



**SEATH HOLSWICH MP STATE MEMBER FOR PINE RIVERS**

## **SPEECH IN PARLIAMENT**

**31<sup>st</sup> October 2012**

# **APPROPRIATION BILL (STATE DEVELOPMENT INFRASTRUCTURE AND INDUSTRY COMMITTEE REPORT)**

I thank the House for this opportunity to speak about the estimates process and about the hearings held by the State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee. I think what we saw in our committee's estimates hearing and what we have heard again this afternoon from the Leader of the Opposition was a stark contrast between the priorities of the Newman government and those of the floundering Labor opposition members with their ongoing delusions of adequacy.

What we saw was a government with a plan, a well-thought-out and highly strategic plan to strengthen the Queensland economy and a plan to build our state's future around the four pillars of construction, resources, tourism and agriculture.

In my brief contribution today I want to highlight a few aspects of this positive plan that were discussed during the estimates process. The Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning addressed some of the major initiatives being undertaken by the Newman government to boost economic development in our state.

There are multiple initiatives to ensure Queensland has the most competitive business environment of any Australian state, these being things such as the implementation of a comprehensive program of planning reform, halving the approval time for major projects, abolishing the waste levy and increasing the payroll tax threshold over the next six years. These last two items particularly are resonating with small and medium business operators in Pine Rivers. You can almost hear the sighs of relief when they hear that this government is lifting many of the burdens placed on them by the previous government. This government is getting out of the way of Pine Rivers businesses and letting them get on with their jobs.

We also have marquee projects planned, such as the 1 William Street redevelopment. Whilst the opposition want to sit here day after day and bemoan the fact that we are providing opportunities such as this to strengthen the industry, we will just keep getting on with the job of building a better Queensland.

The tourism industry is one of many industries that suffered at the hands of the previous Labor government so it has been pleasing to hear more detail on some of the Newman government's initiatives to make Queensland the No.1 tourism destination of the country again. As the minister for tourism is well aware, I have a particular passion for the local tourism industry in the Pine Rivers and Moreton Bay region. I am excited about the potential under this government's leadership to see my local tourism grow and strengthen and to see the number of local tourism jobs increase significantly in coming years.

It is encouraging to hear that the Newman government is more than doubling total grant funding for Queensland's regional tourist organisations from \$3.11 million to \$7 million in 2012-13. It is also a positive move for Queensland's tourism industry that specialist units such as the Tourism Investment Attraction Unit have been established as part of the government's strategy to double visitor expenditure to \$30 billion per year by 2020.

The Destination Q forum held in Cairns in June this year was an important catalyst event that showed the tourism industry the strong intent of this government to strengthen our tourism sector. Whilst the small minded opposition during estimates seemed fixated on every dollar of the \$220,062.96 that it cost to put on Destination Q, this government knows that this investment has no doubt already paid for itself many times over in its benefit to the Queensland tourism industry.

Small businesses are also significant winners out of this budget and under the Newman government in general. This budget shows, amongst other things, that our government will be innovative and responsive to the needs of small businesses in an endeavour to assist them to succeed.

The renewal of small business training programs is one area that highlights this government's understanding of how small business operates. We understand that many small and micro businesses do not have the capacity to send staff to whole-day or half-day seminars no matter how beneficial they might be. It is a reality of small business that if staff are away then your ability to service your customers is severely diminished or extinguished completely. For this reason I am excited to see the renewal of the [business.qld.gov.au](http://business.qld.gov.au) website and the increased provision of webinars and internet based resources for small businesses. This use of technology in my opinion is a much more efficient and effective way of spending government money and gives much needed flexibility to business operators who want to take up training and learning opportunities.

As I said in commencing this short contribution, this estimates process has highlighted the stark contrast between the Newman government and the Labor opposition. It demonstrated that this government has a well-thought-out strategic plan for Queensland's future and that we have wasted no time in getting on with the job of building a better Queensland.