



Speech by

Hon. R. SCHWARTEN

MEMBER FOR ROCKHAMPTON

Hansard 24 August 2000

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Public Architecture Conference

Hon. R. E. SCHWARTEN (Rockhampton— ALP) (Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing) (9.53 a.m.), by leave: I want to inform honourable members of an initiative that I have taken as Minister for Public Works which impacts on the type of place Queensland will be in the future. I have always considered it important for the Government to stimulate public debate on issues related to our built environment. Last year, as honourable members will recall, the Premier and I announced the appointment of the first Queensland Government Architect, Professor Michael Keniger of the University of Queensland. His brief is to advise the Government on a range of issues related to public architecture and design.

Next month will see another important step with the staging of a conference in Brisbane to discuss public architecture. The conference—the Making of the Public Realm—will help promote innovation and excellence in the quality and design of public projects. It is designed to provoke thought and debate on the role that public architecture plays in shaping Queensland's built environment. The conference, being organised by the Department of Public Works, will be held on 26 September. Speakers will include Professor Keniger as well as Francis Golding from the Commission of Architecture and Built Environment in the UK, whom I met in London last year, National Capital Authority Chief Executive Officer Annabelle Pegrum, and New South Wales Government Architect Chris Johnson. I believe that the conference will be a landmark for all involved in the design of public buildings and places.

Past generations of Queenslanders left us with a rich architectural heritage and this conference will help foster wider public discussion about the legacy that we will leave future generations. I am particularly keen for young architects and those now studying architecture to attend, because their ideas and designs will quite literally shape our future.

The conference is part of my ongoing efforts to foster a greater understanding of the issues that influence our built environment and the buildings in which we spend our lives. Wider and more informed discussion of such issues can only result in the creation of world-class public projects which benefit all Queenslanders both now and in the and future.
