



Speech by

JULIE ATTWOOD

MEMBER FOR MOUNT OMMANEY

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APPROPRIATION BILL, ESTIMATES COMMITTEE C

Mrs ATTWOOD (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (3.01 p.m.): It was my pleasure to chair the Estimates hearing on 3 August for the portfolios of Transport and Main Roads as well as Public Works and Housing. The all-parties committee examined those portfolio areas in great detail. This Beattie Government's State Budget delivers \$3.3 billion for the Transport and Main Roads controlled operating budget. The major focus is on rural and regional development and the provision of basic community and industrial infrastructure. Transport's operating budget is more than \$1.2 billion and that for Main Roads is \$2.1 billion in this financial year. The State Government provides an operating expenditure budget for Public Works of \$999,616,000 and the Department of Housing of \$440m.

This financial year starts with the challenge of implementing the new State Purchasing Policy and the delivery of a record capital works program. The Department of Housing will continue the massive upgrading program and construction on more than 500 new public housing dwellings. Critical strategies include providing applicants with wider options including community housing, bond loans or housing loans.

I acknowledge the cooperation of my colleagues the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads, the Honourable Steve Bredhauer, and the Honourable Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing, Robert Schwarten. I also acknowledge the support and hard work of their departmental officers and policy officers in making information available to the committee. The committee consisted of Mr Paul Lucas, member for Lytton; Mr John Mickel, member for Logan; Mr Vaughan Johnson, member for Gregory and our Deputy Chair; Mr Bruce Laming, member for Mooloolah; and Mr Jeff Knuth, member for Burdekin. I take this opportunity to thank the committee members for their cooperation and diligence in the scrutiny of these Budget Estimates. Finally, I sincerely thank the committee's research director, research assistants, Hansard reporters and parliamentary attendants who all ensured that the Estimates committee performed well and worked smoothly on the day.

The Department of Transport, including Queensland Rail, Ports Corporation Queensland, Port of Brisbane Corporation, Bundaberg Port Authority, Cairns Port Authority and a number of statutory boards, have taken a strategic view of State matters and this was reflected in the departmental Estimates.

I was pleased that the Minister established an integrated ticketing system at some railway stations in Brisbane. There is enthusiastic support for such an enhancement at the Darra Railway Station that is to commence shortly. This ticketing system will reduce public transport travelling time by about 20 minutes for residents in the Centenary suburbs. It is a credit to the Minister that local and State Governments can work together to achieve these improved services.

The Department of Main Roads is ensuring that our road infrastructure will be capable of carrying traffic volumes anticipated due to Queensland's continued economic and population growth. The Department of Public Works is focusing on ensuring sufficient and adequate capital expenditure occurs across Queensland to enable Government service delivery to function properly. One of the major strategic aims of this department is to ensure that jobs are created for Queenslanders and job security is achieved. The Department of Housing is providing strategically placed public housing and seniors units right across the State. It is pleasing to note that the Minister is ensuring that disadvantaged Queenslanders, particularly the elderly, have adequate access to affordable and comfortable housing

and accommodation units. I know that units especially constructed for seniors in my electorate of Mount Ommaney are very well received and I commend the Minister, the Honourable Robert Swarten, for his attention to this matter.

I commend the report of Estimates Committee C to the Assembly and am pleased that it received bipartisan majority support from committee members.
