

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

TUESDAY, 21 AUGUST 1962

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THIRD SESSION OF THE THIRTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT

Appointed to meet

AT BRISBANE ON THE TWENTY-FIRST DAY OF AUGUST, IN THE ELEVENTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II., IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD 1962.

TUESDAY, 21 AUGUST, 1962

OPENING OF PARLIAMENT

Pursuant to the proclamation by His Excellency the Governor, dated 12 July, 1962, appointing Parliament to meet this day for the dispatch of business, the House met at 2 p.m. in the late Legislative Council Chamber.

The Clerk read the proclamation.

GOVERNOR'S OPENING SPEECH

At 2 p.m. His Excellency the Governor came in state to Parliament House, was announced by the Sergeant-at-Arms, received by Mr. Speaker (Hon. D. E. Nicholson) at the entrance to the Chamber, and accompanied to the dais.

Honourable members being seated, His Excellency read the following Opening Speech:—

“HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY:

“Her Majesty The Queen's approval of the recommendation of our Premier and his Government that my term of office as Governor of Queensland should be extended has filled the hearts of my wife and myself with joy.

“We have the deepest affection for the great family of Queenslanders, who, one and all, have extended to us such warm-hearted kindness and friendliness. We will do our utmost to uphold the trust so graciously shown us by Our Queen.

“I pray that I may be granted wisdom and strength during my continued service to Queensland and its people.

“You have been summoned to attend this, the Third Session of the Thirty-sixth Parliament of Queensland, to consider important business of concern to the people of this State, which arose during the Second Session of the present Parliament, and to consider

legislative proposals which my Ministers have prepared for submission to the present Parliament.

“The news that Her Majesty The Queen of Australia will visit her subjects in Queensland during March fills the heart of every Australian with happiness. We cannot manage without the personal touch in human affairs. It is the veneration and affection of Her Majesty's peoples for her person which is such an important factor in cementing our large family of nations.

“His Majesty The King of Thailand will visit Queensland in September. His Majesty is the first reigning foreign sovereign to visit this State and a warm welcome awaits him. The friendly Thai people and we Australians are linked together to uphold freedom in South-east Asia. We share many aspirations and problems.

“During the past twelve months my wife and I have visited Shires in Northern, Central, and Southern Queensland. We have been heartened to see how quickly the grasses, herbs, and plants have recovered in most districts from the break in drought conditions which had persisted for the last four years.

“This season I pray that the patience, courage, and hard work of the men of the land will receive reward in full measure.

“I trust that the revival in our greatest of all industries, the produce of the land, will stimulate secondary and tertiary industries so that our aim of full employment may be attained.

“My Ministers inform me that the financial year which has just concluded resulted in a surplus of £109,719. This was an improvement of £753,293 on the deficit of £643,574 anticipated when the budget was presented.

“The net cost of running the State railways showed a slight improvement over the previous year. Had there not been a considerable loss of revenue due to industrial trouble at the Mount Isa Mines, the result would have been substantially improved.

"Expenditure from Trust and Special Funds was £84,806,255 and from Loan Fund £30,688,347. Included in the above expenditures are £7,062,362 on the re-construction of Mount Isa Railway and £3,677,891 on the erection of school buildings and colleges.

"For the first time advances approved by the Agricultural Bank under the several Acts administered by it have exceeded £5 million in a financial year. The actual amount approved in 1961-1962 was £5,003,140.

"The increase in the Life Fund of the State Government Insurance Office constituted another new record, £2,284,475 being added to the Fund.

"During the year the Office invested £287,000 with Co-operative Housing Societies and £4,000,000 with Local Bodies, making the total invested with Local Bodies more than £40,000,000.

"The State's activities continue to demand additional development to meet the growing expansion of overseas trade. By the end of the current financial year reclamation work on 250 acres of an oil refinery site at Brisbane is expected to be completed.

"At Weipa the construction of bauxite loading facilities is now being given attention. Additional wharf accommodation and loading facilities at Gladstone required for coal export are under way, and work on the construction of new wharf facilities has commenced at Port Alma. Deepening of the channel at Bundaberg is at a stage where tankers and fully laden sugar ships are freely using the port.

"The Biological Sciences Building and the new Anatomy Building at the University of Queensland at St. Lucia are now in occupation.

"Excavation for tunnels and other underground works for the Barron River hydro-electric extension project was practically completed by June 30. Production of electricity is planned to commence before the peak winter loads of 1963.

"Preliminary work has commenced on the construction of two new major power stations, one at Swanbank, near Ipswich, and the other on the Callide coalfield, estimated to cost £36 million and £23 million respectively.

"It is probable that a new industrial estate will shortly be established in the metropolitan area by an overseas development company. Additional land is being acquired at Rocklea for planned expansion of industrial activity in that area.

"To June 30, 1962, approval had been given under 'The Labour and Industry Acts, 1946 to 1961,' for financial assistance to industries totalling £3,343,059. During 1961-1962, seven applications involving almost £43,000 were approved.

"Collections of the Queensland Government Tourist Bureau for the year ended June 30, 1962, were the highest on record, aggregating £1,892,955.

"The value of tourists' expenditure in Queensland is an estimated £38 million per annum. The employment created by such expenditure is widespread and of great value to the economy of the State.

"Development of an extensive area of brigalow soils in the Fitzroy River Basin has been investigated for closer settlement. This scheme will provide holdings for some 400 or more new settlers on blocks that have been partly developed. The Commonwealth Government has provided in the Federal Budget for a grant of £1,750,000 to assist this project.

"New roads to serve allotments for sale by the Crown have been built in 13 localities: the completed work cost the Crown £25,000. Eleven more such projects and three for construction of roads to serve new selections will be undertaken this financial year.

"To date almost £500,000 has been spent in clearing *Harrisia Cactus* from land in the Collinsville district. New leases of 43 holdings have been granted at low rentals. Lease conditions require the pulling of brigalow scrubs and clearing of *Harrisia Cactus*.

"Increasing use is being made by primary producers of technical and financial assistance provided under the Farm Water Supplies Assistance Act. A total of 160 applications for financial assistance was approved in 1961-1962. Loan advances totalled £245,000.

"Sixty-one new farms are now occupied in the Mareeba-Dimbulah irrigation area. The total channel mileage is 130.

"The total area of tobacco grown during the past season amounted to 9,610 acres, an increase of 1,890 acres. The leaf produced sold for £5½ million, which is a record for the district, and is an increase of £700,000 over the production from the area for 1960-1961.

"My Ministers have approved construction of additional channels to serve an area near Mareeba and the Paddy's Green Area, at an estimated cost of £1,900,000.

"In 1960-1961, Queensland's area under crops exceeded 3 million acres for the first time. A further increase is expected to be revealed by figures for 1961-1962. For this year's wheat crop alone the anticipated acreage is 800,000.

"To keep pace with this expanding wheat production, the Queensland Wheat Research Institute, to cost about £130,000, will be opened at Toowoomba in September. It is being financed by the grain growers of Queensland and will be staffed by officers of the Department of Agriculture and Stock. The Queensland Government has contributed £40,000 by way of loan.

"Queensland's tobacco production in 1961-1962 (14 million lb.) was more than half the Australian total. Tobacco, valued at £7,683,000 for 1960-1961, is quickly overhauling wheat which is now second to sugar cane in the list of Queensland's major crops.

"The 1962 sugar season will result in an all-time record production. Sugar shipments from Queensland ports to overseas destinations will exceed 1 million tons, the greatest quantity ever exported from any one season's production.

"After two years of intensive negotiation, Australia has been able to break into the U.S.A. sugar market, and, although relatively insignificant in quantity, it could be of great importance in the long-term view.

"One of the pleasing aspects of a significant sugar season has been Japan's decision to buy our sugar in bulk. This will expedite the delivery of Japan's order of 310,000 tons, which will be a mutual saving to both countries.

"Apple production reached 1½ million bushels and achieved a record export of 200,000 bushels.

"The State's overall mineral production in 1961 amounted to £46,246,204, a decrease of £7,766,146 on 1960. The principal cause of this reduction was industrial trouble, which culminated in an eight weeks' stoppage at Mount Isa Mines Ltd.

"Gold and copper production fell, but production of zinc and tin increased. Coal production also showed an increase.

"Mary Kathleen Uranium Ltd. achieved its best output to date with a production of uranium of 860 tons valued at £8,525,000, compared with 663 tons valued at £6,509,718 in 1960.

"At Weipa, the Commonwealth Aluminium Corporation Pty. Ltd. mined 50,000 tons of bauxite. Of this output, 30,000 tons of beneficiated ore were shipped to Japan for testing purposes, and 10,000 tons to Bell Bay. The value of this production was £100,000.

"The discovery of oil in the Cabawin No. 1 well was followed by the promise of commercial production from the Moonie wells. The commencement of the supply of natural gas from two Roma wells to the Roma town power station on a commercial basis, has been followed by the discovery of additional gas resources in the Glentulloch and Westgrove No. 2 wells near Injune.

"These significant discoveries have led to the stepping up of exploration activities in Queensland.

"Expenditure from the Main Roads Fund in 1961-1962 was £16,491,121. Of this amount £9,025,700 represented expenditure on permanent works and £2,878,765 on the maintenance of roads.

"In addition, £1,280,939 was spent from special funds appropriated for the development of roads in the Channel and Gulf Country to facilitate the movement of cattle by truck transport.

"Amounts of £2,259,500 and £498,831 were granted to Local Authorities by way of Commonwealth Aid, and Roads (Contribution to Maintenance) allocations respectively.

"All works to provide a completely bitumen surfaced road between Coolangatta and Mossman are under way or nearing completion.

"From July 1, 1962, the Education Department accepted responsibility for aboriginal schools at Cherbourg, Woorabinda, Palm Island and Yarrabah. Children of aboriginal descent will be given equal educational opportunities with those of other Queensland children.

"This year a second School of the Air will be opened at Charters Towers, to be operated in conjunction with the Royal Flying Doctor Service. With the service at Cloncurry, the new school will serve isolated children from the western border to the east coast.

"The introduction in 1964 of the new scheme for secondary education means the provision of secondary education for all, and the eventual raising of the compulsory school age to 15 years. There will be a great increase in secondary school enrolments. These now stand at 38,000, compared with 15,000 in 1957. In the same period, 30 new high schools and 28 secondary departments have been established, making a total of 62 high schools and 50 secondary departments.

"Fourteen more high schools and 13 secondary departments will be established in 1962-1963. An additional 10 high schools will be required in 1964.

"Technical instruction by correspondence is now being provided to students in 11 countries, in addition to the service available to 298 students throughout Queensland.

"In 1961 the Queensland Agricultural College at Lawes was attended by 851 full-time and part-time students. These included overseas students from 11 countries, of whom 27 are undertaking diploma courses and three degree courses.

"An opportunity school has been established on the Gold Coast, and a rebuilding programme at the School for the Deaf and Blind has been planned.

"Research has been conducted into television as a teaching medium in primary schools, and reading improvement courses for secondary school pupils and adults have been introduced.

"Some 48,000 British migrants, including professional men and skilled tradesmen, have arrived in Queensland since the assisted passage scheme came into operation in 1947.

"The State Migration Office continues to give settlement assistance to non-British migrants.

"Cottage Hospitals have been constructed to a standard plan at Theodore, Injune, and Sarina and new Hospitals of this type will be built this year at Tara, Hervey Bay, and Taroom.

"A tender of £106,000 has been accepted for the erection of a new Maternity Hospital at Kingaroy.

"New Maternal and Child Welfare Centres are being erected at Cloncurry and Ayr.

"Further additions have been planned for Lawson House at the Brisbane General Hospital for the treatment and accommodation of short term patients and a neuro-psychiatric unit is being constructed at Chermiside Hospital.

"A new Psychiatric Unit is expected to commence at Townsville Hospital before the end of the year.

"In 1961-1962, 181,574 persons over 14 years of age were X-rayed as part of the campaign for the eradication of tuberculosis. This number included persons who were X-rayed by the Mobile X-ray Unit in Mackay, Rockhampton, Ipswich, South Coast, Brisbane Valley, and Lockyer Valley areas. The Chest Clinic has been removed to new quarters on Wickham Terrace and the compulsory X-ray survey of the Greater Brisbane Area will commence this year.

"Sixty-three of a contract for 91 stainless steel suburban carriages were received into railway traffic during the year and this has permitted the withdrawal of carriages of obsolete type.

"The stock of locomotives has been augmented by five Main Line Diesel Electric Locomotives. A contract was let for 12 light Diesel Electric Locomotives which will be used in the Western Areas to provide improved train services, particularly for the transport of livestock and wool.

"Nine major construction contracts have been let for the Townsville-Mount Isa Railway and work on the project is well ahead of schedule.

"The wide use of road transport permitted under the State Transport Act of 1960 resulted in a consistent expansion in the country areas. Many of the restrictions originally imposed on transport by road have been lifted and Permit Fees lightened where the overall revenue budget position has permitted it.

"The movement of goods is a matter very closely bound up with the economy of the State and it will continue to receive the attention of my Ministers.

"During the year the validity of the State Transport Act of 1960 was challenged in the Courts but the cases have not yet reached finality. In the meantime a validating Act was introduced and passed all stages during a special Session of Parliament in June, 1962.

"Expenditure by the Department of Public Works on buildings during 1961-1962 was £8,244,421. Of this amount £4,200,058, or 50.9 per cent. was spent on educational buildings.

"Seven new Primary Schools were completed and additional classroom accommodation was provided at a number of other Primary Schools.

"First sections of new High Schools were completed or are under construction at Cleveland, Inala, Chinchilla, and Brassall.

"A total of 189 new classrooms was provided at existing State High Schools.

"Wings 2 and 3 of the University College at Townsville and Refectory Building are under construction and erection of Wing No. 4 has been authorised.

"Our Queensland Public Service continues to give its wholehearted support to the Government in its endeavours to develop the State and improve the social conditions of its people.

"Salaries comparing favourably with those in other Public Services and Instrumentalities, a greatly improved Superannuation scheme, and the operation of a scheme for housing of country officers have contributed to better recruitment and the retention within the Service of skilled and experienced officers.

"Induction Courses for new entrants to the Service and Internal Training Courses which are now features of administration are benefiting officers and improving Service efficiency.

"Among the legislative measures which you will be asked to consider this Session will be—

A Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to the Occupation, Leasing, and Alienation of Crown land, bringing within the compass of one statute the land laws of Queensland.

A Bill to make new provision for the treatment and care of mentally ill persons, and with respect to their property and affairs.

A Bill to make new provision for sub-normal persons, including the care, training, and treatment of those persons.

A Bill providing for an agreement between the State of Queensland and Thiess Peabody Coal Pty. Ltd. with respect to the large scale production and export of coal, and construction of a railway from the Kianga-Moura coalfield to a port.

A Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to the Constitution of the Central Sugar Cane Prices Board and of Local Sugar Cane Prices Boards, and to regulate the powers and duties of such Boards.

"I invite your earnest consideration of all matters that may be brought before you and I pray that the blessings of Divine Providence may attend your labours."

His Excellency then left the Chamber.

Mr. Speaker announced that the sitting would be continued in the Legislative Assembly Chamber, where he took the chair at 2.31 p.m.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

Hon. G. F. R. NICKLIN (Landsborough—Premier): I move—

"That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 11 a.m. tomorrow."

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 2.32 p.m.
