

19 June, 2001

BUDGET DELIVERS ELECTION COMMITMENTS

The State Budget delivered on every election commitment the Beattie Government pledged earlier this year, the Deputy Premier and Treasurer, Mr Terry Mackenroth, said today.

“We have a proud record of having delivered on the promises we make and this Budget will ensure that record is maintained,” Mr Mackenroth said.

“There is not one broken promise.

“Unlike the Opposition we did not try to hoodwink Queensland taxpayers with wildly extravagant promises that we knew we could not afford to keep.

“Instead we focussed on key areas such as jobs, health, education and families and put forward policies that were financially responsible and would deliver real results for Queenslanders.

“In contrast the then National and Liberal Coalition racked up a staggering \$1.7 Billion in promises they could not have possibly kept without hefty tax increases or slashing services.

“The Queensland taxpayers saw straight through this smokescreen and voted in record numbers for Labor’s strong record of economic management.

“Today’s Budget repays the faith they put in our Government.”

Mr Mackenroth said the Labor election promises were contained in 35 central policies and 14 regional plans for areas as diverse as Charters Towers and the Gold Coast.

A selection of the initiatives in policy commitments to be upheld include:

- \$10 Million over three years for eight new centres of excellence in mathematics, science and technology (*Policy - Technology, Maths and Science in the Smart State*);
- \$50 Million over three years for the Triple R Maintenance Program (repainting, re-roofing and reticulation) to improve the appearance of schools and enhance the attractiveness of the learning environment (*Policy - A Safer and Supportive Schooling Environment Policy*);

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- \$5 Million to help 16,500 people waiting the longest for public dental health services (*Policy - Attacking Dental Waiting Times for Our Queensland Seniors*);
- \$10 Million over five years to fund the Great Walks of Queensland (*Policy -The Great Walks of Queensland – Enjoying the People’s Estate*);
- \$20 Million over two years to reduce waiting lists for elective surgery (*Policy –Health: Supporting our World Class Public Health System*);
- \$20 Million over two years for the Youth for the Environment and Local Communities Program to create traineeships for young people focussing on environmental protection, horticulture and waste management (*Policy: Investing in our Young Queenslanders*);
- \$10 Million over two years for the Aerospace Centre of Excellence (*Policy: Queensland Takes Off*);
- \$2.8 Million over four years to establish ten additional police beats and police beat shopfronts (*Policy: Tough on Crime, Tough on the Causes of Crime: 2001 and Beyond*); and
- \$40 Million over four years for national park maintenance, funding up to 140 new park rangers and the equipment and supplies to help them maintain our National Park estate (*Policy: Protecting our Natural Assets*).

Mr Mackenroth said all of the election commitments had been met and the Beattie Government had honoured their pledge of ‘Putting Queensland First’.

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