001?" The Minister, in all fairness, has said, "There is no need to announce them in this year's Budget because I have already announced those schools."

Definitely, I have a personal interest, because the Education Department has identified the need for a high school in the northern part of the Beaudesert Shire for the year 2001. But I would certainly have thought that, in this year's Budget, allowing for the fact that the next Budget comes down in September of next year—and if it is that a school is to be prepared for the year 2001—surely, by the next Budget, planning would have all been done, tenders would have been put out and, by September next year, those schools would be under construction.

So I would have asked the Minister, "Is it true, as the coalition is saying, and is it true, as the coalition documents say, that \$40m has been dropped from capital works for the year 2001? And why is it that you have just allocated \$44m for Building Better Schools and put \$26m down for primary schools and \$18m down for secondary schools but have not identified anything about the procedures

that are to be carried out?" Surely, in Managing for Outcomes in accrual budgeting, that would have been necessary. So I would have asked the Minister, "Is it true, as the coalition is saying, that \$40m has been dropped from the year 2001?"

In relation to a new high school for the northern part of the Beaudesert Shire, in all fairness everyone has identified the need for a high school. Everyone has recognised that the Beaudesert High School cannot expand any further, and that a high school has to be built in the northern part of the shire. But there is still misunderstanding about where that high school is to be built. Is it to be built at Jimboomba, or is it to be built at Flagstone Creek? The community wants Jimboomba. The Beaudesert Shire wants Jimboomba. But it seems as though the Education Department is still going ahead with its idea to build it at Flagstone Creek—an area where there is not a shop, no infrastructure at all, no police stations and no ambulances. They are all back at Jimboomba at this stage.

Time expired.
