



Speech by

Hon. Rachel Nolan

MEMBER FOR IPSWICH

Hansard Friday, 19 June 2009

**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL;
INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT (ASSET RESTRUCTURING AND
DISPOSAL) BILL; FUEL SUBSIDY REPEAL AND REVENUE AND
OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

Hon. RG NOLAN (Ipswich—ALP) (Minister for Transport) (9.20 pm): This is a budget which secures Queensland's future—restoring Queensland's finances while creating jobs through an \$18 billion infrastructure program and maintaining the services to cater for our growing population. With this budget the Bligh government is delivering more trains, more tracks and more services for Queenslanders. I just want to speak briefly about our \$3.6 billion transport infrastructure program.

The Bligh government has a strategy to extend rail lines and rail capacity in the outer suburbs while providing a network of busways in the inner suburbs in order to allow commuters to travel quickly through the system and to access the CBD. That strategy is continued in this budget through a massive infrastructure program.

There is more than \$155 million to continue our record investment in additional rolling stock, allowing us to continue rolling out one new train every month for the TransLink network. There is \$125 million this year to progress the Springfield to Darra railway line—one of the first extensions on the network in some time. There is \$62.7 million for track improvements to the north coast, mainly for the Caboolture to Beerburrum duplication which is well underway. There is \$97.3 million for the Gold Coast rail extension from Robina to Varsity Lakes, continuing this government's rebuilding of the Gold Coast railway after the National Party government ripped it up. There is, in addition, \$57 million for a third rail track between Corinda and Darra. This is a project which extends commuter capacity on the Ipswich line and allows for freight to come in from the south west.

There is \$300 million to ensure the innovative busway program continues to meet Brisbane's increasing population. There is \$171.8 million this year towards building the Northern Busway between Enoggera Creek and Kedron. There is \$138.2 million for the Eastern Busway connection between Buranda and Main Avenue at Coorparoo. This is a project which I note the member for Cleveland began to argue somehow did not exist. I do not know how one misses a line item for \$138.2 million, but there it is.

There is \$37.8 million towards building the Eastern Busway from Princess Alexandra Hospital to Buranda. Construction will include an elevated busway station at the PA Hospital and will be a key link in the regional busway network.

There is also \$135 million for the Gold Coast rapid transit project following the \$365 million allocation in last month's federal budget. This is a major project which will fundamentally transform the Gold Coast. It is one which was developed and is now being delivered by a Labor government.

Some \$162.7 million has been allocated for public transport in regional areas, including for long distance rail, coach and aviation services. I noted an interjection a moment ago from the member for

Barron River, who will recall that we are currently rolling out about 24 new buses in Cairns. This will provide air-conditioned and disability accessible buses for the people in that region.

This is a budget that takes the tough decisions to secure a strong future for Queensland. The Premier's Renewing Queensland Plan, announced a few weeks ago, will see Queensland assets reach their potential through the involvement of the private sector, allowing us to cut debt by around \$15 billion and alleviate further capital expenditure.

The government owned assets to be considered for sale include the Port of Brisbane, Queensland Rail's above and below rail coal business and the Abbot Point Coal Terminal. These sales will restore the state's finances to ensure the future growth of our state. It is also appropriate that the government withdraw from mature assets in order to meet the challenges of our future—that is, developing infant industries, providing social services to ensure equity and meeting the fundamental challenge of sustainability.

This budget also sees the government continuing its very strong commitment to Ipswich. That is something that I very much welcome. The government, through its regional plan, very deliberately seeks to establish Ipswich and the western corridor as growing and sustainable urban centres. I very much welcome the fact that capital commitment is continuing in this much more difficult economic environment.

There is \$27 million for completion of the new Ipswich magistrate and district courts. There is more than \$5 million for the replacement of the Ipswich Police Station and watch-house and nearly \$3 million to complete the new ambulance station in Ipswich.

The Bligh government is protecting and creating jobs in Ipswich, delivering \$1.6 million at Booval to replace transformer and switch gear for increased electricity network capacity, a similar amount at Raceview and another \$1.8 million at Raceview for feeder works to improve electricity network capacity.

The Bligh government is similarly delivering better transport and safer roads in Ipswich. For example, there is \$3.4 million to complete asphalt resurfacing on Warwick Road between Parker Avenue and the Cunningham Highway. There is \$1.1 million for a project, which the community has been looking forward to, to continue the asphalt overlay on Swanbank Road between South Station Road and Sussex Street.

The Bligh government is also investing in health services in Ipswich. For example, we are providing \$4.15 million for the expansion of the Ipswich Hospital in order to provide an additional 84 beds to meet growth and service demand.

Most notably, the Bligh government fundamentally believes that education is the thing that allows people from all backgrounds to have the best possible opportunities in life. We went to the last election with two key commitments for new schools. One was \$23 million for a new school by relocating the Amberley State School, which is being forced to close as a result of RAAF base expansion, to Yamamoto. We also made a commitment to rebuild the Bremer State High School. This budget delivers on that commitment with \$35.86 million for that school.

Further, there is \$9.23 million in this budget for a fundamental rebuilding, not just renewal, of the Bundamba State School and \$13.73 million for State Schools of Tomorrow renewal at the Silkstone State School. Those projects were an absolutely fundamental difference between the government and the old National Party at the last election. The National Party made it very clear that should it be elected none of those projects would go ahead. There is in total more than \$100 million of spending for Ipswich schools, which will provide first-class facilities for children who, until now, have been educated in schools which, simply by dint of the National Party era in which they were built, were not built properly and are in quite poor condition.

I welcome both the Bligh government's absolute commitment to public transport as a means of meeting the challenge of sustainability in the future and its ongoing commitment to Ipswich as a means of allowing that growing regional centre to grow sustainably and meet population growth in the future.

This is a budget that makes tough decisions, and it is a budget that makes the right decisions and makes them responsibly. It is disappointing that our colleagues opposite simply stand nowhere on these matters, and I commend the budget bills to the House.