



Speech by

Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

Hansard Thursday, 18 June 2009

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

Mr RYAN (Morayfield—ALP) (5.36 pm): It is an honour to rise in this parliament as the state member for Morayfield and contribute to the debate on the 2009-10 Queensland budget. This 2009-10 state budget has been framed in the toughest economic times in three-quarters of a century. There has been much interest in this year's budget. I will not deny that many of my constituents have contacted me to convey their thoughts and comments. I welcome those comments, and I am pleased that the people of the Morayfield state electorate are positively contributing to the discussion about how we can ensure Queensland comes through this global recession stronger, not weaker.

Of course, governments around the world would prefer not to be in this current financial situation and would prefer not to be in the position of having to make hard decisions about how to protect jobs and services in our communities. Nonetheless, circumstance dictates that decisions must be made. Governments are elected to make those decisions. To do nothing but complain about the situation is not possible. If we do not act decisively, then we deny the dark realities of the moment.

This state budget is about priorities. We must re-evaluate our spending. We must focus on the proper role of modern and contemporary government. That is why this state budget makes the hard decisions. Effecting these decisions means the government can invest in strategies which create and support jobs and continue and expand the \$18.2 billion infrastructure building program, which is delivering new government assets, new hospitals, new schools, new public transport infrastructure and new roads for our communities.

This state budget will see investment in health services increase by 8.2 per cent to \$9.037 billion; \$110 million for Surgery Connect to reduce wait list times; and more than 3,500 doctors, nurses and allied health workers employed over the next three years. We will also see 350 new teachers and teacher aides, 203 new police officers and 50 new ambulance officers employed, as well as 150 new ambulances, 20 new or improved ambulance facilities and nine new or improved fire stations.

In addition, the Solar Hot Water Program, a 25 per cent payroll tax rebate for eligible employers who employ apprentices and trainees, a \$25 per year increase in the electricity rebate for pensioners and wage increases for some community sector workers on a priority basis will be funded in this year's state budget. Locally, this budget provides some real and positive benefits to the residents of the Morayfield state electorate. I would like to spend some time detailing those benefits because in a state budget with total income and expenditure in the magnitude of billions of dollars it is easy to overlook aspects which provide particular assistance to the residents of the Morayfield state electorate.

I am pleased to see that education remains a key priority for this Labor government in the Morayfield state electorate. One of my highest priorities as the state member for Morayfield is to see investment in our schools. I am especially pleased to see that the Caboolture Special School has been allocated \$2.6 million

for a new general learning area block, that the Narangba Valley State School has been allocated \$1.75 million for a general learning area block and \$600,000 for additional amenities, and that the Morayfield State High School has been allocated \$1.36 million for the Morayfield trade training centre and \$250,000 for new parking facilities. In addition, the Burpengary State School, Minimbah State School, Morayfield East State School, Morayfield State High School and Morayfield State School will receive additional funding to complete some much needed maintenance projects.

This state budget also invests in local jobs for local people. The Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative will provide direct assistance to the people of the Morayfield state electorate. In addition, Queensland's Green Army strategy and additional funds to promote social inclusion through economic participation will create local employment opportunities for local people in the Morayfield state electorate in these tough economic times.

I note that this state budget also provides an allocation of \$11.74 million to complete the widening of the Bruce Highway between Uhlmann Road and the Caboolture turn-off. This allocation brings the total project costs to \$195 million. This road-widening project is nearing completion and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the residents of the Morayfield state electorate for their patience. I trust that they will agree with me that the end result will certainly be well worth the wait.

There is also an allocation of \$90,000 in federal Black Spot funding to provide median barriers on the Lindsay Road approach to O'Brien Road at Burpengary. This is a notorious road intersection and this funding will be warmly received by local residents. The residents of the Morayfield state electorate are keen and patient supporters of public transport. My constituents will therefore welcome the allocation of \$9.5 million for the establishment of additional Park & Ride facilities under the South-East Queensland urban congestion initiative. I am pleased to see that Burpengary has been identified as a key priority area under this strategy.

The valuable work of local community workers is not overlooked in this state budget. Some community organisations serving the Morayfield state electorate will receive around \$325,000 for gambling support services and around \$371,000 to provide crisis and medium-term accommodation as well as social support for young people. In addition, Bargumar Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation will receive almost \$414,000 over three years to support young Indigenous people in the Moreton Bay region. The outstanding work of the Youth Justice Service Centre at Morayfield will also be supported and enhanced through funding of expansion works.

This is a tough budget for tough economic times. Nonetheless, I am pleased to see that this state budget delivers critical infrastructure and support measures for the residents of the Morayfield state electorate. I commend the Appropriation Bill to the House.