



Speech by

Hon. Geoff Wilson

MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE

Hansard Thursday, 7 June 2007

CLEAN COAL TECHNOLOGY SPECIAL AGREEMENT BILL; APPROPRIATION BILLS

Hon. GJ WILSON (Ferny Grove-ALP) (Minister for Mines and Energy) (5.44 pm): I am delighted by the intervention of the Minister for State Development.

Congratulations to the Treasurer and Deputy Premier on an excellent budget for Queensland, which will help build Queensland's future. This will benefit all Queenslanders and, in particular, residents in the Ferny Grove electorate.

Schools and other vital infrastructure to help Queensland cope with unprecedented population increases are the central feature of the state government budget for the Ferny Grove area. The government has allocated more than \$500 million to build and upgrade schools and training facilities across the state. That is vital if we are to keep up with the increasing numbers of people who are moving to Queensland each week.

Education is particularly pertinent to an electorate like Ferny Grove where many new families are choosing to settle. I am pleased to announce that, in this year's budget, over \$600,000 has been allocated to the Ferny Grove electorate for important school building maintenance work such as reroofing and repainting, traffic improvements in and around schools, classroom upgrades and the provision of school bus shelters.

Education funding for schools in the Ferny Grove electorate includes: \$75,000 for reroofing at Samford State School; \$65,000 for traffic improvements to set-down areas at Samford State School; \$50,000 for reticulation at Patrick's Road State School; \$50,000 for repainting at Ferny Hills State School; \$46,000 to provide before and after school care and vacation care for school-age and under school-age children at eight local schools; \$45,000 to establish enhanced physical activity and healthy eating opportunities at St Andrews catholic school; \$40,000 for repainting at Mitchelton State School; \$39,000 to Mount Nebo State School for the provision of a multifunctional learning area; \$35,000 for reroofing at Ferny Grove State School; \$33,000 to Ferny Grove State School for the Feeling Great Activity Centre; \$30,000 to Mitchelton State High School for the hospitality kitchen; \$20,000 for maintenance at Ferny Grove State High School; \$20,000 for repainting at Mitchelton State High School; \$20,000 to remodel pedestrian signals at Ferny Hills State School; and \$10,000 for repainting at Mount Nebo State School.

Training

Within the greater Brisbane area, \$3.63 million has been allocated to provide additional training places to meet skills shortages in the region, at a total cost of \$24.42 million. Depending on demand, 6,630 additional training places can be allocated to the region by 2010.

Family members living in the Ferny Grove electorate will also benefit from the following: \$22.84 million on the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program, targeting employment assistance specifically at disadvantaged Queenslanders living in Brisbane and creating 2,930 jobs in 2007-08; and \$4.64 million to provide training for disadvantaged Queenslanders living in the greater Brisbane region to improve their skills and employment prospects, at a total cost of \$13.92 million over three years.

Health services

A record budget of \$7.15 billion will continue to drive the reforms of the Health Action Plan that are improving Queensland's health system. This means better mental health services, more hospital beds, and record numbers of doctors and nurses. In addition, \$635 million will be spent building world-class infrastructure that will take our health system into the next decade. A sum of \$50 million across the state has been allocated to purchase new health technology equipment, including patient monitoring systems and other life-saving apparatus. A sum of \$2 million has been allocated to operate a 24/7 statewide Health Contact Centre for health information, referral and triage services, at a total cost of \$8.76 million. A sum of \$69,000 will be provided to community organisations under the Home and Community Care Program, which provides support and maintenance services for eligible people at home to prevent early admission to residential care.

Police and emergency services

In 2007-08 across Queensland, the government will be recruiting 250 new ambulance staff as part of a \$50 million injection to the Queensland Ambulance Service to meet growing demand for services.

Public safety is very important. The budget includes provision for 200 extra police officers. This brings the total number of sworn officers in the Queensland Police Service to a record 9,928 by October 2008. This will maintain Queensland's police to population ratio at better than the national average.

A sum of \$510,000 will be provided to continue the work of the Australian Child Offender Register, which is a national database for the management of offenders who commit serious offences against children. A sum of \$15.65 million is allocated for the commissioning of over 140 new ambulances across the state to replace older vehicles.

If we get the correct infrastructure in place today, we will not be struggling to accommodate our residents' needs tomorrow. In the area of Transport and Main Roads, the state government has commenced a detailed study into the future transport network needs of western and north-western Brisbane in the areas surrounding Ipswich and Caboolture. The total cost of the project is \$16.17 million and \$7.39 million has been allocated for concept planning in 2007-08.

Work is continuing on the Ferny Grove railway line duplicating the track between Mitchelton and Keperra, constructing new stations at Grovely and Oxford Park and noise reduction barriers. That work is part of an allocation of \$274.78 million to upgrade the Queensland Rail network as part of the South East Queensland Infrastructure Plan, at a total cost of \$702.57 million.

Over \$2.2 million has been allocated for maintenance work on main roads in the Ferny Grove electorate. That includes \$900,000 to complete the installation of a guardrail on Mount Glorious Road—15.61 kilometres—at a total cost of \$1 million funded from the Queensland government's Safer Roads Sooner program. There is an allocation of \$687,000 to complete the bitumen chip reseal between Browns Road and the Pine Rivers shire boundary on Mount Glorious Road at a total cost of \$1.17 million. There is an allocation of \$470,000 to complete drainage improvement on Mount Glorious Road—12 kilometres—at a total cost of \$500,000 also funded from the Queensland government's Safer Roads Sooner program. Finally, there is an allocation of \$40,000 to construct bikeways at various locations in the Pine Rivers Shire, with a total state government contribution of \$355,527.

The government is undertaking an unprecedented expansion of urban water infrastructure with the \$9 billion south-east Queensland water grid. Once completed, the water grid will not only secure more water for the region but also enable water to be moved to areas of most need. There is \$81 million for the Home WaterWise Rebate Scheme, which offers rebates for water-saving devices such as rainwater tanks, washing machines, shower heads, dual-flush toilets and pool covers across south-east Queensland and the Darling Downs at a total cost of \$175 million. Additional infrastructure funding in the electorate includes \$1.79 million to establish a new high-voltage electricity feeder to Samford and \$225,000 to assist with the Samford parkland stage 1A development.

More support than ever is being provided to help Queensland families and their communities. This year's budget announced a record Queensland housing assistance package of \$719 million, including a massive \$479 million house building program. In addition, more support than ever before is being provided to help Queensland families and communities. The Ferny Grove electorate will benefit from \$651,000 allocated to libraries across the Pine Rivers area, \$482,000 to assist people with a disability and their families to live and participate in the community, \$286,000 for supporting young people through the education system and \$263,000 to implement a program that addresses the needs of Indigenous young people.

This is a fantastic budget that helps to build a stronger Queensland. Although I look forward to serving the people of Queensland through my new role as Minister for Mines and Energy, I will continue my strong advocacy for the people of the Ferny Grove electorate. I commend the bill to the House.