



Speech by

DIANNE REILLY

MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA

Hansard 31 July 2002

APPROPRIATION BILLS—ESTIMATES C

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Ms Liddy Clark): Order! The question is—

That the report of Estimates Committee C be adopted.

Mrs REILLY (Mudgeeraba—ALP) (3.57 p.m.): I was delighted to have the opportunity to chair Estimates Committee C. This committee examined expenditure in the portfolios which are the foundations of our Smart State and the keystone of the Beattie government's training and education reform agenda: employment, training, youth, the arts and education. Estimates Committee C also scrutinised the area of industrial relations and workplace health and safety, another vital element in the development of the Smart State and one which, in recognition of its important role, has been given department status in its own right for the first time under this government.

I thank all members of Estimates Committee C for their cooperation and courtesy, not only on the day but throughout the committee process. I particularly thank Sarah Lim, Andrea Musch and the other parliamentary staff for their assistance and expert handling of the whole process. It ran very smoothly, thanks to their expertise and dedication to the task.

The committee heard of a number of exciting developments, one of which is the expansion of the Regional Arts Development Fund, or RADF, to the Gold Coast, with \$50,000 being made available for the arts and various arts related activities on the Gold Coast which the 300 arts and cultural organisations which the Gold Coast enjoys will be able to benefit from. This has been matched, of course, by the Gold Coast City Council. With up to 80 per cent of Queensland film and television production actually being on the Gold Coast, the Pacific Film and Television Commission's investment of \$8 million, which is expected to generate more than \$100 million in film production expenses, makes perfect sense.

Contrary to suggestions made by the member for Cunningham and a completely false beat-up by the *Sydney Herald*, much of Brad Pitt's new film, *The Fountain*—previously known as *The Last Man*—will be made on the Gold Coast. Currently under production are *The Great Raid* and *Peter Pan*. In truth, our studios are chockers and we could not fit in another production. In the Gold Coast hinterland, on a Numinbah Valley site in my electorate of Mudgeeraba, Brad Pitt himself has chosen a site for exterior location shoots because he considered this site to be the most pristine and ideal rainforest location in the world.

Mr Shine interjected.

Mrs REILLY: I would love Brad Pitt to have coffee with me. Committee members also heard about the continued roll-out of the Breaking the Unemployment cycle which delivered more than 40,000 jobs to Queensland since 1998. Over the past 18 months I have seen many community jobs plans projects, the results thereof and have met the participants. While the Leader of the Opposition has referred to community jobs plans as painting rocks white, I am happy to let members of the committee know that I have not seen any white rocks. But I have seen many positive community outcomes such as landscaping, vegetation clearing in local parks and gardens and community camping facilities and the like which add to the natural amenity and beauty of the Gold Coast hinterland and help the community. Not only have the CJPs delivered vital job experience and training to many long-term unemployed people but the community has also benefited from the projects they have undertaken

which they would not have been able to afford to do themselves. Labour market programs do work. These programs have their detractors on the opposition benches, but they do work. I know that they give participants—because I have spoken to many of them who are long-term unemployed people—real confidence and experience in getting up and going to work every day. That is what they need to be able to get back into the work force. It also gives the community confidence in their ability and the opportunity to see what they can do.

Another most exciting development highlighted in the committee hearing was the establishment of a youth charter to guide government programs, policies and services that impact on young people. It is a mark of this government, which is progressive and visionary, that it places such a high value on the state's youth and our future. This is indeed a landmark year and a landmark budget for the young people of Queensland, with the release of the most significant package of reform in education that the state has ever seen. The Queensland the Smart State Education and Training Reforms for the Future package encompasses three major reforms which will deliver a world-class education system and a secure future for Queensland children. As a member representing a rapidly growing region, I am sure that my constituents will benefit from the introduction of the full time preparatory year and the substantial investment in information and communication technology. I was particularly delighted to see the minister's ongoing commitment to the capital works program in the portfolio of education for the Gold Coast where enrolments are going through the roof, where the population is skyrocketing and where infrastructure such as public schools is very desperately needed. Both Coomera and my electorate will benefit from that continued commitment to capital works projects. We will see more again in the future. With that, I thank all the Committee members again for their support and commend the report to the Committee.
