



Speech by

Hon. M. FOLEY

MEMBER FOR YERONGA

Hansard 9 March 1999

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Art Built In

Hon. M. J. FOLEY (Yeronga—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts) (9.40 a.m.), by leave: Today the Premier will launch Art Built In, the most comprehensive, integrated and visionary public art policy ever undertaken in Australia. This policy—which is a whole-of-Government policy endorsed by Cabinet—allocates 2% of major public capital works budgets in the State to integrated art and design in public buildings.

It honours a key election commitment in Labor's New Directions Statement for the Arts 1998. It also heralds a new era for Queensland, with long-term cultural and economic benefits to our State and to the lives of all Queenslanders, now and in the future. As the first cultural policy ever to be implemented by every State Government department, it is also the fruition of long and careful consultation with my Cabinet colleagues, local government and key sectors of the construction, design and arts industries in Queensland.

In general, the 2% will apply to capital works building projects in excess of \$250,000, excluding Government fees and charges, WorkCover, and the cost of capital equipment. It is not mandatory for Government owned corporations or commercialised business units of Government. However, they are encouraged to use their best endeavours to implement this policy. A number of exemptions are specified in the policy, such as for prisons and for public housing intended for private use. It will apply in the 1999-2000 financial year, although some Government departments are already implementing the policy in current projects.

An example of State and local government working together is the Cairns Esplanade project, which demonstrates the benefits to the community when a policy is integrated: that is, built in to the growth and needs of that community through community and industry consultation from the drawing board stage onwards. This visionary policy also ensures job opportunities for Queensland artists and designers and, in particular, young Queenslanders who will gain apprenticeships and training through public art projects. For the first time, all Queenslanders will be given a say in the shaping of their environment so that it reflects the inclusive, modern multicultural realities of our State.
