



Speech by

JOHN ENGLISH

MEMBER FOR REDLANDS

Hansard 21 June 2001

BUDGET DEBATE 2001

Mr ENGLISH (Redlands—ALP) (10.59 p.m.): I rise in my capacity as the member for Redlands to carry out the task that the residents of the Redlands require of me at this time, that is, to interpret the mass of information that we have received in this budget and to advise the people of the Redlands what is in this budget for them. In summary, I can say that the Redlands, like the rest of Queensland, is a winner. I will share the details with the other members of the parliament.

Schools in the Redlands have received a real boost. The Carbrook State School has received \$288,000 for a half teaching block and a further \$28,000 to begin development of additional amenities. The Redland Bay State School has also received \$291,000 for a half general learning area block and a further \$146,000 for the second preschool unit.

In addition to this Capital Works Program, Education Queensland will gain at least 135 more teachers, who will commence in the first term of 2002. The Redland District Special School will benefit from the \$15 million spending on teachers and teacher aides for students with disabilities. The \$16.7 million allocated to the Triple R program—that is, repainting, reroofing and reticulation for schools—will help the older schools such as Thornlands State School, Redland District Special School, Victoria Point State School, Redland Bay State School, Macleay Island State School, Russell Island State School, Mount Cotton State School and Carbrook State School improve their school environment.

But schools are not the only winners out of this budget. The roads in the Redlands will also benefit. An amount of \$150,000 will be spent on improving the intersection of Dinwoodie Road and the Cleveland-Redland Bay Road. A further \$200,000 will begin the improvement of the culverts at Erapah Creek on Mount Cotton Road. This funding should also enhance the intersection of Woodlands Drive and Mount Cotton Road. I will be continuing to work with the Minister for Transport to bring forward the four laning of Boundary Road, Duncan Road and Mount Cotton Road.

The Mount Cotton Driver Training complex has not been forgotten, either. Having spent a great deal of time at this fantastic facility learning specialist driving skills during my time as a police officer, I congratulate all the instructors and staff on the excellent training that they provide. The staff at the Mount Cotton Driver Training Centre will benefit from the allocation of \$70,000 to upgrade equipment and facilities. It should be noted that this funding will benefit all Queenslanders through the improved driving skills of emergency service personnel, heavy vehicle drivers and the motoring public at large.

I am sure honourable members will eventually get tired of hearing me talk about the southern Moreton Bay islands, but they are areas of high need and this budget has delivered for them. Through the Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme—or TIDS—the government has provided the Redland Shire Council with \$95,000 for the construction of Thomas and Lonicera Street on Macleay Island. The Redland Shire Council also received a further \$75,000 for the road construction of Halcyon Street, Wobur Street, Link Street and Perulpa Drive on Lamb Island between Pindarri and Neil Streets.

Money has also been provided to Redland Shire Council and Logan City Council to provide more bikeways so that the residents of the lovely Redlands can get out and enjoy our vast natural assets. My wife, Lisa, my beautiful daughter, Kelsea, and I are looking forward to taking advantage of these bikeways to continue to explore the Redlands on our bikes. I am sure that members of Redbug, the Redlands Bike Users Group, will also appreciate this opportunity.

The students and parents of Chisholm College will also appreciate the \$50,000 that will be spent to provide bus and car set-down areas. Just like the Demtel advertisement, I am forced to cry out, 'But wait, there's more.' The fire brigade is undertaking studies to determine the best location for the future fire station to service the southern end of my electorate, including the suburbs of Redland Bay, Mount Cotton, Carbrook and Cornubia.

Ms Stone: Great suburb, Cornubia.

Mr ENGLISH: I will take that interjection. We have allocated \$400,000 to purchase the land and, once the location is determined, the development of this \$1.3 million project will begin.

The Victoria Point Volunteer Marine Rescue and the Redland Bay Volunteer Coast Guard will also benefit from the \$1 million funding of the State Emergency Service and volunteer marine rescue services. The residents of Redlands are like other Queenslanders: they are winners. Members of the opposition have shown their ignorance of policy development and policy implementation by reviewing this budget in only dollar terms. Yes, the budget is about dollars, and we have heard the opposition complain about not enough money being allocated here and not enough money being allocated there. The budget process is all about distributing the available funds to best address the needs.

However, when interpreting the impact of the budget, the opposition should embrace the visionary whole-of-government approach adopted by the Beattie government. Spending to employ more teachers will decrease class sizes. The flow-on effect will be increased learning outcomes and improved social support for students, with the flow-on effect of improved mental health for these students. This will potentially flow on to decrease the demand on the Health budget. Spending on education can be viewed as proactive spending on law enforcement.

The opposition must take off their blinkers and view the budget in total. The Treasurer is to be applauded for this budget. To condemn this budget as solid is to highlight the opposition's attraction to smoke and mirrors, the opposition's fondness for show and not go. Yes, this budget is solid. We should shout that from the rooftops. This is a solid budget and I commend the bill to the House.
