



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF QUEENSLAND

1ST SESSION OF THE 52ND PARLIAMENT

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

NO. 1 – TUESDAY, 10 OCTOBER 2006

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PROCLAMATION CONVENING THE PARLIAMENT

The Assembly met at 9.00 am pursuant to the Proclamation of Her Excellency the Governor dated 28 September 2006 which was read by the Clerk, viz—

Constitution of Queensland 2001

ELIZABETH THE SECOND, by the Grace of God, Queen of Australia and Her other Realms and Territories, Head of the Commonwealth.

I, QUENTIN BRYCE, Governor, acting under sections 15(1) and 18 of the *Constitution of Queensland 2001*, in the name of Her Majesty summon the Legislative Assembly of Queensland to a session to commence at 9.00 am on 10 October 2006 at Parliament House, George Street, Brisbane.

Signed and sealed with the public seal of the State on 28 September 2006.

By Command

[SIGNED]

P D BEATTIE

RECORDED in the Register of Patents, No. 47 page 2, on 28 September 2006.

[signed] P J Vidgen
Clerk of the Executive Council

Paper: The Clerk tabled the following paper—

Proclamation under the Public Seal of the State, issued on 28 September 2006, summoning the Legislative Assembly to a session to commence at 9.00 am on 10 October 2006 at Parliament House.

COMMISSION TO OPEN PARLIAMENT

The Clerk informed the House that Her Excellency the Governor caused the following Commission to be issued under the Public Seal of the State, appointing the Honourable Peter Douglas Beattie, the Honourable Anna Maria Bligh and the Honourable Robert Evan Schwarten as Commissioners in Order to cause the Opening and Holding of this Session of Parliament, viz—

ELIZABETH THE SECOND, by the Grace of God, Queen of Australia and Her other Realms and Territories, Head of the Commonwealth.

To the Honourable PETER DOUGLAS BEATTIE and the Honourable ANNA MARIA BLIGH and the Honourable ROBERT EVAN SCHWARTEN.

I, QUENTIN BRYCE, Governor, authorise you, or any of you—

- (a) in my name and on my behalf to open the session of the Legislative Assembly of Queensland to commence on 10 October 2006; and
- (b) to do in my name and on my behalf anything required to be done in the name of Her Majesty or of the Governor in relation to the opening and holding of the session.

Signed and sealed with the Public Seal of the State on 28 September 2006.

By Command

[SIGNED]

P D BEATTIE

RECORDED in the Register of Patents, No. 47, page 3, on 28 September 2006.

[signed] P J Vidgen
Clerk of the Executive Council

Paper: The Clerk tabled the following paper—

Commission under the Public Seal of the State, dated 28 September 2006, authorising Peter Douglas Beattie, Anna Maria Bligh and Robert Evan Schwarten to open the Parliament on 10 October 2006.

COMMISSION TO ADMINISTER OATH OR AFFIRMATION

Premier and Minister for Trade (Mr Beattie) said—

‘Honourable Members—

I have it in command from Her Excellency the Governor to inform you that, as soon as the Members of the Legislative Assembly have been sworn, the causes of this Parliament being called together will be declared to you. It being necessary that a Speaker be first chosen, it is Her Excellency's pleasure that you proceed to the election of one of your number to be your Speaker and that you present such person so chosen to Her Excellency the Governor at such time and place as Her Excellency shall appoint.

I produce a commission under the public seal of the state authorising the Hon. Peter Douglas Beattie, the Hon. Anna Maria Bligh and the Hon. Robert Evan Schwarten, or any one of them, to administer to any Member of the Legislative Assembly of Queensland the oath or affirmation of allegiance and office that is required by law to be taken or made and subscribed by every Member before the Member is permitted to sit or vote in the Legislative Assembly, which I will now ask the Clerk to read.'

The Clerk then read the Commission, viz—

Constitution of Queensland 2001

To the Honourable PETER DOUGLAS BEATTIE and the Honourable ANNA MARIA BLIGH and the Honourable ROBERT EVAN SCHWARTEN.

I, QUENTIN BRYCE, Governor, acting under section 22 of the *Constitution of Queensland 2001*, authorise you, or any of you, to administer to any member of the Legislative Assembly of Queensland the Oath or Affirmation of Allegiance and of Office that is required to be taken or made by every member before the member is permitted to sit or vote in the Legislative Assembly.

Signed and sealed with the Public Seal of the State on 28 September 2006.

By Command

[SIGNED]

P D BEATTIE

RECORDED in the Register of Patents, No. 47, page 4, on 28 September 2006.

[signed] P Vidgen
Clerk of the Executive Council

Paper: The Clerk tabled the following paper—

Commission under the Public Seal of the State, dated 28 September 2006, authorising Peter Douglas Beattie, Anna Maria Bligh and Robert Evan Schwarten to administer to any member the oath or affirmation.

RETURN OF WRIT

The Clerk informed the House that the Writ for the various Electoral Districts had been returned to him and Gazetted as follows:—

Albert—	Burdekin—	Cook—
Margaret Majella Keech	Rosemary Norma Menkens	Jason Danial O'Brien
Alger—	Burleigh—	Cunningham—
Karen Lee Struthers	Christine Anne Smith	Stuart William Copeland
Ashgrove—	Burnett—	Currumbin—
Kate Jennifer Jones	Robert Desmond Messenger	Janet Anne Stuckey
Aspley—	Cairns—	Darling Downs—
Veronica Lesley Barry	Desley Boyle	Raymond Gordon Hopper
Barron River—	Callide—	Everton—
Stephen Peter Wettenhall	Jeffrey William Seeney	Rodney Jon Welford
Beaudesert—	Caloundra—	Ferry Grove—
Kevin Rowson Lingard	Mark Francis McArdle	Geoffrey James Wilson
Brisbane Central—	Capalaba—	Fitzroy—
Peter Douglas Beattie	Michael Wai-Man Choi	James Pearce
Broadwater—	Charters Towers—	Gaven—
Peta-Kaye Croft	Shane Andrew Knuth	Philip Roy Gray
Bulimba—	Chatsworth—	Gladstone—
Patrick Douglas Purcell	Chris Bombolas	Elizabeth Anne Cunningham
Bundaberg—	Clayfield—	Glass House—
John Mark Dempsey	Timothy James Nicholls	Carolyn Therese Male
Bundamba—	Cleveland—	Greenslopes—
Jo-Ann Roslyn Miller	Phillip John Weightman	Gary Bernard Fenlon

Gregory— Vaughan Gregory Johnson	Mirani— George Edward Malone	Rockhampton— Robert Evan Schwarten
Gympie— David Francis Gibson	Moggill— Bruce Flegg	Sandgate— Vicky Elizabeth Darling
Hervey Bay— Andrew Ian McNamara	Mount Coot-tha— Andrew Peter Fraser	South Brisbane— Anna Maria Bligh
Hinchinbrook— Andrew Peter Cripps	Mount Gravatt— Judith Caroline Spence	Southern Downs— Lawrence James Springborg
Inala— Annastacia Palaszczuk	Mount Isa— Betty Margaret Kiernan	Southport— Peter Joseph Lawlor
Indooroopilly— Ronan Oliver Lee	Mount Ommaney— Julie Maree Attwood	Springwood— Barbara Gwendoline Stone
Ipswich— Rachel Genevieve Nolan	Mudgeeraba— Dianne Ann Reilly	Stafford— Stirling James Hinchliffe
Ipswich West— Wayne Earle Wendt	Mulgrave— Frederick Warren Pitt	Stretton— Stephen Robertson
Kallangur— Kenneth William Hayward	Mundingburra— Lindel Helena Nelson—Carr	Surfers Paradise— John—Paul Honore Langbroek
Kawana— Steven Lance Dickson	Murrumba— Dean MacMillan Wells	Tablelands— Rosa Theresa Lee Long
Keppel— Paul Anthony Hoolihan	Nanango— Dorothy Ruth Pratt	Thuringowa— Craig Andrew Wallace
Kurwongbah— Linda Denise Lavarch	Nicklin— Peter William Wellington	Toowoomba North— Kerry Gerard Shine
Lockyer— Ian Phillip Rickuss	Noosa— Glen Wayne Elmes	Toowoomba South— Michael James Horan
Logan— Reginald John Mickel	Nudgee— Neil Stuart Roberts	Townsville— Michael Francis Reynolds
Lytton— Paul Thomas Lucas	Pumicestone— Caryn Elizabeth Sullivan	Warrego— Howard William Thomas Hobbs
Mackay— Timothy Sean Mulherin	Redcliffe— Elizabeth Cornelia Maria van Litsenburg	Waterford— Evan Robert Moorhead
Mansfield— Philip Gerard Reeves	Redlands— John Michael English	Whitsunday— Janice Heather Jarratt
Maroochydore— Fiona Stuart Simpson	Robina— Raymond Alexander Stevens	Woodridge— Desley Carleton Scott
Maryborough— Christopher John Foley		Yeerongpilly— Simon David Finn

Paper: The Clerk tabled the following paper—
Writ for election issued in accordance with the *Electoral Act 1992*.

MEMBERS SWORN

The Commissioners, Honourable Peter Douglas Beattie, Honourable Anna Maria Bligh, and Honourable Robert Evan Schwarten administered the oath or affirmation of allegiance and of office to themselves and, having been sworn, subscribed the Roll of Members.

The Commissioners administered the oath or affirmation of allegiance and of office to the following Members—

The Honourable Paul Thomas Lucas	Stuart William Copeland	Raymond Gordon Hopper
The Honourable Judith Caroline Spence	Andrew Peter Cripps	Michael James Horan
The Honourable Rodney Jon Welford	Peta—Kaye Croft	Janice Heather Jarratt
The Honourable Stephen Robertson	Elizabeth Anne Cunningham	Vaughan Gregory Johnson
The Honourable Reginald John Mickel	Vicky Elizabeth Darling	Kate Jennifer Jones
The Honourable Warren Frederick Pitt	John Mark Dempsey	Betty Margaret Kiernan
The Honourable Desley Boyle	Steven Lance Dickson	Shane Andrew Knuth
The Honourable Linda Denise Lavarch	Glen Wayne Elmes	John—Paul Honore Langbroek
The Honourable Margaret Majella Keech	John Michael English	Peter Joseph Lawlor
The Honourable Timothy Sean Mulherin	Gary Bernard Fenlon	Ronan Oliver Lee
The Honourable Patrick Douglas Purcell	Bruce Flegg	Rosa Theresa Lee Long
The Honourable Andrew Peter Fraser	Simon David Finn	Kevin Rowson Lingard
The Honourable Geoffrey James Wilson	Christopher John Foley	Carolyn Therese Male
The Honourable Kerry Gerard Shine	David Francis Gibson	George Edward Malone
The Honourable Lindel Helena Nelson—Carr	Philip Roy Gray	Mark Francis McArdle
Julie Maree Attwood	Kenneth William Hayward	Andrew Ian McNamara
Veronica Lesley Barry	Stirling James Hinchliffe	Rosemary Norma Menkens
Chris Bombolas	Howard William Thomas Hobbs	Robert Desmond Messenger
Michael Wai—Man Choi	Paul Anthony Hoolihan	Jo—Ann Roslyn Miller

Evan Robert Moorhead
 Timothy James Nicholls
 Rachel Genevieve Nolan
 Jason Danial O'Brien
 Annastacia Palaszczuk
 Dorothy Ruth Pratt
 Philip Gerard Reeves
 Dianne Ann Reilly
 Michael Francis Reynolds
 Ian Phillip Rickuss

Neil Stuart Roberts
 Desley Carleton Scott
 Jeffrey William Seeney
 Fiona Stuart Simpson
 Christine Anne Smith
 Lawrence James Springborg
 Raymond Alexander Stevens
 Barbara Gwendoline Stone
 Karen Lee Struthers
 Janet Anne Stuckey

Carryn Elizabeth Sullivan
 Elizabeth Cornelia Maria van
 Litsenburg
 Craig Andrew Wallace
 Phillip John Weightman
 Dean MacMillan Wells
 Peter William Wellington
 Wayne Earle Wendt
 Stephen Peter Wettenhall

And each Minister and Member, having been sworn, subscribed the Roll of Members.

ELECTION OF SPEAKER ([Record of Proceedings p. 4](#))

Under the provision of Standing Order 39, the Clerk called upon the Honourable Member for Beaudesert to take the Chair as Presiding Member for the purpose of the election of Speaker.

Mr Lingard took the Chair and drew the attention of the House to the Standing Orders governing the election of Speaker.

Premier and Minister for Trade (Mr Beattie), addressing himself to the Presiding Member (Mr Lingard), moved – That Michael Francis Reynolds do take the Chair of the House as Speaker.

Motion seconded by the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for State Development, Trade and Innovation (Ms Bligh).

Mr Reynolds accepted the nomination.

Leader of the Opposition (Mr Seeney) moved – That Michael John Horan do take the Chair of the House as Speaker.

Motion seconded by the Leader of the Liberal Party (Dr Flegg).

Mr Horan accepted the nomination.

Debate ensued.

BALLOT TAKEN—

There being more than one nomination for Speaker, a ballot was taken and the following result was declared by The Clerk—

For Mr Horan– 29

For Mr Reynolds – 59

Mr Reynolds was thereupon declared elected as Speaker, and Mr Beattie and Ms Bligh conducted him to the Chair.

Papers: Mr Beattie, during his speech, tabled the following papers—

Bundle of documents relating to procedures for Questions in the Legislative Assembly of Queensland

Mr Reynolds returned his acknowledgements to the House for the honour it had been pleased to confer upon him by choosing him to be its Speaker, thereupon sat down in the Chair and said—

‘I am honoured to be chosen as the Member to fill the high and honourable office of Speaker of the Queensland Parliament.

It is indeed an enormous honour and privilege to be elected by one’s fellow parliamentarians to this position and I particularly thank those Members who proposed and seconded my nomination.

I also thank the Premier, Deputy Premier and Leader of the Opposition for the kind remarks they made in relation to my nomination as Speaker.

I have big shoes to fill as the 33rd Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Queensland. Each one of the Honourable Members who have filled this office before me has contributed enormously to the style and nature of Parliamentary democracy in this great State through their stewardship of this House.

All Speakers bring to the job a unique style and approach. My style will be inclusive and consultative. It will also be impartial. I intend to work with all parties and independents in this place to create and maintain an atmosphere that supports robust debate in a way that is fair to all interests being represented.

A strong sense of social justice has guided me throughout my professional life, and I intend to bring that philosophy to the Speaker's Chair. I want this Parliament to engage with the people of Queensland, whatever their age, background, colour, religion or sex.

I know from the eight and half years I have spent in this place that Members have a diverse range of views on the operation of the Parliamentary precinct. I want to draw on those views and opinions to make sure this place works as well as it can to support the role of elected Members. Over the coming weeks, I intend to develop a process to consult with Members on issues of importance to us all.

To the 19 new Members of this place I extend a warm welcome. To the 70 of us who have been re-elected, welcome back.

I look forward to working with you all during the coming three years.'

PRESENTATION OF SPEAKER

Premier and Minister for Trade (Mr Beattie) informed the House that it would be Her Excellency the Governor's pleasure to receive the Speaker at Government House today at 12.15 pm.

Cars will leave the Porte Cochure at 11.40 am sharp.

PROCEDURE – MOTION WITHOUT NOTICE – SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Premier and Minister for Trade (Mr Beattie), by leave, moved – That, notwithstanding anything contained in the Standing Orders, the official opening by the Governor may take place today and the motion for an address to the Governor in reply to the opening speech may be moved tomorrow.

Question put and agreed to.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

Premier and Minister for Trade (Mr Beattie) moved – That the House, at its rising do adjourn until 3.10 pm today in the former Legislative Council Chamber.

Question put and agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

Premier and Minister for Trade (Mr Beattie) moved – That the House do now adjourn.

Question put and agreed to.

The House adjourned at 10.39 am.

In the Former Legislative Council Chamber—

MEETING OF ASSEMBLY

The Assembly met in the former Legislative Council Chamber at 3.10 pm, pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker (Honourable M F Reynolds) read prayers.

PRESENTATION OF SPEAKER

Mr Speaker reported that earlier today, he had presented himself to Her Excellency the Governor as the Member chosen to fill the high and honourable office of Speaker, and that Her Excellency was pleased to congratulate him upon his election.

WELCOME BY AUNTY CAROL CURRIE ([Record of Proceedings p.10](#))

Mr Speaker called upon Auntie Carol Currie of the Brisbane Council of Elders to address the new Parliament.

OPENING SPEECH BY HER EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR

Her Excellency the Governor, being announced, was conducted to the dais by Mr Speaker and officers of the Legislative Assembly.

Her Excellency then read the following speech—

‘Honourable Members—

You have been called together to give consideration to, and make decisions for, the welfare and governance of Queensland.

After a general election held on 9 September 2006, I invited the Honourable Peter Beattie to form an administration, and a new Ministry was sworn in on 13 September 2006.

Enhancing the welfare and prosperity of the people and the State of Queensland is at the core of my Government’s program.

One of the most significant challenges facing governments across the nation is the critical need to secure sustainable water resources now and for the future. During the next three years, my Government will implement a comprehensive plan to ensure a sustainable supply of water for the people of Queensland. Effective management of water must involve strategies to manage demand as well as ensure supply. My Government has embarked on a major program to enhance statewide water security and supply. It is doing this by providing new infrastructure, investigating new sources of supply, both traditional and non traditional, and encouraging greater water conservation and education throughout business, industry and the community.

This will include investing \$496 million on building a \$1.3 billion statewide Water Grid to improve water supplies in regional and rural Queensland. My Government will build the Traveston Crossing and Wyaralong Dams as part of the South-East Queensland water grid. The water grid will establish pipelines between both old and new dams in order to move water from one area to another, according to the most urgent need.

The Southern Regional Water Pipeline will be constructed to connect the water supplies of Brisbane and the Gold Coast. The grid will connect water from water storage facilities and treatment plants including: the Wivenhoe, North Pine, Somerset, Hinze, Leslie Harrison and Ewen Maddock dams; the Gold Coast desalination plant; and Cedar Grove Weir.

The Western Corridor Recycled Water Scheme will have the capacity to supply up to 230 million litres of recycled water a day to industrial users including power stations by December 2008. The first stage is to be completed by July 2007. This will replace approximately 90 million litres of drinking water currently used by power stations, with the remainder available to replace supplies used by other industrial and agricultural users.

By the end of this term, my Government will have water resource plans for all of Queensland in place. Every Queenslanders has a part to play in using water more efficiently. My Government will extend the home waterwise rebate scheme across Queensland and devote further funding to rural water use efficiency. This encourages Queenslanders to fit their homes with water saving devices. It is anticipated that by April 2008, 150,000 homes will be fitted with water saving devices, resulting in a saving of approximately 8.5 million litres of water each day.

My Government will demonstrate leadership through an initial trial of fitting water saving devices in Government buildings in the Brisbane City area. This will identify and assess the best measures to reduce water usage. Trial results will be known next year and will be used to investigate best measures for reducing water use in other Government buildings across the State.

Business and industry are being encouraged to follow suit through ecoBiz, which delivers on-site and off-site savings in water, energy, greenhouse gas emissions, and reduced waste. This includes potable water savings of 382 million litres annually, equivalent to 382 Olympic sized swimming pools.

The health reform agenda will be achieved through increased funding and a strengthened focus on implementing the \$9.7 billion Health Action Plan. My Government will restore trust and accountability in the public health system through demonstrating openness, transparency and commitment to the reform agenda. It will also provide new and innovative channels such as the Consumer Health Council to enable people to have their say about the health system. More hospitals, hospital beds and medical, nursing and allied health staff will be provided to keep pace with the increasing demand for health services.

As part of the preparation for the building of the largest and most advanced children’s hospital in Australia, \$24.5 million will be spent over four years on increasing specialist and support staffing

for paediatric cardiac services currently at Prince Charles Hospital. These staff and services will move in January 2008 to expanded facilities at the Mater Children's Hospital. An expansion of the Mater Children's Hospital to allow for this will cost \$28.6 million.

Significant upgrades will commence on hospitals in Bundaberg, Cairns, Caloundra, Nambour, the Princess Alexandra Hospital, Redlands, Robina, Yeppoon, Rockhampton, Toowoomba, Townsville, and Southport.

Work will start on the planning of new hospitals on the Gold and Sunshine Coasts. Nambour and Caloundra Hospitals will benefit from an additional 90 beds costing a total of \$203 million. The first of these new beds, 60 at Nambour and 30 at Caloundra, will be provided by mid 2008 to ensure the Sunshine Coast has sufficient beds to meet the growing region's needs.

Robina Hospital will be redeveloped to create 179 new beds at a construction cost of \$230 million, and an allocation of \$291.3 million over five years for their operation. This nearly doubles the number of current beds.

My Government's continuing focus on improving Queenslanders' health by working to prevent chronic diseases such as heart disease, stroke, cancer and diabetes is an important strategy to manage increasing demand on health services. This will help reduce pressure on emergency departments and the public hospital system.

There will be a continued commitment to reduce waiting lists through the Elective Surgery Program, including new elective surgery centres at Redcliffe, Caboolture and QEII hospitals.

My Government will seek to reduce the toll of meningococcal disease, with a \$1.45 million plan to ensure that every Queensland ambulance crew is trained to recognise the symptoms of this terrible disease, and have powerful antibiotics on hand to begin immediate treatment.

It will continue to support its health workers, and will focus particularly on negotiating a better deal for allied health professionals to complement the recent agreements for nursing, medical and other staff.

There will be continued focus on the Smart State vision of a state where knowledge, creativity and innovation drive economic growth to improve prosperity and quality of life for all Queenslanders.

There will be an emphasis on research and innovation by supporting Queensland scientists and attracting world leaders in biomedical research to make major contributions to finding cures and treatments for chronic diseases. \$100 million will be provided for a new high-tech Smart Therapies Institute at the Princess Alexandra Hospital and up to \$35 million for a new medical research centre at Queensland Institute for Medical Research. A further \$10 million will go to the Wesley Research Institute to support its new \$37 million facilities to expand clinical research.

The new Smart Therapies Institute will be purpose built on land at the Princess Alexandra Hospital and specialise in translational research – taking discoveries from the lab into clinical trial. Its research will include investigating improved treatments and cures for cervical cancer, breast cancer, melanoma, liver and kidney disease, obesity, arthritis, diabetes, bone and pregnancy-related metabolic disorders. This Institute is expected to attract some of the world's best to come and work alongside Queensland's top scientists in developing new therapies for diseases such as malaria, HIV and osteoporosis.

The Queensland Radium Institute at Herston will be demolished and replaced by a 13-storey Smart State Medical Research Centre which will be a focus for research into vaccines, cancer, tropical diseases and, most importantly, mental health.

Another important aspect of the Smart State strategy is providing the very best learning opportunities for every young Queensland, whatever their economic and social circumstances. A comprehensive five-year school rebuilding and renewal program will see the modernisation of school classrooms and, where needed, the building of new facilities.

A new full-time prep year will be introduced in all schools in 2007. This will provide Queensland children with a head start on their education, and set them on the path to becoming lifelong learners.

My Government will have an ongoing focus on literacy and numeracy. It will raise standards through the new literacy framework, and provide specialised support for primary school students who need help to meet national standards.

Three new world class Queensland academies will be established in Brisbane and the Gold Coast for the brightest students in Years 10, 11 and 12. My Government will continue its learning or earning reforms, equipping young Queenslanders for the future by giving them greater flexibility to achieve qualifications after Year 10. The number of students undertaking school-based apprenticeships and traineeships will be doubled from 6,200 to 12,400, and five new industry trade centres will be established.

My Government is committed to improving the State's child protection system. The last seven recommendations from the Crime and Misconduct Commission's inquiry into the abuse of children in foster care will be implemented early this term. These reforms will see Queensland leading Australia by delivering more staff, recruiting more foster carers, and better supporting foster carers in their vital work. With more than 40,000 reports of child abuse received by the Department of Child Safety each year, and more than 6,000 children in care, my Government will continue to evaluate what works, what needs to be improved, and what new approaches should be explored. My Government will examine issues such as reunification and confidentiality provisions to assess whether the current approach is the most appropriate.

Work will continue to improve the lives of Queenslanders with a disability, their families and carers through accommodation support and respite services. And there will be a strong commitment to supporting families, with the introduction of an Early Years Strategy during this term. This \$54 million package will further improve services for children and their families in the crucial early years.

Also, as part of its prevention and early intervention initiative, my Government will expand the Duke of Edinburgh Awards to make them more accessible for young people in rural and remote communities.

The Queensland economy is one of the strongest in the nation. Unemployment is at a 30-year low, business investment remains high and our economic growth continues to surpass the national average. Since 1998, the Breaking the Unemployment Cycle program has created more than 111,000 jobs. The new Skilling Queenslanders for Work program will build on the success of the Breaking the Unemployment Cycle program while being better packaged to suit individual needs. It will have an allocation of more than \$100 million in 2006-07 to create more than 20,000 extra jobs.

Queensland exporters will be supported by a new Export Advisory Service which will deliver export development programs and export assistance across the State. My Government's overseas networks will be expanded with new trade representation in Dubai in the United Arab Emirates, Riyadh in Saudi Arabia, and Guangzhou in China.

My Government will continue to build a better Queensland through strong leadership and responsible economic management.

During this term, it will continue to deliver the South East Queensland Infrastructure Plan which outlines investments of up to \$66 billion over 20 years in road and public transport projects, social and community infrastructure, energy networks and water infrastructure.

My Government will continue to support and encourage growth in the Queensland mining and energy industries. It is also committing \$1.6 million over three years under the Women in Hard Hats program to encourage greater participation of women in mining and construction industries.

It will continue to invest in electricity networks and support the timely development of new generating capacity to ensure a reliable supply.

It will support the Smart Exploration Initiative with funds of \$20 million over four years, and continue to promote drilling programs between government and industry, the sharing of resources between exploration companies, and the growth of junior mineral exploration companies in Queensland.

Full Retail Competition will be implemented in the electricity and gas markets from 1 July 2007, providing choice for all energy consumers. My Government will take steps to promote energy efficiency to both industry and domestic consumers, and to promote the domestic use of gas. There will be a continued focus on clean coal technology development and the efficient use of water in power generation.

The sustainable use of Queensland's natural resources – water, land and vegetation – presents significant challenges. My Government will end broad scale clearing of remnant vegetation by the 31st of December this year. This commitment is part of the Government's broader strategy to protect Queensland's natural resources from degradation. Under the Blueprint for the Bush, my Government will devote \$47 million to improved natural resource management outcomes in rural Queensland. My Government has committed \$30 million in a statewide initiative to purchase new lands which will be managed and kept in pristine condition so that future generations can continue to enjoy them. It will continue to protect Cape York's natural and cultural assets by investing \$6.75 million over the next term.

As part of its commitment to rebuilding far north Queensland after Cyclone Larry, my Government is investing a further \$4 million into the Ma-Mu canopy walk, bringing the State's total investment in this venture to \$8 million. On a broader level, my Government will continue to do all it can to assist the recovery of communities affected by Cyclone Larry.

Delivering world-class emergency services and improving community safety across Queensland will remain a priority. My Government will deliver a \$52 million funding package to boost equipment and training for emergency service volunteers. It will continue to build on the lessons learnt from Cyclone Larry, with initiatives such as the Cyclone Summit to be hosted by Queensland later this year.

The establishment of the Queensland Climate Change Centre of Excellence will underpin science and policy on this crucial issue for all our futures. Climate change and variability are highlighted by the continuing severe drought across large tracts of the State.

Biosecurity is a priority for my Government. It is committed to a single Queensland Biosecurity Agency which will be responsible for coordinating the Government's efforts to prevent, prepare, investigate, respond, and recover from pests and diseases that threaten our State's economy and environment. The Agency will represent the State in national policy forums and push to secure national co-operation and cost-sharing in biosecurity responses. It will also deliver technical expertise and better collaboration in areas of research and the study of emerging biosecurity issues.

A record \$3.98 billion has been allocated for transport and road infrastructure in this financial year to establish a world-class transport system. The biggest road, rail and bus projects include the Gateway upgrade project, the Tugun bypass, the inner northern busway, the Boggo Road busway, upgrading tracks on the Citytrain network and providing additional Citytrain rolling stock. Other major projects include providing bus priority measures for Redcliffe, Gold Coast and the Sunshine Coast, as well as upgrades to regional ports, and airports development.

My Government is committed to ensuring that the public transport system will be safer, easier to use and more accessible through significant initiatives. These include grants for wheelchair accessible taxis, a review of regional long distance travel subsidies, new smart card integrated ticketing system, installation of security cameras in taxis, and improved access, safety and security at Citytrain stations.

My Government is committed to ensuring that Queensland continues to be a safe place to live. To keep it that way, Queensland will continue to have record police numbers. Police numbers will be matched with population growth in order to maintain a police to population ratio in Queensland better than the national average. \$260 million has been allocated for six new police divisions and more than 20 new, upgraded or replacement police stations and facilities across Queensland. My Government will continue to provide police with the resources they need to further reduce crime. A new \$450 million Police Academy will be established at Wacol and is planned for completion by 2012.

My Government will establish Queensland's first dedicated outlaw motorcycle gang squad and a high-tech and credit card fraud crime squad. It will also introduce new legislation to reduce graffiti and protect young people from the dangers of chroming by banning the sale of spray paint to under 18-year-olds.

Road safety is at the forefront of my Government's agenda. In addition to the current Safer Roads Sooner program, it will fast-track the implementation of initiatives from the Road Safety Summit held earlier this year. This includes young drivers' reforms to come into effect on 1 July 2007 and

the QRide motorcycle licensing reforms. In addition, the number of high visibility highway patrol cars will be doubled as a strategy to reduce Queensland's road toll.

My Government is committed to maintaining a safe and secure corrections system by funding new jails and upgrading existing ones, delivering a new probation and parole service, delivering targeted offender rehabilitation programs, and funding perimeter security upgrades. Queensland has experienced a 142 per cent increase in prisoner numbers since July 1993, and a further 90 per cent increase is forecast over the next 10 years. Work is progressing on locating a single site to build up to four new correctional facilities in South-East Queensland. The prisons will accommodate up to 4,000 offenders.

The capital works program to modernise Queensland's courts will continue. A final design will be chosen for a new Supreme and District Courts complex, and new courthouses will be built at Pine Rivers, Sandgate, Mareeba and Ipswich.

My Government will continue to work on the harmonisation of our laws with other Australian jurisdictions, such as laws for a nationally consistent legal profession. It will ensure the responsiveness of Queensland's legal system in order to promote confidence in the law. It will respond to community concerns by introducing a new law against drink spiking.

My Government will continue to protect Queenslanders by strengthening the Consumer Credit Code and the *Security Providers Act 1993*.

My Government will continue to be tough on crime but also on the causes of crime.

There will be continuing and additional programs to address the over-representation of Indigenous people in the legal system, drug and alcohol-related crime, and offences arising out of homelessness. My Government will work with Community Justice Groups in remote Indigenous communities to improve service delivery. My Government will continue to promote alcohol harm minimisation initiatives and work with community stakeholders to address alcohol-related issues. It intends to see improved services to young Indigenous people and Indigenous families who are battling alcohol and other substance abuse problems. Support measures such as counseling, family support, and community recreational and youth activities will be further supported under the \$12 million Alcohol and Other Substances Demand Reduction Program.

My Government is determined to overcome problems of petrol sniffing among some Indigenous young people through the extension of the Queensland Fuel Subsidy Scheme to the OPAL fuel on a trial basis. A continuing priority will be the implementation and review of Alcohol Management Plans in 19 targeted Indigenous communities.

Its commitment to multiculturalism will continue with the implementation of its \$3.4 million Multicultural Assistance Program which supports, strengthens and celebrates diversity. The Queensland Multicultural Festival and Multicultural Photographic Awards will play a major part in supporting positive community relations.

My Government will continue to foster a fair and dynamic marketplace and encourage responsible practices and sustainable growth in the tourism, wine, liquor and hospitality industries. It will continue to support the growth of the State's wine industry through implementation of the Queensland Wine Industry Development Strategy.

During this term, my Government will implement the Queensland Tourism Strategy, the State's first long-term vision for sustainable tourism in Queensland. The Strategy, developed in partnership with the industry, will create thousands of new jobs for Queenslanders, enhance the skills of industry workers, bring more tourists, and generate billions of dollars in visitor spending.

My Government is committed to improving the management of the Great Barrier Reef, Queensland's natural wonder, by investing a further \$6.7 million to enhance its day-to-day management and protection.

A further \$5.5 million will be invested in the highly successful Great Walks program. This network will be extended with new tracks located at Noosa-Cooloola, the Whitsundays-Hook Island, the Conondales in the Sunshine Coast Hinterland, and the Carnarvon National Park.

Giving more Queenslanders the chance to own their own home is a priority of my Government. Many first-home buyers will benefit from the elimination or reduction of stamp duty on homes and vacant land from January next year.

My Government will also strengthen its oversight of land supply to meet demand, create an avenue for the review of infrastructure charges on new estates, and work with the private sector to examine new ways of delivering affordable housing options.

It is implementing its new \$10 million community housing incentive plan to boost services to Queenslanders in need of affordable housing. This plan involves the purchase of up to 30 houses in Townsville, the Gold Coast and Brisbane.

Help is also needed in easing the burden posed by high petrol prices. If Federal tests confirm that ethanol has no adverse effect on engines, my government will work with motorists, motoring organisations and oil companies to inform the public about plans to mandate a minimum of five per cent ethanol in petrol produced and sold wholesale in Queensland by December 2010.

My Government will continue to support Queensland's dynamic arts and cultural sector. The Queensland Cultural Centre redevelopment at South Bank will be completed and there will be a major new arts hub in Townsville, and a Regional Art Gallery in Atherton.

Queensland's cultural heritage will receive a boost through a new \$5 million cultural heritage grants program, designed to help restore buildings of heritage significance.

My Government has committed \$5 million to help local governments and community groups maintain Queensland's social and cultural heritage through projects to research, document, re-instate, restore and maintain cemeteries, memorials and other places of community significance.

During the next four years my Government will provide Surf Lifesaving Queensland with \$4.6 million each year to support more surf patrols and rescue equipment for our volunteer lifesavers.

It will also make sure water safety education and resuscitation programs are available to all Queenslanders – whether they live in the cities or the bush – with \$300,000 a year for the next four years to the Royal Life Saving Society to support their water safety trainers and expand programs across Queensland.

My Government will continue to ensure that every worker gets a fair go. It has launched a High Court challenge to the Commonwealth's Work Choices, and established the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission inquiry into the impact of Work Choices.

My Government will continue to hold Community Cabinet meetings in regional Queensland.

Importantly, my government recognises the need to ensure that this program is carried out with responsible economic management.

Honourable Members—

In opening this First Session of the 52nd Parliament, I have set out key initiatives of my Government's program for this term. I trust that your individual and combined efforts in representing Queensland will enhance the lives of our people and our communities and that they will promote the present and future wellbeing of our State.

And, Honourable Members, I trust in doing so you will maintain those values and principles which lie at the heart of our vibrant democracy. Compassion, humanity and social justice.'

Her Excellency having been conducted to the entrance to the Chamber by Mr Speaker—

Mr Speaker announced that the sitting would continue in the Legislative Assembly Chamber, and requested Honourable Members to attend in that Chamber.

In the Legislative Assembly Chamber – Mr Speaker having taken the Chair—

MOTION WITHOUT NOTICE – ADDRESS BY AUNTY CAROL CURRIE

Premier and Minister for Trade (Mr Beattie), by leave, moved – That the speech by Aunty Carol Currie be incorporated into the *Hansard* record of today's official opening of the 52nd Queensland Parliament. Question put and agreed to.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

Premier and Minister for Trade (Mr Beattie) moved – That the House at its rising do adjourn until 9.30 am tomorrow morning.
Question put and agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

Premier and Minister for Trade (Mr Beattie) moved – That the House do now adjourn.
Question put and agreed to.
The House adjourned at 3.57 pm.

ATTENDANCE

The following Members were present—

<i>Attwood</i>	<i>English</i>	<i>Johnson</i>	<i>McNamara</i>	<i>Reeves</i>	<i>Stone</i>
<i>Barry</i>	<i>Fenlon</i>	<i>Jones</i>	<i>Menkens</i>	<i>Reilly</i>	<i>Struthers</i>
<i>Beattie</i>	<i>Finn</i>	<i>Keech</i>	<i>Messenger</i>	<i>Reynolds</i>	<i>Stuckey</i>
<i>Bligh</i>	<i>Flegg</i>	<i>Kiernan</i>	<i>Mickel</i>	<i>Rickuss</i>	<i>Sullivan</i>
<i>Bombolas</i>	<i>Foley</i>	<i>Knuth</i>	<i>Miller</i>	<i>Roberts</i>	<i>Van Litsenburg</i>
<i>Boyle</i>	<i>Fraser</i>	<i>Langbroek</i>	<i>Moorhead</i>	<i>Robertson</i>	<i>Wallace</i>
<i>Choi</i>	<i>Gibson</i>	<i>Lavarch</i>	<i>Mulherin</i>	<i>Schwarten</i>	<i>Weightman</i>
<i>Copeland</i>	<i>Gray</i>	<i>Lawlor</i>	<i>Nelson–Carr</i>	<i>Scott</i>	<i>Welford</i>
<i>Cripps</i>	<i>Hayward</i>	<i>Lee</i>	<i>Nicholls</i>	<i>Seeney</i>	<i>Wellington</i>
<i>Croft</i>	<i>Hinchliffe</i>	<i>Lee Long</i>	<i>Nolan</i>	<i>Shine</i>	<i>Wells</i>
<i>Cunningham</i>	<i>Hobbs</i>	<i>Lingard</i>	<i>O'Brien</i>	<i>Simpson</i>	<i>Wendt</i>
<i>Darling</i>	<i>Hoolihan</i>	<i>Lucas</i>	<i>Palaszczuk</i>	<i>Smith</i>	<i>Wettenhall</i>
<i>Dempsey</i>	<i>Hopper</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Pitt</i>	<i>Spence</i>	<i>Wilson</i>
<i>Dickson</i>	<i>Horan</i>	<i>Malone</i>	<i>Pratt</i>	<i>Springborg</i>	
<i>Elmes</i>	<i>Jarratt</i>	<i>McArdle</i>	<i>Purcell</i>	<i>Stevens</i>	

M F REYNOLDS
SPEAKER

N J LAURIE
CLERK OF THE PARLIAMENT