



Speech by

**Hon. Pat Purcell**

**MEMBER FOR BULIMBA**

Hansard Thursday, 7 June 2007

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

**Hon. PD PURCELL** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Emergency Services) (10.26 pm): I would like to congratulate the Deputy Premier and Treasurer, Anna Bligh, on her second state budget. And what a great budget it is. There is something in it for everyone. It is a true Labor style budget. No-one is left behind.

It is with great pleasure that I respond to the 2007-08 budget as the member for Bulimba. Every day I feel honoured and proud to represent the people of Bulimba here in the Queensland parliament. The Bulimba electorate is a very special part of Brisbane. It takes in the suburbs to the south of the Brisbane River, including Bulimba, Hawthorne, Balmoral, Morningside, Cannon Hill, Norman Park, Murarrie and parts of Carina and Camp Hill. I would like to pay tribute to the residents of my electorate. They are generous, close-knit and caring people. When someone has a problem, they all have a problem. I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land that makes up the Bulimba electorate—the Tugulawa people.

In recent times Bulimba has gone from being one of the best kept secrets to one of the most trendy, popular and entertaining places to be. The heart of Bulimba is Oxford Street. It is famous for its great dining and entertainment. Oxford Street is a fantastic place to spend an afternoon browsing through unique little boutiques, catching a movie at Brisbane's cheapest independently owned movie theatre or sharing an affordable and delicious meal with friends.

Despite being the Minister for Emergency Services I am very mindful that my job, as the representative of the people of Bulimba, comes first. Every time I rise to speak in this place I feel humbled by the privilege and feel committed to getting the best deal for the people in my area. I seek leave to have the remainder of my speech incorporated in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

I am pleased to rise tonight to discuss the 2007-08 State Budget which provides substantial funding for the key areas of vital infrastructure, health, education, transport and of course emergency services.

In 2007-08 the Health Budget is providing additional funds to strengthen our health system through recruiting and retaining skilled staff, continuing major capital infrastructure projects across the state and upgrading the information and communication technology capacity of Queensland Health.

The Beattie Government's Health Action Plan is in its second year and benefits from an increase of 12% taking Queensland Health's Budget in 2007-07 to a massive \$7.15 billion.

Queenslanders are seeing results from the Government's record expenditure—with a significant increase in the number of doctors, nurses and allied health professionals in 2007-08.

The Bulimba electorate will share in this health funding including:

- \$50 million for the upgrade of the Emergency Department at the Princess Alexandra Hospital; and
- an additional \$9.5 million—taking this year's total of \$34.4 million to fund another operating theatre at the Mater Hospital; and for the recurrent costs of the Mater Hospital's redevelopment project resulting in an increase in maternity, neonatal, and adult public hospital and outpatient services.

Queenslanders deserve a fast and reliable emergency response 24-hours a day, seven days a week. Our ambos are doing a great job providing a world-class ambulance service and we want to support them with the resources that they need.

As the Minister for Emergency Services I am pleased to be responding to this Budget which provides the biggest injection of funds to the Queensland Ambulance Service.

This State Budget is creating history with the single biggest increase in ambulance staff in one year, on top of the 220 extra staff recruited last year.

One of the central features of the Budget is the massive funding boost to provide for the recruitment of 250 new ambulance staff in 2007-08.

Other highlights include the commissioning of over 140 new ambulance vehicles, 3 new stations and 17 redeveloped or replacement ones, as well as around 135 new life-saving defibrillators in 2007-08.

The QAS Budget also provides funding to directly benefit the people of Bulimba with \$2.207 million for the commencement of the replacement ambulance station at Balmoral.

Tenders for this project closed at the end of May. The Department of Emergency Services is currently evaluating the submissions received. It is expected that a tender announcement should be made later on this month.

The Department advises me that excluding any delays practical completion should be achieved by the end of November.

Mr Speaker, the replacement Balmoral Ambulance Station will be a first-class facility for paramedics to provide an even more responsive ambulance service to the residents of my area.

QAS paramedics are some of the most highly trained anywhere in the world, and the replacement station will help them to better service the people of Bulimba and surrounding suburbs.

This Budget will deliver the services and infrastructure needed to build a better future for all Queenslanders and in particular the people of my electorate.

The 2007-08 Budget invests in knowledge, skills and education.

Mr Speaker, our children are our future. This Budget recognises the importance of educating our children in the best facilities, with the best resources and the best teachers.

The Beattie Government has committed \$70 million to ensure every state school teacher is provided with a laptop. This will ensure that in every state primary and secondary school—our teachers will have the technology to make their jobs easier.

Mr Speaker, with the money in this budget we will be building better classrooms and upgrading facilities to give our children the best learning opportunities.

In my electorate the Bulimba State School received \$20,000 for maintenance in this year's Budget and I thank the Minister for Education for this contribution.

I would like to pay tribute to Michael Zeuschner who has been the Principal at the school for the past 12 years and has seen the school's numbers increase each year.

This school has a rich history in the local area with families having their second, third and fourth generations attend Bulimba State School. The school is a credit to the Principal Michael Zeuschner and his dedicated band of teachers who are committed to making the school the best school it can be.

The new eight classroom block is nearing completion and I thank the Minister for Education, Rod Welford, for his support for this outstanding school.

I would also like to mention the Norman Park State School which is a great little state school in my area that has some fantastic, state-of-the-art facilities. In 2003 the school was heritage listed. Many of the classrooms are the old red brick variety with some modern wings constructed from timber.

In 2005 a \$4 million building project was completed, providing the school with a 3 storey, architecturally designed, eight classroom block and an undercover assembly area.

Norman Park School has several unique features including a farm containing chickens, guinea pigs as well as vegetable bush tucker gardens.

This year's State Budget provides \$150,000 to commence construction of additional amenities. Principal Andrew Walker and his wonderful team have worked hard to see this school grow in strength.

I would also like to talk about Murarrie State School which is a great school in my area that is big on learning. I was extremely pleased to see that in this year's Budget, \$70,000 has been allocated to Murarrie State School for the development of a Cultural Research Centre. This funding will mean so much to this school and I know that Principal Tina Gruss and the hardworking Murarrie School community will ensure that this money is well spent.

Balmoral State High School is the only state high school in my electorate. This year we welcomed Debbie Ward as the new principal. I know that Debbie is looking forward to working with her wonderful team to ensure that Balmoral High School continues its innovative programs and remains a leader in cutting edge education.

The funding allocated to Balmoral High in this year's budget for reticulation, repainting and maintenance at the school is most welcome.

As well as Sts Peter & Paul's Catholic Primary School, the Bulimba electorate is also home to St Oliver Plunkett Catholic Primary School at Cannon Hill and St Thomas Catholic Primary School at Camp Hill. Both are very popular and respected schools.

This Government is committed to giving our children the best learning opportunities possible. We've introduced a prep year in all Queensland primary schools.

In March this year I had the pleasure of attending the official opening of the new prep year facilities, refurbished classrooms and the new administration building at St Oliver Plunkett's by His Grace, Archbishop Bathurst.

There are also two private colleges, Lourdes Hill College and the Cannon Hill Anglican College. Both these colleges are highly respected and well known for their excellence in education.

I acknowledge that with so many outstanding private colleges throughout the Brisbane area, it is due to the outstanding commitment and dedication of their principals. Narelle Mullens at Lourdes Hill and Robyn Bell at Cannon Hill are no exception to that.

Morgan Innes was a well-liked and very talented young student at Lourdes Hill. I would like to extend my condolences to her family and friends following their heart-breaking loss of this beautiful young girl.

I would also like to commend the Premier for his recent announcement that five talented young Queensland ice skaters will have the chance to chase their Olympic dreams with \$50,000 in funding to help establish the first Morgan Innes Scholarships in Queensland.

The scholarships, are to be awarded through the Morgan Innes Foundation and administered by Ice Skating Australia. They will enable Queensland figure skaters to go abroad and learn from leading figure-skating trainers around the world.

Morgan's memory will live on and this new initiative will help budding young ice-skater's like Morgan realise their dreams.

Mr Speaker, this Budget also provides for unprecedented levels of transport infrastructure and public transport services across the state.

The State Budget has invested in a record \$1.2 billion in public transport infrastructure and service improvements in 2007-08.

The Beattie Government is boosting services with \$70 million over four years to accommodate growth in demand on public transport.

There is a massive \$1.88 billion to start the duplication of the Gateway Bridge and upgrade of the motorway which will greatly benefit the residents of my electorate.

I would like to thank the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Paul Lucas, for helping to expand the popular Nightlink Service to the Bulimba area.

Back in May I was pleased to see the introduction of the Nightlink service to help late-night revellers on the weekend get home to Hawthorne, Bulimba, Balmoral and Morningside.

The existing NightLink 226 bus route that used to travel directly along Wynnum Road, now travels via Hawthorne Road, Lytton Road, Thynne Road and Burrai Street before rejoining Wynnum Road.

As a parent myself I am pleased to see this service provided in my local area—to ensure young people can get home quickly and safely after a night out on the town.

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.