



Speech by

DAVID DALGLEISH

MEMBER FOR HERVEY BAY

Hansard 20 July 2000

BUDGET 2000

Mr DALGLEISH (Hervey Bay—CCAQ) (12.56 a.m.): In rising to speak on the Budget, I will use the time productively. First, I will thank those Ministers who have delivered some contributions to my electorate of Hervey Bay and then I will raise some of the things that have been neglected.

I welcome the funds that have been allocated for the establishment of a police station on Fraser Island. This is a project that I and various residents of Fraser Island, along with Inspector Churchill, have been pursuing for the past two years. It is good to see that the Minister has finally recognised the need for this facility. Unfortunately, the \$150,000 allocated in this Budget will fund only the preliminary work and, as the remaining funds required have not been committed in next year's Budget, it is difficult to see when this facility will become a reality.

I would also like to thank the Minister for Transport for his continued support and funding for the upgrade of the final section of Boat Harbour Drive. It would be remiss of me not to mention the Ross Street boat ramp. I am sure that not only the locals but many visiting recreational fishermen who use this ramp will greatly appreciate the long overdue improvements that this funding will achieve.

Now I will thank the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing, firstly, for his quick response to my request during last year and, secondly, for the additional funds allocated for public works and housing in the Wide Bay/Burnett region. Unfortunately, nobody but the Minister knows where it will be spent. Other funding has been allocated to the Wide Bay/Burnett region, but the Budget documents are very vague about exactly where this money will be spent. The map on page 7 of Budget Paper No. 5 shows that Wide Bay/Burnett includes some or all of six State electorates. Is this an intentional ploy on the part of this Government to give the impression to the residents of this area that more money is being allocated to their electorate than is actually the case?

I was disgusted to find that the endorsed Labor candidate for Hervey Bay has been appointed to the board of Ergon Energy, the supplier of electricity in Hervey Bay. This Labor Party fat cat is now funded by the people of Hervey Bay who are customers of Ergon Energy so that he can go around and campaign against me. This person was able to provide a detailed press release on the Budget moments after the Treasurer delivered the details in the Parliament. One has to wonder how he could achieve such speed unless, of course, inside information had been provided to him. Was this the big secret snuck out the back door to prop up this loser?

There are many areas in need of additional funding. If the Budget papers were a little more honest about the exact distribution of funds, then I would be able to more accurately address the concerns of my electorate. Unfortunately, this Government is not about making it easy for voters to see how insensitive and uncaring it really is. Perhaps this attitude goes some way towards explaining the quality of its choice of Labor candidate in Hervey Bay—a caviar gobbling, chardonnay swilling social butterfly who does not know which flower to pollinate next. What happened to the true blue-collar representation by the Labor Party? This candidate is living proof that the real working man's Labor Party has been dead for 20 years. This mob of limp-wristed Labor lawyers and proctologists across the Chamber are simply masquerading in the discarded clothes of the long-dead Labor Party.

This Budget does not produce any jobs. It relies on record capital spending to prop up over 60,000 jobs which would otherwise disappear. This Government cannot keep pace with the rest of

Australia in creating new jobs when in the past we have almost always led the way. Certain important and life-threatening situations are ignored. I have presented the Minister for Main Roads with information regarding Booral Road at Wondunna and the problems surrounding it. This has been ongoing since before the last two Budgets, but still nothing has happened.

I now turn to Fraser Island. Recently, I raised with the Minister for Public Works some problems that needed urgent attention, and his response was immediate, and I respect him for that. Q-Build apparently found approximately \$86,000 in repairs required at Central Station alone, and this figure does not include any additional amenities for the public at the Central Station location. That was as far as it went. Now it has been given to the Minister for Environment and Heritage, but he is still against providing good facilities on the island. Is he waiting for someone to be injured before he finds the funds to fix the problems that have been identified?

This Government can find millions of dollars to build a trendy walkway for Brisbane, yet it cannot find anything for respite services in my electorate. This Government can find \$30m to pour into a convention centre on the Gold Coast, but it cannot find funding for the basic costs for a JP in our community or for a floating jetty at River Heads needed for emergency service situations to allow the transfer of patients from emergency services vessels to waiting medical crews, or even just to assist our elderly recreational anglers.

What about the overloaded public dental service in Hervey Bay? That is right; there has been no mention of any improvement or funding in that area. I wish I could be more positive about this Budget, but I suppose at least we fared better than some other electorates, or at least I think we did. All this comes at a time when our pensioners are too frightened to turn on a heater to keep warm because of increasing electricity costs while our fat cat Labor candidate is home in his warm bed without a care in the world.
