



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard 5 August 1998

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Chevron Gas Pipeline

Hon. P. D. BEATTIE (Brisbane Central— ALP) (Premier) (9.33 a.m.) by leave: Today, on behalf of all Queenslanders, I will sign a memorandum of understanding with Papua New Guinea Prime Minister Bill Skate which will accelerate the Chevron gas pipeline project. Under the agreement both Governments will give this project priority status to make it easier for Chevron to proceed with its proposed pipeline from Papua New Guinea to Gladstone, creating more than 2,500 jobs and accelerating regional development throughout the State. This is a major milestone in the progress of this project which is so crucial to job creation in regional Queensland.

The project still has to gain necessary permits and approvals from both Governments, but the processes will be fast-tracked. All local councils will be encouraged to treat the project in the same way. Land and heritage agreements have already been reached with 12 land councils in far-north Queensland and a draft environmental impact statement has been released for comment.

It is estimated that more than 5,000 jobs will be generated during construction of the pipeline and about 2,500 jobs will be created as a result of the pipeline. The thousands of jobs that it will create and its clean energy make it one of the most exciting job-creating projects in a generation. It helps as well in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. The agreement also sends a strong message to investors and prospective users of the pipeline that the Governments are united behind this project. I say again that this is the most exciting project for Queensland in a generation. It will help deliver my Government's job strategy. This is one MOU that I am happy to sign. I table for the information of the House a draft of the memorandum of understanding.
