



Speech by
Carl Judge

MEMBER FOR YEERONGPILLY

Hansard Thursday, 13 September 2012

**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL;
FISCAL REPAIR AMENDMENT BILL**

Mr JUDGE (Yeerongpilly—LNP) (10.31 pm): This is the most important budget in a generation. The budget builds a brighter future for Queensland. Queensland once had a low and stable debt. The budget breaks the addiction to years of debt and deficit and starts Queensland on a path to regaining the AAA credit rating. The budget was delivered by our Treasurer, the Hon. Tim Nicholls MP.

It is no secret that state debt has become a major issue. Before I begin to speak about the state debt and the government's response to it, I want to put aside the blame game for just a moment to speak about the people and the families who have been affected by the consequences of state debt. I am talking about the good people who have worked hard in their government jobs, many of whom live in my electorate of Yeerongpilly. State debt has escalated to unprecedented levels. It saddens me to see so many good people affected because of the uncontrolled spending by the former Labor government. Make no mistake: the Newman government has taken responsibility to get Queensland back on track, and this is no small challenge.

The budget, as delivered by the Treasurer and the Newman government, is heralded as a once-in-a-generation budget. It is designed to chart the course for Queensland's fiscal repair. It aims to deliver on certain key commitments—to lower the cost of living, to revitalise front-line services, to grow the four-pillar economy and to help regain the state's AAA credit rating. Importantly, it is the Newman government's objective to arrest the slide into debt so there is more money to spend on important infrastructure such as roads, schools and hospitals and on front-line services.

Commitments to revitalise front-line services and grow a strong four-pillar economy have been allocated as follows. There is \$200 million over two years to provide funding of up to \$160,000 to state school P&Cs to assist in addressing maintenance backlogs. This will help schools in my electorate like Wellers Hill, Nyanda and Yeeronga among others. There is \$495 million over four years for the Royalties for the Regions program to ensure families and communities in our resource regions share the economic dividends of mining activities through improved community infrastructure and roads. I have families living in communities like Blackwater, and I want to know that they are safe to travel the roads connecting our rural and regional communities.

Mr Costigan: It's a good town, too.

Mr JUDGE: It is a good town. There is \$1 billion over 10 years to upgrade the Bruce Highway focusing on improved safety and flood immunity, subject to cost-sharing agreements with the federal government. This is essential government spending to ensure the safety of all people on our roads. The road carnage is far too high and this money is essential.

There is \$20 million for a tourism investment strategy focusing on key emerging markets. There is \$146.9 million over four years to deliver an additional 1,100 new police officers, and this is fundamental to improving community safety in Yeerongpilly and all other electorates across the state. It is believed that the budget will deliver for Queensland's future, not only by setting about the fiscal repair task but also by

investing in the state. Very significantly, the Newman government will provide a \$15,000 first home owner construction grant for people buying their first home either off the plan or newly constructed. It is reasonably expected that families and communities will reap the rewards of the Newman government's fiscal repair effort outlined in its first budget.

Relevant to my electorate of Yeerongpilly are the following budget initiatives. There is \$895,000 funding for the South-West Brisbane Home Assist Secure, Corporation of the Trustees of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Brisbane, for the provision of Home Assist Secure services. Home Assist Secure aims to remove some of the practical housing related difficulties experienced by people 60 years and over and people of any age with a disability who wish to remain living in their home. The service provides free information and referral about home maintenance, repairs, modifications and home security. Subsidised assistance with minor home maintenance, repairs, modifications and security is also available for eligible clients who are in receipt of an Australian government pension or benefit and are unable to make use of alternative assistance.

Our fiscal repair effort ensures the government is able to deliver cost-of-living relief to families and invest in local schools, hospitals and roads while still keeping our debt and deficit under control. Recognising that cost of living is the most important issue for families, the Newman government will deliver rebates of up to \$80 per domestic water connection and provide free travel after nine paid journeys in a week for commuters using TransLink services. Furthermore, families will benefit from freezes to car rego costs and electricity tariff 11, and we have reinstated the principal place of residence concession for people buying the family home. As mentioned, we will also offer first home buyers \$15,000 if they buy a newly built home or one off the plan in an initiative which will also boost construction activity. The construction industry is one of the main employers in my electorate of Yeerongpilly. Small businesses in my electorate employ apprentices and tradespeople, and this initiative will be well and truly welcomed in Yeerongpilly.

Schools throughout Brisbane will benefit from the Newman government's \$200 million Advancing Our Schools Maintenance Fund, which will allow state school parents and citizens organisations to apply for up to \$160,000 to fix existing priority maintenance issues. Again, this will benefit schools in my electorate of Yeerongpilly. Small and medium sized businesses will also benefit under the Newman budget by paying less payroll tax. It is believed that the 2012-13 state budget will encourage long-term job and economic growth across the four pillars of the economy and ensure the cost of living remains low for all Queensland families.

By and large, this is a budget for Queensland's future, and the Newman government is determined to deliver a more prosperous future for all the people in this great state. The notable initiatives are as follows: \$55,000 has been allocated for local sport and recreation jobs—in particular, to continue to employ local coordinators for athletics to support seven clubs in South-East Queensland; \$80,000 has been set aside to employ a local coordinator for athletics to support seven clubs in the greater Brisbane area; \$54,000 has been allocated for a local sport and recreation jobs plan—in particular, to employ a local coordinator for Australian football to support five clubs in the greater Brisbane area and, notably, the home of AFL is in my electorate in Yeeronga; \$56,000 has been allocated for a local sport and recreation jobs plan which will help employ a local coordinator for Australian football to support juniors at five clubs in the Brisbane region; and \$54,000 has been allocated to establish a local sport and recreation jobs plan to employ a local coordinator for little athletics to support six clubs.

An amount of \$43,000 has been assigned for a local sports and recreation jobs plan to employ a local coordinator for the Australian football association, as I have already mentioned, and \$53,000 has been allocated to local sports and recreation to employ a local coordinator for canoeing to support seven clubs in Brisbane, south-east and north coast regions. An amount of \$5,197,000 is contained in Budget Paper No. 3 to construct the V1 Pacific Motorway cycleway from Birdwood Road to Lewisham Street, which is in my electorate. This is relevant to the electorates of Brisbane Central and Greenslopes as well. In addition, the Yeronga State School relocation of the Centre for Young Deaf Children will be allocated \$2,150,000. I am particularly proud that Yeerongpilly will receive funding of \$10,205,000 for disability services.

In essence, this is the most important budget in a generation. It builds a brighter future for all Queenslanders, especially those requiring disability services. I commend the bills to the House.