




Speech by
Ian Kaye

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

Hansard Thursday, 13 September 2012

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

 **Mr KAYE** (Greenslopes—LNP) (11.01 pm): I rise in this House tonight to speak on the inaugural Newman government budget contained in the Appropriation Bill 2012. Firstly, I want to repeat the words of the Queensland Treasury in the Queensland government Treasury brief—

Queensland's fiscal position and outlook is unsustainable and restoration must be an urgent priority for this term of government.

This has, unfortunately, meant making tough decisions, making hard decisions, making decisions that no government takes pleasure in. To those in the Public Service who will leave the Public Service as a result of the measures that have been necessary, I say sorry. As a former long-serving police officer, I have many friends who are public servants. I am the husband of a public servant and I am the son of a former public servant who, incidentally, lost his job as a result of Kevin Rudd and Wayne Goss and the then ALP government's cuts to the Public Service. As a result, I do empathise.

As has been said, this budget is the most important budget in a generation. It has been an important opportunity to ensure that Queensland is placed in a strong economic position for years to come. It is an important step to regaining our AAA credit rating so we can pay less interest and give more back to Queenslanders. People in my electorate of Greenslopes have been suffering like all Queenslanders under rising costs of living. That is why my electorate is pleased to see the LNP Newman government deliver on our election promises. Some of these include freezing car registrations for 2.5 million family cars, halving public transport fares due in 2013-14, saving average families up to \$120 on their annual electricity bills, and an \$80 rebate on domestic water connections in South-East Queensland.

As a former police officer, I am very pleased indeed to see the Queensland Police Service budget increased by more than \$165 million. Law and order is very important to the people of Greenslopes. The commitment of 300 extra police over the next year as part of our commitment of an extra 1,100 police over the next four years is exciting, following the reduction of recruiting under the former government. This, of course, is in addition to the 200 police being transferred back on the street from office jobs. This will mean more police on the streets on the south side of Brisbane, including the Greenslopes electorate. The establishment of the Major and Organised Crime Squad on the Gold Coast is a truly long overdue measure and one which the LNP government is delivering—no talk, just action. In addition, we have committed to police helicopters on the Gold Coast and South-East Queensland. There are many more highlights in the budget in the area of the Queensland Police Service. I wholeheartedly support all of these budget commitments with respect to the QPS as they are all about improving front-line service delivery.

The Greenslopes electorate will also welcome the Fostering Families initiative. Greenslopes will play host to one of the trial areas of this program, which will run for two years and provide around 300 families in the trial with practical support to keep children at home and out of state care. This trial will address the need for additional intensive family support services in the areas of Mount Gravatt and Stones Corner. It will help build strong, happy families and this positive initiative will help strengthen front-line services in our area. The ultimate goal of this trial is to reduce the number of children entering the child protection system and to keep families safely together whenever possible.

The parents and citizens associations in the Greenslopes electorate are also excited about the budget announcement of grants up to \$160,000 to address school maintenance issues. Schools have been crying out for years for money to repair and improve their schools. Despite recent comment in the media, I have the utmost faith in my P&Cs to get the best bang for their buck in relation to any money spent on their schools. P&Cs are passionate about their schools. They simply want what is best for their children and their schools. Removing the shackles and allowing my schools to spend this money, whilst at the same time achieving the best value for money, is truly a wonderful common-sense initiative, and I commend the Minister for Education for it.

In terms of local electorate commitments, I am very pleased to see that I will be delivering on an improved pick-up and drop-off area at the Mount Gravatt State School to the value of \$500,000. This will not only improve safety and convenience to parents and children but also alleviate excessive vehicles in side streets surrounding the school. I will also be delivering flashing school zone lights at Cavendish Road in Holland Park outside the Cavendish Road High School. Along with the pick-up and drop-off area at the Mount Gravatt State School, this was also an election commitment. These lights will dramatically improve safety for the many students at Cavendish Road High. They will serve as a visual reminder to drivers to slow down and protect our precious children. I am also pleased that another school in my electorate, Holland Park State High School—and I have spoken of it previously in this House in relation to its Kokoda Challenge efforts—will receive funding to upgrade its quadrangle via the capital works program. The schools in my electorate will also get more say over what programs they want to run in their schools. Instead of being dictated to, they will be able to choose the resources that best suit their students' needs. I thank the Minister for Education for trusting school communities enough to know what will serve them best.

For the benefit of the many cyclists in the electorate, there is the construction of the V1 Pacific Motorway cycleway from Lewisham Street to Birdwood Road. This will improve access and encourage more cyclists to use this infrastructure. I also want to commend the Treasurer and the Minister for National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing for funding the Get in the Game policy. I have had many constituents contact me about this policy. Having a large number of terrific sporting facilities in the Greenslopes electorate, I know this funding will make a big difference to junior sports enthusiasts and clubs alike.

There are many more benefits for Queenslanders in this budget that other honourable members have spoken about already and I do not intend to go over them—real money delivering real results for the people of Queensland, helping families, helping schools, helping those in social housing, helping the disabled, revitalising front-line services, giving communities choices and say over how they want things to be done. This is a budget to guide Queensland's future and to get this great state back on track. I congratulate the Treasurer and I commend the bills to the House.