



Speech by

Hon. R. SCHWARTEN

MEMBER FOR ROCKHAMPTON

Hansard 29 November 2001

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Capital Works Program

Hon. R. E. SCHWARTEN (Rockhampton—ALP) (Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing) (10.07 p.m.), by leave: The Beattie government continues its can-do approach to creating employment and developing capital assets in Queensland. The Department of Public Works is delivering capital works projects right across the state. This financial year, 2001-02, it is anticipated that Project Services will progress approximately \$800 million in building capital works on behalf of its clients, generating an estimated 7,600 jobs. It will do it on time and within budget to the satisfaction of all clients. A significant proportion of these works will be delivered in regional Queensland.

A quick snapshot of those projects includes a new office building at 33 Charlotte Street in Brisbane. The approved budget, excluding the fit-out, is \$49 million. This project is estimated to generate approximately 700 jobs. Tenders for the managing contractor closed on 5 November 2001.

In relation to the Kelvin Grove Urban Village, which incidentally has won a number of awards, the total cost of this project is \$37 million. It will generate 310 jobs. Remediation of the site is well under way. Site works for the first stage of the project will start early next year.

In relation to the Suncorp Metway Stadium redevelopment, the estimated cost is \$280 million. It will generate 3,400 jobs. Demolition works there are complete. Bulk earthworks are almost complete and piling is well advanced. Substructure works and low-level trunk services have commenced.

In relation to the Brisbane Magistrates Court, this project is estimated to generate more than 1,300 jobs. The design competition has been concluded and work is expected to commence in June 2002 and be completed in 2004.

The Millennium Arts Project, about which my colleague is passionate, is a \$228 million project incorporating the new Gallery of Modern Art and the expansion of the State Library of Queensland. It will create more than 2,800 jobs. The project relating to the west block of the Royal Brisbane Hospital is estimated to generate approximately 550 jobs and is 14.4 per cent complete. The project relating to the east block of the Royal Brisbane Hospital is a \$67.95 million project. It is estimated to generate approximately 950 jobs and is 25 per cent complete. In regional Queensland, as I mentioned earlier, a new office block in Cairns—

Ms Boyle: It is going well, Minister, I must say.

Mr SCHWARTEN: My good friend the member for Cairns advises me that it is going well, and the department tells me the same thing, so that must be what is in fact occurring. It is a \$17.5 million project expected to be completed in the middle of next year. I refer to Cairns Hospital blocks A and B. Again, my friend the member for Cairns advises me that this \$31.75 million project is 86 per cent complete and going just swimmingly. The Rockhampton Hospital project, which will generate 240 jobs and is 87 per cent complete, is also going well.

The Maryborough Correctional Centre, a \$94.5 million project, is 46 per cent complete. The project will create 1,300 jobs. Similarly, the Nambour Hospital clinical service building is 63 per cent complete. Its due date of completion is April 2002. The Baillie Henderson Hospital in Toowoomba, a \$12.1 million project, is currently under construction and is 90 per cent complete. It is expected to be completed in December this year. The Gold Coast Convention Centre is a \$118 million project that is at the developed design stage. The main redevelopment of the Gold Coast Hospital is a \$12.85 million

project which is currently under construction and is 80 per cent complete. It will be completed in January 2002.

As members can see, these significant projects are well and truly under way and will not only add to the state's asset base but also create valuable employment opportunities in the construction industry—jobs for Queenslanders. The successful completion of the \$72 million Roma Street Parkland on time and on budget demonstrates the department's and the government's capacity to deliver projects. This project generated more than 890 jobs.

This government continues to work in partnership with industry to provide the building infrastructure necessary to deliver services to the state's growing population. The development and publication of a forward program, industry guide, for the government's building capital works program has been a key initiative of this government. The industry guide provides timely and relevant information about upcoming building capital works projects across the state and has been widely accepted and appreciated by industry. I am pleased to inform the House of the status of major projects and the jobs they are creating, and I will continue to do so.
