



Speech by

Hon. Ken Hayward

MEMBER FOR KALLANGUR

Hansard Thursday, 9 June 2005

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL

Hon. KW HAYWARD (Kallangur—ALP) (11.27 pm): It is an honour to rise in the parliament tonight as the member for Kallangur to speak in the debate on the 2005 state budget and highlight the real benefits that it will bring to local residents. The state electorate of Kallangur comprises some of the fastest growing areas of Queensland. Burpengary will directly benefit with \$10.1 million set aside to commence a new school for the Burpengary west area to open in 2007. The total cost of that school upon opening will be \$21.7 million.

I made a commitment at the last state election to construct a new school in the fast growing Burpengary area. Naturally, I am pleased to see that that commitment is now being met. The new school will relieve the pressure of student growth on the Burpengary State School. That school's population is 1,200 students. That number should be reduced. Additionally, the Burpengary State School community will be pleased to find that \$1.12 million has been made available to complete a major classroom upgrade to support arts initiatives.

Burpengary State School, Narangba State School and Kallangur State School are the three original schools in the electorate. Kallangur State School celebrates its 75th anniversary this year. I look forward to being in attendance for those celebrations. Money has been set aside to complete the replacement and upgrade of the Kallangur State School toilets. Additionally, a major classroom upgrade will commence to support ICT initiatives. The total cost will be \$838,000.

Funds are made available under the Triple R Maintenance Program for repainting at Narangba State School and Dakabin State High School. Some \$92,000 has been allocated for high priority maintenance relating to reflooring at Burpengary State School and Morayfield State High School and classroom maintenance at Morayfield State High School. Some \$47,000 has been set aside for the Morayfield State High School for fencing.

A major boost to infrastructure funding in the Kallangur electorate will occur with \$2.9 million invested by Energex to install a second substation at Morayfield North and a second transformer and module at Narangba substation. Those substations will help to satisfy the power demands of local residents and industrial development. Local employment growth is dependent upon adequate and reliable power supplies. I am also pleased that \$1.22 million has been set aside to continue the development of the Narangba ambulance station. That station will service an area comprising Burpengary and Narangba.

In an electorate such as Kallangur, which comprises many separate communities, roads provide a vital artery to connect people. I am pleased to see that, in partnership with the Caboolture Shire Council, \$83,000 has been set aside towards the reconstruction of Burpengary Road. The cost of footpath construction has been shared on Graham Road between Burpengary and Morayfield East State School. A sum of \$14,000 has been allocated to continue work on footpath construction on O'Brien Road, Burpengary and \$56,000 in more funding has been allocated towards a shared bikeway and footpath along Oakey Flat Road between Nairn Road and Williamson Road, Morayfield.

One of the major issues in the Kallangur electorate has been the need to upgrade the Bruce Highway to six lanes. That work commenced about five years ago and has continued since. Often in the

parliament I have spoken about the importance to the local area of the upgrade. I urge road users to be patient during the construction period. During this time, I have seen the Pine Rivers bridge upgraded to eight lanes and the Bruce Highway six-laned to Boundary Road, Dakabin. This budget provides \$41.3 million towards six-laning from Boundary Road to Uhlman Road, Burpengary, of a total budgeted project cost of \$108 million. Very pleasingly, \$7 million has been set aside to continue the planning work for widening to six lanes from Uhlman Road to Caboolture.

I welcome this work and acknowledge that it is mainly funded by the federal government and administered by the state through the Department of Main Roads. Again I urge residents to be patient when using that section of the Bruce Highway during the upgrade.

We all know that prevention is better than cure. The budget provides a range of funding for local sports projects and initiatives aimed at providing more opportunities to lead a more active, healthier lifestyle. The North Pine Sports Club will receive \$73,030 to upgrade an existing soccer field at Bob Brock Park at Dakabin. That money will be spent on upgrading the playing surface and installing underground irrigation. The Pine Rivers Shire Council will receive money to upgrade existing BMX facilities at Dakabin and Kallangur.

The North Pine Sports Club will use the grant of \$4,000 to accredit netball and soccer coaches and conduct first aid and sports strapping training. The Brisbane North Regional Baseball Association will receive \$3,700 to provide training for coaches, umpires and scorers at Nerangba and \$1,245 is available to the Burpengary Riding for Disabled Association to accredit assessors and workplace training officers.

It gives me particular pleasure to see that \$13,635 has been provided in the budget to upgrade the Narangba Bowls Club's synthetic bowls green to turf. In a time when many bowls clubs have become poker machine palaces, this club has shunned that approach and has focused on remaining a genuine part of the local Nerangba community. I have spoken to club committee members and I know that this grant is very welcome and is gratefully received.

Previously in this parliament I have mentioned that the Kallangur electorate is a working area with a general rate of unemployment below the state average. Given that the state rate of unemployment is below five per cent, that is quite an achievement locally. The budget forecasts that, for the next 13 months, unemployment will remain at this 30-year low of five per cent.

One of the consequences of the demand for labour is that parents who may have previously been at home are now working. Accordingly, funding for limited hour child care and school aged care has been made available at Dakabin State School, Kallangur State School, Narangba State School and St Eugene Primary School at Burpengary.

The Kallangur electorate comprises some of the fastest growing areas of Australia. Population growth, low home loan interest rates and a strong demand for Labor have acted to create a strong demand for housing. The Kallangur electorate mirrors those circumstances and whole new communities have been created. About 10 years ago, before the Asian bubble burst, we used to refer to the Asian tiger economies. Without a doubt, Queensland can now be called a tiger economy. For this financial year, the Queensland economy is forecast to grow at 4½ per cent, which is double the growth nationally of two per cent. While nationally housing investment is falling, in Queensland it will rise by five per cent. Exports will grow by four per cent and business investment by a massive 13¼ per cent. Next financial year, our Queensland economy is forecast to grow by a further 4½ per cent. Significantly, the budget outlook shows employment is forecast to grow a further 2½ per cent, maintaining the unemployment rate at a 30-year low.

Reflecting on my observation that Queensland is a tiger economy, the Kallangur electorate directly mirrors that growth and wealth increase. I will spend some time considering some of the risks to our tiger economy such as a slow down in the United States and Chinese economies, given that they represent 25 per cent of export growth. However, the evidence is that both those economies are outperforming market expectations.

There is a risk that higher fuel prices will have the potential to slow economic growth and commodity prices could decline. However, such events affecting world growth would place downward pressure on the Australian dollar and raise returns to exporters. However, rising petrol prices have a particular direct adverse effect on the Kallangur electorate, reducing people's discretionary spending. Inflation, if it goes outside the two to three per cent band, may require a further rise in official interest rates. Seasonal conditions such as drought could have an effect on state export growth.

I have taken the opportunity to outline some of the issues that could affect the assessment of our Queensland tiger economy. Many of those issues are outside the control of the state government and the affect of some are minimal. If forced to suggest the greatest risk to the Kallangur electorate, I would cite interest rate rises and higher petrol prices.

I welcome this budget. It provides funds for real assistance to individuals and families and capital spending that will enhance the quality of life and future for Kallangur electorate residents. The Beattie government has put the right settings in place locally. However, Queensland's economy is linked directly to the national economy and our trading partners. I am pleased to support the 2005 Beattie state budget. It is certainly welcome in the electorate of Kallangur.