



Speech by

# Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

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Hansard 5 April 2001

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Roma Street Parkland

**Hon. P. D. BEATTIE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.36 a.m.), by leave: There is a big day of celebration planned for Brisbane tomorrow when stage 1 of the \$72 million Roma Street Parkland is officially opened by the Minister for Public Works and me. It is an event that I am eagerly looking forward to, because this project has turned a virtual wasteland into the heart and lungs of Brisbane. This has been a tremendous project that has transformed the old railway yards into a beautiful people's place that will be an irresistible magnet to local residents and which will put us on the map internationally. It has been a big project which, at its peak late last year, employed 250 people. Their efforts have created a truly unique asset for present and future generations of Queenslanders.

The state government has spent \$72 million to develop the Roma Street Parkland on 16 hectares covering the former rail yards and the existing Albert Park in Brisbane's CBD. I urge all members to get out and see the parkland for themselves. It features a spectacular garden containing displays of subtropical foliage and flowers, a massive water wall and other water features and a one hectare lake. There is also a 250 metre pedestrian bridge linking the parkland with the CBD via Albert Street and an activity precinct with provision for a market plaza, as well as future retail and food outlets. Other features include a lookout and bridge crossing the fern gully, a boardwalk linking the Spectacle Garden and Parkland Boulevard and provision for a pedestrian bridge linking the parkland to Petrie Terrace.

The Roma Street Parkland is being developed in partnership with the Brisbane City Council by the state government. To give the House some idea of the scope of this project, the transformation of the Roma Street Parkland site has involved the shifting of enough soil to cover the Gabba cricket ground to a height of two metres. This parkland is the largest subtropical garden in a city centre anywhere in the world. Workers have planted 1,200 mature trees, 100,000 shrubs, 1,800 unique species such as grass trees, staghorn and elkhorn, and 350 palms. Close to 300 Queenslanders nominated a name for the new parkland, with Roma Street Parkland or variations being the most popular.

Wherever one lives, they can 'virtually' visit a special Roma Street Parkland through a web site—[www.romastreetparkland.com](http://www.romastreetparkland.com)— which features a tour of the parkland and an interactive model of the project. The Roma Street Parkland will be officially opened at 10 a.m. tomorrow by the minister and me. On Friday night there will be a concert at the parkland which will feature people such as Christine Anu and George, a local band. This is proof we are delivering on our commitments. For years governments dithered over the redevelopment of the Roma Street Parkland. This government delivered.

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