



Speech by

**Jack Dempsey**

**MEMBER FOR BUNDABERG**

Hansard Thursday, 7 June 2007

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## **CLEAN COAL TECHNOLOGY SPECIAL AGREEMENT BILL; APPROPRIATION BILLS**

**Mr DEMPSEY** (Bundaberg—NPA) (11.00 pm): I rise tonight to speak in the debate on the appropriation bills relating to the budget for 2007-08. To be the elected member for Bundaberg is a great honour and a privilege and not a day goes by when I do not thank the community of Bundaberg for putting their faith in me—faith that instills a great passion to work hard and a commitment to get the best for the constituents of Bundaberg.

The average family in this state is still paying more in state taxes than ever before, at a time when we are experiencing higher than normal economic growth. With such a positive financial environment we need a state government with a long-term plan for Queensland that meets the social, economic and infrastructure needs for the future instead of always responding to a crisis. We need forward planning and a vision for Queensland that will not just see us past the current drought but into the future. Our children and future citizens need to have confidence in their future and the state government.

I welcome the state budget allocations for Bundaberg. After reading through the marketing material and highlighting the funds that had already been allocated to Bundaberg prebudget I welcome the sight of Bundaberg residents getting back some of their hard-earned dollars taken in state levies and taxes. For the electorate of Bundaberg it is great to see \$435,000 of the allocated funding of \$957,000 to replace amenities at Bundaberg State High School. These amenities are in very poor condition and were highlighted to this government at the Bundaberg community cabinet meeting several years ago. The amenities were at the rear of the main hall in which the meeting was taking place.

I sincerely thank the education minister for prioritising this work and for helping ensure a safer and a more educationally friendly environment for the Bundaberg State High School community. Bundaberg State High School has a very proud tradition with excellent teachers, staff and students. The current school site is landlocked, considering the ratio of land area to students, and has major traffic issues at its front entrance on Maryborough Street. I look forward to working with the education minister and the public works minister to achieve further successful outcomes for the benefit of schools in Bundaberg. The final funding of \$1.5 million to complete the Hinkler Hall of Fame is very welcome. It will be a great showcase for Bundaberg. It will be an historic and tourism landmark for future generations.

Health funding of \$2.3 million for this financial year is dramatically short of the \$41.1 million promised by the state government at the last state election. However, now that Queensland Health has an actual master plan for Bundaberg Base Hospital and an excellently skilled and permanent district manager in Ms Patti Scott, I look forward to positive steps ahead for the hardworking staff—the doctors, nurses, administration officers, cleaners and the many valued volunteers.

The \$9.9 million provided towards construction of the Bundaberg ring-road to provide an alternative route from the Isis Highway to the industrial areas and the ports to the east of Bundaberg city at a total cost of \$92 million is very welcome and will go a long way to relieving future transport frustrations. The funding of \$9.7 million for the reinforcement of electricity supplies, \$963,000 for the Bundaberg Port Authority, \$1.5 million to continue the Energex Bundaberg Hospital helicopter rescue service, \$300,000 for

expansion of the Bundaberg Child Safety Centre and extra funding for intersection upgrades to Walker Street are all very welcome. I again welcome these much-needed funds to the Bundaberg electorate and look forward to the completion of these projects and future projects, including the Bundaberg airport, that will assist the future growth of the Bundaberg district.