



Speech by

**CHRIS CUMMINS**

**MEMBER FOR KAWANA**

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Hansard 21 June 2001

### **BUDGET DEBATE 2001**

**Mr CUMMINS** (Kawana—ALP) (5.47 p.m.): The Peter Beattie Labor government in this budget has delivered a surplus, and our budget is focused on job creation and supporting Queensland families. Our government has delivered on social priorities while still living within its means.

I start to speak today in support of this budget and will mention what positive initiatives this state budget has committed to my electorate of Kawana. My community has numerous concerns, and as part of the education portfolio I fully support the minister, Anna Bligh, and indeed the whole government in our push to become the Smart State.

Education is a winner on the Sunshine Coast, and some of the funding outcomes from this budget include the Bokarina Primary School, which has received a financial commitment to construct in the financial year 2001-02 a community and school hall. Previously, as a Caloundra city councillor, I was successful in committing that council to spend \$125,000 in the 2000-01 financial year, with the further commitment of another \$125,000 in the 2001-02 financial year.

While the Caloundra City Council's budget has not been brought down, I believe the mayor and deputy mayor of the Caloundra City Council are both men of their word and will continue to deliver on a positive initiative that was started by the Bokarina P&C and principal Peter Koster and which I fully supported both as a councillor and now that I am in state government. Both Bokarina and the entire Kawana Waters area will benefit from the new community hall. This state government, under the Improvement Subsidy Scheme, will also commit up to \$125,000. I will be proud to see the community hall built on the school grounds and will take great interest in the planning and construction and eventual opening. Kawana Waters High School has some excellent initiatives that I fully support, including an ongoing overseas student program that benefits the school, its students and local communities. Our society improves and our culture is enriched as we embrace people from other cultures and countries. I applaud the P&C, the principal and staff of Kawana Waters High.

I have continued to monitor the area to the west of both Bokarina Primary and Kawana Waters High School that is currently being developed by Lensworth Kawana Waters as they develop a community facility to be called Eastbank—part of a major rowing lake which is part of the ongoing development under the Kawana Waters master plan. In coming years it will be an exciting time for this area, and I have been involved with members from both schools and the Education Department in trying to establish a working relationship between the state government, the council and the local developers to make sure that there are positive outcomes for both the schools and the entire community.

I wish to mention the Buddina State School. Recently I attended a P&C meeting at the school, and I have had numerous meetings with both the principal and various staff members. I applaud the Buddina State School and take this opportunity to mention their rainforest, of which they are rightly proud. A number of years ago, the school community decided to change an area that was basically a swampy playground into an attractive, useable environment. The former principal led the project. Support came from various community organisations, including the Lake Currimundi/Kawana Lions Club, the Caloundra City Council, Lensworth Kawana Waters—which is a local development—Ibis Pools and G&B Earthmoving. These groups enabled the school to develop a base to begin planting numerous pieces of local vegetation. Over the past two years the groundsman, financially assisted by

the P&C and student council, has continued to develop this area. A boardwalk has become the main feature within the rainforest, and seating areas for groups to study or just sit and enjoy the native surrounds provides a very pleasant location which has attracted many native local birds.

The project for this year, 2001, is to enclose the rainforest with environmentally friendly fencing and to erect signage to proudly advertise the rainforest to the whole community. Plans for future development include labels for plant identification, frog breeding and propagation areas. This area is well appreciated by the students, the teachers and the local community. As I mentioned earlier, I have been lucky enough to attend P&C meetings and I have given my full commitment to the Bokarina State School. I will support and continue to fight for all our schools across this great electorate of Kawana.

Recently I visited Mountain Creek Primary School and discussed numerous issues with the principal. I welcome his and other principals' support for this government's vision for Queensland to become the Smart State. Mountain Creek High School receives in this state budget \$174,300 for extra learning areas. I take this opportunity to mention the Premier and cabinet's gratitude for Mountain Creek High School hosting the very successful community cabinet earlier this year. That community cabinet was well received by all Sunshine Coast residents.

Recently I attended an ANZAC Day celebration at the Mountain Creek High School which was conducted by the students and various cadets from the local Air Training Corp Squadron, the Army and the Navy Sea Cadets. They enacted a very moving ceremony that was well attended by students and was well appreciated.

Buderim Mountain State School is a proud learning institute within my electorate which has a long history. I met with the principal and many of the staff and students earlier in the year when we presented the student leaders with their badges. I know that they will be very appreciative of the \$182,800 allocated in this budget for additional learning facilities.

I believe that the Chancellor Park community will also applaud this government's allocation of \$874,200 for a new double learning block at the Chancellor Park State School. This is another great initiative for a very proud school, where I again attended the badge presentation ceremony earlier this year. I also recently attended a P&C meeting one evening, and I was very happy with the positive, can-do attitude of those who attended. I sincerely hope that the Maroochy Shire Council can commit funds to this P&C as it plans for an out-of-school hours child-minding project.

I believe the employment of 395 additional teachers, 300 more police, 95 additional emergency services personnel and 120 extra health professionals will be applauded across our community and across Queensland. The Sunshine Coast unfortunately suffers from a higher proportion of unemployment, so I am very pleased to see that in the next financial year there will be \$100 million for jobs and training opportunities under the Breaking the Unemployment Cycle. I will go into much more detail on this later.

This positive Queensland government does not intend to rest on its laurels. Queensland will see this government continue to invest heavily in our communities, the economy and the environment to sustain positive growth for the future. I believe this is a responsible and balanced budget that will help deliver increasing living standards and employment opportunities for all Queenslanders.

Premier Peter Beattie is already on the record thanking the Sunshine Coast people for their positive support of his Labor government. Realising now that the Sunshine Coast has three strong and positive Labor voices in this historic state government, we are committed to delivering positive outcomes and improvements right across the community.

I hope that at the next federal election our area will see a positive man by the name of Ray O'Donnell elected to represent us in Canberra. I believe that for far too long our representatives have been lazy and inefficient and failed to deliver positive outcomes for our area. In the past the Sunshine Coast has suffered and has not received adequate funding at state and federal levels. This state budget goes a long way to turning that around, and I hope that with a federal Labor member in the upcoming federal Labor government, we will see positive resources coming out of Canberra, as they should have for a long time; but unfortunately our conservative representative and the conservative federal government have let us down and failed to deliver and assist this state government in a positive way.

I seek leave to incorporate the balance of my speech in *Hansard*.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr McNamara): I understand Mr Speaker has been made aware of this.

Leave granted.

Ray O'Donnell, as many people will realise, is a former school teacher within the electorate and has worked hard and I will be fully supporting him to become our next Federal Member.

I hope the people of the Sunshine Coast decide to put a positive voice in the next Labor Government when we will see, as it is quite obvious that the present Liberal Government is in its death throes and

will be thrown out at the next election. As I campaigned in the last State Election it is no good having a negative voice in Opposition, we need a positive voice in government and Ray O'Donnell will be this positive voice.

One of the major coups for the Sunshine Coast I believe is within the increase in fundings to local roads. This Government has allocated \$3.2 million for the commencement of the Kawana Arterial Road—a process that I have been happy to be involved in for quite a period of time. The \$3.2 million for the commencement of the Kawana Arterial Road will be seen as a very positive initiative from this Government to ease up traffic problems that I inherited around the Minyama and the northern areas of Kawana. This Arterial Road will link Warana to the motorway that heads west from Mooloolaba.

I also welcome the \$500,000 to continue the network planning study for the Sunshine Coast Motorway. I have had numerous meetings with the Minister for Main Roads, Steve Bredhauer and his staff and I will continue to push for the 4-laning of the Sunshine Coast Motorway between Mooloolaba and Sippy Downs.

This I believe will be one of the main entries into the Sunshine Coast. As many of us realise, there is no four-lane road connecting the Bruce Highway for coastal residents. The present Western Motorway, in my opinion, is the best link, realising that people can travel south to Kawana and Caloundra and north to Maroochydore, Coolumb and Noosa. The Nicklin Way and the Motorway both connect with the Western Motorway and that's why I will continue to push for the upgrading of this road in the long term.

\$3.5 million has also been allocated to rehabilitate and widen sections of the federally funded Bruce Highway in and around the Mountain Creek Road area. Not only will we see the commencement of essential major roadwork infrastructure, but for every million dollars spent on our roads, 17 jobs are provided in road construction related industries.

The Kawana Waters development control plan will see growth towards the west of Kawana Waters in and around the back of Hideaway Waters and the Glenfields area. This road is a very positive initiative and it has been out to consultation in recent months with a display, one in my office and a second display was well received by local residents in the Kawana Library.

Hundreds of brochures went out via letterbox drop to residents for comment and the funding will go a long way to improving the road situation within my electorate.

Where the Immanuel Lutheran College enters on to Wises Road will also see signalisation and approximately \$40,000 has been allocated for this to improve the situation for the people in that area.

In the Health Budget for our area, realising that the Nambour Hospital is the main public hospital for the Sunshine Coast and there has been debate whether the Nambour Hospital should be referred to as the Sunshine Coast hospital—but that debate probably for another day—I know that the Sunshine Coast residents will welcome a \$12.6 million boost for the redevelopment of this well appreciated hospital. It is quite common to witness positive letters to the Editor and I know from first-hand experience that the staff are dedicated at this hospital and do very good work. It is disappointing when negativity from local conservatives continue to complain about the funding for hospitals. I believe we have a good hospital system and boosts for funding to decrease the elective surgery waiting lists and the dental health care are well appreciated by our communities.

Madam Acting Deputy Speaker this positive budget also delivers substantial funding for the relocation and upgrade of the Buderim Ambulance Station. I have also toured all the emergency services area with the Emergency Services Minister, Mike Reynolds in recent months and both Kawana Ambulance Station and Kawana Fire Station will be investigated to see with the continued growth if they remain in these locations. If they are not in the best locations for future growth and to service our residents, I will be fighting to see that we relocate them at the minimum of fuss if more suitable sites can be found and if this of course is warranted.

Madam Acting Deputy Speaker, we have delivered a budget for all Queenslanders. As I have stated in the Health area, \$20 million over two years has been committed to reduce the long wait for elective surgery patients at public hospitals. \$20 million will be spent over three years in capital funding for the upgrade of existing disability services, new respite and family support services and innovative accommodation options for people with high support needs.

The Beattie Labor Government is committed to improving the economic and social framework of Queensland through the creation of more and better jobs and providing people with the opportunity to increase their skills.

#### Breaking the unemployment cycle

The Beattie Government expects to create an extra 28,000 jobs over the next three years under the Breaking the Unemployment Cycle. It will become a \$470 million investment since its inception in October 1998. By the end of this term we expect to have created an additional 56,000 jobs in Queensland under the Breaking the Unemployment Cycle program.

#### Strategic programs

\$20 million over two years to allow 1,200 15-24 year olds undertake traineeships in environmental protection, horticulture and waste management as part of the Youth for the Environment and Local Communities.

\$5.4 million over three years to boost job opportunities for long term mature-aged job seekers by offering a \$4,000 wage subsidy to firms who employ them under the Experience Pays Program. About 1,350 workers aged 45 years or over are expected to receive wage subsidies under this initiative.

\$1.5 million over three years to help mature aged workers who have been unemployed for three months or longer gain job search and information technology skills as part of the Back to Work Program.

\$5 million to help inject 500 unemployed early school leavers and young adults into the workforce in areas of high youth unemployment as part of the Get set for Work Program. The initiative delivers up to \$6,000 per person for intensive specialised training assistance and a \$4,000 wage subsidy.

#### Capital works program

The Budget will deliver \$5.1 billion to fund capital works projects across Queensland. This extensive program, of which 58% is allocated for areas outside Brisbane, will support 46,300 full-time jobs. Highlights include:

\$134 million for the construction of 4 new schools, further staged works at 12 schools and more than 120 additional classrooms at existing schools.

\$240 million allocated for the rebuilding of acute hospital facilities in combination with the planned improvements to community health facilities.

Over \$1.5 billion in total Government Owned Electricity expenditure.

\$518.9 million in total capital expenditure for Queensland Rail, including \$105 million for track renewal between Rockhampton and Cairns and \$46 million for the Cairns Tilt Train Project.

\$738.4 million for the total roads capital expenditure.

#### Infrastructure and services

\$437 million in grants and subsidy programs to help local governments provide infrastructure and services to meet community needs and develop local jobs, business and industries by continuing to administer.

The Beattie Labor Government will continue to drive economic strategies towards new knowledge industries of the information age.

The Smart State is our plan for the future.

#### Creating new industries through innovation

\$100 million to set up an innovative smart State Research Facility Fund. It will foster the development of technologies to fuel knowledge-rich industries such as biotechnology, aviation and advanced manufacturing, while it will help stimulate innovation in our traditional industries.

Continuation of the \$270 million, 10-year Biotechnology Strategy which involves support for the commercialisation of research, to identify, develop and promote specific activities to maximise bio-industry trade and investment.

\$10 million over the next two years to construct and establish the Australian Aerospace Centre of Excellence. This centre will tap into the aviation industries high growth potential and establish South-East Queensland as a key aviation and transport hub in the Asia Pacific region.

\$2.6 million to purchase land adjacent to Brisbane's Alexandra Hospital to develop a Pharmacy Centre of Excellence. This centre will be the only facility of its kind in Australia where all phases of pharmaceutical development take place.

#### Making industries more competitive

\$151 million for the Agency for Food and Fibre Sciences to support sustainable production of high quality food and fibre by developing creative industry-based ideas for production improvements.

\$15 million over three years to improve the business management skills of primary producers through the FarmBis program. Over 21,000 producers have already participated in FarmBis, which gives grants to producers to undertake learning which enhances their business profitability and competitiveness.

\$2.5 million per year for research and development in climate information to enable Queensland's primary producers to better manage climate risks and opportunities.

#### Preparing our children

\$15 million is provided in 2001-02 for network learning communities in schools, an increase of \$10 million. This program ensures that schools properly reflect and prepare students for the rapidly

advancing workplace by allocating funds for computer acquisitions, technical support and teaching training.

\$10 million over the next three years to develop six Technology, Maths and Science Centres of Excellence around the State.

\$3 million over the next three years is provided for the on-going expansion of the New Basics program, which consists of an innovative framework of curriculum, teaching and assessment to equip students for the new workplace and industries of the future.

\$18.8 million for additional teachers to reduce class size, provide support to students with disabilities and special needs and practice more effective behaviour management strategies.

The Beattie Labor Government is committed to improving and sustaining the quality of our environment.

The environment is one of Queensland's more strategic assets. It is home to many species and ecosystems, which, together with our natural and cultural heritage, play an important role in defining our quality of life.

The State Government will ensure the on-going richness of Queensland's natural assets will be enjoyed by current and future generations. It has targeted key areas to expand on its record of protecting the environment.

\$317.3 million has been allocated to the environmental Protection Agency and the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service to implement the State Government's initiatives.

Protecting our natural assets

\$10 million a year for the next four years to maintain National Parks across Queensland. This will fund up to 140 new park rangers and the equipment and supplies needed to help them maintain our National Park estate.

\$2 million over five years for The Great Walks of Queensland project. This will include long distance walking tracks in the Wet Tropics.

\$4.6 million in 2001-02 to plan water resources and arrangements to support sustainable and efficient use of water resources.

\$4 million as part of an \$81 million, seven-year commitment to tackle salinity and improve water quality in key catchments and regions.

Continued funding for the day-to-day management of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. This will result in better protection of the marine environment and improved interaction between marine park rangers and commercial and recreational users.

\$1 million over two years allocated to address Crown of Thorns infestation for The Great Barrier Reef.

\$2.4 million for the Beach Protection Authority to implement beach management strategies for areas where erosion threatens properties and residences.

\$350,000 has been allocated to manage acid sulfate soils.

\$10 million towards the structural adjustment package for the East Coast Trawl Fishery. This will result in the fair management and control of access to fisheries resources and underpin the sustainability of the industry.

More than \$8 million as the second instalment in a four-year \$80.8 million investment in the Southeast Queensland Forest Agreement (SEQFA). This will ensure 425,000 hectares of land will be protected as a 'forest reserve'. The agreement will ensure the transition to a plantation-based timber industry from one that is based on Crown native forests.

\$10 million in 2001-02 as part of the \$20 million, two-year Youth for the Environment and Local Communities Program. This will give 15 to 24 year olds accredited qualifications through work in environmental protection, horticulture and waste management.

The Beattie Labor Government is committed to maintaining and increasing support to communities, families, children and individuals across Queensland.

Families are vitally important when planning the overall health of our community. That is why the State Government will invest \$1.6 billion over three years in a range of new initiatives across several portfolios.

Providing children with the best start

An additional \$4.5 million over three years to expand child health centre services at 18 locations throughout the State.

\$500,000 to help young people quit smoking through an anti-smoking campaign run over two years.

\$12 million over three years to develop six new child care and family support hubs across the State. This will include \$1.4 million to upgrade school-age care facilities to meet new national standards.

A training strategy for 2,000 existing child care workers throughout Queensland.

Valuing and supporting the nurturing role of families.

An increase in funding of \$300,000 over three years to Parentline and Kids Help Line to extend counselling and support services.

\$304 million to Disability Services Queensland (an 11.6% increase from the 2000-01 Budget). This includes:

\$20 million in capital funding over three years to upgrade existing services and establish new enhanced family support and respite services. It will provide innovative housing options for people with high support needs and an upgrade of existing government and community-based services;

\$12.7 million to support adults with a disability by delivering more individualised support, expanding post school services for young people with high support needs and continue institutional reform initiatives for Government and non-Government services;

\$3.1 million to fund nine new family and respite services across the State; and

\$2.4 million for community and infrastructure support to help people with a disability.

Creating safe and supportive communities

\$18.2 million to continue reform of Child Protection including \$5.7 million on a recurrent basis and \$2.5 million non recurrent funding for child protection family support services and youth justice services.

\$8.4 million over three years to increase the basic foster care allowance and to double the clothing allowance.

Recruitment of a further 50 child protection staff and an increased number of official community visitors to young people in out-of-home care.

An additional \$1 million in 2001-02 to the Forde Foundation to assist former child residents of Queensland institutions.

An additional \$3 million over three years for new and enhanced community-based services to respond to and prevent domestic violence.

The Beattie Labor Government is committed to improving the lives of Queenslanders by maintaining modern and reliable health care practices and flexible models of care and accommodation.

A record Health Budget of \$4.06 billion in 2001-02 with \$364 million in capital projects will support the Government's commitment. It will provide a quality health system, a better quality of life for Queenslanders and tackle the serious issue of drugs.

Providing a quality health system

\$240 million to rebuild acute facilities and improve community health facilities. This investment will support the on-going care between hospital and community-based services and help deliver high quality community-care services.

\$10 million as part of a \$120 million investment over five years to rebuild and upgrade State Government Nursing homes.

An extra \$13 million over three years to purchase advanced medical equipment, including a \$4.4 million capital grant to the Royal Flying Doctor Service for a fully-equipped aeroplane.

\$25 million as part of the on-going Radiation Oncology Services Plan.

\$7.9 million over three years to upgrade staff accommodation as an incentive to retain and attract nurses and allied health staff to regional and rural areas.

Increased funding of \$750,000 to continue State government support behind the Queensland Institute for Medical Research.

\$5.6 million in 2001-02 to place 10 nurses in secondary schools across Queensland as part of a four year \$14 million investment.

A better quality of life for Queenslanders

An extra \$8.3 million will be spent on mental health services this year, including an additional \$3.4 million for community mental health services and \$4.9 million for acute inpatient mental health services.

An extra \$2 million over the next two years to assist in meeting the demand for important home medical aids and equipment. This will maintain the ability of seniors to live independently.

An additional \$10 million will be spent this year to reduce the number of patients awaiting elective surgery.

\$5 million to reduce waiting lists for public oral health services in areas of high demand. This raises the total commitment to \$26 million over the next three years.

Tackling drugs

\$500,000 to help more young people quit smoking through an anti-smoking campaign run over two years.

\$500,000 to set up an additional 30 rehabilitation places in Cairns, Townsville and Mackay. This builds on the existing 600 rehabilitation places in Queensland.

More than \$15 million will be spent over the next four years to continuing Alcohol and Drug Treatment Programs.

Development of indigenous alcohol and drug services in Mt Isa, Cape York, Cooktown and Rockhampton.

Employ more counsellors at the Alcohol and Drug information Service, which provides 24 hour seven day a week advice.

The Beattie Labor Government is committed to a strong, responsive and well-resourced police service and correctional system that lays the foundation for safe and secure communities.

The 2001-02 Budget contains a range of law and order initiatives to help tackle crime and make Queensland communities safer and more supportive.

This Budget will strengthen our police service, make our prisons more secure, boost community safety and put more funding into justice services, such as legal aid.

#### Strengthening our police service

300 extra officers will be employed in 2001-02 as part of the Beattie government's on-going commitment to increase police officer numbers from 7,644 to a target of 9,100 by 2005.

The Sunshine Coast has recently welcomed 6 more police officers and yet another 6 will be further allocated to our area in July. I know our community welcomes and appreciates them.

Another 10 police beats and 10 shopfronts will be delivered over the next four years at a cost of \$2.8 million. During our first term, we delivered 26 new police beats and shopfronts.

\$40 million over three years will deliver 16 Tactical Crime Squads each with 14 officers focusing on drug and drug-related crimes.

More than \$950,000 will be spent in 2001-02 to continue the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Police Trial. Preliminary results at Badu Island, Yarrabah and Woorabinda show the 12-month trial has been effective, though there is more work to be done.

#### Secure prisons

\$12 million for the completion of the \$89.5 million Capricornia Correctional Centre in Rockhampton.

\$97 million over two years (\$49.9 million in 2001-02) to build the 500-cell Maryborough Correctional Centre.

\$0.1 million to trial Buprenorphine as part of the detoxification and treatment programs offered to drug-addicted prisoners as a new way to help them get off drugs.

#### Justice

\$2.5 million per annum to increase services provided by Legal Aid Queensland and Community Legal Centres, ensuring legal assistance for those most in need.

#### Community renewal and safety

In its first term, the Beattie Government funded renewal and safety initiatives in 13 communities at a cost of \$37 million. During its second term, it will continue to fund the program at a cost of \$45 million and include new initiatives in Vincent and Rasmussen in Townsville.

\$6.7 million boost to the existing \$39.5 million Queensland Rail Safety program to raise safety and security levels on trains and at stations. The initiative will introduce on-board security personnel, closed circuit television cameras and improvements to lighting and fencing. It will also include:

\$6.7 million over five years to expand station security by providing Queensland Rail station staff and security guards at 30 additional City train stations.

\$530,000 to complete Police Outposts at Manly and Redbank stations in 2001, resulting in all main Citytrain lines with police Rail Squad coverage.

The second Beattie Labor Government has delivered a responsible and balanced Budget with strong forecasts and improved service delivery.

It has delivered a Budget for all Queenslanders, whether they live in regional, rural or metropolitan areas.

#### The engine room of economic growth.

Queensland's economic growth is forecast at 4%—that is above the Commonwealth's forecast of 3.25% and those of New South Wales and Victoria (2.75%)

Still the most competitive tax state despite the GST impact

Queenslanders will pay on average;

\$631 less in State taxes than residents of New South Wales, and

\$416 less in State taxes than residents of Victoria.

Jobs for the future

Queensland is expected to record employment growth of 2%—that is above the commonwealth's forecast of 1% and those of New South Wales (0.75%) and Victoria (0.5%).

46,300 full-time jobs will be supported in 2001-02 as a result of Queensland's full capital works program.

Environment

\$2.4 million for the Beach Protection Authority to implement beach management strategies for areas where erosion threatens properties and residences.

\$10 million a year for the next four years to maintain national Parks across Queensland.

Smart State

\$100 million to create the Smart State Research Fund which will invest in leading edge R&D facilities and build competitive advantages for Queensland through innovation.

\$2.6 million to purchase land adjacent to Brisbane's Alexandra Hospital to develop a Pharmacy Centre of Excellence.

Quality health care

6.5% increase in the \$4.1 billion health budget, including \$20 million over two years to reduce elective surgery waiting lists. An additional 120 health professionals will be employed this year.

\$240 million to re-build acute hospital facilities in combination with the planned improvements to community health facilities.

Safe and Supportive communities

An extra 300 police officers, as part of the Beattie Government's commitment to increase police numbers from 7,644 serving police officers to a target of 9,100 by 2005.

\$97 million over two years to continue work on the new 500 bed secure prison at Maryborough, which started in 1999-2000.

Putting families first

12% increase in funding for Disability Services Queensland, including additional support for families and individuals.

\$134 million to build 4 new schools, continue staged works at 12 schools and build more than 120 additional classrooms at existing schools.

This Budget meets the service needs of Queenslanders and sets the Sunshine State up as still the most competitive tax State despite the impact of the crippling Goods and Services Tax (GST) that our present Federal Treasurer and the present Prime Minister continue to applaud and refuse to concede the damage and hurt it has caused.

This State Government Budget goes a long way to improving the lives of Queenslanders and I thank the Treasurer, the Premier and all of the Cabinet for delivering on many of the issues I have raised and I commend this Budget to the House.

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