



Speech by

Judy Spence

MEMBER FOR SUNNYBANK

Hansard Friday, 19 June 2009

**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL;
INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT (ASSET RESTRUCTURING AND
DISPOSAL) BILL; FUEL SUBSIDY REPEAL AND REVENUE AND
OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

Ms SPENCE (Sunnybank—ALP) (6.18 pm): On behalf of the residents of the Sunnybank electorate, I welcome the wide range of initiatives that are contained in this budget—ranging from job creation to much needed infrastructure on roads, health, housing and education in these difficult times.

The most important issue facing us all is the creation of jobs and the maintenance of full employment. Nothing is more important to a Labor government than making sure that everyone has the opportunity to work. This budget allocates over \$490 million to be spent locally on jobs generating capital works projects. The \$28 million that will be spent across greater Brisbane for the Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative, including Queensland's Green Army to create 3,560 jobs for young people and those disadvantaged in the labour market, will ensure that the local long-term unemployed in the Sunnybank electorate will continue to get their chance by training on the job.

As Sunnybank is the multicultural heartland of Queensland, the \$7 million to promote social inclusion through increasing economic participation in low-socioeconomic urban fringe communities is very welcome.

The allocation of \$22.7 million for stage 2 at SkillsTech Australia Acacia Ridge trade campus, at a total cost of \$62 million, will build on a great local training facility which, along with Eagle Farm campus, is expected by 2010 to deliver the majority of all trade and technician training in the Brisbane metropolitan area.

Residents in Acacia Ridge and those who travel along Beaudesert Road regularly are now enjoying the removal of the rail boom gates on Beaudesert Road where sometimes traffic could be held up for periods of up to 15 minutes at a time. The budget allocates \$54 million to complete the Acacia Ridge rail-crossing overpass on Beaudesert Road by the erection of a double-span bridge to allow multiple lanes of traffic travelling in both directions over the rail line, at a total cost of \$113 million.

Residents on the western perimeter of the Sunnybank electorate will be pleased to hear that this budget has dedicated a further \$11 million to continue a planning study for upgrading the Ipswich Motorway between Rocklea and Darra.

Right across the electorate of Sunnybank, traffic delays are a problem to residents, whether it be commuters travelling to work, parents taking children to day care or school, or local residents simply travelling along the major road networks.

For many years I have advocated for the intersection at Mains Road and Kessels Road at Robertson-Macgregor to be upgraded to an overpass. Planning commenced some time ago and is progressing well on this intersection. A further \$3.87 million in joint state and federal funding will see the

completion of concept planning for the Mains Road and Kessels Roads intersection, at a total cost of \$12 million.

Another intersection which is particularly relevant to residents in the Runcorn and Eight Mile Plains areas, including me as I live in this area, is the Logan Road, Miles Platting Road, Padstow Road and Logan Road interchange. Planning for this intersection commenced during the last financial year, and this budget allows a further \$4½ million to continue concept planning for the MPPL interchange, at a total cost of \$10½ million.

Local cyclists such as me will be delighted to hear that a further \$3 million this year will be spent towards construction of a bikeway on a section of the Pacific Motorway between Nathan and the Logan Road entry to the motorway, with a total state government contribution of over \$16 million.

There is also another \$16 million for the Gold Coast corridor track upgrade as part of the Citytrain MetTrip track infrastructure upgrades, including Salisbury to Kuraby stages 1 and 2. The total cost of this project is over \$650 million. It builds on the recent third-line and station renewal program in my electorate.

Other transport and main roads commitments in the Sunnybank electorate include: \$7½ million to complete pavement widening to six lanes on Beaudesert Road between Fox Road and Bradman Street, Acacia Ridge; \$900,000 this year to continue concept planning for Beaudesert Road between Granard Road and the Logan Motorway; \$1½ million this year to commence concept planning for the Granard Road and Beaudesert Road intersection; half a million dollars in federal government funding towards traffic signal improvements at the Beenleigh Road and Stones Road intersection; and over \$100,000 in federal Black Spot Program funding towards intersection improvements at the Hellawell Road and Signata Street intersection, Sunnybank Hills.

Public housing is a priority, particularly in these difficult times, to allow low-income earners and unemployed residents the dignity of housing at an affordable price. Funding of \$2 million will be spent to complete construction of 10 two-bedroom apartments at 45 Finlayson Street and 2 Foote Street, Acacia Ridge. A record \$46.39 million will be spent across greater Brisbane for the upgrading and renewal of social rental housing properties. Queensland Housing tenants in Acacia Ridge, Coopers Plains and Sunnybank will benefit from this work which includes the upgrading of kitchens and bathrooms and the provision of disability modifications to already established dwellings.

It is further good news for local southside residents to hear that another \$10 million has been allocated this year to upgrade the QEII Hospital emergency department, including refurbishment, to create 11 fast-track bays and additional short stay capacity for people requiring observation, at a total project cost of \$19 million.

Funding of \$7½ million will be spent to further enhance services to Queensland provided at Forensic and Scientific Services in my electorate. Also within the Sunnybank electorate there is funding of \$82,000 in Sunnybank for child health funding; \$167,000 for chronic disease self-management funding in Sunnybank to support the planning, development, implementation and evaluation of self-management approaches to chronic disease; and \$156,000 in community self-care funding to assist self-help groups to provide information and support on a variety of existing and emerging health issues.

Over \$7 million is being injected into the Sunnybank electorate alone for the provision of funds to approved non-government, not-for-profit and for-profit organisations including local government authorities to provide services such as respite care, domiciliary nursing, transport, home care and modifications, allied health, domestic assistance and personal care to the frail aged and younger people with moderate, severe or profound disabilities. Almost \$1 million will be allocated to provide counselling and support services to people who have been personally affected by crime. Half a million dollars will be allocated to provide gambling help services.

David Rieck and his hardworking team of volunteers at the Macgregor Souths Cricket Club will make good use of over \$128,000 directed towards the construction of a new cricket clubhouse at Macgregor. Principal Margaret Berry, parents and the community at Robertson State School will welcome further money to install netball court lighting and an elevator for disability access in the hall at the Robertson State School. In this budget a \$¼ million has been allocated for the planning of an early childhood education and care centre at Acacia Ridge State School.

To keep our state schools fresh, functional and in great condition, funding has been allowed for ongoing maintenance at the following schools in my electorate of Sunnybank: funding has been allocated for the repainting of external surfaces at MacGregor State High School; funding has been allocated for the replacement of corroded guttering and to repaint external surfaces at MacGregor State School. At Runcorn State High School funding has been allocated to replace the tennis court fencing wire and to repaint the covered links throughout the school. At Runcorn State School funding has been allocated to repaint all external surfaces at the school and to replace the box guttering at the pool complex.

At Sunnybank Hills State School—and I was only at that school last week—the principal is very excited that this year he will receive funds to repaint the external surfaces of teaching areas, to replace

broken louvre frames and to modify some of his classrooms. At Sunnybank Special School funding has been allocated to replace the cracked and potholed bitumen surface of the driveway and car parks, and to repaint the external surfaces around the school including the gym. At Sunnybank State School funding has been allocated to replace the box gutter of the covered play area, to replace the roof guttering and downpipes of the music area and to replace the damaged bitumen surfaces.

At Warrigal Road State School, amongst many changes, funding has been allocated to repaint the external surfaces at the school. At Sunnybank State High School funding has been allocated for fire safety consultant investigations and reports on the building egress, to overhaul the winding mechanism for louvre blade sets and to replace the corroded roof sheeting at the Assembly Hall.

At Watson Road State School funding has been allocated to replace the holed and aged shade cloth, to replace the broken and missing glass louvre blades and to do some work on their toilets. I was pleased to recently get funds as well for the repainting of that school. At Coopers Plains State School money has been allocated to paint the external northern wall of the school. At Acacia Ridge State School money has been allocated to repaint the timber seating throughout the school and to replace the bitumen surface of the basketball courts.

Visiting these schools is always a pleasure. I look forward to seeing the works in progress and to watch with interest the emergence of federally funded Building the Education Revolution stimulus building projects at these local schools.

I applaud Treasurer Andrew Fraser on delivering a budget that ensures record infrastructure spending in these current unprecedented difficult times not only in Queensland but also around the world. This government has had to make the hard decisions to allow funds for investment in local infrastructure to create jobs and provide for the needs of our growing community.

In these tough economic times we have chosen to undertake a bold capital works program while sustaining our essential services of police, ambulance and health. Many people in my electorate will find it difficult to accept the demise of the fuel subsidy. They will also find it difficult to see the wisdom of the asset sales. But when they see these overdue capital works projects being undertaken and the associated employment that these capital works projects will generate, I am sure that they will understand the need for these tough decisions in this particular climate.