



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Ipswich Performing Arts Centre; Ipswich Region Community Church

Hon. P. D. BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.36 a.m.), by leave: Later today I will be joining my colleague the member for Ipswich West, Don Livingstone, for an important event in Ipswich—the official opening of a splendid new Ipswich Performing Arts Centre. It also has the support of the member for Ipswich—

Mr Terry Sullivan: Hear, hear!

Mr BEATTIE: It certainly does.

A government member interjected.

Mr BEATTIE: And the member for Bundamba.

This new facility will become an important venue for the people of Ipswich, doubling as both the performing arts centre and home for the Ipswich Region Community Church. In fact, the 1,000 seat complex, built at a cost of almost \$4 million, has been funded entirely by the church's congregation. This public-spirited group decided they needed a larger premises, but they also decided that this new facility ought also to serve the needs of the wider community. I understand that local organisations contacted by the church stressed the need for a new performing arts centre.

The Ipswich City Council is confident that the complex will be well used and have significant and positive economic and social impacts on the region. Ipswich has a vigorous cultural life and will embrace this new performing arts centre. It joins Global Arts Link, the Ipswich Railway Workshops, the Ipswich Civic Hall, the Ipswich Library and the Incinerator Theatre as highly visible symbols of the rich cultural life of the city—and I say to the Minister for the Arts that that is a great name for a theatre.

A government member: Hot stuff.

Mr BEATTIE: It is hot stuff. I can see that having a benefit for some people in this House—certainly not on my side.

Mr Foley: We are all on your side.

Mr BEATTIE: Yes, we are all on our side.

I am confident that we will see community support and goodwill rally around the new centre, which occupies part of a 16.02 hectare site which will be developed in stages in the coming years. These future developments are also directed at the needs of the entire community, with plans including an indoor sports centre and primary and high schools, as well as commercial, administrative and residential properties. The Ipswich Region Community Church already provides many services to the people of this region, and this new project will enhance its capabilities in delivering social action programs.

I congratulate the Ipswich Region Community Church for the vision that the congregation displayed in creating such a valuable addition to this region's social amenities. It is a real pleasure to return to Ipswich today to celebrate this event with the local community and, indeed, with the support of the three Labor members who are based in Ipswich and the surrounding area. I might say that they are

encouraging me to give some consideration to allocating some money towards their airconditioning. I am looking at that at the moment.

A government member: Hear, hear!

Mr BEATTIE: I knew the member would say, 'Hear, hear!' for that.
