



Speech by

**KEN TURNER**

**MEMBER FOR THURINGOWA**

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Hansard 21 July 2000

### **BUDGET 2000**

**Mr TURNER** (Thuringowa—IND) (4.32 p.m.): I will address this Budget only from the perspective of how it relates to my electorate of Thuringowa. I was pleased to see the allocation of \$1.4m that will complete the Deeragun Police Station and, after extensive lobbying to have this police station built, it will be celebration time when the doors finally open for business. My request for a Police Beat shopfront at the Deeragun Shopping Centre was approved and was opened last week. This will have a profound effect on reducing crime in the area, and I thank the Minister, Tom Barton, for listening to me and taking action.

I would now like to bring to his attention the problems associated with crime in the Rasmussen area at the Upper Ross. We were successful in getting two Police Beat officers, and this has helped, but I believe that we also need a police liaison officer and councillor allocated to this suburb due to the high indigenous population in Queensland housing. I have given speeches and written letters showing the need for a Rasmussen community renewal program, and I call on the Minister for Housing to make this happen as soon as possible.

The expansion of the Northern Beaches State High School by providing eight spaces for general studies and staff amenities at a cost of \$1.2m was very welcome, as was \$470,000 for their music block. The replacement of our Kirwan Special Education building will at least get started with the \$250,000 allocated, but the total cost is \$575,000. So we ended up a bit short. The kids at the Bohle State School will appreciate the airconditioning of the remaining non-airconditioned rooms at their school and I hope that that can be completed before summer. I trust that the Minister for Education has not forgotten the other schools in Thuringowa. The Weir State School needs a new tuckshop and a lot of maintenance. The Rasmussen school needs a new roof and leaking toilets fixed. Thuringowa State High School needs general maintenance. The amount of money allocated to schools for maintenance needs reviewing. I constantly have brought to my attention the inadequate amount allowed for maintenance purposes.

The upgrade of the Herveys Range Road was essential, as this road is also used by hundreds of army vehicles commuting from Lavarack Barracks to the high range training area. I would love to see the proposed completion date of 2006 brought forward, if possible, as heavy use during the wet season creates large holes and sinking of sections of the road due to heavy armoured personnel carriers and trucks. This then becomes a dangerous road for civilian traffic, giving a car's steering a mind of its own, and it must eventually be the host of a major traffic accident.

As the light rail project is not going ahead, I have written to John Anderson, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Transport and Regional Development, requesting that he consider redirecting the \$64m from that project into the building of the Douglas arterial road project and Ross River bridge. I would ask that the Beattie Government take action and support my request, as I believe this road and bridge, in conjunction with the new hospital at Douglas, should be made a priority project.

As the cities of Townsville and Thuringowa share services, it is important that what happens in both cities be recognised. So to that end I want to acknowledge the funding allocated to the Townsville and Mundingburra electorates. There are very worthy projects in those electorates that will benefit both communities. I will not go into all the details, as I am sure they have been covered in the speeches by

the member for Townsville and the member for Mundingburra, but I can assure members that Thuringowa residents will be glad to share them.

On 18 April I wrote to the Premier on behalf of the Australian Institute of Marine Science—AIMS—seeking funding for four ocean current monitoring buoys and, to date, I have not received a reply. I consider funding these buoys to be a sound investment in the security of our greatest natural asset, the Great Barrier Reef. Like AIMS, I am anxious to receive a positive reply.

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