



Speech by

**DON LIVINGSTONE**

**MEMBER FOR IPSWICH WEST**

Hansard 21 June 2002

**BUDGET SPEECH 2002**

**Mr LIVINGSTONE** (Ipswich West—ALP) (12.00 p.m.): It is certainly a great honour to rise in support of this great Labor budget. This is a budget for all of Queensland, and the people in Ipswich West and the West Moreton region have done very well—something that never happened when the Tories were in power. Our area missed out badly. We received little. It is interesting to listen to the Leader of the Opposition say that the government should increase the capital works budget and how terrible this budget is in that regard and then listen to those opposite whinge and complain about how much extra money should be spent in different areas, but I am not sure where that extra money is going to come from. The issues that are important to the people in my electorate are families, disability services, education, health and police. They are the issues that I spend most of my time on.

This is a tremendous budget for which Terry Mackenroth should be congratulated. Judy Spence has played a wonderful role in Family Services and Disabilities. This budget sees increases of 15.5 per cent for families and 8.8 per cent for disabilities. This is just wonderful, even though we all recognise that there is still a long way to go. In the area of education there has been an increase of 5.8 per cent, in health an increase of 6.7 per cent and in police an increase of 6.8 per cent, yet we listen to those opposite talk about a deficit. Not very long ago when the federal government brought down a deficit the Leader of the Opposition stood up and said that it was a great budget, but because we have brought down a deficit in these difficult times the opposition is saying that we should be spending more money, for crying out loud! I congratulate the Treasurer. He has done an absolutely brilliant job.

The Capital Works Program is in the vicinity of \$4.8 billion, with 56 per cent of that being spent outside Brisbane, and the area that I represent is going to be getting its fair share. Many people do not realise that in education there is \$3 billion in wages alone going to approximately 62,000 staff. At the railway workshops at Redbank alone there are approximately 1,000 staff and in this year's budget \$32.1 million has been allocated for that, which is a very substantial amount of money. There is \$42 million for the Swanbank Power Station, including \$20.1 million in order to bring the Swanbank E new gas turbine online and \$22.5 million to upgrade Swanbank B. As an old power worker, I must say that it is great to see these funds being allocated to that area because it helps to guarantee the employment of not only those people but also other industries which supply coal and so on.

There is \$15 million for an industrial park in the district, and that will certainly have great spin-offs for the whole region. Schools in my electorate such as the Amberley, Leichhardt, Tivoli and Walloon state schools will all have substantial work done on them through the Triple R program. There is \$775,000 towards the Ipswich city centre revitalisation program and \$2.88 million for the Railway Workshop Museum in my electorate. There is \$3,000 to upgrade access to the Lowood swimming pool and \$107,000 towards the Esk, Gatton and Laidley councils to upgrade their water boards.

**An honourable member** interjected.

**Mr LIVINGSTONE:** I take the honourable member's interjection. We have certainly missed out over the years, and it is about time we got our fair share. There is \$864,000 for Energex to complete a variety of works and \$3 million for the Urban Renewal Program in Leichhardt. Minister Schwarten has to be congratulated for the brilliant work he is doing in that area. I acknowledge that in 1994 the Treasurer, Terry Mackenroth, started the Urban Renewal

Program. That was just brilliant for areas like Leichhardt and Wulkuraka that had been totally neglected under the coalition government. It was fair to say that a lot of the people there were living in hovels. We have gone out of our way to rectify the sins of the past.

In those early programs started by Terry Mackenroth and continued by Minister Schwarten \$12.2 million has been spent in the past on urban renewal, including the building of a swimming pool for the local community. There has been \$3.5 million for community renewal. In this budget there is \$5.2 million to continue that program. There are also 28 new single units being built at North Ipswich for \$3.6 million. The overall money spent in Leichhardt over that period of time amounts to something in the vicinity of \$21 million. Can members imagine \$21 million being pumped into housing in poor areas under a coalition government? I am sure they could not. It just simply would not have happened.

As I said, \$32.1 million is being spent on Queensland Rail and \$15.65 million to develop industrial parks looking at manufacturing and the food industry. There is \$4 million as part of the Queensland contribution to the proposed hanger at Amberley, with which we are in partnership, to some degree, with Defence. In the area of transport there is \$13.3 million for the construction of the Rosewood to Helidon track relay. There is \$230,000 for the Ipswich council for drainage works and \$430,000 for asphalt resurfacing of the Ipswich-Walloon road. The Willowbank Raceway has received an additional \$365,256 from this Treasurer, which is just wonderful, towards the upgrade of the existing drag strip. This is already an excellent facility, but this will top it off that little extra in the international championship standards.

**Mr English** interjected.

**Mr LIVINGSTONE:** It is certainly a great facility. Funding for that upgrade to Willowbank came from Sport and Recreation Queensland's National Standards Facility Program. This government is doing everything possible to upgrade major events, because that helps our own local athletes so much and also gives us the opportunity to attract major sporting competitions to Australia.

Another area of great need—and Minister Tom Barton needs to be congratulated for the work that he is doing in this area—is state development. One major initiative set up by the government in the current financial year was the Manufacturing Leaders Group, which Minister Barton has played a very significant role in. One of its major roles is to help improve the profile of the manufacturing industry. After looking at some of these industries in recent times with staff from Mr Barton's office I was absolutely amazed and impressed at the quality of some of the work being done by these people. The boat manufacturing industry is a classic example. It was just last year that the Queensland government identified boat building and the marine industry as a priority sector.

**Mr Purcell:** For many years down in Bulimba we've had a thriving boat industry.

**Mr LIVINGSTONE:** And a very good local member as well. But last year the Queensland government's State Development Department established the Marine Industry Task Force to provide support for companies entering the boat manufacturing industry. There is a very impressive facility on the way to the south coast. With Queensland having 7,400 kilometres of coastline, it is little wonder that boating is a very major recreational pastime for Queenslanders.

**Mr Mickel:** Do they miss Jack Paff up there in Ipswich West?

**Mr LIVINGSTONE:** I do not recall the name. Many people in Queensland are pursuing marine industry products because of all the coastline we have. I was surprised to discover that in Queensland there are 165,000 registered boats and another 80,000 that do not need to be registered. There are 7,000 people alone in Queensland working in that industry, and it brings \$2 billion into the Queensland economy each year. It is certainly a great advantage to Queensland to promote and support these industries.

Another issue that has interested me for a long period of time is the One Mile Bridge. I was somewhat amazed to read in the paper this week that an Ipswich councillor suggested that the state government was putting too high a barrier to the construction of the bridge. For those not familiar with the situation, the One Mile Bridge and the road going over it are 100 per cent the responsibility of the Ipswich council, but we recognised that the Ipswich council would not be able to afford a new bridge. Premier Beattie guaranteed a maximum commitment of \$7.5 million from the Queensland government to pay for half of the construction of that bridge. At no stage did we ever say that the bridge had to cost \$15 million. If it costs \$4 million, our contribution will be \$2 million. The Ipswich council has been dragging its feet in terms of trying to get this particular project up. I certainly will not let it lie, because we made a commitment. In the past, councillors from those areas asked us for support, but unfortunately they are no longer there. Today's councillors say that that is not their agenda, but when one makes a commitment one has to stick to it. I support the budget. It is an excellent document. I recommend the bill to the House.