



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Government Achievements

Hon. P. D. BEATTIE (Brisbane Central— ALP) (Premier) (9.34 a.m.), by leave: In recent weeks the people of Queensland have witnessed the stark contrast between my can-do, positive and progressive Government and the whingeing, whining, carping coalition. While the Opposition Leader and the Leader of the Liberal Party have been sinking into a mire of misery and negativity, my Government has been delivering on our commitments. For example: the Native Title solution that will generate thousands of jobs in the mining industry, particularly for indigenous Queenslanders and all Queenslanders; the vegetation management and RFA solutions that will save hundreds of thousands of hectares of native vegetation, as well as protect the jobs of farmers and timber industry workers; the successful launch of Virgin Blue and Impulse Airlines services in Queensland that will provide the biggest boost to our tourism industry in more than a generation. On top of that, work is gathering pace at Roma Street, and preparations for the Goodwill Games are well advanced.

In fact, I am pleased to inform honourable members that the ANZ Stadium will be a world-class athletics facility following a \$2.6m upgrade for the 2001 Goodwill Games in Brisbane. While the Sydney Olympics are without doubt the highlight of the sports calendar for this year, Brisbane will be the place to be in 2001. It will be the biggest sporting event in the world in 2001. The ANZ Stadium will certainly be among the hot spots for sports fans. ANZ will host the cream of the world athletics crop at next year's Goodwill Games, which runs from 29 August to 9 September 2001. It is therefore appropriate that this stadium should get an upgrade. In fact, it is the most significant upgrade to the stadium since the 1982 Commonwealth Games. Work will start in late September and will be completed in February next year, in time for other international events, including the Australian Track and Field Open and Under 20 Championships in March and the World Veterans Athletics Championships in July. The upgrade will include: \$2.25m in State Government funding for a new athletics track, timing and sports equipment; and \$375,000 in joint State Government/Brisbane City Council funding for lighting, communications and scoreboard.

The Brisbane Goodwill Games—and they involve more than just Brisbane; they include the Gold Coast and all of Queensland—will be the most prestigious event on the world's sporting calendar in 2001 and will have a huge impact on Queensland in terms of exposure on an international scale and business here at home. In fact, it is unprecedented. When the Games are beamed to more than 450 million households around the world next year, we want to showcase our capital city and parts of Queensland and its sporting venues in the best possible way. The State Government is working in close partnership with the Brisbane City Council and will announce further upgrades to other venues in the near future.

Another major initiative that I am pleased to detail today is the State Government's continuing support for Foodbank Queensland. A number of Ministers joined me yesterday for the opening of its new facility. This magnificent initiative helps to feed 20,000 needy Queensland families a year, and I was honoured to yesterday open the charity's new \$1.4m warehouse at Colmslie, along with a number of Ministers and the local member. As honourable members would be aware, Foodbank Queensland distributes food and grocery items supplied by manufacturers and suppliers that might have damaged packaging, a limited shelf life left or be a discontinued line. Before Foodbank, this food had to be dumped while families in crisis went hungry. But in 1995 a number of charitable bodies, headed by the

St Vincent de Paul Society, Lifeline and the Salvation Army, together with people such as Ian Brusasco and former Lord Mayor Clem Jones, set out to change that unacceptable situation.

Foodbank Queensland was established with corporate support and a \$250,000 Queensland Government grant. During the past two years it has distributed around 1.5 million kilos of food through 180 agencies in Queensland. Until recently Foodbank had been operating out of a warehouse in my electorate provided by Coca-Cola. With the end of this arrangement, the State Government provided funding of \$1m to buy land and construct a new warehouse. We have also given Foodbank Queensland a long-term lease at a peppercorn rate because we recognise the enormity of the work undertaken and this organisation's dedication to its cause.

I was also honoured to last week officially open another building, this time the world headquarters in Brisbane of Australia's largest software company, Mincom. There can be few better advertisements for the Smart State than a company such as Mincom deciding that the most suitable place in the world for its world headquarters is Brisbane. Mincom has an annual turnover of more than \$200m and employs 1,100 staff in 30 offices in 18 countries across North America, South America, South-East Asia, Africa, the United Kingdom and Europe. In June it was the Australian Technology Awards Winner for Excellence in the Development of Data Management. It is a past winner of the Exporter of the Year award from Austrade. It had won the Premier's Export Award three times in the past decade and a range of industry awards.

Mincom exemplifies the enterprise and expertise Queensland has to offer the rest of the world, demonstrating our can-do ability and how well we can do it. My Government has set out to make Queensland the Smart State and has been successful in attracting a large number of IT companies to establish a presence here. Go-ahead companies like Mincom are helping to make Queensland stronger, smarter and more competitive in the world's marketplace.

Recently on a visit to Indonesia I visited its Indonesian office in Jakarta. Little more than two decades since it began in 1979, Mincom has become a big winner, an innovative computer software company with its eye on the future and its feet firmly planted in Queensland with its world headquarters here. I congratulate Mincom management and its employees on their achievements.

As I said, those are just a few examples of my Government's recent initiatives and involvement in building a stronger and better Queensland, a smarter Queensland, and that is the result of a can-do Government.
