



Speech by

Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

Hansard Thursday, 16 June 2011

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL; COMMUNITY AMBULANCE COVER LEVY REPEAL AND REVENUE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (7.33 pm): It certainly is an honour to rise in this parliament as the state member for Morayfield and to contribute to the debate on the 2011-12 Queensland state budget. This is a good budget for Queensland and a good budget for the people of the Morayfield state electorate. Although this year has been a tough year for Queensland, for Queenslanders and for the Queensland state budget, this budget shows that not only is this government forward-thinking but also it is a compassionate government. It is a government which has strong and stable leadership and it is a government which has a plan for the future.

Our summer of natural disasters and the lasting effects of the global financial crisis continue to have an impact on budgets, from individual budgets to government budgets. This impact continues to be felt. That is why this budget is so important. That is why a good Labor budget is needed so much by our community. Labor governments are rebuilding governments. Labor governments are reforming governments. Labor governments are fair governments. Labor governments are supportive governments. This budget is a true Labor government budget. This budget makes the hard decisions to relieve cost-of-living pressures on families and individuals and to continue investment in public services and public infrastructure. The government's economic plan introduced a few years ago is working. It is supporting and creating jobs. It is delivering more and better public services. It is building new public infrastructure. This budget continues that proud tradition, and I am very proud to support this budget.

Generally we see this budget deliver some critical cost-of-living relief for Queenslanders. We see the removal of the ambulance levy, a \$113 per year saving on electricity bills. The Queensland Ambulance Service will now be fully funded entirely from consolidated revenue. The ambulance will still arrive but the bill will now not arrive. Further, pensioners have not been forgotten. The water bill rebate increases to \$120 per year. The council rates rebate increases to \$200 per year. The electricity bill rebate increases to \$230 per year. Queensland has the biggest and broadest pensioner concession program in Australia. When other states with tory governments are cutting pensioner concessions, this Labor government is providing extra help to those in most need. We are truly a government that is doing what it can to support those most vulnerable in our community.

Locally, this budget is great news for the people of the Morayfield state electorate. The people of the Morayfield state electorate will always know and will always see that I am committed to delivering real results for them. I have been advocating for a number of years for the commencement of major works on the Morayfield Road upgrade project. I am very pleased to see that \$10 million has been allocated in this budget to commence major work on the four-lane upgrade of Morayfield Road from Gaffield Street to Uhlmann Road.

Education is also a key priority in this year's state budget and a key priority for me as the state member for Morayfield. Accordingly, I am very pleased to see that \$3.4 million will be spent in this budget

year to construct eight new classroom spaces at the Caboolture Special School, a marvellous contribution to the learning of young people with disabilities and a marvellous contribution to our community. But we will also see \$1.4 million allocated to build a trade training centre for Narangba Valley State High School students. This is an exceptional outcome for the young people of our community and it is certainly an exceptional investment in our community.

The other investment we see in the education sector in the Morayfield state electorate is a new \$1.25 million kindergarten service. This kindergarten service will be based at the Jinibara State School at Narangba. Again, it is another project which I have been lobbying government for for a number of years, and I am very pleased to see this government delivering real results in the Morayfield state electorate in the education sector.

We will also see a couple of little road projects. We will see \$68,000 spent on building an additional lane at Kurralong Drive near the Burpengary Meadows State School. This will improve student and motorist safety around that school. We will also see \$28,000 spent on the construction of pedestrian crossings at the Burpengary State School. They are important projects. It is not much money, but they are important projects that improve safety and protect our young people, and it is a further investment in infrastructure in our community.

Finally, one of the last highlights from this state budget for the Morayfield state electorate is the funding boost of more than \$1 million for the provision of disability services in the Caboolture region. This is a marvellous contribution and a further investment in providing quality disability services for those people in most need.

This budget delivers lower deficits, lower debt, more jobs and nation-leading growth for Queensland. The Queensland economy is ramping up and this is great news for Queensland businesses and the people of Queensland. But it is important to note that the hard work and tough decisions of this government in recent budgets have contributed significantly to this positive economic outlook of the next few years. It is a great outlook, and we should not forget that it has been the hard work of this government and this Treasurer which has led to this positive economic outlook for our community and our state.

We are predicting that there will be nation-leading five per cent growth next year and 5¼ per cent in the following year. We are also seeing forecasts that over 140,000 jobs will be created over the next two years. Unemployment is expected to fall to 4.75 per cent by 2012-13. Most importantly, we will see this government meet its election commitment of creating 100,000 jobs over this term of government. This government keeps its promises. We have delivered on those promises to create and support jobs and implement the economic policies to support that. We will also see Queensland maintain its status as one of the lowest-taxing states in Australia.

This budget is a good Labor budget. It is a necessary budget for a modern contemporary government. This budget delivers real results for the people of the Morayfield state electorate. I am very proud to support it. I encourage all other members of the House to do so.