



Speech by

Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR STAFFORD

Hansard Friday, 6 June 2008

APPROPRIATION BILLS; REVENUE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Mr HINCHLIFFE (Stafford—ALP) (3.55 pm): It is with great pleasure that I rise to support the appropriation bills and the Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill before the House. I want to commence by congratulating the Treasurer on the delivery of his first budget. Our state is very well served by a forward-thinking and intelligent financial steward.

Considering the challenges manifest within the global economy, this first budget for the Bligh government is an outstanding achievement for all Queenslanders and, indeed, for my electorate of Stafford. While the needs of the people of Brisbane's northside are served well and extensively by the contents of this budget—and I will detail some local funding shortly—I wish to concentrate on the importance of housing initiatives which will address the overwhelmingly fundamental need of my constituents.

There can be no successful and productive families without affordable housing. That is why I particularly welcome the \$125 million extra for social housing in the budget, including over \$7 million in my electorate of Stafford for the completion of 11 apartments and a house and to begin construction of another 30 apartments. Equally, the measures contained within the budget to abolish stamp duty for first home buyers purchasing homes up to \$350,000 from July 2008 and up to \$500,000 from September and bringing forward the abolition of mortgage duty will make a significant contribution to housing affordability. Most significantly, the stamp duty exemption for first home buyers will have a tremendous effect on the housing product put to market and the prices set. It is very important to understand that setting that ceiling will ensure that the prices set by those marketing houses in this state are in response to that key figure.

Members should not underestimate the significance of this measure in establishing a benchmark for affordable stock within the housing market. While the influences on the housing market are multilayered and multifaceted, this budget has flicked another switch which will work with the Bligh government's Housing Affordability Strategy. But housing affordability is so much more than getting that roof over your head or that foot in the door of homeownership. It is also about the financial sustainability of that housing. That is why the rising costs of utilities and fuel cannot be ignored.

This budget has not ignored the Queenslanders who live with limited and fixed incomes. That is why I know pensioners and others on fixed incomes in my electorate will welcome the \$20 increase in the electricity rebate, the \$57 annual reticulated natural gas rebate and the new south-east Queensland pensioner water subsidy scheme with an initial rebate of \$40. Also, the one-off home energy emergency assistance scheme for low-income households suffering financial crisis is a very welcome initiative.

The \$570 million commitment to support a Fuel Subsidy Scheme which will ensure Queenslanders get their savings at the bowser is also very welcome. I was dismayed to hear earlier in the debate the member for Moggill's paraphrasing of a quote from *Seinfeld*. Considering the voodoo economics analysis he has offered on debt financing of infrastructure, perhaps he was taking some advice from George Costanza. Out of respect for the practices of this place, I will also paraphrase. George Costanza gave the advice, 'Jerry, just remember, it's not a mistruth if you believe it.'

I do wish to return to the detail of local funding within the electorate of Stafford, but conscious of the limited time on this budget week Friday, I seek leave to incorporate the remainder of my contribution in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

Statewide budget commitments important to my local community include:

- 12 new trains and 90 new buses over the next year
- \$168.4 million over four years for TransLink service improvements
- 270 new teachers and teacher aides
- 200 new police officers
- 250 new ambulance officers
- 145 new ambulance vehicles
- \$20 million Climate Smart Home Service to provide Queenslanders with the tools in their own home to reduce energy use and reduce greenhouse emissions

Over and above those local budget measures I have already mentioned, there is a strong commitment to the Stafford electorate which needs to be acknowledged.

The Prince Charles Hospital

- \$12.48 million for The Prince Charles Hospital redevelopment
- \$9.06 million for the Prince Charles emergency department
- \$120,000 for Queensland Health's Community Self Care Funding Program

The ongoing development of the Prince Charles as a general hospital serving the northside community is being supported strongly by the Bligh Government.

Emergency Services

- A further \$40.08 million for the Queensland Emergency Operations Centre, a state-of-the-art facility designed to meet the future challenges of emergency and disaster management

This centre will provide the foundation for future growth of 000 services in Australia's fastest growing state and region.

Child Safety

- \$354,000 to Lifeline Community Care to provide counselling services for families, children and young people referred by the Department of Child Safety
- \$130,000 to Lifeline Community Care to provide specialist foster care placements to sustain the placement of a sibling group

Protecting and assisting children, and their families, is fundamental to the work of the Department of Child Safety and it is important for that work to be supported by community services.

Energy

- \$1.28 million to build a new powerline to improve network capacity and reliability in Stafford

Communities and Housing

- \$907,000 to provide a pilot service under the Prevention and Early Intervention Future Directions
- Allocations totalling more than \$1.4 million to support young people, families and individuals who are homeless or at risk of homelessness
- \$278,000 to provide support services for victims of crime
- \$181,000 to provide health services to young pregnant women and young parents who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless
- \$337,000 for the Burnie Brae Seniors Centre's Home Assist Secure program
- \$57,000 for local women's refuges (Chisholm and Kalparrin)

Disability Services

- \$3.21 million to increase the availability of Home and Community Care Services to support frail aged and younger people with a disability
- \$791,000 to provide for short term and limited respite support for families, carers and people with a disability
- \$214,000 to provide post-school options for young adults with a disability and their families
- \$178,000 to assist adults with a disability to live and participate in their community

Schools

- \$107,000 for targeted extra maintenance at Somerset Hills State School
- \$77,000 for targeted extra maintenance at Wavell State High School, including \$53,000 for high priority improvements
- \$27,000 for a covered play area upgrade at Wavell Heights State School

Public Transport

- A total State Government contribution of \$11 million this year for works at Albion Station including construction of a land bridge and ticket office
- \$204.52 million for the Northern Busway to connect the Inner Northern Busway at Royal Children's Hospital at Herston to Bracken Ridge via Windsor, Lutwyche and Kedron

Main Roads

- \$2.98 million to complete the resurfacing of Gympie Road between Hamilton Road and Graham Road

- \$1.06 million under the South East Queensland Infrastructure Plan and Project for concept planning between Stafford Road and Roghan Road, on Gympie Road
- \$2.12 million under the South East Queensland Infrastructure Plan and Project for concept planning between Gympie Road and South Pine Road at Stafford
- \$188,000 to complete reprofiling an existing pavement and adding a safety seal at Trouts Road, on Stafford Road, Everton Park
- \$3.05 million for a Single Intelligent Transport Systems platform at various locations in the Brisbane area.