



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard 18 August 1999

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Public Report of Ministerial Expenses, Statement of Expenses of Ministers of the Crown and Parliamentary Secretaries

Hon. P. D. BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier) (11.32 a.m.), by leave: Today, I finalise my commitment for increased accountability by this Government for the year ended 30 June 1999 by the tabling of two reports. The first report is the public report of ministerial expenses. This is a report of expenditure for each ministerial office in summary format. This report is an initiative of this Government and represents the commitment I made to provide six-monthly reports to Parliament on Ministers' expenses in a format that was readily understandable by the community.

This level of accountability is simply unprecedented in the history of Queensland. This report is the culmination of expenses for my Government's first full financial year and includes the entire expenses of running ministerial offices, including the salaries, superannuation contributions and all other costs associated with every member of staff. That has never before been available.

Considering the significant work being undertaken by my Ministers, I believe that this report shows clearly that expenditure on items such as travel and entertainment are being maintained at reasonable levels that one would expect from a can-do Government. I might just say that I think it is important that in this public debate, there is a clear acknowledgment that when Ministers are working they are expected to travel. I expect them to work, I expect them to travel and I expect them to do their job. Under those circumstance, which is what I expect, these are very reasonable figures.

The second report that I wish to table is the statement of expenses of Ministers of the Crown and Parliamentary Secretaries for the year ended 30 June 1999. Unlike the former report, this report presents only those expenses directly attributable to each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary. This report also includes expenses of the previous Government. These are only a minor carryover expenses. However, it should be noted that they are only those expenses that were carried over from the previous financial year and do not—and I stress this and I will say it again—do not represent the total expenses incurred by the previous Government.

In line with my intention to maintain independent scrutiny over ministerial expenses, the Auditor-General has also been provided with a copy of the public report of ministerial expenses and has certified the accuracy of the statement of expenses of Ministers of the Crown and Parliamentary Secretaries. That certification from the Auditor-General, dated 17 August 1999, is tabled with the document along with an audit certificate. I table these unprecedented reports for the information of the House.
