



Speech by

# Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

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Hansard 29 April 2004

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Charter of Social and Fiscal Responsibility

**Hon. P. D. BEATTIE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.43 a.m.): I want to advise the House that, following on from the Treasurer's tabling of the Charter of Social and Fiscal Responsibility, we have prepared a statement of government priorities to clearly articulate our focus for this term. For time reasons, I seek leave to incorporate the rest of my ministerial statement in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

During our previous two terms in government, we outlined our priorities and we have recently revised the Queensland Government Priorities to reflect our agenda for the third term.

There are seven priorities for this term.

They represent areas where the Government is seeking to achieve significant improvements.

These priorities are a key element of the redrafted Charter of Social and Fiscal Responsibility and provide a framework for government activity.

The overall aim is to improve the lives of all Queenslanders.

By focusing on improvements in these priority areas, Queensland can continue to grow as a State of opportunity, of innovation, of prosperity, and of fairness and equity.

The Government Priorities for the third term are:

- Improving health care and strengthening services to the community;
- Realising the Smart State through education, skills and innovation;
- Protecting our children and enhancing community safety;
- Managing urban growth and building Queensland's regions;
- Protecting the environment for a sustainable future;
- Growing a diverse economy and creating jobs; and,
- Delivering responsive government.

Improving health and other services to the community is an area of ongoing importance.

We will work to improve the standard and accessibility of hospital and health services, and support increased quality of life through disease prevention and active participation.

We will support families and those with a disability, work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, and improve access to affordable housing.

Over the past two terms, the Government has laid the foundation for establishing Queensland as a Smart State. This term will be about realising the Smart State vision through education, training and innovation.

Protecting our children and enhancing community safety will be a particular focus.

We will reform the child protection system, implement strategies which contribute to safe communities, and address the social and economic causes of crime.

An emerging issue which requires the concerted effort of the State Government this term is the management of urban growth. Accelerated growth in South East Queensland must be managed in an integrated and coordinated manner.

We must also continue to focus on building all of Queensland's regions through statewide infrastructure development, regional job creation and efficient and integrated transport.

Protecting the environment for a sustainable future is a priority this term.

We will protect Queensland's unique environmental and heritage assets, promote sustainable development and responsible use of our natural resources, encourage environmentally sustainable industries, and protect Queensland's diverse plants and animals.

The priority—'Growing a diverse economy and creating jobs'—will give Queensland a strong economic base on which to build its future.

The Government will work to expand export and trade opportunities, maintain a competitive tax environment, and encourage value adding, productivity growth, and the development of growth industries.

We will continue to create jobs and break the unemployment cycle for Queenslanders out of work, and ensure a fair industrial relations system.

Central to achieving all these objectives is having a government that is responsive to the community.

These priorities provide departments and agencies with a framework for planning and reporting, and guide policy development and resource allocation decisions.

The Government's progress against these priorities will be reported annually through the Priorities in Progress report.