



Speech by

Vicky Darling

MEMBER FOR SANDGATE

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 DARLING (Sandgate—ALP) (11.49 pm): I have certainly heard some outrageous arguments from the opposition over the past two days. They certainly have very selective memories when it comes to the history of Queensland.

Yesterday I found the budget reply speech of the Leader of the Opposition curious but not surprising when he spoke for 45 minutes without giving one idea or one plan for Queensland. On the other end of the spectrum, I found very distressing a seven-point plan posed by the member for Beaudesert. It was point seven that caught my attention. In his grand vision for Queensland when wrapping up with that final fantastic point No. 7, he made the claim that his vision for Queensland was that, 'Queensland could be the California of Australia.'

Mr Moorhead: Where is California at, member for Sandgate?

Ms DARLING: That was a very pertinent question asked by the member for Waterford. I found that quite an extraordinary statement to make during a budget debate. I would think that one quick study of the economy of California would have really scared the member for Beaudesert away from that. I am really worried about the great youthful future of the LNP given the seven point plan—anyway, it was a plan. I give him credit for that. We heard some plans. I think he has laid out his intentions quite clearly. So watch this space.

The 2009-10 Queensland budget strikes the right balance between tough decisions in tight financial circumstances, targeted spending to stimulate the economy and create jobs by extending the state infrastructure program to \$18.2 billion and recognising the needs of those who are struggling in these tough times. Here are some of the highlights for the Sandgate electorate.

In infrastructure and jobs, \$125 million will be spent to continue the Houghton Highway bridge duplication between Brighton and Redcliffe at a total cost of \$315 million and \$24.6 million towards the construction of the new 275 kV transmission line between the existing South Pine and Sandgate substations. In housing there is \$1.41 million to BRIC housing through the Community Rent Scheme. They provide short- to medium-term accommodation for low-income housing applicants who have very immediate housing needs and \$225,000 for Home Assist Secure, which helps modify homes for older people and people with a disability. In sport \$125,000 has been budgeted in 2009-10 to upgrade soccer fields and install an irrigation system and a water harvesting system at Deagon Sports Centre with the total state government contribution of \$250,000. There is also \$38,000 to deliver a very innovative program, the Community Grow What You Eat Program, which will include cooking classes and vegetable gardens for school students at Nashville State School. They have a beautiful community garden, and I have been watching it grow over the past 12 months.

In communities, \$544,562 has been allocated in the 2009-10 financial year for a range of child, family and community support programs in the Sandgate electorate with a total Queensland government contribution of over \$1.63 million across the programs. Organisations including SANDBAG and Jabiru contribute enormously to community support services in my electorate, and I am pleased that the state continues to provide part of their funding.

In schools, there will be 350 extra teachers and teacher aides across Queensland. In my electorate of Sandgate there will be \$441,375 in additional maintenance for schools.

In health there is \$11.2 million for funding at Eventide Brighton as part of the Faster Emergency Care in Our Hospitals initiative. The Queensland government has committed to expanding the rehabilitation and transition care facilities. I am also very pleased that work on the paediatric emergency department at the Prince Charles Hospital will begin.

In the area of environment, \$15 million has been allocated for the ClimateSmart Business Service to be delivered across Queensland over four years and \$900,000 extra for research and monitoring in the Moreton Bay Marine Park.

In the area of pensioner concessions, the current \$165 per year concession for pensioners' power bills is to be increased to \$190.85 next financial year. Seriously ill pensioners will also get a helping hand with extra concessions for oxygen concentrators and kidney dialysis machines. I was also very thrilled to see that the government has followed up on its commitment to increase the pay of community workers.

There is a broad range of fantastic and exciting initiatives in this budget. These are tough times and yet as a true Labor government we are considering the people who are the most needy; we have made sure that they are not missing out. We have a plan for the future. We are full of ideas. I commend the bill to the House.