



Speech by

**PETER WELLINGTON**

**MEMBER FOR NICKLIN**

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Hansard 16 September 1999

### 1999 STATE BUDGET

**Mr WELLINGTON** (Nicklin—IND) (12.43 a.m.): I rise to speak in this Budget debate and note that the Kenilworth State School is finally getting its general learning block. I thank the Beattie Labor Government and, in particular, the Minister for Education for finally delivering to the Kenilworth school community a general learning block which I am certain will be well used. I am also pleased that, finally, the schools at Palmwoods and Woombye have been recognised by the Government as needing capital works expansion, with money to be spent at the Woombye school for a general learning half block and further funds to be spent at the Palmwoods school for a general learning half block.

The dramatic student growth at the Beerwah State High School has also been acknowledged by this Government with the allocation of significant funds for further capital works. Yesterday in this House, we heard a debate about the Government's decision to undertake a major capital works expansion at the Woodford Correctional Centre. I am very pleased that this Government has recognised the strategic significance of expanding the Woodford Correctional Centre. My constituents look forward to the job opportunities which will be created as a result of this significant and substantial capital works expansion. Further jobs will be available, not just during the construction works, but new jobs will be created once the construction works are completed and staffing of the new buildings will be required. I thank the Minister for Emergency Services for acknowledging the need for a replacement to the existing ambulance station in Nambour, and I look forward to the Minister returning to Nambour when the new station is finally operational.

A few short months ago, the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations visited Nambour and turned the first sod at the Nambour Cooloola Sunshine TAFE expansion. It is great to see the significant dollars which the Beattie Labor Government has allocated in this Budget to ensure that the Nambour TAFE campus continues to play a key role in the education of students in our region. The redevelopment of the Nambour Hospital is also clearly continuing, with further significant dollars being allocated in this year's Budget for the next stage of the hospital's redevelopment. The further allocation of funds for the hospital car park is also greatly appreciated.

Recently, the Premier of Queensland and the Minister for Health officially opened the Nambour psychogeriatric unit. Significant funds have already been spent on that redevelopment. It is great to see further funds allocated in this year's Budget to complete the capital works project. The Nambour Nursing Home has also been acknowledged as being in need of capital works funding. Again, I recognise the continuation during this financial year of the nursing home redevelopment.

Last year, the Minister for Main Roads visited Nambour and inspected the dangerous situation at the Nambour Connection/Keil Mountain Road intersection. After years of lobbying successive Governments, I acknowledge that it was the Beattie Labor Government which actually delivered on this project in my electorate. I am very pleased to see the continued allocation of funds in this Budget to ensure the speedy completion of that overdue capital works project.

The Beerwah area of my electorate was also acknowledged to be in need of specific funding for the reconstruction of the Mount Beerwah road. I know that, as a result of the reconstruction of that 3.7 kilometres of road, the safety of that road will be significantly improved. We all identify Queensland with the Sunshine State. I thank the Minister for Mines and Energy for continuing to ensure that this Government funds the Solar Hot Water Rebate Scheme. Simply put, Queenslanders who want to convert from an electric hot water system to a solar hot water system are able to apply for a range of

rebates from the State Government, ranging from \$500 to \$200 depending on which rebate category the applicant falls into. We all need to be energy efficient, and it is great to see this Government providing this type of incentive to encourage Queenslanders to convert electric hot water systems to solar hot water systems.

There can be no doubt that the Beerwah Police Station is getting closer to being a reality with the allocation of further funds in this year's Budget. I thank the Minister for Police and Corrective Services for ensuring that appropriate funding was provided in this year's Budget for that important future police station.

The expansion of the School Nurse Program is to be commended, because I know that a lot can be achieved through this program. I thank the Minister for Health and the Minister for Education for working together on this important initiative. The school nurse trial pioneered at the Nambour and Burnside schools last year has proved to be the success that many people anticipated. Thank you very much, Ministers. The further funding of the Positive Parenting Program is also appreciated, because this has proved to be another successful program.

Finally, I thank the Premier and the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads for their funding of the significant improvement to the rail service linking Nambour and the railway stations in between to Brisbane. I see this as a significant step forward by the Beattie Labor Government in finally acknowledging the need to provide improved public transport opportunities for the Sunshine Coast hinterland and the total region. I thank the Beattie Labor Government for listening to my constituents' calls for improved services.

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