



Speech by

JULIE ATTWOOD

Member for MOUNT OMMANEY

Hansard 29 October 2003

APPROPRIATION BILL [No. 2]; APPROPRIATION [PARLIAMENT] BILL [No. 2]

Mrs ATTWOOD (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (12.49 p.m.): I rise to support the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) and the Appropriation Bill (No. 2). I congratulate the Treasurer on his sound economic management, which has led to this bill being debated here today.

The Beattie government's Smart State policies are working. Queensland is fast becoming the preferred state in Australia for people to live and work. We can continue to deliver the goods on basic services in the areas of health, families, education, housing, transport, and law and order. In my own area, in the electorate of Mount Ommaney, you can clearly see the effect of sound monetary policies on the ground.

Since I was elected in 1998 a number of commitments have been achieved, such as the first stage of the project that will transform the Oxley Creek Common into a major recreational attraction. That will be opened in the near future. Stage 1 of the Queensland government project will see accessibility through the land, and to Oxley Creek, improved with the inclusion of walking tracks, a pontoon for canoe enthusiasts, picnic spots, and parking for cars and buses. Other features of stage 1 include an environmental centre; new vehicle access from Sherwood Road; a picnic area; interpretative signage; formalisation of low-key rights of way to allow pedestrian access; and disability access to canoe launching facilities.

Local community groups benefited from more than \$33,000 in state government grants under the latest round of the Gambling Community Benefit Fund. Local grant recipients were the Kookaburra Kids Playgroup; Sherwood Kindergarten and Preschool; and the Yuingi Child Care Centre.

Two of the 15 first year police officers allocated to the Metropolitan South Region will be initially assigned to the Mount Ommaney Police Station. I am sure that these officers will be an asset to our local station and will join the 46 additional police allocated to the district since 1998. The state government has allocated the biggest police budget on record, which will tip the \$1 billion mark for the first time in 2003-04. The Sherwood Police Station is also on the road to construction and will be replaced at a cost of \$430,000.

I am sure the locals will benefit from resurfacing the road, which will decrease the amount of traffic noise and improve the quality of life for residents along the Centenary Highway. Some \$2.3 million has been set aside in the last budget for completion of the Western Freeway bikeway between Centenary Bridge and the Fig Tree Pocket turnoff, and works will commence later this year. Last year, the successful \$1.2 million upgrade of the access to Oxley Railway Station was completed, and work on disabled access at the Corinda Railway Station is due to commence next year. People living in these suburbs will be pleased that improvements will enable better access for the elderly, parents with prams and the disabled.

There are lots of other things happening in the Mount Ommaney electorate. I would like to congratulate the Treasurer for all the help that he has given to members over the last few years, ensuring that some of these services have been achieved. I also want to congratulate the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing for his cooperation as well in various areas. I commend the bill to the House.