



Speech by

PETER WELLINGTON

MEMBER FOR NICKLIN

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BUDGET 2000

Mr WELLINGTON (Nicklin—IND) (4.19 p.m.): In rising to speak in this year's Budget debate I reflect on the main reason I stood for political office two years ago—that is, to attempt to improve the level of services delivered by the State Government to my constituents.

I now take this opportunity to acknowledge this Government's financial commitments to improving services in my electorate and also to remind the Government of some ongoing issues of concern my constituents have and which have apparently not been addressed in this year's Budget.

The largest population centre in my electorate is Nambour. The Nambour Hospital redevelopment is continuing, with \$15m allocated to be spent over the next 12 months on the hospital extensions. There is good news for cancer sufferers, with the Government providing extra money to Nambour for improved cancer treatment services.

Last year I called for the establishment of a task force to investigate health needs in my region. I am pleased to see some of the outcomes of this investigation now being delivered in the Budget. The new community health centre in Centenary Square, Nambour is nearing completion at a cost of \$450,000. The location of this community health centre in close proximity to the Nambour railway and bus stations and in the heart of central Nambour will ensure that clients have improved access to this important service.

Refurbishment of the dental clinic at the Nambour Hospital has commenced with over \$400,000 allocated to this project. When the work is completed there will be an additional dental surgery, a redesigned patient waiting area, an external shelter area, an upgraded amenities area, an improved administrative area and upgraded airconditioning.

The 60s and Better Program received initial funding last year for its outreach service into Nambour. This new service has been very well received by my constituents. Although to date there has been no specific allocation of funds to enable this service to continue to grow in Nambour, I take this opportunity to remind the Minister that I shall continue to lobby her and her department for ongoing funding for this service in Nambour.

Design for the new Nambour Ambulance Station is almost complete and I am pleased to see the Government providing \$400,000 in this year's Budget for the construction of the station in Rigby Street. I understand that once the new station is opened the old ambulance station will be decommissioned.

Following on from the \$4.3m spent last year on expanding the Nambour TAFE campus, I am pleased to see a further \$900,000 provided in this year's Budget for upgrading student and staff facilities at the campus. I thank the Minister for his ongoing support of the Nambour TAFE campus. I take this opportunity to put on the public record my constituents' appreciation of his personal interest in the campus.

I also acknowledge Minister Braddy's support for the job creation projects associated with the Nambour adventure playground in Quota Park. This is an example of how a State Government can work in real partnership with the local council and the community in delivering real results to the community and individual workers.

The new bus/rail service linking all communities along the railway line between Nambour and Caboolture has delivered a significant improvement in public transport opportunities available to rail/bus travellers. Last month I joined with Queensland Rail representatives to commission the fourth and final specially manufactured wheelchair-accessible rail/bus unit on this route.

Security around the Nambour Railway Station has improved greatly over the last two years. I understand that there are now 46 surveillance cameras operating within the railway station precinct. I specifically thank Minister Bredhauer for his willingness to allocate money in the Budget for many of the cameras which are located on council car park land and which provide security surveillance of the council car park. This is another example of how a partnership between local council and the State Government can work successfully in delivering improved services to our community.

The Department of Transport's surveillance camera located on the top of Centenary Square in Nambour provides security surveillance of vehicular and pedestrian movements at the Howard Street, Currie Street and Mill Street intersection. I understand that this camera cost in excess of \$45,000.

Refurbishment of the Nambour Railway Station toilet facilities is currently under way and will be greatly appreciated by railway users when the work is completed. Residents in my community have requested that I thank Minister Bredhauer for agreeing to release part of Queensland Railway's land to enable the Eudlo Community Park to expand. The Maroochy Shire Council has now taken over the lease of the land and is planning to construct a public toilet facility on that railway land. That toilet facility is intended to be used by railway and bus passengers and the general public.

The refurbishment undertaken at the Nambour Fire Station and the construction of an additional storage shed have been welcomed by Nambour fire officers. Receipt of the two road accident rescue kits valued at over \$60,000 ensures that the Nambour officers have the best equipment available when they perform their life-saving work.

I note in the Budget papers that additional money has been allocated to employ more police officers in Queensland. Accordingly, I take this opportunity to remind the Minister for Police and Corrective Services of the ongoing need for additional police resources in my electorate.

The success of the School Nurse program operating at the Nambour and Burnside State Schools has ensured its continuation and ongoing funding in this year's Budget.

Arts and drama enthusiasts attending the Nambour Civic Centre will benefit directly from the allocation of \$190,000 in the Budget, being the first stage of the civic centre upgrade budgeted at a total cost of over \$500,000.

The Nambour Museum and Historical Association has benefited, with the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing agreeing to enter into a long-term lease with the association and the Maroochy Shire Council. The association is ready to take over possession of the former Department of Primary Industries building and land in Nambour once the paperwork is finalised. As a result of this agreement, arrangements are currently under way for the Q-Build staff who currently occupy the building to be relocated to other premises in Nambour. I thank Minister Schwarten for his willingness to allow this association to expand in that central location in Nambour. I also appreciate the Minister's efforts in ensuring that Q-Build staff and services remain located in Nambour. The WorkCover office, whilst moving out of the Centenary Square building in Nambour, has remained in Nambour, relocating to a building in Mitchell Street. It is also good news to see that the regional community's office continues to operate out of Nambour.

Nambour State High School's inclusion in the Government's Secondary Schools Renewal Program is an acknowledgment by the Education Department of the needs and opportunities which currently exist for students and staff at the school. I look forward to continuing to work with the Education Department and the Nambour State High School community in lobbying to ensure that the school receives appropriate funding to enable improved teaching opportunities to happen.

The Burnside State School has benefited from the release of money by the Department of Public Works and Housing for painting works at that school. Whilst the school has experienced a decline in student numbers, I thank the Minister for Education for his support in finding \$50,000 for the Burnside State School building program.

The Nambour Special School has received an allocation of funds in this year's Budget, but I have grave concerns that the allocation of funds is not adequate to properly address the school community's priority needs of two additional classrooms with toilet facilities. Parents with students at this school have been calling out for the department to provide increased teaching and support staff to match the department's own staff/students model. I understand that in recent days this issue has been resolved and I thank the Minister for his support.

The public school education display at the recent Sunshine Coast show was very successful for the schools that participated. I thank the Minister for Education for his interest and support in providing funding towards this new promotional venture.

The relocation of the Department of Primary Industries' professional offices to Howard Street, Nambour has improved services to my constituents and maintains a very important link between the farming community and the department.

Additional and new sporting opportunities are now possible for the Nambour community as a result of the Minister for Primary Industries, Mr Palaszczuk, agreeing to release land belonging to the Department of Primary Industries to the council for sporting purposes.

Lobbying for improved funding for respite facilities has continued since I spoke in last year's Budget debate. I am pleased to see that the State Government has acknowledged this need in the community and has allocated funds in the Budget in an attempt to address this problem. I take this opportunity to again place on the record that families in my electorate will continue to lobby for improvements to respite facilities in the community.

The Nambour State School has benefited recently from the release of funds by the Department of Public Works and Housing to assist with the school's cabling network.

Lobbying for the redevelopment of the Nambour Police Citizens Youth Club has continued since I participated in last year's Budget debate. I again take this opportunity to place on record that the Nambour Police Citizens Youth Club is in urgent need of major redevelopment so that it can properly provide improved health, sporting and recreational facilities to a growing community.

Lobbying for State Government financial assistance in improving sporting opportunities in the areas of soccer, vigoro, netball and lawn bowls has been ongoing. I take this opportunity to remind the Government of the great need for the Government to provide direct financial assistance to these sporting groups in my community.

The Palmwoods State School has received further funding in this year's Budget for completing the \$460,000 worth of school extensions commenced last year. The Woombye State School has also received further funding in this year's Budget for the completion of its \$1m building program involving the construction of an amenities block, a multipurpose area and classroom facilities.

The Palmwoods community has witnessed the first step being taken by the community, local council and State Government in attempting to come up with a solution to improving pedestrian and vehicular safety in Palmwoods. The outcome was that the Main Roads Department and the local council would jointly contribute money to the project, and with goodwill from the community I am hopeful that improvements in pedestrian and vehicular safety will eventuate later this year when the work is completed.

Residents of the Palmwoods Caravan Park and the Palmwoods Retirement Village are direct beneficiaries of an agreement entered into earlier this year between the Department of Transport and the owners of Sunbus whereby a new daily bus service operates daily to both communities.

During last year's Budget debate I acknowledged that after years of lobbying of previous Governments by the community, it was this Government which actually delivered on the Wombye-Kiel Mountain road intersection overpass. I am pleased that this Government has not just walked away from this important project once the road and bridge were constructed but instead has continued to monitor the safety of this important intersection.

I am pleased to see ongoing funding for the completion of the sealing of the Maleny-Stanley River road. Repairs to road slips on the Maleny-Montville road are under way and I look forward to improvements in road safety once the work is completed.

Government approval for significant new roadworks on the Kenilworth to Conondale Road has been greatly appreciated by my constituents and, in particular, my constituents are looking forward to the improvement to the safety of the Bellbird Range section of this road. On the Kenilworth to Eumundi Road, wet weather has not interfered greatly with the construction of the No. 1 Belli bridge, and it is great to see ongoing funding for the construction of the No. 3 Belli bridge, which is anticipated to start construction in the near future.

I am pleased to report that the Kenilworth State School's new general learning block, announced in last year's Budget, is now operational and functioning very well and that the old demountable classroom has received a new lease of life and is now located at the Kenilworth Historical Association. That is another example of a local community, local council and State Government working together in the best interests of the community. I also thank the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing for his support in enabling this former classroom to now be relocated to the new site at the historical association.

Lobbying of the Government for additional money for the completion of the construction of units at the Kenilworth Village Units is ongoing. Currently, the Kenilworth community has a waiting list of people seeking accommodation in this unit facility.

Government funding for significant roadworks on the D'Aguilar Road has been appreciated by my constituents, who are eagerly looking forward to the day when the roadworks and bridges proposed are finally completed. I especially acknowledge the Government's commitment for a new bridge at the Post Office Creek section of the road.

The allocation of \$308,000 in this year's Budget for the ongoing expansion of the Woodford Correctional Centre will enable further significant steps to be made in addressing the pressures our prison currently experiences. Currently, the Beerwah Police Station is under construction. It is great to see \$815,000 allocated in this year's Budget for the completion of this new police station. Funding for ongoing roadworks in the Beerwah community is acknowledged in the Budget, together with additional funding for the Beerwah State High School and Beerwah State School. I thank the Beattie Labor Government for listening to my constituents' concerns in delivering improved services in the area.
