



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard 20 July 1999

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Airport-City Rail Link

Hon. P. D. BEATTIE (Brisbane Central— ALP) (Premier) (9.43 a.m.), by leave: The can-do activities of this Government just go on and on. Work has started on a \$200m—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BEATTIE: They do not like to see development, jobs and growth, do they?

I want to inform the House today that work has started on a \$200m project to provide direct rail access to and from the Brisbane city centre and the domestic and international airport terminals. My Government got rid of the roadblocks. My Government delivered on this project. Only on Wednesday, 14 July, the Minister for Transport, Steve Bredhauer, and I were involved in a sod-turning exercise for the official start of this project.

This link will put Brisbane on a par with the great cities of the world where travellers can ride smoothly and with minimum fuss between city-centre hotels and the airport—and it is long overdue. Others talked about it; my Government delivered. The rail link will be built, owned and operated by a private consortium, Airtrain Citylink Ltd, and transferred to the State after 35 years.

The world-class rail link is due for completion by mid 2001. The 10.3 million passengers a year who use Brisbane Airport will then have access to four trains an hour, 16 hours a day, seven days a week. The need for this new link will be even more marked in 20 years, when it is expected that 33 million people a year will need to travel to and from the airport. Importantly, it also means jobs. Airtrain Citylink will create 300 construction jobs and 100 operational jobs.

This project sets new standards for cooperation between the public and private sectors in the delivery of infrastructure in Queensland, which is the engine room of economic development in Australia. Only recently, the Department of State Development held an infrastructure conference, which was addressed by the Deputy Premier and me, which highlighted that special relationship between the public and private sector and private sector funding in infrastructure like this project. The Treasurer also addressed that conference.

It also enhances the infrastructure at Australia TradeCoast, our exciting development project involving a partnership between the port of Brisbane, Brisbane Airport, the Brisbane City Council and the State Government. The proximity of the airport and seaport to the city centre and the availability of land will ensure Australia TradeCoast has the potential to become a global investment and trading location.

This is a unique collaboration between public and private businesses to drive the development of Australia TradeCoast so that it becomes the premier industrial and commercial precinct on Australia's east coast. Australia TradeCoast will bring together under one marketing organisation more than 1,000 hectares of prime development land around our port at a time when there is no land available around the Sydney port and very little around Melbourne.
