



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard 13 May 2003

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Maryborough By-election

Hon. P. D. BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.34 a.m.): On 8 May the result of the Maryborough by-election was announced. As we all know, we can officially congratulate Chris Foley on his victory. We welcome him to the House and we wish him well. Indeed, I am sure that all members will do what they can to make him welcome. So good luck. I have a more detailed ministerial statement, but, because of time, I seek leave to incorporate it.

Leave granted.

The result gave Labor 37% of the vote.

Chris Foley, now an Independent but well-known in Maryborough as having wanted to be the National Party candidate received 33.3% of the vote.

And the official National candidate received 17.2%.

In other words, voters leaning to the National Party totalled 50.5%.

Despite my Government's major achievements in job creation, the fact that we have the best health system in Australia and our huge improvements to the education system, we only received just over a third of the vote.

I say again—attracting one in three voters means we would not win the next election.

This is a wake-up call for everyone in the Government and the party.

What everyone should remember is that a majority gained in a single election can be lost in a single election.

Remember, in 1995 all the experts said Wayne Goss was going to romp home.

Nearly three-quarters of people in a Courier-Mail poll said they expected Labor to win.

That's probably about the same as now.

Even on election day a poll said Labor would win by 11 seats.

Like me, Wayne Goss warned that Labor could lose.

No one listened.

What happened?

The Goss Government was fatally wounded in the election.

It was the start of three years of unstable government.