




Speech by
Ian Kaye

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

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APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL AND APPROPRIATION BILL: FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

 **Mr KAYE** (Greenslopes—LNP) (4.25 pm): I rise in this place today to speak to the Appropriation Bill as a member of the Finance and Administration Committee. First, I would like to thank the member for Coomera for his excellent leadership of the committee. To the other members, I would like to say thank you as well, and I also acknowledge the work of the staff attached to our committee. To the Premier, the Treasurer and the Minister for Trade, I thank you for your time and for answering our questions so thoroughly.

Budget estimates are an interesting process. They are integral to the traditions we hold dear in Australia. It is an extra check and balance which is particularly necessary in a unicameral parliament. It also reaffirmed my belief that we are on the right track to restore the state of Queensland to its rightful place as the economic driver of the Australian economy. This is fundamental if we are to rein in out-of-control debt and continue to deliver on our promise to help lower the cost of living for all Queenslanders.

In my electorate of Greenslopes, I have already observed the effects of these initiatives. Even before the budget was delivered on 11 September, the people of Greenslopes had begun to see the results of sound fiscal stewardship through things like the freezing of tariff 11, the freezing of car registrations and a halving of the proposed rise in public transport fees. While people have had to deal with price increases due to the federal government's carbon tax, the Newman government has been instituting things to help them with their cost-of-living increases. It is now as plain as the nose on your face, Mr Deputy Speaker, that the electricity price rise in July this year is a direct result of the carbon tax. This shameful, do-nothing tax hurts the constituents in my electorate. Unfortunately, the carbon tax not only hurts those who live in the Greenslopes electorate; it also hurts those who are conducting businesses.

During the estimates process, I was pleased to hear that the Newman government is working very hard to implement cross-government initiatives to reduce the red-tape burden on businesses by 20 per cent. I know that the businesses in my electorate will be very grateful for this news. I was also fortunate enough around the estimates period to receive confirmation from the Minister for Transport about the transport orientated development at Coorparoo junction. This ongoing saga has cost both the government and those businesses who operate in that area of my electorate an enormous amount of time, money and frustration. Minister Emerson, his Assistant Minister, Steve Minnikin, and I have had a number of conversations regarding this area. I would like to thank Minister Emerson and Assistant Minister Minnikin for their time and more importantly for listening to the Coorparoo community's concerns. This area will now be given a boost it so desperately needs after the former government put the tender process on hold, leaving business owners and those who had been short-listed for its redevelopment in the lurch. The redevelopment of this site has been long awaited and when I speak to the businesspeople of that area they are thrilled to be provided with some certainty for their futures.

This is what the Newman government is all about—planning for the future, getting Queensland back on track and giving people hope. We do not want to crush business with more regulation and red tape and we do not want to ask people to continually pay more tax. The Newman government is about giving people

better front-line services, fewer burdens on the family budget and more focused community infrastructure planning. It is this that I would like to speak of next.

Those in this place have heard me speak frequently about the wonderful schools I have in the Greenslopes electorate. I am incredibly fortunate to have Mount Gravatt and Seville Road state schools in the southern end of my electorate through to Coorparoo State School across the road from my office in the north and every school in between. These schools never cease to amaze me with their extraordinary results and achievements. I am sure many members in this place feel the same and a number of members will be feeling disappointed this week because they have not been able to go to some of the awards nights at their local schools. So with your indulgence, Mr Deputy Speaker, I congratulate all of the schools in my electorate and especially the class of 2012.

I come back to the topic at hand. A number of schools in my electorate have received funding to fix the large multimillion dollar backlog of school maintenance. The teachers, students, parents and community take a lot of pride in our local schools, as does their local member. The parents associations should not have to try to fundraise to get doors painted or port racks fixed. Letting such a backlog accumulate is disgraceful.

Cavendish Road State High School in my electorate has also received funding to install flashing school-zone lights on what is one of the busiest roads in my electorate. Mount Gravatt State School will receive funding over the next two years to complete an upgrade of the pick-up and drop-off zones at the school. That school is also on one of the state's busiest roads, Logan Road. These initiatives are very important to me not just as the local member, but also as a parent and a local resident. We can put no price on our kids' safety.

I could speak for a long time about my electorate, but it seems my time is almost up. I had best take this opportunity to commend the Premier and the Treasurer once again for assisting residents, students and businesspeople to make our community the best it can be. I commend the bill to the House.