




Speech by

Jason Woodforth

MEMBER FOR NUDGE

Hansard Friday, 14 September 2012

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

 **Mr WOODFORTH** (Nudgee—LNP) (6.11 pm): Today it gives me great pleasure to rise to reply to this once-in-a-generation budget: the Appropriation Bill, the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill and the Fiscal Repair Amendment Bill 2012. I would like to talk about what this budget means to my electorate of Nudgee. Overall, the electorate of Nudgee has been delivered a great outcome from the budget. Firstly, however, I do acknowledge that some tough measures have had to be implemented to the budget and some of those tough measures affect parts of my electorate. I do sincerely feel for those areas and the people that have been affected.

The budget provides relief for families via the \$80 water rebate for all households, freezing the standard electricity tariff, freezing car registrations for three years and also taking away the \$7,000 stamp duty to the family home. Then there is the new first home owners grant. We have also delivered for the many businesses in my electorate with the lifting of the payroll threshold. There is a great win for all of my state schools. Each state school is able to put in requests for up to \$160,000 to help clear the backlog of maintenance. That is up to \$160,000 for Earnshaw College; Wavell State High School; and Boondall, Northgate, Virginia, Zillmere, Wavell Heights and Geebung primary schools. After attending many P&C meetings over the past few months, I know this money will be a welcome relief to all. I also applaud the decision that the P&Cs are the ones that will determine where the funds are spent. They will be able to use local businesses from in and around the electorate, which will mean that not only does the school benefit from receiving this grant but also many small business owners will benefit.

I am also pleased to announce that Nudgee has received \$399,000 for the District Home Assist Program. Home Assist Secure aims to help people over the age of 60 with practical housing related difficulties. From the calls I have received at my office, I know the people of Nudgee will be very happy about this. I am also excited to see that this budget will invest \$959 million in specialist disability services. I am happy to say that Nudgee will be receiving over \$6.9 million to help those most in need.

As many members know, health and fitness is a big part of my life, so I think that it is great to see we have committed money to upgrade facilities at O'Callaghan Park, Zillmere; to install lighting to support rugby league at Albert Bishop Park, Nundah; and for the continuation of an Indigenous Community Sport and Recreation Officer program. This means that officer Piet Kailola will be able to continue his great work keeping kids healthy and active. As for the environment, we have looked after that too in the budget, because this government cares about the environment. We are delivering \$1.4 million for the Nudgee Beach Environmental Education Centre, to upgrade its facilities.

When it comes to roads, Nudgee has received much needed money. This budget has committed funding of over \$71 million towards the upgrade of the Gateway Motorway from Nudgee to Deagon. I know that commuters travelling during peak times should benefit greatly from this investment. Once completed, that will also ease the congestion on Sandgate Road.

And now for the big one—the one they said we couldn't deliver, the one they said would never be delivered. Well, here it is! It gives me great pleasure to say that this budget has committed the promised

dollars to deliver the Geebung rail overpass. That is truly a win, not only for the residents of Geebung but also for the residents of numerous surrounding suburbs within the electorate such as Wavell Heights, Chermside, Zillmere, Virginia and Boondall, and let us not forget the numerous suburbs outside the electorate that will be affected. That road is the corridor that links western suburbs such as Aspley and Albany Creek to the industrial areas such as Geebung, Virginia, Northgate and Banyo. That vital piece of infrastructure will take pressure off other overloaded streets and roads such as Ellison Road and Zillmere Road. Thanks to the partnership with the Brisbane City Council in delivering this vital piece of infrastructure, work has already begun.

This budget is a great budget for the people of Nudgee and for the people Queensland. I congratulate the Treasurer on a budget to get this state back on track. With that, I commend these bills to the House.