




Speech by
Jon Krause

MEMBER FOR BEAUDESERT

Hansard Wednesday, 31 October 2012

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

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Beaudesert—LNP) (4.20 pm): It is my pleasure to contribute to this debate on the Finance and Administration Committee's examination of the estimates of various departments. Although I was not a member of the Finance and Administration Committee, I have read the report that was tabled in parliament. I wish to refer in particular to the budget highlights noted in the report for Queensland Treasury and Trade at section 4.1, where it states that budget highlights for the department include—

- establishing and pursuing a fiscal strategy for returning the State Budget to fiscal balance by 2014-15 and responding to the Commission of Audit's recommendations.

I think this is the most important element of this budget in that we are pursuing a goal to balance the budget and put the state's finances back on track. Government members on this side of the House know that the only way to have a sustainable economy—where people can invest with confidence, where the government can invest in infrastructure on a proper basis and where we can address the cost of living for people in Queensland—is to have a fiscally balanced budget. We understand that, and the people in my electorate understand that as well. That is the main highlight from this budget, and I congratulate the Treasurer and Premier for putting that forward in the budget.

This is a once-in-a-generation budget. It will turn Queensland's finances around from the unsustainable debt addicted path which Labor had put us on. It will build towards a stronger future where Queenslanders can achieve a future where costs of living are restrained and where people can invest with confidence and optimism in a stable regulatory and fiscal environment which supports them, not hinders them as the former government did. The establishment of the Office of Best Practice Regulation goes some way to dealing with the impact of red tape and regulation in that it will free up small businesses, in particular, around this state so that we can actually grow them and not get in their way.

I am a member of the Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee. During our estimates hearings, we examined the budget estimates for three departments, and the chairman and other members of that committee will comment on those estimates a little later but I would like to touch on particular items in the budget at this time. The initiatives outlined by Minister Cripps in respect of mine safety and the streamlining of regulatory approvals for the resources sector will kick-start Queensland's economy and let the resources sector get on with developing and contributing to the economic future of the state. We will also ensure that Queensland's mining sector retains world's best practice in terms of safety and works with the Mines Inspectorate to ensure that Queensland mines are safe.

I thank the minister for his support in implementing the LNP's commitments in respect of mining and CSG production in the Scenic Rim. It is reassuring to see that we have a government now setting the rules and regulations for the resources sector in this state, and not the other way around—as so often occurred under the former government where communities were ignored and resource companies called the shots.

Minister McVeigh's department's estimates contained many commendable initiatives. I make particular mention of the investments in weed and pest management and the research funding to make

Queensland the food bowl of Asia. The implementation of green-tape reduction measures by Minister Powell will cut the costs of many small businesses across my electorate and across the state.

I will touch briefly on two other matters. State schools in my electorate have welcomed with open arms the government's terrific investment in maintenance, with \$200 million to fix the backlog which was left to them by the former government. Schools will go to market and will actually inject money into their community through local tradesmen and local businesses who will fix maintenance issues. This is a big shot in the arm. We are fixing these issues in state schools because it is the state government's responsibility to fix those issues.

Can I also mention the Get in the Game funding. This is a great initiative for Queensland and a great initiative for my electorate. Clubs can apply for \$100,000 in major facility grants and other grants to get people involved and participating in sport. This will lead to less pressure on our health system in the future. On that note, I want to congratulate a local league club in my electorate on their premiership win. In September, the Fassifern Bombers, led by Andrew Walker, won the Ipswich Rugby League competition by defeating Brothers in Ipswich, despite trailing 16-nil at half-time. They showed the true grit and determination of the Fassifern region and my entire electorate by clawing their way back from 16-nil down. It is a bit like the task we have in putting Queensland's finances back on track. I am sure the people of Fassifern and the people of Beaudesert commend this budget for its true grit and determination. I table certain documents in relation to that, and I commend the budget to the House.

Tabled paper: Three pages from the *Fassifern Guardian*, dated 19 September 2012 [[1453](#)].