



Speech by

PHIL REEVES

MEMBER FOR MANSFIELD

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BUDGET 2000

Mr REEVES (Mansfield—ALP) (12.55 p.m.): While having my Vita Brits on Wednesday morning I read the Courier-Mail. It convinced me that the Treasurer had done a great job with the Budget. The heading said it all: "Budget for battlers". As a State Labor member, nothing makes me prouder than to know that even the Courier-Mail understood whom this Budget will assist more than anyone else.

I and all members of this House— especially those on this side of the House— and the majority of Queenslanders want a Budget that assists people to reach their full potential. This is the Budget that does it. Sometimes the Opposition just criticises for the sake of it. However, it has been particularly sour all week. Why? Because it hates it that we dare to present a Budget that helps the battler. Members opposite would much prefer a Budget that assists only the elite of our society to ensure that those not as fortunate do not have any chance of improving their lot in life. That is why we have spent the past two days listening to negative harping by those opposite and having them ask Ministers for this and that for their electorates, because they just hate the fact that we on this side have delivered a Budget which assists people, particularly the battlers. Members do not have to believe me; they should just have a look at the headline again: "Budget for battlers".

I could spend hours upon hours talking about what this Budget delivers, but many people have already done that, so I will not prolong the debate too much. I do, however, want to point out the important wins for the people of my electorate on top of the delivery of services across vital areas of health, education, law and order, public housing, family services and disabilities.

In education, Mansfield State High School has been accepted as a phase 2 school in the Secondary Schools Renewal Program. That will result in that great school receiving \$700,000 to spend on much-needed upgrading.

In housing, the Minister has delivered on much-needed upgrades for public housing. Not only will 46 new dwellings be built in Brisbane South and 22 in Logan, but the large increases in funding for upgrading and maintenance announced in the Budget will also ensure that the residents of public housing will have better quality living conditions, something that those great tenants deserve.

I notice an increase of over \$1m in the portfolio renewal program for Brisbane South. I respectfully suggest to the Minister that the area bounded by Wecker Road, Tonnes Street and Eastwood Drive, Mansfield, is one that should be targeted for this portfolio renewal. Recently the department sold some land, which will create a good mix of housing in this area, but I think it is only fair that our local community should receive some benefit from the sale. I will continue to make strong representations to the Minister in this regard.

The Mount Gravatt campus of the Moreton Institute of TAFE will be a big winner as a result of the Budget, with \$730,000 being allocated to totally revamp the customer service centre. One extra floor of the premises, under the existing library, will be connected to a state-of-the-art one-stop shop for all the institute's services. This will become the focal point for students and visitors, where they will be able to access all or any information or services required by them. I congratulate the Minister on his support for this important and effective community asset, the Moreton Institute. I was a product of it.

I note in the Budget the continuation of the National Facilities Sports Program under the direction of the Minister for Sport and Recreation, the member for Chatsworth, Terry Mackenroth. I am

fully aware of the first-class proposal put in by the Brisbane City Council on behalf of Queensland Netball for the expansion of the State Netball Centre. This unique proposal, which includes community youth space, will not only have a major benefit for the sport of netball and other sports; it will also have a great economic benefit for our local area. But above all else, the youth space will ensure that we finally have a much-needed youth centre for the Mansfield and Mount Gravatt electorates. I encourage the Minister to closely examine this proposal, because I think it is worthy of his support.

I have previously mentioned in this House the benefits of the busway project. Simply, the project will create the biggest revolution in public transport that the south side of Brisbane has ever seen. As a regular bus user all my life, I know how frustrating catching a bus can be. At the moment there is still great uncertainty over what time a bus will arrive to pick people up or what time it will reach a destination. Uncertainty will always be there when buses have to put up with all the problems of road usage, such as traffic snarls, lights and so on. We have never had the luxury of train travel in our area. This busway will be a godsend. The people of our community just cannot wait, because it will definitely ensure that more people jump out of their cars and onto the bus. The \$156m State Budget allocation will enable the project to be completed in this financial year. I congratulate the Minister and his department on their continued commitment to this project.

The Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme has allocated \$55,000 for an indented busway at St Catherine's Primary School at Newnham Road, Wishart. As one of the students who attended the very first class of this fine school, and having lived on Newnham Road some 150 metres from the school, I am acutely aware of how much this will improve the safety of children attending this school. This road is extremely busy, so this indent will allow traffic to flow more smoothly while being a safe area for buses to enter and leave. I congratulate the program, and particularly the provision to this school.

While talking about the Main Roads area, I cannot let this opportunity go without mentioning my No. 1 issue: Mount Gravatt-Capalaba Road. I know that the Minister, Steve Bredhauer, understands the concerns of the residents and is considering options we can present to the Federal member for his consideration. I thank the Minister for his continuous assistance on this issue. I only wish the Federal member for Moreton, Gary Hardgrave, would stop political point scoring and put his Government's money where his mouth is.

I need to point out once again to the Minister the concerns that the residents of Wishart have about the level of noise emanating from the Gateway Motorway. They cop it not only from Mount Gravatt-Capalaba Road but also the very busy motorway. Obviously, sound barriers need to be placed on the Gateway Motorway from Miles Platting Road to Mount-Gravatt Capalaba Road. I know that these are common problems in a lot of areas, but I respectfully request a close examination of this problem.

As I stated earlier, I could go on about this Budget, but I have chosen to mention only a couple of items that will produce major benefits for the electorate of Mansfield. Those opposite may choose to continue to moan and groan about this Budget. More importantly, the people of the Mansfield electorate, as well as all Queenslanders, will continue to support a Government that delivers a Budget for the battler, not just the elite whom members opposite like to support.

This is a Government that strongly remembers its foundations. It is a Government that acts on its party's charter to assist people to reach their full potential. Above all else, this is a Government that delivers. Honourable members should not just believe me; they should read it and weep. This is truly a Budget for the battlers. I congratulate the Treasurer and commend the battlers' Budget Bills to the House.
