



Speech by

BONNY BARRY

MEMBER FOR ASPLEY

Hansard 20 June 2002

BUDGET SPEECH 2002

Ms BARRY (Aspley—ALP) (4.13 p.m.): I rise to support the appropriation bills. Local Aspley and Pine Rivers residents will share in the benefits of the Beattie Labor government's fifth state budget. It is a budget which provides money for the types of activities that will impact on the lives of every family in the local area. The 2002-03 budget focuses on essential service areas such as families, education, health and law and order while maintaining a commitment to the development of the Smart State.

Residents in the Aspley electorate will also benefit from the additional 200 health professionals, 382 teachers and 307 police officers who will be employed around the state in the next financial year. The government has increased recurrent expenditure for the Families Department overall by 15.5 per cent to \$518 million. New initiatives include an additional \$188 million over four years to the Department of Families to assist Queensland families, youth and children in need, particularly in the area of child protection services.

Mrs Carryn Sullivan: Something that the member for Aspley is very supportive of.

Ms BARRY: Very much so. There are a lot of families and a lot of foster carers living in my electorate, and I know that they very much welcome what is the linchpin of the state budget.

Overall, education spending has increased by 5.8 per cent to \$4.2 billion and health spending by 6.7 per cent to \$4.3 billion. The education spending increase will mean more than \$158 million over the next four years to help undertake the most significant reform package in the history of the Queensland school system, including investment in information and communication technologies and enhancing pathways for young people from school to work, training or further education.

Highlights of the budget that affect us locally in the Aspley electorate include: \$286,000 for the reconstruction of Dohles Rock boat ramp for recreational users; \$440,000 for the resurfacing of Gympie Road between Bells Pocket Road and Diane Street, Lawnton; \$1.98 million for additional new rail tracks from Northgate to Petrie; and a final payment of \$95,860 to Pine Rivers High. As I said in last night's adjournment debate, the school recently opened its completed \$3.3 million secondary renewal facilities. I am delighted to announce that \$2.8 million will go to Aspley High School for its secondary school renewal redevelopment.

Government members: Hear, hear!

Ms BARRY: It is an excellent high school and deserves this funding. As well, the school will get \$11,700 for oval irrigation and \$19,200 for sports court construction. There is \$4.3 million for the Greater Brisbane Health Home Assist Secure scheme. This is a very important scheme in an electorate such as Aspley.

There is an extra \$4.5 million for Prince Charles Hospital for services and equipment, with \$271,000 going to the Mental Health High Dependency Unit at Prince Charles Hospital for the employment of additional nursing and medical staff positions. There is \$384,000 for the Strathpine Streetscape project, which is very near to my heart, given that I live in Strathpine. There is \$98,000 for the upgrading of current public housing facilities in the electorate. \$61.3 million has been allocated for the continued redevelopment of the Royal Brisbane and Royal Women's Hospitals. There is \$635,000 to complete noise barriers at Kildonan Street, which runs adjacent to Gympie Road. There is \$200,000 for pre-construction works for a new two-lane sealed standard Linkfield connection road. You would

understand, Madam Deputy Speaker, that in a busy metropolitan seat like Aspley, these types of roadworks are absolutely essential to the quality of life of the people who live there.

\$150,000 will be provided to the Aspley East State School for extra classrooms. A very important \$31,000 has been allocated to the Craigslea State School for painting. This budget provides nearly \$3 million to local Aspley schools. Since the last budget, over \$7 million has been allocated by this government to be spent on schools in my electorate through the Triple R and Secondary School Renewal programs.

In terms of transport, I welcome the increase of \$3 million to the taxi subsidy scheme, which will provide a total of \$12 million, and the provision of \$15 million per year for travel assistance for school students with disabilities. I welcome the continuance of rolling stock modifications to improve city trains. This program is of benefit to my community as it reduces the noise that emanates from trains. Any quieter train stock will benefit residents in Bald Hills, Carseldine, Zillmere and Strathpine who live near railway lines.

Overall in terms of police, a further 300 police are provided for in the 2002-03 budget. Figures today indicate that police numbers have gone from 6,808 in July 1998 to 8,000 in May 2002. This increase builds on that number. Crime rates in Aspley are on the decline. Recently, Bald Hills was identified by one major insurance company as one of the most livable and safe like in Brisbane because of its declining crime rate.

Mr English: Behind the Redlands.

Ms BARRY: That is right. Police on the ground do make a difference.

In terms of employment and training, the \$864 million budget allocation to jobs and training includes \$107 million for the Breaking the Unemployment Cycle project, which is designed to create 56,000 jobs in six years.

The Aspley electorate has benefited immensely from Community Jobs Plan programs on a number of community and environment projects, including the exciting restoration of Cabbage Tree Creek in particular. The additional statewide \$23.4 million available for this coming year is welcomed. There is \$6 million for private sector apprenticeship and traineeship places in areas of skill shortages, including IT, telecommunications, electronics, agriculture and aviation. Incentives of up to \$2,000 are payable to employers who take on additional apprentices and trainees. Our local area is renowned for strong school, training organisation and employer links to further enhance job opportunity placements for young and mature-age job seekers.

I note the allocation of approximately \$1.1 million for training by Aviation Australia Pty Ltd to provide for career pathway exposure for students and new and existing aviation industry personnel. The aviation industry is a significant source of employment and job opportunities for constituents of the Aspley electorate, and this initiative is timely and welcome. Training will be given at the new world-class Aeroskills Training Centre at Brisbane airport which was built at a cost of \$4.6 million. The Employment and Training budget also includes \$425,000 to continue implementation of the state government's Youth Affairs Network to connect the community youth sector and government. This funding will assist the Aspley electorate by giving local young people a voice in government. As the state member for Aspley, I welcome this initiative.

I am currently utilising the Office of Youth Affairs on a regular basis to work with my office to connect with young people and their representative organisations about the pressing issue of using public space in the Aspley electorate for activities by young people. We are currently discussing skateboarding activities in the local area of Carseldine and Aspley with young people, the Office of Youth Affairs and *Bearing* skating magazine with a view to finding solutions to the many concerns and requests that youth and older constituents have about skateboarding activities in our local streets, clubs and shopping centres. I look forward to recommending the many project funding grants like the 'Yes, You' grants to youth to help them connect youth and the community in a positive way.

There is an additional \$2 million to the \$10.5 million allocation for homelessness initiatives, and that is also welcome in my electorate. Even in the electorate of Aspley, homelessness is a concern for many citizens. Community organisations will be invited to apply for assistance for the lease of accommodation, and that is welcomed. Time does not permit me to further detail the other funding initiatives in this budget that benefit my community because there are so many, but I will be communicating regularly with my community on the fine detail. The Beattie Labor government's primary goal is to ensure that its commitments to the people of Queensland are delivered, and people are seeing resources and funding pumped back into their local area. This budget puts families first. It shows compassion and commitment to social, community and economic prosperity. It is good for the people of the Aspley electorate. It is a proud Labor government budget, and I commend the bills to the House.