



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard 8 June 1999

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Australia TradeCoast

Hon. P. D. BEATTIE (Brisbane Central— ALP) (Premier) (9.37 a.m.), by leave: The State Government has seized the chance to build a powerful economic engine for Queensland, driving the creation of new jobs. The State Government and the Brisbane City Council plan to turn Brisbane into a global trading capital with hundreds of new jobs through the creation of Australia TradeCoast. Australia TradeCoast will drive development in the Brisbane gateway ports area and is created through an equal partnership between the Port of Brisbane and Brisbane Airport Corporation, the State Government and Brisbane City Council.

Once again, my Government has delivered where the previous Government failed. Over 10 years there have been three inquiries into this port land. Within 12 months, we have fixed it. We are a can-do Government, and Australia TradeCoast is now a reality. The proximity of the airport and sea port to the city centre and the availability of land are key ingredients in ensuring that the region has the potential to become a global investment and trading location. This is a unique collaboration between public and private business to drive the development of Australia TradeCoast so that it becomes the premier industrial and commercial precinct on Australia's east coast and, indeed, in Australia as a whole.

Australia TradeCoast will bring together under one marketing organisation more than 1,000 hectares of prime development land belonging to the State, the port and the airport. That land includes Fisherman Islands, Eagle Farm Estate, Clunies Flats, Export Park, Logistics Precinct, Banksia Place, Airport Industrial Park, Airport Plaza, the Lytton Road industrial estate and the Borthwicks redevelopment site.

The partners in Australia TradeCoast will drive planning of infrastructure development in the area. We will kick-start industry and economic development in Brisbane's gateway ports area to provide significant flow-on benefits to business in Queensland and create hundreds of new jobs. Australia TradeCoast will be an organisation that will become a focus for national and international investment and our drive for business opportunities, including joint ventures into Asia. Growth in trade and traffic through both ports is outstripping the national average and the forecast is that it will continue to do so. Australia TradeCoast will accelerate that growth by targeting global mobile companies in North America, the European Union, Asia, New Zealand and Australia and attracting them to this land. Hopefully that will include some joint ventures with biotechnology.

The Government will make the message very clear that this industrial land offers better sea and air access than cities such as Sydney and Melbourne, excellent rail and road access, close proximity to the capital city of Australia's growth State, the country's lowest taxes, a well-educated multilingual and dedicated work force, and a partnership that will mean other decision making is smooth through one organisation. Companies to be targeted by Australia TradeCoast include warehousing, distribution, food industry, manufacturing and general processing. Inquiries for industrial land are already running at record levels since the launch of this project by me, the Deputy Premier and the Lord Mayor, Jim Soorley. The take-up of industrial land is also at record levels.

I know that all those who are genuinely interested in economic development will be interested in the details of Australia TradeCoast. Therefore, I table this for the information of all members.

In conclusion, I point out that the role of the various levels of Government will be as follows: the State Government will coordinate development and the provision of infrastructure, chase investment where appropriate and provide assistance to companies moving to the TradeCoast. The Brisbane City Council will provide essential services as one of the key planning bodies, and its Office of Economic Development will provide investment facilitation services. The Brisbane Airport Corporation's core vision is of an airport city, the economic driving force for which requires the development of its land for commercial use to enhance airport throughput, and the Port of Brisbane Corporation will encourage companies to move to the TradeCoast where it has planning control over its land.

The partnership, which includes the Department of Transport, on behalf of the State Government, has delivered where previous Governments have not. This is the sort of can-do Government that Queenslanders expect to continue.
