



Speech by

**CATE MOLLOY**

**MEMBER FOR NOOSA**

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Hansard 22 June 2001

### **BUDGET DEBATE 2001**

**Ms MOLLOY** (Noosa—ALP) (10.34 a.m.): I would like to congratulate this government for achieving what it set out to do, that is, to keep its election promises and more. Well done! This is a government with a conscience, caring for everyone, not just sectional interests. The people of Noosa have shared in this year's budget allocation, and I thank the government on their behalf.

The Departments of Transport and Main Roads have devoted funds handsomely to the electorate of Noosa. I seek leave for that breakdown to be included in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

Queensland Transport

\$195,000 across South East Queensland for plant and equipment maintenance and upgrades for service delivery networks, including Customer Service Centres.

\$300,000 to upgrade Tewantin Customer Service Centre.

Main Roads

\$36 million to continue the \$110 million duplication of the federally funded Bruce Highway between Yandina and Cooroy. (Involves Electorates of Gympie, Nicklin and Noosa.)

\$4.254 million to complete two-lane Eumundi bypass on the Eumundi-Noosa Road.

\$150,000 for at-grade intersection improvements at Duke Road on the Eumundi-Noosa Road.

\$5.0 million contribution to Noosa Shire Council for roads demaining package in Noosa Shire.

Under the Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme (TIDS), the following State Government contributions are provided for local government projects:

\$111,717 to upgrade Cooyar Street/Leslie Drive in Noosa Shire, with a total subsidy of \$235,000;

\$20,000 to upgrade to two lane seal Sister Tree Creek road in Noosa Shire.

**Ms MOLLOY:** Other features of the Noosa budget in a snapshot include: \$172,700 for a relocatable building at Noosaville State School; \$120,000 for the completion of track development at Noosa National Park; and \$841,000 for the public housing capital works program in the electorate and a new police station for Eumundi, which I believe will assist the local police in their efforts to provide an efficient and effective service for this community. Finally, Noosa is to gain a long-awaited TAFE facility. I thank the Minister for Employment, Training and Youth and Minister for the Arts and the Treasurer. In Noosa, we are extremely happy to receive this new facility.

There are always issues associated with the delivery of a budget. I believe that this government has shown its true colours brilliantly. It has delivered to the people of Queensland key initiatives that look to the future. It will protect our natural assets and look after our families, including our aged, with a \$120 million upgrade to state government nursing homes, and create jobs. The budget addresses issues of safety and justice. It gives our youth a chance to skill. In addition, \$27.89 million will be provided for expenditure in 2001-02 to improve TAFE facilities, which will directly benefit young students. Yes, it is a sound and responsible budget.

Of course, I must rejoice in the proposed development of a new campus of the Cooloola Sunshine Institute of TAFE at a site owned by the Department of Employment and Training on the Cooroy-Noosa Road, Tewantin. In a letter from the Minister for Employment, Training and Youth and Minister for the Arts, Matt Foley, it is proposed that the campus will meet the emerging training and employment opportunities of people in the Noosa community and the Sunshine Coast region. There are several stages involved in the development of the building. It is anticipated that construction will commence in 2002-03, with a budget allocation of \$2.4 million. On the basis of this start date, a further allocation of \$3.65 million will be provided in 2003-04, and the project is expected to be completed in June 2004. The main focus of the campus will be in delivering training in ecotourism, the arts and information technology.

I now look forward to working with the community to foster further initiatives that will enhance the future of our community. The proposed TAFE is a link into so many other community areas, such as the highly developed arts and cultural aspects of our electorate. Our hospitality industry linking tourism and the TAFE can only act as a platform for our people to take off from. Our already small but growing ecotourism industry will be nurtured and catered for by the training provided by our new TAFE.

Furthermore, there are other links to community with the presence of this kind of learning centre— those links are in business, retraining of women for the work force, as well as a psychological support in our community's psyche. No longer will it be merely primary and secondary schooling for us in the Noosa electorate; we can also look forward to a TAFE learning centre as part of our landscape. This is a key factor in providing a future for our young people and those wishing to retrain or reskill, or those simply wishing to enhance their lives by the learning process. Learning is a lifelong pursuit. The possibilities for our community are immeasurable. The TAFE will be one of those links to our community's future.

If Mr Horan believes that investing in education means doing nothing for the youth, what then does he believe to be the alternative? Would he prefer our youth to be illiterate, cheap labour, or atrophying in never-ending dole queues? Or is Mr Horan's angst really hiding the fact that if we educate our youth and give them jobs, the conservatives will not have any more unemployed, uneducated youth to beat around the head with accusations of dole bludging or laziness as a way of deflecting attention from their vacuous policies as regards youth, education, employment and the welfare of our people in general? I think that Queensland has a bright future because of the intelligent vision this budget nurtures for all Queenslanders.

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