



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard 9 June 1999

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Wear Wool Wednesday; Capital City Policy

Hon. P. D. BEATTIE (Brisbane Central— ALP) (Premier) (9.33 a.m.), by leave: Before commencing my ministerial statement, I acknowledge that today is Wear Wool Wednesday. Today, in common with many other people, I have worn wool—a full woollen suit—as an acknowledgment of this great industry, which has made a significant contribution to the development of this nation.

The Queensland Government and the Brisbane City Council will enter the new millennium in an exciting new partnership. The partnership, spelt out in the Capital City Policy, formalises the very good working relationship that has been built up between George Street and City Hall. Basically, the policy creates a framework for the two administrations to work together to enhance Brisbane as the State's capital city. It will influence policy making, program activity and investment decisions.

A capital city task force, comprising senior officers from the Government and the council, has identified projects in seven key areas, and that is where we will be focusing initially. The two levels of Government will work together to provide resources for priority projects in the interests of not just Brisbane but the whole of Queensland. The Lord Mayor and I will hold summits at least three times a year to drive the policy. What this means is that the big issues for south-east Queensland—roads, public transport, sports facilities and affordable housing—will be addressed by both Governments simultaneously. More strategic planning will mean better facilities for residents and more effective use of taxpayers' and ratepayers' money to create an even more attractive and vibrant capital city. The new millennium gives us the ideal opportunity for this new approach.

In many ways, Brisbane should be the gateway to this State, encouraging investment, tourism and opportunities for all Queenslanders. Brisbane already has an edge, because it has a whole-of-city local government combined with great economic potential, a fabulous climate and a relaxed lifestyle. The Capital City Policy will allow us to build on these strengths and help us become a key player in the Asia-Pacific region.

The seven key areas that will be the initial focus of the Capital City Policy are as follows: integrated regional transport planning, which involves developing an integrated public transport system for Brisbane, looking at major projects such as integrated ticketing and timetables, busways, bus priority and light rail. Mr Speaker, as you would appreciate, our vision for Brisbane includes not just a light rail project for Brisbane but the South Bank redevelopment, at a cost of \$81m, a pedestrian walkway bridge and the redevelopment of the Roma Street site. The second area is the joint management of sport and entertainment facilities, which will involve investigating the future of sporting facilities, coordinated management and development. As honourable members would know, the Gabba is being redeveloped with a 37,000 seat capacity, and six soccer matches will be played in the lead-up to a quarter final for the Olympics—a total of seven soccer matches. The Government has also agreed with the city council about the development of a major stadium for Rugby League and Rugby Union. That is currently being worked on by the State Government and the Brisbane City Council. That will involve a choice between Suncorp Stadium and the RNA.

The next area is coordinated information management, which will involve looking at sharing technology, such as call centres and library on-line facilities, to deliver better services to residents and businesses. The next area is the integrated marketing of Brisbane, which will involve developing an integrated tourism strategy for Brisbane that allows key stakeholders to define the city's image and

infrastructure. Yesterday I mentioned the launch of Australia TradeCoast, undertaken by the Deputy Premier, the Lord Mayor and me, which will enhance trade and job opportunities for Queensland.

The next area is a coordinated festivals and events strategy, which will ensure support for festivals that reflect community aspirations and highlight the city's unique identity. In addition to the arts, there are obviously other major events, such as the Goodwill Games, which are being worked on by the Minister at present.

The next area is an affordable housing strategy, which will encourage the availability of affordable housing and respond to high priority issues relating to caravan parks, hostels, boarding houses and homelessness. The next area is the Brisbane economic development and gateway ports strategy, which will involve investigating ways to increase investment and exports, encouraging information technology and knowledge-based industries, establishing a management and marketing framework for the gateway ports and agreeing on key development areas and infrastructure funding. Again, that is part of Australia TradeCoast. We intend to lead Australia in exports. All of this and more is contained in the Capital City Policy, a copy of which I table for the information of honourable members.

We also need a partnership with the Commonwealth. The Commonwealth should be involved in a national strategy for infrastructure development, with a focus on strategic investment to drive our capacity to export and to support the quality of life in our cities. It is time the Commonwealth joined in in the organisation of a better urban community. Some 63% of Australians live in the capital cities and over 80% live in urban communities in Australia, yet the Commonwealth does not have an urban policy. It is leaving out 80% of Australians through its lack of policy and direction. Today I call on the Commonwealth to participate as a third party in the Capital City Policy.

I am pleased to say that this view has the backing of the Lord Mayor and also the Property Council of Australia. Last week, the Property Council's Executive Director, Ross Elliott, said—

"The next version of Capital City Policy launched by the Premier and the Lord Mayor should also have the Prime Minister as a participant and that is the outcome we will be working towards."

I look forward to updating the House as our plans with respect to the Capital City Policy come to fruition.
