



Speech by

**Mr N. ROBERTS**

**MEMBER FOR NUDGE**

---

Hansard 28 November 2001

**PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP INFRASTRUCTURE POLICY**

**Mr NEIL ROBERTS** (Nudgee—ALP) (10.24 a.m.): I am firm supporter of the proposition that we need to reassert the role of government as a defender of the public interest. That means appropriate levels of government ownership and regulation of various aspects of the economy and community life. Government funding, however, is not sufficient to provide and deliver all that is required to meet the increasing public needs and demands of our citizens. That is why I wholeheartedly support and commend the government and Minister Tom Barton on the recent release and momentum given to the public-private partnerships infrastructure policy.

This policy gives the government an opportunity to aggressively extract the maximum public benefit from private sector financing of essential infrastructure for areas such as road, rail and health. The way forward involves a smart combination of publicly funded projects and services integrated with an expanded and managed role for public-private sector partnerships. I see this policy as providing us with an opportunity to have private sector money positively used in a way that will give the maximum public benefit to the Queensland population. I look forward to playing my part in supporting the government in implementing this necessary reform.

Implementation of the public-private partnership infrastructure policy will require substantial effort and resources on the part of government to ensure that the public interest is defended and asserted. It is a policy that presents significant opportunities for the people of Queensland and something we simply just have to do.

---