



Speech by

**GEOFF WILSON**

**MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE**

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Hansard 10 September 2003

### TRANSPORT

**Mr WILSON** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (6.53 p.m.): It is my pleasure to support the amendment to this motion. I confess that when I heard this motion moved this morning by the Leader of the Opposition I was seriously concerned. I was seriously concerned because this motion makes a series of very serious claims that the Beattie government has neglected transport issues not just here in south-east Queensland but throughout the state; we have deliberately fostered traffic congestion; we have reduced capital spending on roads and transport infrastructure; we have mismanaged public transport; and we have failed to adequately plan. I was seriously concerned. So I did some research. This motion is, in effect, rejecting the Beattie government's \$21 billion budget announced for this financial year, including \$4 billion for Transport and Main Roads for future developments.

I was so seriously concerned that I went to the Estimates Committee D report because we know that the budget was brought down on 3 June and that the Estimates Committee D had a public hearing on 18 July. The shadow minister for transport was the leading National Party member of that committee. In this report all of the issues raised in this very serious motion are, in fact, identified as subjects over which the three-hour scrutiny by the opposition of our Transport and Main Roads budget took place. All of those issues are in there—Queensland Rail contracts, capital works in Queensland, improvements to the CityTrans passenger network, coordinated and integrated public transport, the Inner Northern Busway—and they go on.

Then I looked further and I found a recommendation by the committee that the parliament adopt the report. I did find a dissenting report. In fact, I was surprised to find that the shadow minister for transport lodged a dissenting report. I looked carefully and I found nothing about public transport or transport infrastructure. I found that not one of the claims in the motion put forward this morning is mentioned in the dissenting report.

How seriously does this opposition want to be taken when they put forward a motion based on the most scant of research? I discovered that when they were provided with the opportunity of three hours to make the case that they now seek to make they did not raise even one issue that they have reported in the dissenting report to Estimates Committee D. Then what did they do? They voted in support of passing this budget amounting to \$21 billion, including \$4 billion on Transport and Main Roads. I say to the opposition that if they want to be on the Treasury benches they have to show the Queensland public that they treat them and these issues far more seriously than the scant regard that they have paid so far.

The member for Gregory also said that the Commonwealth funding for roads in Queensland had expanded. In the 2002-03 budget the Commonwealth cut \$78 million from Queensland's roads budget. It is now walking away from a decade-long responsibility to fund the National Highway Scheme. The member for Gregory said that it was the state government's fault for the delay in the construction of the Tugun bypass. Fifty per cent of the funding was promised by the Commonwealth government—their mates in Canberra—in 1998. We waited more than two years for that funding to be forthcoming and so delayed our provision of the other 50 per cent of the state funds to enable that vital project to proceed.

Then we come to new trains. The member for Gregory said that there were no new trains. However, the Beattie government has delivered 30 new three-car trains at the cost of \$287 million.

Time expired.