



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Imax Theatre; Marrakesh Apartments

Hon. P. D. BEATTIE (Brisbane Central— ALP) (Premier) (9.41 a.m.), by leave: This State is on the move again. The private and public sectors are spending billions of dollars on major new projects throughout the State. These projects are providing thousands of jobs for Queenslanders now and for the future.

Tomorrow I will be involved in celebrations at two major developments in south-east Queensland. In the morning I will be attending the site launch of the Imax Theatre on Brisbane's South Bank. This is a \$20m investment in a 450-seat theatre. The theatre is a crucial part of the South Bank master plan, which also includes a redeveloped Grey Street lined with trees and entertainment venues, a grand harbour, an underground car park and parklands. Once established, the theatre will support 50 employees.

The person who made the Imax experience possible was a Queenslanders. Ron Jones was a Brisbane engineer who specialised in repairing and upgrading cinema projection equipment. He discovered the principles behind the Imax projection system while working on a vastly different project for a radiographer at the Prince Charles Hospital back in 1964. Dr Jim Hood wanted to make a slow-motion X-ray film to show a beating human heart. To do that, he needed a way of transporting X-ray film through the camera at high speed. The technical problems were so large that Dr Hood asked his friend Ron Jones for help. Once he had solved the problem, Ron realised the possible applications. By the time Imax Corporation heard of Ron's system, it was working commercially at the Eldorado Cinema in Brisbane. They bought it and now the system is used in Imax theatres around the world.

In the afternoon I will open another outstanding tourism-related development in Surfers Paradise. I refer to the \$35m Mediterranean-style Marrakesh Apartments for the Raptis Group. Up to 180 people were employed on site during the seven months of construction of Marrakesh. The ongoing operation of the resort will provide jobs for a further 25 people. One hundred and twenty of the 143 units on offer have already been sold to buyers locally, interstate and overseas in New Zealand and South-East Asia. This shows that, contrary to a newspaper report this week, buyers and developers can have confidence in the Gold Coast and its future.
