



Speech by

Hon. Pat Purcell

MEMBER FOR BULIMBA

Hansard Friday, 9 June 2006

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL

Hon. PD PURCELL (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Emergency Services) (3.20 pm): It is a pleasure to rise to speak in this budget reply for 2006-07. I congratulate the Deputy Premier and Treasurer, Anna Bligh, on her excellent first state budget. What an outstanding debut she has made. Under the Beattie Labor government, Queensland is growing from strength to strength. Queensland has high economic and employment growth, which this government is ensuring that all Queenslanders benefit from.

In my own electorate of Bulimba, the estimated unemployment rate is an average of 3.7 per cent, which is a true reflection of what a terrific job the Beattie government is doing. Residents of the Bulimba electorate of all ages will receive significant benefits from this budget with a major boost to schools in the electorate, along with a major funding injection in health services.

In order to achieve the best education for our kids, it is crucial we provide them with the best facilities. I am particularly proud of this government's ongoing commitment to education. The Tomorrow's Schools program consists of \$900 million over five years to modernise state school facilities. With \$50 million towards immediate improvements in Queensland's state schools and \$100 million to the non-state school sector, this budget ensures that Queensland students remain in the best educational system in Australia. A further \$850 million will be spent over five years on a better buildings program for our schools.

I will be writing to all my parents and citizens associations and parents and friends associations offering my assistance to work with them to implement these important programs. In the interests of time, I ask that the remainder of my speech be incorporated in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

I believe that the educational initiatives in the 2006-07 state budget have the potential to provide the greatest long term benefit to our state's future and will ensure that Queensland continues to remain the smart state.

Bulimba State School will receive \$3.65 million to continue works on additional accommodation at the school. There will also be \$54,000 for building hire, and \$92,000 to continue redevelopment of their oval and sports area.

Bulimba State School is one of the oldest schools in Queensland and is in now in its 143rd year of educating young Queenslanders as well as having students who are 5th and 6th generations to attend the school.

The school's principal, Michael Zeuschner, has provided continuity of leadership and planning at the school for the past 11 years.

Michael and his very supportive, talented and devoted staff have worked to see it become one of Brisbane's most sought after state primary schools.

The key to its success is working together and building a partnership with the local community and businesses.

The success of Bulimba school is no longer a close kept secret. The school has an international reputation and has even received enquiries from parents while still residing overseas, who before moving their family to Australia, wish to ensure they purchase within the school's catchment area.

Along with a passionate commitment to the environment, Bulimba's students are 60 to 70 points above the state's average on literacy and numeracy.

It is the only school I am personally aware of in a predominantly English-speaking suburb which is teaching Italian to students from years 1 to 7.

The teachers have proven that this stimulates the children's brains and enhances their love of learning.

It is commendable for school principals to move through the educational ranks by making career moves. However, the overall results at Bulimba prove that a committed principal with long tenure at the one school can, and does, make a difference.

Another school in the Bulimba electorate to benefit from this budget is the Murarrie State School.

While much smaller than Bulimba State School, Murarrie places just as much emphasis on learning.

The school focuses on a wide range of activities with a particular emphasis on the multicultural aspects of Australia.

In this budget Murarrie State School will receive funding towards their cultural research centre.

The centre will benefit not only benefit the students, but the entire community.

When completed it will have the capacity to seat approximately 100 people and provide a versatile asset to the school community, enabling it to also be used as a workshop area, an open area drama stage and viewing platform.

I congratulate the principal, Tina Gruss, and her dedicated staff and the school community on their initiative and hard work in bringing this project to reality.

Additional funding in this budget will provide much needed maintenance in our schools.

The Bulimba electorate also provides the facilities for an active, healthy lifestyle with an emphasis on sport.

We are proud to claim Hockey Queensland as one of our residents with the state hockey centre located at Colmslie.

This budget will ensure that state hockey centre can continue to host major competitions up to national and international levels.

In addition, the club development program recognises and supports the diversity of sports in the Bulimba electorate by providing funding to:

- Morningside Australian Football Club;
- Rivercity Outrigger Canoe Club;
- Brisbane Outrigger Canoe Club; and
- Cannon Hill District Netball Association.

I congratulate all these organisation on their successful applications.

The record level of health funding provided in this budget will be of benefit to every resident of the Bulimba electorate who has or will have a need for medical services.

Residents in the Bulimba electorate will share in:

- \$24.91 million for new public patient services at the Mater hospitals
- \$5.4 million for new cancer services at the QEII, Princess Alexandra and Mater Hospital health service districts
- A further \$1.77 million for extra cancer treatment at the P.A. including expansion of oncology services
- \$3.3 million in extra funding for additional intensive care and dependency beds in the southern area
- \$7.2 million, from a statewide commitment of \$39 million, for enhanced cardiac services at the QEII, P.A., and Mater Hospital districts
- \$310,000 to support community mental health services
- \$1.16 million to address the needs of homeless people with a mental illness and/or substance abuse issues.

Meanwhile, as part of the budget's record transport funding, in the Bulimba electorate there will be:

- Rail noise barriers as part of a seven-year, \$19.7 million project to reduce noise along metropolitan train lines; and
- \$9.8 million for site preparation and construction of warehousing at the port of Brisbane's Colmslie estate.

Community development in Bulimba also gets a boost through:

- \$71,000 in ongoing funding to seven child care services;
- \$78,000 in ongoing funding to the Cannon Hill family support service to provide a community centre-based development and support service with a total cost of \$234,000;
- \$127,000 in ongoing state/ commonwealth funding to the gateway community group to provide counselling and support for people at risk of homelessness with a total cost of \$381,000.

Under the government's *Queensland Skills Plan*, Bulimba will share in more than \$7.59 million allocated to the greater Brisbane region to increase the number of trade apprenticeship training places and the number of certificate IV and above training places.

Bulimba will also share in \$26.4 million in recurrent funding to create about 5,500 jobs through the government's *Breaking the Unemployment Cycle* initiative; and \$326.6 million in 2006-07 for more than 21 million hours of vocational education and training in the greater Brisbane region.

In addition, the Bulimba region will benefit from funding for new and upgraded ambulance stations, including:

- \$2.4 million for the completion of the new Carindale ambulance station; and
- \$2.7 million towards the construction of the replacement Balmoral ambulance station.

Mr Speaker, this budget is a wonderful result for Bulimba, and for the state as a whole.

There can be no doubt that the beattie government is once again showing its commitment to Queenslanders.