



Speech by

# Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

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Hansard 9 November 1999

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Roma Street Parkland

**Hon. P. D. BEATTIE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier) (9.41 a.m.), by leave: In a massive redevelopment of Brisbane's former Roma Street railway yards, my Government is turning wasteland into a winning attraction for all Queenslanders. The Roma Street Parkland will be a world-class park and gardens. This \$72m project—due to be completed by March 2001—will transform the wasteland into the lungs of the city. It will give Brisbane a green heart.

The redevelopment project will give more than 16 hectares of former railway land back to the people of Queensland. After more than 100 years, the Roma Street rail yards will be turned into a green and colourful place for all Queenslanders and, in particular, Queensland families. The concept plan also includes the Spectacle Gardens—spectacular and innovative displays of subtropical foliage and flowers, water and garden themes, boardwalks and the Origin Lookout. It will be horticultural excellence. There will be the Activity Precinct—a bustling area with a market plaza, restaurants and shops with open pedestrian traffic areas. There will be pedestrian bridges—a 250 metre covered bridge linking the parkland with the city and a second pedestrian bridge, the Western Access Bridge, connecting the parkland with Petrie Terrace and the City West Precinct. There will be a transit and rail zone—including the current Roma Street Transit Centre.

Albert Park will provide the mature, more tranquil park environment and will be integrated with the Roma Street Parkland. It will be easily accessible by bus, train, foot, bike and car. The Inner-Northern Busway and the Brisbane light rail will link directly to Countess Street and the Roma Street Transit Centre. The Brisbane Airport Rail Link will connect the site to Brisbane's domestic and international airports and the Gold Coast.

The parklands also form a key part of the State Government's plans for the City West Precinct, which encompasses the existing Albert and Victoria Parks, sports and entertainment facilities at Petrie Terrace and the proposed redevelopment of the former Army barracks at Kelvin Grove as well, of course, as linkage to Lang Park—the Suncorp-Metway Stadium.

In the longer term, there is provision for other facilities, including the possibility of a world-class museum designed with the assistance of the internationally renowned Smithsonian Institution based in Washington DC. We have a delegation from the Smithsonian visiting us currently. I will have something more to say about that later this week.

I am certain the parkland—just a short walk from the CBD and adjacent to major transport links and easily accessible by foot or bike—will be popular with local residents and tourists alike. It will quickly establish itself as yet another major recreation and tourism facility in Brisbane. What we need is a magnet. We need Brisbane to act as a magnet to attract tourists not just to Brisbane but also to all of Queensland. That is what this long-term strategy does. In that respect, it is an investment in the future of our State and its capital city, because more tourists mean more jobs for Queenslanders, not just in Brisbane but also the Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, the Lockyer Valley—Mr Speaker, you name it. As I said, it will act as a magnet.

In addition to jobs generated in the long term by tourism, which is our second-biggest industry, the initial redevelopment project will generate an estimated 450 jobs during construction. Plans for the project have been endorsed by the Civic Cabinet of the Brisbane City Council, which could eventually assume management of the parkland.

The parkland will provide a new identity for the western end of the city, bringing together areas that have been separated for more than 100 years. That will help to build Brisbane's reputation as the most livable city in the world. The result will be a city ready to face the new millennium with efficient transport systems and a healthy mix of inner-city parkland, event facilities and commercial and residential development.

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