



Speech by

Hon. KEN HAYWARD

MEMBER FOR KALLANGUR

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BUDGET DEBATE 2001

Hon. K. W. HAYWARD (Kallangur—ALP) (6.36 p.m.): It gives me great pleasure to rise in this debate to speak in support of the budget. It is a budget which brings real results for the people of the Kallangur electorate, delivering on commitments made before the last state election. Kallangur residents will benefit from this budget from resources and funding which is being pumped visibly back into our local area. Improved educational opportunity is a fundamental plank of the Smart State strategy, and improved educational opportunities are delivered in Kallangur through the capital works program. Consistent with the commitments made during the state election, additional teaching buildings will be completed at Burpengary State School and Morayfield East State School. The population growth in the Caboolture shire and the Pine Rivers shire has exceeded even the most optimistic predictions over recent years.

Prior to the last redistribution, Kallangur had more electors than any other electorate in Queensland. Recognising that population growth, the previous Beattie government started the Narangba Valley State High School, and what a great success it has been in our local community. This budget provides funding to complete stage 2A and substantially complete stage 3 of that school. Next year that high school will comprise grades 8, 9 and 10. In just its second year of operation, the Narangba Valley State High School has become a beacon of learning in the local area. Congratulations are due to the school principal, Mr Ken Kennedy, and his dedicated staff. They have harnessed the support of the local community and local businesses to be involved in the school. This school is an example of the Beattie Labor government's vision for Queensland as a dynamic and progressive Smart State. It is a practical example—developing students in Narangba and Burpengary for their future and creating a knowledge culture in these young people. Even though it has only been in existence for a couple of years, the achievements at Narangba Valley State High School go further than Queensland. The whole of Australia wants to know about it. The school has hosted visits from the federal Treasurer, Peter Costello; opposition leader, Kim Beazley; and shadow education minister, Michael Lee. They go there because of the outstanding school knowledge culture. In the same area of Narangba and consistent with the population growth, the budget proposes the construction of a double-storey teaching block at the Jinibara State School. This block will be well received by the local community.

During the last election campaign, an issue arose at the Kallangur State School over staffing of the school crossing. I was pleased to see that my representations meant that funding for a school crossing supervisor was found. I congratulate the Transport Minister, Steve Bredhauer, and the Premier for setting aside funding for 100 new school crossing supervisors throughout Queensland. That fulfils yet another election commitment.

I have already spoken about the growth that is occurring in Narangba in my electorate. To ensure an effective response capability, a new ambulance station will commence construction. This will see an improvement in ambulance response times for people in Burpengary and Narangba. I campaigned on this issue during the state election and I am pleased to see the matter being addressed so promptly.

I am pleased that funding is identified in the budget to complete the six and eight laning of the Bruce Highway to Dohles Rocks Road. Residents who travel over that section of the highway cannot help but be aware of the roadworks. I have spoken many times in the parliament about the need for this upgrade, and I can assure the minister that it is very welcome. Traffic is slowed, particularly at the duplication of the Pine Rivers Bridge, and I urge highway road users to show patience. When the

project is completed, traffic flows from the Kallangur electorate will be improved dramatically. I welcome the funding provided for this project by the federal government, and I urge it to set aside sufficient funds to efficiently proceed with the Bruce Highway upgrade to the Bribie Island turn-off.

The Bruce Highway plays a vital role in the wellbeing of the Pine Rivers and Caboolture communities. Road users in this area pay a proportionally higher sum of petrol excise, and they deserve and demand that the excise moneys they have paid be devoted to the Bruce Highway upgrade. Population growth in the Pine Rivers and Caboolture shires demands action on this project sooner rather than later.

This budget sets aside the final amount for the completion of the upgrade of Petrie-Caboolture rail signalling. When this project is completed, together with the completion of the third track from Northgate to Petrie, more trains and faster services will be available to local people. This has been a huge project, and with its finalisation our local area will be able to really reap the benefits of a fast, reliable and frequent rail transport service.

I now turn to the overall picture of the budget. Economic growth for 2000-01 in Queensland was three and a half per cent. For this year the budget estimate is four per cent. That figure is an estimate based on core assumptions—most importantly, responsible fiscal policy comprising competitive tax rates and mixes of taxes and spending focused on growth and, secondly, a supportive business environment created by the government. This budget meets those core assumptions and in so doing generates confidence in the Queensland community—confidence to invest, confidence for people to start a business, confidence for business of all sizes to employ and confidence for people to spend their money. Confidence directly drives and determines the state growth rates. It is important for government to set the scene but, in the end, if people and investors do not have confidence then results will not be achieved.

Members can reflect on what the federal coalition has done in the last 12 months to dampen and finally smash confidence in our community. National economic growth slowed last year. The federal government managed to combine interest rate increases with the introduction of a new tax—the goods and services tax. It combined that with policy inertia over petrol prices and the effect of the GST on petrol excise.

Members can see what policy and decision-making inertia occurred with respect to GST compliance. It went on and on for months. Members will remember the dithering over business activity statements and their preparation and lodgment, along with the pressure placed on prices by the GST-induced inflation. The GST created a new measure of inflation. We now have the ongoing rate of inflation and headline inflation. So depending on who is talking about it, they refer to either the ongoing rate of inflation or the headline rate of inflation.

Members can see the lack of confidence in the federal coalition government demonstrated by the rest of the world. It is there for everyone to see. In April this year the Australian dollar descended to the historic low of US47.8c. Who would have thought just 12 months earlier that that would have happened? Very few people would have thought there would be a collapse in a currency the likes of which we saw. I think that reflects a serious international judgment on the federal coalition and its economic mismanagement. The federal government also demonstrated that it cannot manage a monitoring role over the insurance industry, as seen by the HIH collapse.

In order to achieve the proposed state growth rate of four per cent, the budget papers emphasise the importance of maintaining investor and consumer confidence. The Beattie government has put the right settings in place locally, but Queensland's economic growth is linked directly to the national economy and our trading partners. If the federal coalition continues to stumble along as it has—policy inertia followed by knee-jerk reactions—then investor and consumer confidence will decline and the state growth target of four per cent will simply not be met. And what a tragedy that would be. The Beattie government gets the policy settings right only to miss out because of confidence-sapping behaviour and dithering by the federal coalition. I congratulate the Treasurer, Terry Mackenroth, on his first budget in this Beattie Labor government.
