



Speech by

KERRY SHINE

MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA NORTH

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APPROPRIATION BILLS—ESTIMATES COMMITTEE A

Mr SHINE (Toowoomba North—ALP) (3.45 p.m.): I join with other members in expressing my appreciation to the chairman, the deputy chairman and the secretary to the committee, Leanne Clare, for the way in which they performed their duties. It was a pleasure to serve on Estimates Committee A.

A couple of the matters I will deal with today are the responsibility of the Minister for Sport—that is, certain grants to Toowoomba—and another relates to the announcement made by the Minister for State Development during the estimates hearing of the commitment to the Charlton/Wellcamp industrial estate.

The Minister for Sport provided a list of the grants that have been made in recent times to the electorates of Toowoomba North and Toowoomba South. Under the Sport and Recreation Minor Facilities Program the Toowoomba City Council was given an allocation in respect of an outdoor tennis practice wall at Harlaxton, and the Metropolitan Cricket Club was given an allocation for cricket practice nets.

The Sport and Recreation Community Facilities Program saw some major commitments made to Toowoomba. An amount of \$270,000 was allocated to the Harristown High Community Recreation Facilities Management Association, and the Queensland Police Citizens Youth Club was allocated \$431,946. Both of those amounts were of great significance to those bodies. They are in the electorate of my colleague the member for Toowoomba South, but they are of benefit to all people who live in Toowoomba.

I turn to the National Standard Sport Facilities Program. The Toowoomba Sports Ground Trust was allocated \$750,000 and the Royal Agricultural Society of Queensland was allocated \$850,000. They are very significant grants that have in recent times been made to Toowoomba and they are greatly appreciated.

One project was mentioned in the list as not having been granted. It gives me great pleasure to find out subsequently that it has recently been approved in the latest round. That is an amount of \$50,000 under the Sport and Recreation Minor Facilities Program to the Toowoomba Cricket Association to help with the construction of a clubhouse.

Mr Mackenroth interjected.

Mr SHINE: We hope that is the case.

I now refer to an answer given by the Minister for State Development relating to the Charlton/Wellcamp industrial area. The minister confirmed the commitment of the government to the industrial estate. He acknowledged that there has been a shortfall in industrial land in Toowoomba and that there is a need for such an estate to be provided. He confirmed that an area of 1,600 hectares is planned to be used for this purpose and that the area in which it will be set up is strategically located and has national significance, bearing in mind the second range crossing, the proposed inland rail line and, of course, the existing road structures. The minister confirmed also that the State Development Department has agreed to purchase some land for this purpose, and his department has agreed to work in and dovetail with the private ownership of property at Wellcamp. Likewise, the Toowoomba City Council has agreed to assist with sewerage and other infrastructure.

This is further evidence of a commitment by the Beattie government to the Toowoomba area in the last six months. First of all, we heard about the new Toowoomba Police Station, then the arrival of Suncorp Metway and then the holding of the community cabinet meeting at Highfields in Toowoomba. These things indicate to me a commitment by the Beattie government to the Toowoomba area, and I thank the government for its consideration.
