



Speech by

# Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

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Hansard 23 November 1999

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Brisbane City Watch-house

**Hon. P. D. BEATTIE** (Brisbane Central— ALP) (Premier) (9.35 a.m.), by leave: Later this morning several of my ministerial colleagues and I will be officially opening the new Brisbane City Watch-house. This \$29m watch-house sets a new standard in Australia.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr BEATTIE:** They are so noisy this morning, perhaps some of them should spend some time there. It may improve their behaviour.

This new watch-house will replace a well-used, out-of-date building with a long and chequered history. It is a world-class facility that will provide the most up-to-date facilities and combines features which have not been collectively used in other watch-houses anywhere in Australia. The design perfected in this complex will be used to ensure better facilities in all parts of the State. Major design advances developed by the property and facilities branch have placed Queensland police at the leading edge in watch-house operation in Australia by providing an efficient form of security with total electronic control.

The Brisbane City Watch-house deals with 11,500 people a year. It has 172 cameras for complete interior and exterior security. But it is also designed as a direct observation watch-house where officers have direct vision into all cells and the exercise yard. It was built in collaboration with the Human Rights Commission and takes into account the rights of the individual in terms of health, safety, comfort and humanitarian issues. It also satisfies recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody.

This new building is part of my Government's commitment to ensuring safer communities and improving Queenslanders' access to justice. It is part of our strategy of being tough on crime and tough on the causes of crime.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr BEATTIE:** I should mention for the benefit of the House that, after consultation, the Police Minister and I have extended invitations to the Leader of the Opposition and the Police spokesman to attend today's opening. We are delighted that they will attend. If they are complaining about the invitation, perhaps they believe that we should not have invited them. I think that is very uncharacteristic.

**An honourable member** interjected.

**Mr BEATTIE:** The Police Minister is a very generous man.

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