



Speech by

CAROLYN MALE

MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE

Hansard 5 June 2003

STATE BUDGET 2003-04

Ms MALE (Glass House—ALP) (4.35 p.m.): Once again it is a pleasure to rise and speak to an appropriation bill that gets the balance right. The Treasurer has produced a budget which reflects our core Labor values. It is a budget which looks after the key areas of health, education and families—areas which affect our everyday lives.

I am pleased to be able to inform the people of the Glass House electorate that the Beattie Labor government is delivering for them. This is the Beattie Labor government's sixth budget and the third that has been delivered during my term. Reflecting back on last year's budget it is pleasing to see that the budget funding promises were delivered. As I look around my electorate, I can see the new two-storey teaching block at Elimbah State School being well utilised by the students; the Glasshouse Mountains State School covered area and tuckshop is, after a few delays due to weather and design issues, being built as we speak; the lights are up at the Landsborough Sport and Recreation Club; the Equestrian Centre at the Maleny Show Grounds was a magnificent sight at last weekend's show; the Northern Bypass first stage is just about to be opened; and there is the rehabilitation of roads such as the Mooloolah-Connection Road, the Brisbane-Woodford Road and the Peachester-Beerwah Road. The money spent on families, child protection, juvenile justice and policing is also evident and making a difference to our lives.

Education

This is a budget which continues Queensland's place as the Smart State. The government has made a commitment to 636 new teachers to start work across Queensland for the 2004 school year. These teachers will help to reduce class sizes and provide additional support for students with special learning needs and will help underpin further behaviour management strategies. Glass House will get its share of these teachers, which will improve the learning environment for local students.

This budget commits \$560,000 to Tullawong State High School for two relocatable classrooms. There is continuing growth at Tullawong, both at the high school and the state school, and this government recognises that there is an ongoing need for additional classroom facilities. \$200,000 has been committed to Elimbah State School for facilities, and I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the current and past P&C executives and members for their very obvious dedication to the students at Elimbah. The P&C meetings always attract large numbers of parents who are keen to be involved in their school community and they work tirelessly to raise funds and donate valuable volunteer time to value-add to their school's priorities.

I am particularly pleased to see that Maleny State School has had \$25,000 allocated to it to complete its master plan. Many people in the Maleny community are concerned about the issues of buildings, facilities, and road use. The P&C and the principal have been working closely with me and members of EQ, DMR and Department of Transport to deal with the issues. The master plan will put the school in a good position to progress forward with its facilities.

Health

Local health services in both the Redcliffe-Caboolture and Sunshine Coast health service districts will receive an increase of \$3.79 million. These funds are earmarked for many important areas of health services, and ones that impact directly on members of the public that use our services. This budget continues to address waiting times for elective surgery, including general surgery and specialty areas such as orthopaedics. There will be additional funding for emergency departments, cancer

treatment services, renal dialysis services, intensive care units and, importantly, community mental health.

Those people who are interested in the political dynamics in Australia, and finding out the fundamental differences between Labor philosophy and Liberal Party philosophy, do not have to go any further than comparing the federal budget from several weeks ago to this week's state budget. The Queensland budget upholds the basic Labor fundamentals of universal health care, education for all, not just the rich, and providing a helping hand for those who need it most through increased funding for disability and family services.

The federal budget's focus was on dismantling the universality of Medicare and creating a two-tier, second-rate health system similar to the United States where doctors are more interested in our credit card than our Medicare card. Quality health care must only ever be available on the basis of medical need. It should never be rationed according to ability to pay. The federal coalition government's unprecedented attack on Medicare will eventually lead to the death of bulk-billing and an increased pressure on our emergency departments in public hospitals. We are already seeing an increase in presentations to emergency departments. They have coupled this attack on Medicare with a cutback in funding to the states to the tune of \$1 billion over the five-year life of the next Health Care Agreement. In contrast, the Beattie Labor government is funding health and health services. It is recognising the importance of good-quality health care to all Queenslanders.

Transport and Roads

This budget commits funds to fixing the Landsborough-Maleny Road, particularly through the 'icebox' section. For many, many years the Maleny community has been asking for an upgrade of this dangerous section of road. I was pleased that after representations were made at the community cabinet in Maleny the government sat down and thought through all the issues that were presented to it and came up with the funding. This last six months have been spent surveying and testing the various areas of the upgrade, and once this has been completed the \$5.7 million upgrade can start, with \$3 million being committed in the 2003-04 financial year.

Another major road project is the Peachester-Beerwah Road, with \$3.55 million being utilised to complete the rehabilitation and widening works, and working with council to ensure that the pedestrian pathways and bridge crossings they have funded are part of the completed project. It has been great to see this working partnership.

There are further road funding initiatives across the electorate, particularly the Caboolture northern bypass and the Brisbane-Woodford Road. There is also continued funding for the Caboolture-Landsborough railway upgrade for corridor identification works. Rail commuters are definitely grateful for the continued emphasis on this particular railway upgrade, and we look forward to seeing it continue into the future.

Due to the time constraints this afternoon, I would seek leave to incorporate the rest of my speech in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

Sporting Groups

To continue on from the funding for the Landsborough Sport & Rec Club which saw the lighting being installed, the government has again recognised the needs from the master planning process with Council, and has allocated over \$434,000 to construct a multipurpose recreation centre incorporating three activity spaces.

I was pleased to see that Glasshouse Mountains Sports Club received almost \$10,000 towards irrigation and additional spectator seating. This club has, for as long as I can remember, supported the community and local schools in many different ways. I have fond memories of school sports days and other community events at the Grounds—and I commend the Club for its continuing and ongoing commitment to sport and the community.

The Caboolture and District Lawn Tennis Association will receive \$28,000 to convert two courts from clay to grass and install additional lighting, and the Suncoast Hinterland BMX Club will also receive over \$15,000 to install ancillary lighting. This should see an increase in users for these clubs.

The Beattie Labor Government wants us to be a smart state and an active state.

Housing

This Government is committed to boost spending on Housing services throughout the area.

In my local area, \$211,000 has been allocated to Home Assist Secure services through the Catholic Church. This program has become very popular as it provides information and assistance on home maintenance, repairs and security to people 60 and over or those with a disability of any age living in private housing. One of its most important benefits is that it allows elderly people to stay in their own homes longer.

The Government is also providing a further \$528,000 to further fund the Community Rent Scheme and the construction of 15 new public housing dwellings.

I am pleased that these funds will be assisting those in the community most at need.

Families

Queenslanders with disabilities, their families and carers will receive an historic funding increase to continue the reform of the disability section and improve services to support children, young people and adults. Also, the increased funding

will progress a range of prevention and early intervention initiatives which will strengthen the state's child protection system.

Particularly, \$260,000 to fund the development of innovative prevention and early intervention models in Foster Care and Relative Support at Caboolture and Maroochydore.

\$200,000 has been provided for the expansion of Community Conferencing by the Department of Families. Community conferencing has been a success story through the provision of safe, supportive environments for victims of crime to meet the young people who have offended against them, and to hold them accountable for their actions. It provides a resolution process that leads to healing for the victim and accountability and prevention for the offender.

Jobs

And now the core business of this government—job creation.

Achieving success in the new economy relies on a commitment to innovation and education.

The Queensland Government's Smart State initiatives mean we invest in people through enhancing education and training. We are fostering innovation across public and private sectors to develop new and improved products, services and technologies and applying them across the economy. Supporting R&D, delivering improved labour market programs and extending the State's productive capacity and attracting significant business investment to Queensland are the cornerstones of our success.

There are more jobs than ever for Queenslanders and these jobs are fuelling our economic growth—to the envy of all other States.

To this end, the North Coast region will receive around \$7.2 million to create an estimated 1,060 jobs through the Beattie Government's Breaking the Unemployment Cycle initiative during 2003/04.

This builds on the funding already allocated to the Glasshouse electorate under Breaking the Unemployment Cycle, where approximately \$1.7 million has been allocated between October 1998 and March 2003. This has resulted in 284 jobs being created for Glasshouse.

Traineeships and apprenticeships will again be further targeted to ensure that our young people have every opportunity to access training and get a job.

Emergency Services

Further highlights of the budget across Queensland include a record \$607 million budget for Emergency Services to ensure that their vital contribution to the safety and wellbeing of every community in Queensland continues.

We will see an additional 110 ambulance officers across the state, further capital works infrastructure across our emergency services—including the final allocation of \$110,000 for the new Mooloolah fire station, additional funding for the Community Helicopter Providers on the Sunshine Coast and an increase in the Volunteer Support Package.

Police & Crime

Crime fighting in Queensland has received its biggest budget ever with an allocation of over one billion dollars.

Last year we saw the opening of the Tullawong Police Beat and all of the resultant community benefits that have been attached to this very important community policing initiative.

Funding has now been provided for the establishment of a fourteen officer Tactical Crime Squad based at Redcliffe, but which will service the Glasshouse electorate on an as-needed basis. These squads target known crime hotspots with a strong emphasis on investigating property crime and drug offences. This is a welcome addition to the excellent work provided by local officers at all levels.

Funding of \$2.4 million has been set aside for a new state-of-the-art court complex which would be built next door to the Police Station at Caloundra. These new facilities are much needed in the rapidly growing Sunshine Coast region.

There is additional funding across other Departments, all which go towards assisting the community statewide.

This is a solid budget which delivers core services and infrastructure across the Glasshouse electorate.

It is a caring Budget, a Budget with heart, and a Budget which provides the impetus for the State to continue to grow.

I commend the Bill to the House.