



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard 22 June 2000

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Cleaner Energy Strategy

Hon. P. D. BEATTIE (Brisbane Central— ALP) (Premier) (9.33 a.m.), by leave: On 24 May, on behalf of the Cabinet, I released the Queensland Government's energy policy—the first of its type in Queensland. Indeed, it is the first energy policy in Australia to come to grips with the sensitive environmental issues that will increasingly dominate this sector. Titled A Cleaner Energy Strategy, the policy provides clear signals to industry, encouraging diversification of our energy sector towards a balanced energy mix.

The past has been coal. The future, as the policy spells out, must be coal, gas and renewables. The Government is actively pursuing the development of gas-fired power stations across the State. Cabinet will soon be in a position to consider options to develop gas-fired generation facilities in Townsville. We have also achieved good progress in negotiations with AGL/Petronas to advance construction of the Gladstone-Townsville section of the PNG gas pipeline.

I am pleased to advise the House today that our energy policy has brought another gas-fired power station to fruition. Later today, Energy Minister Tony McGrady, Treasurer David Hamill and I will announce Government approval for the construction of a \$250m gas-fired power station at Swanbank near Ipswich. The 385 megawatt facility will expand the existing Swanbank Power Station and form the core of a new industrial estate directly adjacent to the site. This development will attract new industries to Ipswich and generate hundreds of new jobs while delivering a cleaner energy future for the region.

As the Deputy Premier and I keep saying, this is a can-do Government. Everyone else says that, too. CS Energy is the operator of Swanbank and will engage in a strategic alliance with Southern Energy Asia Pacific to build the new gas-fired station. Southern Energy is part of a major international energy corporation based in Atlanta, Georgia. The participation of such a large international investor in this project is a huge vote of confidence in the Queensland energy sector and the energy policy framework that this Government has developed. It is working.

Southern Energy also hold a licence for Kogan Creek Power Station, and as part of the alliance arrangements it will jointly determine with CS Energy the time framework for the development of the Kogan Creek project over the next 12 months. I am advised that demand for electricity may see the project on hold until 2007 or beyond.
