



Speech by

PHIL REEVES

MEMBER FOR MANSFIELD

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APPROPRIATION BILL
Estimates Committee D
Report

Mr REEVES (Mansfield—ALP) (5.25 p.m.): That is a hard act to follow. It is with pleasure that I rise to support the report of Estimates Committee D. I have to respond to the member for Callide: if he is so interested in the portfolio, why did he not come along and ask questions? The member for Nerang took a great interest in the Department of Communication and Information. He came along and asked questions of the Minister for Communication and Information and Minister for Local Government, Planning, Regional and Rural Communities. If the member for Callide is so interested in these issues, why did he not come along and ask some questions of the Minister?

I refer to the portfolio of the Minister for Communication and Information and Minister for Local Government, Planning, Regional and Rural Communities. In particular, I refer to the role of the department in reviewing the processes of Y2K. At the Estimates hearing the Minister spoke of the role of the Y2K office in monitoring and providing assistance and advice to departments on the need to put remediation and contingency plans in place. The total Budget allocation for the Y2K risk management program for 1998 was \$10m.

I was interested in the Minister's responses to questions relating to the standard receipting system. He expected that the majority of agencies will be participating by the Year 2002-03. The Minister gave the example of a little boat that he once bought from the Transport Department. On one occasion he was sent a bill for the registration of the boat and the trailer, which were registered on the same day. He had to send cheques to two different places. He talked about the savings that would result from this process. I commend him for taking that action because it will save the community a lot of time and effort, and it will save the Government a lot of money.

The hearing into the Estimates of the Department of Tourism, Sport and Racing inquired into a number of issues. The capital expenditure by other bodies in this portfolio includes \$878,000 by Tourism Queensland, \$300,000 by the 2001 Goodwill Games, \$265,000 by the Lang Park Trust, \$38.21m for the Brisbane Cricket Ground Trust, \$16.1m for the National Standard Sports Facilities Program, \$14m for the Community Sports and Recreation Facilities Program and \$7.6m for stadium projects.

One important issue that came up at the hearing was how well Olympic football ticket sales have gone. Queensland has beaten all other States in returns from sales, which demonstrates the support for the Olympics by Queenslanders. The Olympics will have a major benefit for tourism generally throughout the State.

The committee also discussed the report of the liquor review committee. I take this opportunity to congratulate the committee for the obviously great job that it has done. The responses that I have had from the general community have been extremely supportive of its recommendations, particularly the one not to allow an extension to takeaway liquor sales in supermarkets. At a recent local meeting, I did a straw poll and over 90% of those present did not believe that supermarkets should be allowed to sell liquor. That fully endorsed the review committee's recommendations and it should be congratulated on that. It should also be congratulated on not bending to the unbelievable pressure of the retailers on this issue.

The final department to be questioned was the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Total projected capital works expenditure by the department was \$17.3m. Major outlays included the Tweed River bypass at a cost of \$4.254m and capital works on parks at a cost of just over \$3m. The total projected capital expenditure in the Natural Resources portfolio is \$161.921m. Some of those major projects included the Awoonga pipeline upgrade worth \$20m and the Palm Island dam worth \$5.6m.

I was also happy to hear about the Government's strong commitment to air quality, particularly in south-east Queensland. Last year the Government spent \$600,000 on air quality initiatives. In the very near future the Government is intending to launch the south-east Queensland regional air quality strategy. For the people who live in south-east Queensland, this is very important.

I congratulate all the Ministers and their departments. I give special thanks to the committee staff and the attendants. I commend the report of Estimates Committee D to the House.
