



Speech by

**Mr D. BRISKEY**

**MEMBER FOR CLEVELAND**

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Hansard 5 June 2003

#### **STATE BUDGET 2003-04**

**Mr BRISKEY** (Cleveland—ALP) (9.24 p.m.): It gives me great pleasure to rise to speak in this budget debate. I would like to congratulate the Treasurer on bringing down an equitable and carefully considered budget for the people of Queensland. It is indeed a true Labor budget. Put simply, the Beattie government has come up with the goods. It has demonstrated its commitment to delivering essential services that will ensure the future of our communities. It has handed down a budget of substance and a budget for all Queenslanders.

The highlights and headlines are right here: \$100 million over four years for public and private research and development; \$255 million over three years to extend the Breaking the Unemployment Cycle initiative beyond 2004-05; an additional 636 teachers for 2004, around 300 more police and 110 new ambulance officers; a \$300 million increase to the Health budget to provide services across the state; \$200 million in additional funding over four years to enhance disability services; \$75 million over five years for a \$150 million Commonwealth-state tree clearing reduction package; and \$50 million over four years to extend the Regional Centres Program.

My electorate of Cleveland has done well in this state budget, with funds allocated for a range of new projects and initiatives which I was very pleased to inform local schools, emergency services and community organisations about on Tuesday. It was much like being Santa Claus delivering long-awaited gifts. Locally we have received \$1.726 million for eight new classrooms, toilets and conversions at Wellington Point State High School. When I spoke to the Deputy Principal, Nahn Shimmons, she was delighted—and so might she be. There is a further \$98,000 for much-needed roofing works at Wellington Point State School, which I know the Principal, Peter Hadfield, is very excited about.

On the issue of law and order, there is \$100,000 to progress the planning of the Point Lookout police station at a total cost of \$350,000. The Attorney-General would be as excited as I am about this.

**Mr Welford** interjected.

**Mr BRISKEY:** I have been thinking long and hard about this. This funding will allow for the planning of the Point Lookout police station to commence, with construction of the station to be prioritised according to the needs and requirements of the Queensland Police Service. Currently policing services on North Stradbroke Island are based at the Dunwich Police Station, and a dedicated station at Point Lookout will complement this existing service and ensure the safety of local residents and visitors to this popular tourism destination.

This government recognises that policing is not a static thing and that the needs of communities change as they grow. I have lobbied for a number of years about the need for a permanent police presence at Point Lookout. As many residents would be aware, this need escalates during the holiday season, when the population can increase by as many as 30,000 people.

Cleveland will also benefit from the Beattie government's program to increase police, with about 300 additional officers to be employed across the state this financial year. The construction of a police station at Point Lookout has been a passion—and some would say an obsession—of mine since being elected, and I am pleased to say the announcement follows news that the

government has delivered its sixth successive record Police budget, which has tipped the \$1 billion mark for the first time in 2003-04 through an \$84 million increase.

**Ms Male:** This government is committed to fighting crime and the causes of crime.

**Mr BRISKEY:** This government certainly is committed to fighting crime and the causes of crime, as the honourable member for Glass House has just said.

A 14-officer Tactical Crime Squad was established in South Brisbane in April this year, and I am pleased to report that it will continue to be funded during 2003-04 and target known hot spots with a strong emphasis on investigating property crime and drug offences. This squad will continue to operate within the electorate of Cleveland.

I would just like to highlight a number of other initiatives that have been funded in my area in and around Cleveland: a \$2.75 million subsidy offered over four years to the Redland Shire Council for the establishment of the Redland Performing Arts Centre; \$1.72 million to upgrade facilities at the Centre for Amenity Horticulture at Cleveland; \$283,00 to construct training facilities with grandstand, upgraded lighting and an international standard softball diamond at Ormiston; \$6,600 to upgrade and install lighting at the Redlands United Soccer and Sporting Club; \$31,000 for Anglicare in Cleveland as part of the Crisis Accommodation Program—

**Mr Pearce:** You're a legend.

**Mr BRISKEY:** I will take that interjection from the honourable member for Fitzroy. He, too, is a legend in my book.

In addition, there are the following allocations: \$93,000 for the heritage listed Lazaret Representative Building on Peel Island; \$63,000 for the ongoing redevelopment of amenities at Blue Lake National Park on North Stradbroke Island; \$218,000 for Redland Home Assist/Home Secure services at Cleveland; \$439,000 for road and drainage works; and \$40,000 under the Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme for the provision of bikeways at various locations in the Redland shire at a total project cost of \$296,000. This funding is provided on a 50-50 basis with the council. Of course, that project involves the electorates of Capalaba, Cleveland, Mansfield and Redlands. I am sure that my parliamentary colleagues are equally pleased about that initiative. Further, there is an allocation of \$142,000 for the South Brisbane Tactical Crime Squad to target known crime hot spots with an emphasis on property crime and drug offences.

I intend to incorporate the rest of my speech in *Hansard*. However, before I do so, I would like to talk about how kind this budget has been to public health. With a \$300 million increase to the Health budget to provide health services right across Queensland, my electorate has benefited with injections of \$3.393 million to the Redland Residential Aged Care Facility for the construction of a new 128-bed facility; \$877,000 to the Bayside Mental Health Centre for the construction of a new building; \$300,000 to oncology, which is additional funding to manage demand for cancer treatment services; \$298,000 for communications and networks for the replacement and upgrade of telecommunications services at Redlands Hospital and the Residential Aged Care Facility; \$200,000 for renal dialysis, which is additional funding to realign and expand renal dialysis services for the Bayside Health Service District; and \$142,000 in additional funding to manage demand in emergency departments in the Bayside Health Service District. I seek leave to incorporate the remainder of my speech in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

Disability services are a priority for any government and it is pleasing to see the Beattie Labor Government come to the party announcing \$200 million additional funding over four years to enhance disability services.

I thank the Minister for her initiative in recognising the importance of these services to the bayside.

Mr Speaker, this increase demonstrates this government's concentration on essential services and is precisely the kind of Government and the kind of budget I am pleased to be associated with!

Working with community and sporting organisation is one of the joys of my job as the Member for Cleveland. There are many sporting clubs working tirelessly to provide facilities for the young people (and not so young people) in my electorate to enjoy.

To this end, a grant of \$6,600 to enhance a local sporting facility—the Redlands United Soccer and Sporting Club, to upgrade the ancillary lighting at its Cleveland fields is great news.

The money will go straight into a project that a lot of people can use and enjoy. And of course, one of the Beattie Government's priorities is to make the Smart State a more active state and this funding is one practical way we can help fulfil this objective.

The grant had been provided under Sport and Recreation Queensland's Minor Facilities Program with \$6.2 million allocated in the budget under the Minor Facilities Program.

The Minor Facilities Program helps organisations undertake minor works to sport and recreation facilities to increase participation and focuses on small-scale venues

Why Mr Speaker?

Because the Beattie Government is committed to providing funds right across the State so that all Queenslanders have access to more or better venues to play sport or undertake recreation in their local area.

Since the Beattie Government came to office in 1998, we have put more than \$56 million into facilities under the Major Facilities Program and more than \$26 million into facilities under the Minor Facilities Program. This is on top of more than \$42 million we have provided for State-level facilities under the National Standard Facilities Program.

On top of this I am pleased to announce that Brisbane could soon be hosting international softball events with the Beattie Labor Government awarding a \$282,000 grant for the redevelopment of the Ormiston grounds in my electorate.

This major redevelopment could form a component of a State Softball Centre in the future and would help attract major events to the area and provide a suitable venue for elite training and development.

Under the State Budget we have allocated the grant to Redland Shire Council which, in conjunction with the Redland Softball Association, has proposed to redevelop the association's grounds in Ormiston.

In doing so, we are requiring that they work closely with the Queensland Softball Association and other stakeholders to determine whether other facilities could be developed elsewhere to possibly form a State Softball Centre around Brisbane.

The proposed works will include extensions to the existing clubhouse to incorporate a grandstand, upgrades to the diamond, new dugouts and lighting.

In recent years Queensland players have been at the forefront of Australia's success in international softball and establishing a venue of this quality would give our top and emerging players the chance to further develop their skills and raise the profile of the sport by attracting national and international events to Queensland.

Again Mr Speaker, funding for the redevelopment was provided under Sport and Recreation Queensland's National Standard Facilities Program 2003-2004. This \$10 million program is focused on the development of large-scale sporting venues with the potential to attract major sporting competitions and training camps to Queensland.

Such events boost regional economies, create jobs and boost Queensland's reputation as a sporting state.

This Government is serious about jobs creation and this is demonstrated by the allocation to the Greater Brisbane region of around \$26.4 million to create an estimated 4,230 jobs through the Government's Breaking the Unemployment Cycle initiative during 2003/04.

This builds on the funding already allocated to the Cleveland electorate under the Breaking the Unemployment Cycle, where approximately \$3.3 million has been allocated between October 1998 and March 2003. This has resulted in 494 jobs being created for Cleveland.

This Budget provides funds for real assistance to individuals and families and for resources that will enhance quality of life in our communities.

That's real assistance for real jobs for Queensland.

Queensland already has a strong employment growth rate. In the 12 months to April 2003 Queensland led the charge against the other states. Employment in Queensland increased by 3.5 per cent compared to 2.8 per cent nationally. Over the 12 months to April, Queensland created 60,900 jobs.

Queensland's economic strengths are already the envy of many other states and this Budget will build on those strengths and offer improved opportunities for business—big and small—and jobs, jobs and more jobs.

I note the latest ABS statistics which show that Queensland's population increased by almost 83,000 over the year to the September quarter. Proudly, Queensland now has the highest overseas migration in the history of the state—the highest annual increase in Queensland's population for almost 13 years.

Mr Speaker, I join with the Member for Redlands and the Member for Capalaba in announcing a very exciting and innovative project to construct a Performing Arts Centre at Cleveland.

This project will create significant benefits for Redland and its residents with the Government contributing \$2.75 million towards the project, with the funding provided as part of the Beattie Government's \$50 million Regional Centres Program.

This Performing Arts Centre will provide a top quality venue to participate in the performing arts and to view local touring shows within comfortable travelling distances of their homes.

In working closely with the community and Redland Shire Council and its mayor Don Secombe, local residents will be able to claim something special with plans comprising a professionally fitted out 400-500 seat theatre. It will also feature an auditorium with back stage, delivery facilities and a foyer, situated in a four hectare site adjacent to the Redland Community Cultural Centre.

I see this planned facility as a major asset to the district and just another example of how the State Government is serious about working with local councils to improve facilities in Queensland communities—wherever they are in our State.

And I must give a plug to the Regional Centres Program—a Beattie Government initiative which aims to improve the social, cultural, environmental and economic fabric of Queensland communities with populations of more than 15,000 people. Funding assists to provide facilities such as improved parklands and sporting grounds, revitalisation and streetscaping projects, arts and cultural centres, and community and youth centres.

Mr Speaker, since 1998, the Beattie Labor Government has paid the Redland Shire Council more than \$11.7 million in Department of Local Government and Planning grants and subsidies.

For this I must thank the Minister for Local Government and Planning for her commitment to my electorate.

As part of the Beattie Labor Government's allocation of an additional \$6.3 million in 2003-04 for staff and equipment for the Queensland Ambulance Service the Member for Capalaba and I announced \$300,000 in the State Budget to help build a new ambulance station at Birkdale.

I am very pleased to report that planning for the new station is well underway with the Queensland Ambulance Service sourcing suitable land for the project after recognising the community's need for a supplementary response facility.

The new station is part of a record \$276.2 million Budget for the Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) which features a major expansion in ambulance staff, new vehicles and the building of new stations has been made

possible by the introduction of the Community Ambulance Cover which has given the QAS a long term secure funding base.

It is pleasing to see the Budget provide additional funding to the QAS to enhance service delivery and to alleviate pressures on paramedic staff caused by the increased service demands of a growing and ageing population—and I can tell you the people of my electorate will be very thankful for this injection!

The 2003 State Budget includes \$37 million to boost services to address homelessness with \$9.8 million to be spent under the Department of Housing's Crisis Accommodation Program to further improve and extend services for homeless people.

In Cleveland, \$31,000 has been allocated for a local community organisation to lease properties to provide crisis accommodation for homeless people or people at risk of homelessness proving yet again that the state government is committed to helping low-income people by providing better public housing and services despite further Federal government funding cuts.

The Beattie Labor Budget is a credit to this Government. It has maintained a balance between essential service areas such as Families, Education, and Health while maintaining a commitment to Smart State innovation.