



Speech by

JO-ANN MILLER

MEMBER FOR BUNDAMBA

Hansard 20 June 2002

BUDGET SPEECH 2002

Mrs MILLER (Bundamba—ALP) (3.25 p.m.): This is a budget for the true believers of the Bundamba electorate. It is a budget that delivers on the basics for our local community. The budget includes in education \$4.6 million for the completion of stage 2 of Woodcrest College and a further \$800,000 for additional classrooms; \$2.8 million for Bundamba State Secondary College in its secondary school renewal program; and \$166,000 for repainting of buildings at Bundamba Secondary College, Dinmore State Primary, Redbank Plains State Primary and Goodna Special School. For our local community, there is an extra \$330,000 for Riverview and Goodna community renewal projects; more than \$2.2 million for sewerage works at the Bundamba waste water centre; \$481,000 for various capital works projects by Energex; the timber rail bridge at Bundamba to be redeveloped as part of a \$4.9 million statewide project; and \$345,000 for the redevelopment of the Redbank Plains recreational reserve. Further, in our jobs strategy the government has committed \$32.1 million this year for work at Queensland Rails Redbank workshops; more than \$5.7 million in housing works; \$15.65 million towards Synergy Park, creating up to 3, 000 jobs by the completion of the project; \$42 million for the Swanbank Power Station, including \$20.1 million to bring Swanbank E Generation (gas) on line later this year; and \$22.5 million for the upgrade for Swanbank B generation plants. In police and emergency services, there will be \$57,000 for the new Redbank Plains police beat and \$200,000 towards the replacement of the Redbank Ambulance Station.

This is a Labor Government delivering for its people in Labor heartland. This is a government working in partnership with the local community and, as the Labor member for Bundamba, I am part of the fabric of that community. I am continually at community meetings, at the schools and serving on the executive committees of our community groups. Our government gets its best bang for the buck by working, through me, with the local community, and I want to outline some examples of the community benefits of some of our great work. The government has allocated significant money to the Queensland Rail workshops at Redbank. Millions and millions of dollars will be spent on the overhaul of 60 maxi diesel locomotives, the upgrading, re-engineering and overhaul of 88 electric trains, the design and construction of five train carriages, and the manufacture of coal wagons. We welcome this investment because it means that our workers at the Redbank workshops have jobs and that their money stays locally in Ipswich. But this Parliament needs to know that our workers also contribute significantly to our local community through their community partnerships programs and fundraising efforts. The workshops and our boys assist our local sporting clubs, including sponsoring the Blackstone Welsh under nine's soccer team, Ipswich junior tennis, hockey, soccer and rugby league. They fundraise and sponsor the Ipswich Thistle Pipe Band, the Ipswich Orchid Society, Girl Guides, Scouts and the Dog Obedience School. They assist Redbank State School and other Ipswich schools. The workshops also raise funds for the Redbank Ambulance Service, the Mater Hospital humidicrib and the Leukemia 'Shave for a Cure' fundraisers, which are absolutely legendary. For one of our local residents, our boys at the workshops raised the money to buy her a bright red motorised wheelchair. I visit the Redbank railway workshops as often as possible, and always try to be there for their barbecue fundraisers, sausage sizzles and Christmas functions.

What we as a government give to the workshops the workers give back to the community with a huge generosity of spirit and a great pride in the local area. The Goodna TAFE house is another example of a big bureaucracy working alongside and in partnership with a community organisation for

the benefit of local people. The TAFE house is an ordinary Housing Department house in the middle of Goodna, within easy walking distance of hundreds of houses. It is no different from any other Department of Housing house, but inside it is a hive of activity, with training under way in a variety of courses. The Goodna Neighbourhood House and the Bremer Institute of TAFE, in a joint initiative, have developed an innovative community training partnership program which goes from success to success, all by word of mouth on the community grapevine.

The initiative brings training in a relaxed environment for people who may prefer an informal learning environment and it is ideally suited to long-term unemployed people. Language training is being delivered on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at the house and demand is so heavy that this is expected to increase to four mornings per week next semester. It is planned to offer literacy programs in combination with warehousing, learner driver and basic computer courses, as well as some certificate IV courses. Information sessions and individual interviews for people wanting to access training under this partnership program are run three days per week. Over 312 people have registered to access training, 175 are currently in training and 80 are on waiting lists to access training. Over 100 people have received career counselling as a result of the initiative. This training program was designed to dovetail with the Synergy Park project, which I will detail later.

Other projects that the Neighbourhood House provides with state government funds include homework help twice per week for our schoolchildren, children's activities during holiday time, art and craft groups, the manual workshop, free legal advice, the tax help program, free fresh bread, the Woogaroo Creek community garden project, the prisoners' handbook and the caravan park handbook. I could go on and on. It is very true that from little things big things grow and in Goodna the Neighbourhood House has assisted other suburban neighbourhood houses such as those at Riverview and Gailes and has helped other community organisations grow and develop. I want to place on record my thanks to those volunteers at the house and the other community houses who make it such a great place to be and to the committee for its innovative strategies and creative flair.

The 43-hectare Synergy Park project at Carole Park started this Tuesday. The government awarded a \$12 million construction contract to Seymour Whyte Constructions to build roadworks and stormwater drainage and for the construction of water and sewerage facilities for the 32 industrial lots. Work is expected to be completed by April 2003. This will allow a number of food processing plants to start up. In conjunction with the Community Training Partnership program, our local people will be able to be employed at Synergy, because they will be well trained, motivated and eager to work. Synergy is expected to create 3,000 full-time jobs over the next few years and we want our locals employed in these jobs.

Economic development is what I want in my electorate. I want the Bremer business park to be developed at Bundamba, I want the Swanbank area to be developed in an environmentally friendly way and I would like the Redbank Rifle Range and the Redbank peninsula also developed. But we want development in partnership with our community and we want our local people to be employed in the jobs. The Bremer business park in Bundamba covers over 350 hectares and has the potential for 4,500 jobs to be created. Manufacturing, warehousing, distribution, light industrial and service industries, research laboratories, and technology and education facilities will be part of this development as well as some housing development but, more importantly, a community centre is planned. This is planned to include child care, health care, aged care and other community services and a neighbouring shopping centre.

I understand that a development application will be lodged with the Ipswich City Council within the next few weeks and that the issue of the roads will require some negotiation and consultation between the community, government, council and Wingate Properties. But most people look forward to the development, the jobs and the prosperity that this development will provide. Only last week I took a group of Ebbw Vale residents on a bus tour of the QCL site at Darra so that they could see first-hand what the site will look like. I know that they were impressed by the quality of the development. If it is approved by the Ipswich City Council, we want an equal if not a better development at Bundamba and I hope that development could begin as early as in the new year.

Swanbank needs to be developed more fully. At present, it is like a scene from a *Mad Max* movie. Past miners have left great holes in the ground from open-cut mining. The residents are sick and tired of the smell of landfill operations and the area has been left to decay. However, Swanbank has great advantages, such as being close to the power stations, the highways, to Brisbane and its port facilities, and to training facilities at the Bremer Institute of TAFE. Any development would need to be environmentally friendly and this would not include landfills, which stink to high heaven in summer causing distress to residents.

In our community, we want economic development in conjunction with community development and any business that thinks that it will ride roughshod over our community will get a rude awakening. We will want to know what the business will give back to the community and in what form. It is not acceptable to simply quote the number of jobs; we want to know that in every sense they will be an

active part of the community and good corporate citizens. This applies whether they are local companies, Queensland companies, Australian companies, transnational companies, or some hybrid of those corporate structures.

This community development strategy with business will dovetail with the Queensland Families: Future Directions initiatives announced just an hour ago this afternoon in this parliament. I look forward to working with my local businesses in creating successful partnerships of corporate social responsibilities. This is a good budget for Bundamba. It is a good basic budget. It is a bread and butter budget that delivers in education, law and order, health, families and other programs. It is a budget for Bundamba's true believers. I commend the bill to the House.