



Speech by

CARRYN SULLIVAN

MEMBER FOR PUMICESTONE

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STATE BUDGET 2003-04

Mrs CARRYN SULLIVAN (Pumicestone—ALP) (10.11 p.m.): I am delighted to rise today and talk on my third budget since the election in February 2001. To say that time has flown is an understatement, and I am hoping that the residents will once again be satisfied in the main with this budget that focuses on families and those who most need a helping hand.

I congratulate the Treasurer, the Hon. Terry Mackenroth, and his diligent staff for bringing down yet another strong and balanced budget. This budget will be the last one before the next state election and, as I have stated in this parliament, all promises made to me as a Labor candidate in 2000 have been fulfilled.

The budget has boosted Queensland Police Service spending by 9.2 per cent, or \$84 million, resulting in an operational budget of just over \$1 billion. Residents in Pumicestone are enjoying a greater focus on safety thanks to the additional police resources in Morayfield in the form of a permanent police shopfront at the Morayfield Shopping Centre and in Beachmere in the form of the first ever permanent police beat. I take this opportunity to pay tribute to Senior Constable Kevin Scrimshaw and to thank Beachmere for accepting him into—

Ms Stone: He's a good officer.

Mrs CARRYN SULLIVAN: He is a great officer, and I thank the Beachmere community for accepting him. The comments about the police beat have been incredibly optimistic, and from all accounts Kevin is doing a fine job in curbing the crime rate. He and the residents have both benefited from the beginnings of a positive partnership. This year's budget has allocated a further \$48,000 to keep the beat fully resourced. The budget also sees the inclusion of an extra \$390,000 for a 14-officer tactical crime squad to be based at Redcliffe and servicing the Pumicestone electorate.

Members will recall the frantic lobbying for this service last year and although the squad went to the northern part of the Sunshine Coast—I see the member for Noosa here and I know she lobbied very strongly for her area last year—I certainly am delighted that we have been able to get one included this year. This is very good news for the residents of Caboolture and Pumicestone. I have contacted the Caboolture and Bribie Island Police and they are happy to be able to have access to more police in the near future to tackle identified problems sooner. These extra resources are further proof that the Beattie government is committed to the overall safety of Queenslanders.

I seek leave to have the remainder of my speech incorporated in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

As a former primary school teacher, I take great pride in seeing Education as a major focus in this year's budget. Recurrent expenditure will increase by 5.8% taking the total to \$4.488 billion. Another billion dollar business which of course the schools in the Electorate of Pumicestone will benefit from.

A highlight of the education budget is the employment of 636 extra state school teachers in 2004, at a cost of approximately \$42 million a year. The increase includes 327 teachers allocated over and above usual growth and another 60 teachers to support students with special needs. This is the largest single initiative to increase classroom teachers and the only one focused on reducing class sizes since 1980. \$67 million, including \$35.6 million allocated as part of the package, will see an increase in the number of computers and internet connections at school which means the Beattie Government is on target to achieve a student to computer ratio of 5:1 for Years 3 through to 12 by 2005.

Locally, schools in Pumicestone will directly benefit through a number of initiatives set up by Education Queensland.

Caboolture East State School will receive a \$100,000 boost to upgrade the Special Education Unit and \$34,000 for classroom hire. I would like to congratulate Principal, Mark Hunter and the wonderful staff for their dedication to the children in their care and the enthusiasm with which they are always looking to foster new and unique learning strategies for the students.

Caboolture East School has also been involved in this year's very first full-time preparatory year trials. This is one of the most significant educational reform packages in the history of Queensland and has made a difference to the lives of those children participating in the trial. From all accounts it has been a great success.

Both Caboolture State High and Beachmere State Primary schools will share in \$157,000 for repainting under the Triple R Maintenance Program. This will further add to Caboolture High's ongoing expenditure of \$156,000 as part of the Secondary School Renewal Program Phase 3.

Also included in this budget is a welcomed \$260,000 for additional toilets at Banksia Beach State School that is part an area experiencing high growth.

The Government's economic plan is directly aimed at maximising the state's economic performance and providing an even better quality of life for all. With regard to employment and training, the budget will allocate a record \$784.6 million for vocational training and youth services, including a \$577.7 million for training delivery by the State's 15 TAFE institutes. I am a big supporter of apprenticeship schemes and am pleased to see up to 44,000 apprentices and trainees are expected to begin schemes in 2003-04. An estimated \$4.38 million will be allocated in this region to help create 507 entry-level jobs in crucial, skills-shortage industries and the public sector through a range of apprenticeship and traineeship programs. This time there is a strong focus on youth participation strategies with emphasis on the important contribution young people make in the community.

I'm delighted that the Beattie Government has once again delivered a significant boost to health funding. Compared to last year's budget, the next 4 years will see a cumulative increase in health spending of over \$2.6 billion for wage increases, operating cost increases and for increased and better services for a growing and ageing population. Locally we see an additional \$1.05 million for cancer treatment services, an extra \$1 million for inpatient medical services to manage demand on emergency departments at Caboolture Hospital and a further \$800,000 for the intensive Care Units in the district. The hospital's car park will be expanded and the road access will be upgraded as well. There is also \$330,000 for new family support and respite services in Caboolture.

The Bribie Island Home Assist Secure (Bribie Island Voluntary Community Help Association Inc), a Goss Government initiative, will receive \$117,000 to help provide subsidised services to the elderly who remain in their homes.

Disability Services will get \$200 million or an increase of 16.3% in new funding over 4 years including \$35 million in 2003-04 for a range of initiatives that will provide better outcomes for people with a disability, their carers, their families and providers. We are doing what we can, but is a shame that for the second year there has been no real growth funds for disabilities from the Federal Government.

This year many areas faced a frightening series of bushfires including Bribie Island. It prompted a visit by the Emergency Services Minister, the Hon Mike Reynolds to comfort those who had been affected by the fires and congratulate those who helped fight the fires. Both emergency services and the Police fought to ensure that not even a fence paling was lost. Residents will be pleased to see \$12,000 has now been allocated for firebreaks in the Bribie Island National Park.

While on the Park, I would like to commend the work done by the trainee rangers in Poverty Creek Camping area. When this area is complete, it will make a wonderful addition to existing park facilities.

Protection of the environment has always been important to this Government being one of its 5 core priorities. The budget provides more than \$300 million to the EPA for its three key strategies namely protecting our natural and cultural heritage, promoting sustainable use of our natural capital and ensuring a clean environment. The further declaration of National and Marine Parks shows the Government's ongoing commitment to bring the total % of Parks to 5%. Many residents are looking forward to the official declaration of public lands on Bribie Island's northern section as a recreation area under the Recreation Area Management Act 1988.

I keenly support the Government's \$100,000 trial of residential rainwater tanks in Brisbane through the City Council. I am positive the trial will be successful and I will be encouraging further trials to be implemented in the future. The advantages of installing rainwater tanks in towns are numerous and I commend Minister Wells for his foresight in this area.

Community Renewal is still progressing well in Caboolture South. It is in its final countdown with less than 12 months to go. With about \$1 million still to spend, residents have already seen a significant change to the area with improvements to the liveability and appearance of Caboolture South. In the same area, a further \$60,000 has been allocated for Crisis Accommodation program which will help address the affordable housing issues there.

The Opposition has said much about the rates of unemployment in Queensland and I'd like to draw to their attention the huge population surge that the state has experienced over the past 12 months. We do a good job of encouraging people to come and live in the Sunshine State. The highest number of people both from overseas and interstate have been recorded migrating to Queensland and this of course affects job figures. This budget however provides an additional \$85 million per annum commencing in 2004-05 to continue until 2006-07. The electorate of Pumicestone has benefited through Breaking the Unemployment Cycle initiatives with many more to come.

There are many more initiatives for the Electorate including \$1.5 million to the local Council for the redevelopment of the Bongaree foreshore and \$12,000 for a Solar Sludge Drying Plant to encourage the use and development of new and/or innovative wastewater treatment technologies for Council.

I have already received some response from the budget and so far it has been reasonably favourable. However I will continue to lobby on behalf of my constituents for more services, facilities and opportunities in the future.