



Speech by

Hon. STEVE BREDHAUER

MEMBER FOR COOK

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Roads Implementation Program

Hon. S. D. BREDHAUER (Cook—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads) (9.54 a.m.), by leave: This year's Roads Implementation Program builds on the Beattie government's record in roadworks delivery. The five-year \$5.5 billion Roads Implementation Program reflects the Beattie Government's continuing commitment to jobs, improved quality of life and to building Queensland's regions. Despite the adverse impacts of the GST, which resulted in Commonwealth-imposed savings targets of \$122 million being withdrawn from Main Roads' budget over five years from July 2000, and the completion of the Pacific Motorway project in October last year, this year's five-year Roads Implementation Program provides for: \$5.5 billion worth of works over five years and sustainable employment for 17,000 people in roads and supporting industries; delivery of all state government election commitments; a firm commitment to projects in years one and two, with projects in years three to five foreshadowed for future planning purposes; an increased commitment to asset maintenance within available funds; and improved coordination of planning and prioritisation of road investment with other modes of transport, which is delivering more for the Transport portfolio dollar.

Irrespective of where people live, the Roads Implementation Program delivers social equity, particularly to isolated communities that do not have the range of opportunities for jobs and secure long-term employment. In 2001-02, \$952 million is planned to be spent on roadworks, including \$288 million for federally funded National Highways, roads of national importance and black spots. In a major initiative, more than \$600 million will be spent in the first two years of the program on maintaining the existing road network. This is consistent with our commitment to increase maintenance funding. Within available funds, maintenance funding is being increased by an average of five per cent per annum over five years from 2000-01.

One of the features of this year's Roads Implementation Program will be the completion of the Tugun bypass planning study, in close consultation with our New South Wales and federal counterparts. On 20 March 1998, the then Federal Transport Minister, Mark Vaile, committed to fund the Tugun bypass on a 50/50 basis with the Queensland government. However, in June this year the Federal Transport Minister, John Anderson, advised the state government that there were 'no other funds available to fund Tugun, either in Queensland or in New South Wales' other than the previous undertaking to spend \$15 million a year over 10 years on the Pacific Motorway.

Notwithstanding the initial commitment made by Mark Vaile, the Queensland government is now the only government to have made a commitment and to have actually allocated funds for the construction of this vital national road project. In fact, this government has already spent \$7 million on preconstruction and planning work and it has allocated \$55 million in this year's Roads Implementation Program.

Today the Premier has written to the Prime Minister seeking his personal intervention to secure funds from the Commonwealth as promised. I can assure members and residents of the Gold Coast that the state government is determined to finalise the impact assessment study and to seek New South Wales and Commonwealth approvals, including funding, to allow the start of construction by the end of 2002, as was our election commitment. I table a copy of the Premier's letter to the Prime Minister and a copy of the Roads Implementation Program.