



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard 5 October 2000

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Gold Coast Marine Precinct

Hon. P. D. BEATTIE (Brisbane Central— ALP) (Premier) (9.41 a.m.), by leave: Later today, with Deputy Premier Jim Elder and Gold Coast Mayor Gary Baidon, I will officially open the Gold Coast Marine Precinct at Coomera—a project which already employs 1,000 people. The project is a result of longstanding close collaboration between the State Government and the Gold Coast City Council. We are continuing this close collaboration, which will eventually result in 3,000 jobs at the precinct. We have already worked closely together to resolve infrastructure issues.

The Gold Coast Marine Precinct will grow to become the centre of the marine industry on the Gold Coast and the largest of its kind in Australia. Ultimately it will occupy 250 hectares of land and earn tens of millions of dollars a year in export income. I recently had the pleasure of inspecting it. The precinct is one of only two sites in the south-east corner of Queensland available for the development of water-based industries, the other being Clunies Flats near the Brisbane River mouth.

Already the precinct is an important contributor to the local economy. More than 60 hectares have been developed and \$65m invested here by Riviera Marine, Quintrex, Gold Coast City Marina, Coomera River Slipway and Marina, known by locals as Bruce Harris's Boat Yard, and Neale Industries. These operations already generate earnings in excess of \$100m a year in boatbuilding orders.

As a result of the Government's desire to ensure that the Opposition has an opportunity to raise issues today, I seek to have the rest of my comments incorporated in Hansard.

Leave granted.

The precinct has been established to attract local, interstate and international manufacturers to accommodate expected growth over the next 30 years.

We expect further marine industries to be attracted here, including boat building, boat refit, mechanical services and marine component manufacture.

We confidently expect that the marine industry will benefit from the trade synergies generated by companies within the precinct and that there will be

substantial flow-on effects to other marine companies located within the boundaries of Gold Coast City.

Already several overseas boat manufacturers have expressed interest in the precinct, dependent upon government incentives, state government support and the overall strategic plan for the area.

In November last year council asked the Queensland Government to take a leadership role in setting future directions for the growth of the precinct and to form a task force.

That we've done and the task force meets every month.

We have implemented a coordinated approach to the development of this very significant project, believing that this is by far the best way to realise the potential of this very important addition to Queensland industry and infrastructure.

The Queensland Government's involvement is coordinated through the Department of State Development and the Task Force addresses such issues as:

- The need for an infrastructure plan for the entire precinct,

- The need for a master plan and marketing strategy,

- The need for a project manager to implement such strategies

State Government financial assistance with infrastructure costs and strategic planning issues, and
Support from the State Government to assist with continued growth and development through
investment attraction, marketing and fast tracking of infrastructure issues.

Projects of this magnitude, properly coordinated and supported by all parties involved, will maintain
Queensland's marine industry as a significant international force.

You can rest assured that the Queensland Government will do all it reasonably can to ensure we maximise
the potential of this great project.

The Queensland Government recognises the great growth potential of the marine industry, particularly in
export markets.

The Gold Coast City Council has also recognised the potential significance of this precinct to provide the
base for a key industry to broaden and strengthen the city's economic base.

I congratulate the Queensland industry for establishing significant international markets for pleasure craft,
ranging up to the top end of the luxury yacht market.
