



Speech by

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MEMBER FOR THURINGOWA

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COMMUNITY RENEWAL PROGRAM, RASMUSSEN

Ms PHILLIPS (Thuringowa—ALP) (12.03 p.m.): On Saturday, 27 July 2002 I had the great pleasure of opening the Rasmussen renewal project house on behalf of the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing, the Hon. Robert Swarten. The Community Renewal Program is an initiative of the Beattie government to raise the confidence and image of targeted communities. It does this by a whole-of-government approach to address the causes of crime and disadvantage. Rasmussen is one of the 14 areas currently benefiting from the Community Renewal Program. Last year, cabinet approved a notional budget of \$2.7 million for Rasmussen renewal for three years ending in June 2004. Additionally, Rasmussen is benefiting from the complementary Urban Renewal Program, which is upgrading public rental housing to contemporary standards. Urban renewal has been allocated \$3 million this financial year.

The Hon. Robert Swarten publicly launched the two programs at the Rasmussen State School on 5 September last year and reinforced the vital importance of community involvement to ensure their success. From the very start, the state government has been working hand in hand with the Thuringowa City Council and the Rasmussen community, and all partners have been very committed to its progress so far. Rasmussen residents in particular have been very enthusiastic about community renewal and have put a lot of time and effort into considering the opportunity that community renewal presents and the potential outcomes for the community. The community has just completed its planning phase and is ready to move to establishing projects.

This planning work has been focused through the community reference group and the theme development groups. They have met regularly in the last six months and recorded their aspirations in the draft local renewal plan. This plan lists the goals, outcomes and strategies under the seven major themes of youth, transport, health, public spaces, jobs and education, safety, and social support. On Friday, 2 August we held a community and government planning meeting at the Good Shepherd Community Hall to finalise this local renewal plan, and projects will be written into the plan to be implemented over the next three years. This project implementation phase will be a very busy time. To support this, the Queensland government will place a full-time community renewal facilitator on site to assist.

The Rasmussen renewal project house was established during February 2002 to ensure a local presence from which to resource the community. It is regularly used by the renewal program's theme groups and by local community groups, such as the Upper Ross Tenants Action Group. It is also the office of project officer for the Urban Renewal Program, Mr Paul Clair. The community renewal facilitator will be appointed and on site during August. The Mayor of Thuringowa, Les Tyrell, and a member of the community reference group joined me in cutting the cake to celebrate what was a significant milestone in this fantastic program.