



Speech by

Hon. STEVE BREDHAUER

MEMBER FOR COOK

Hansard 9 June 1999

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Brisbane Light Rail Project

Hon. S. D. BREDHAUER (Cook—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads) (9.51 a.m.), by leave: I inform the House of the progress in the Brisbane light rail project. The Brisbane light rail project is an important initiative to encourage increased public transport usage in south-east Queensland. Also, it will contribute to increased job growth in both the short and long term.

Expressions of interest to develop Brisbane light rail were called from the private sector on 24 February 1999 and closed on 19 April 1999. The response to the expressions of interest was high, with seven proposals received from six different groups. The six groups which submitted proposals were as follows: City Trax, City Transit, Brisbane Light Rail, Brisbane Integrated Transport Consortium, CiVis Transport Consortium and Farnow Pty Ltd.

I am pleased to announce that four groups have now been short-listed for the project. These are City Trax, City Transit, Brisbane Light Rail and Brisbane Integrated Transport Consortium. Those on the short list include some of the most prominent construction, engineering, transport and financial corporations at a State, national and international level. The short-listed group includes the most prominent suppliers of light rail vehicles from Germany, France and Italy. These can provide state-of-the-art expertise, allied with local vehicle manufacturers. Two of the world's top 10 banks, Deutsche Bank and ABN AMRO, have expressed interest in providing finance to bidders for the project. The strength of the companies involved in bidding for the project demonstrates how well it has been received by the private sector.

All of the short-listed groups are headed by local firms, which should maximise the employment creation benefit to Queensland. The planning estimate for the project cost is \$235m, which would result in approximately 300 jobs being created during the construction phase and approximately 80 permanent jobs during operation of the light rail project.

It is planned to call for detailed proposals from those on the short list in mid July 1999. Construction of the project is intended to start in mid 2000. With the continuing cooperation of the Commonwealth and \$65m from the Commonwealth's Centenary of Federation Fund, Stage 1 of the project should be operational by the end of 2001 and Stage 2 should be operational by the end of 2002.

This Government is delivering. The former Government proposed a fundamentally flawed project—one relying on old technology and inconsistent with an integrated approach. We are delivering a modern, efficient, integrated light rail system.
