



Speech by

# Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

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Hansard 18 October 2001

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Smart State

**Hon. P. D. BEATTIE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.43 a.m.), by leave: When first elected, my government set priorities to achieve our vision for the people of Queensland. We have now refined those priorities to reflect the areas in which sustained commitment is required this term. The Queensland government priorities I am about to announce are the key directional statements of the government and provide the overarching framework for government activity.

My government is committed to building the social, economic and environmental capacity that makes Queensland the Smart State—a place where new ideas are welcomed, where there is economic opportunity, high-quality education for our children, jobs which are rewarding and fulfilling, a place where our diversity and our environment are valued and which fosters a strong sense of fairness and community spirit. We will secure the state's place as a dynamic, tolerant and mature community that is optimistic about its future in the Australian, Asia-Pacific and world arenas.

The government's top priority is employment creation and positioning Queensland as the Smart State. The government will deliver improved and integrated education, health, housing, family and other services and programs that improve people's quality of life.

I move to incorporate the rest of my statement in *Hansard* to save time. I also table for the information of all members the new Charter of Social and Fiscal Responsibility.

Leave granted.

It will work in partnership with the community, strengthen citizenship and democracy, and engage the community more effectively in making decisions about our future. To achieve its vision the Government will lead by example through high standards of accountability, consultation and ethics. It will conduct its business in a fair and equitable manner, respecting human rights. It will manage Queensland's finances to maintain a State Budget surplus, low debt status and AAA credit rating. Our key priority areas are:

- More jobs—skills and innovation—the Smart State;
- Safer and more supportive communities;
- Community engagement and a better quality of life;
- Valuing the environment; and
- Building Queensland's regions.

Our number one priority is More Jobs for Queensland—skills and innovation—the Smart State. To meet the demands of an information economy, the government will ensure Queensland has a highly educated, skilled and flexible workforce, and encourage life-long learning. We will support Queenslanders in gaining and maintaining employment through infrastructure provision to support investment and development, by encouraging an environment for business that allows firms to grow and diversify.

Safer and more supportive communities recognises that all Queenslanders want to live in communities where they are protected from harm, where the differences between people are respected, and where everyone is treated with fairness and dignity. A community where we help those most in need. Through Community Engagement and a Better Quality of Life we will encourage all Queenslanders to take part in the rich cultural, social and economic life of our State and to support the democratic processes that underpin our way of life. The government is working to ensure equality of opportunity and equitable access to high standards of education, health, housing and family services and to achieve this through greater participation in choices made by Government.

Valuing the Environment recognises that a healthy and sustainable environment is essential to our future. The government will protect Queensland's natural and cultural heritage for current and future generations, and manage the development of our natural resources in an ecologically sustainable way.

Finally, Building Queensland's Regions acknowledges that Queensland is the most decentralised state in Australia. The government will ensure that Queensland's regions can capitalise on their unique assets and resources.

These priorities form the foundation of the Government's Charter of Social and Fiscal Responsibility. The Charter of Social and Fiscal Responsibility outlines what the government wants to achieve in both the social and financial arenas. It provides a basis for the conduct of government and provides the means by which the government's achievements can be measured. This updated charter continues to recognise the government's strong commitment to meeting its financial responsibilities.

The fiscal objectives of the government as set out in previous charters are unchanged. There is absolutely no weakening of the government's resolve to achieve its social objectives while managing the state's finances to maintain a state budget surplus, low debt status and AAA credit rating. I now table for the information of all members the new Charter of Social and Fiscal Responsibility.

Mr Speaker, I would also like to inform the House of a new approach to public sector coordination that utilises the diverse skills and knowledge of the state's senior public servants. I have recently established five Chief Executive Officer Committees to drive implementation of the priorities across government. These committees will encourage whole-of-government coordination in the areas of employment, economic development and infrastructure, human services, law and justice, land and resources, and governance. They will focus initially on a small number of critical issues and I look forward to following their progress.

**Mr BEATTIE:** There are two other things that I want to mention quickly. As part of our philosophy of ensuring that the government keeps its focus, there is going to be a caucus retreat for this Sunday afternoon and Monday at Mudjimba. It is part of our renewal process, it is part of the cabinet, and new members in particular getting together, as well as longer-serving backbenchers, to ensure that we continue to be focused. As I said, it is part of our renewal process.

In addition, next week we will be announcing the regional events program. It will be announced on Tuesday in Toowoomba, on the way back from the Centenary of Federation flag-raising ceremony at Wallangarra. We are travelling there as part of that. There will be a train from Stanthorpe, as well. I will be launching the regional events strategy. Again, it is part of our priorities.

While I am talking about priorities—in Cairns last month, at the 42nd community cabinet meeting, Dean Wells, the Environment Minister, and I jointly announced that the state government had taken further steps to meet the challenges for climate change. We jointly released Queensland's greenhouse policy framework—a climate of change—which I table for the information of the House.

The framework demonstrates the state government's commitment to greenhouse and climate change action. This framework marks the beginning of further greenhouse and climate change policy development in Queensland. This is particularly challenging in an economy dependent on high-emission activities. Actions to make the world more capable of dealing with greenhouse issues cannot be taken by government alone. We need to work with industry and community to address greenhouse gas emissions and the impacts of climate change to achieve a sustainable future.

This document will form the basis of consultation with industry and the community to develop a Queensland greenhouse response strategy. The framework builds on recent state government initiatives, such as the Queensland energy policy—a cleaner energy strategy and the vegetation management framework, which are already assisting to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while delivering other environmental, social and economic benefits.

The framework outlines a way forward for government action in the areas of knowledge and understanding, emissions reduction and carbon sequestration and adaptation to climate change. The EPA, mainly through its Sustainable Industries Division, is responsible for a number of initiatives that will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, including the solar hot water rebate scheme; the working properties rebate scheme; the \$1.5 million industry energy demand program; the \$1.4 million cleaner production partnership program; and the sustainable energy innovation fund. A climate of change complements the extensive work already being done by the state government to respond to greenhouse issues and maintain Queensland's unique environment. This is all about environmental responsibility in a Smart State environment.

Finally, I inform the House that on 20 September 2001, in accordance with the Acts Interpretation Act 1954, the Constitution Act 1867 and the Officials in Parliament Act 1896, His Excellency the Governor, acting by and with the advice of the Executive Council, approved Administrative Arrangements Order (No. 7) 2001. I lay upon the table of the House a copy of the relevant notification from the *Queensland Government Gazette*.

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