



Speech by

**Hon. PETER BEATTIE**

**MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL**

Hansard Tuesday, 18 May 2004

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## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Beattie Labor Government, Achievements**

**Hon. P.D. BEATTIE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.45 a.m.): Yesterday was a significant milestone in the history of this government. It was 100 days since the government's re-election. It was significant that the anniversary fell on a day that involved a community cabinet meeting at the Greek Club in South Brisbane, as one of the significant achievements of my government has been to take the cabinet around the state to listen to the views, concerns and ideas of Queenslanders.

At that cabinet meeting, I was proud to be able to release a document which outlined more than 100 achievements that have occurred in the 100 days since the election on 7 February. That list shows my government got straight back into work and is committed to improving the lives of Queenslanders wherever they live. I said on election night that we would govern as if we have been elected for the first time and I can say, 100 days later, we have.

I table the full list of achievements of the government in its 100 days for the information of all members, and I seek leave to incorporate more detail in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

I would like to highlight some key achievements from the first 100 days of this term of Government.

The Peter Forster blueprint for child protection reforms was delivered on 22 March 2004. The Government immediately responded to the blueprint by committing an extra \$161.6m per year to build a new, radically improved system for Queensland children.

The extra funding, together with the \$40m approved before the Crime and Misconduct Commission reported in January, will deliver more staff; better training and resources; more accountability; more money and support for foster carers; and more options for finding new homes for abused and troubled young people.

More than 2000 patients have had surgery as part of the Queensland Government's election commitment to provide up to 4,000 additional operations for patients on public hospital waiting lists before the end of June 2004.

The \$20m program is aimed at those patients who have waited longer than necessary, and is the first stage of a \$110m commitment this term to reduce waiting times.

The Government is canvassing a senior certificate overhaul. These are part of reforms to make education more relevant. A discussion paper includes options, such as setting minimum literacy and numeracy standards, and giving senior certificate candidates credit for workplace learning or university subjects. As well a major review of the board of teacher registration is under way.

The Government has delivered on its commitment to introduce new tree clearing laws in the first sitting of the new Parliament in March 2004. Under the new laws, broad scale clearing of remnant native vegetation will end in 2006 and land holders will have greater certainty in the ongoing management of native vegetation on their land.

Following the State election, the Government initiated talks with industry on sugar industry reforms. On 1 March 2004, this Government and peak industry organisations—Canegrowers and the Australian Sugar Milling Council—signed a heads of agreement on sugar industry reforms.

The reforms were passed by this House on 28 April 2004, unlocking the full \$150m committed by the Queensland and Commonwealth Governments under the Memorandum of Understanding signed in September 2002. This Government's \$33m contribution to restructure assistance will support innovation, change management and farm consolidation.

The Office of Urban Management has been established and will have the operational and legislative power to make sure a comprehensive, workable plan for the future growth of south east Queensland is put in place. The Office will work with the 18 local governments in the region, through the Regional Coordination Committee and the south east Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils, and with business and community groups to expedite the new SEQ 2021 Regional Plan.

Also, the level of transfer duty and mortgage duty relief for first home buyers will be extended. The breaking the unemployment cycle program hit the 70,000 jobs mark, putting it well on track to reach its new target of 100,000 by June 2007. The 70,000 mark was achieved against the nominal June 2004 target of 56,000 jobs.

In line with the Government's commitment to maintain and enhance racing facilities in Brisbane, meetings have begun to work towards successful amalgamation of the metropolitan clubs. This Government has announced a panel of three respected independent people, who will inquire into the integrity management structures of thoroughbred, harness and greyhound racing in Queensland.

The Government has also appointed three independent panel members to undertake a detailed review of the performance of Queensland's electricity distribution networks, electricity distribution and service delivery for the 21st century.

From 22 March to 3 April 2004, as the Minister for Trade, I undertook a trade and investment mission to Israel, the United Kingdom, Ireland and Europe. The mission paved the way for potential export growth to these markets.

This Government is continuing the hugely successful listening philosophy and has already held four Community Cabinets—Yeppoon, Townsville, Kelvin Grove QUT and the Greek Club.

The Government contributed to a joint states submission to the national wage case in support of a \$20 a week increase to all Federal award rates of pay, and supported the \$20 increase to provide greater assistance to the low paid.

Yesterday was a first for my Cabinet

Yesterday we were blessed.

Seriously as part of our 72nd Community Cabinet Greek Club at South Brisbane we had the honour of being blessed by three priests in the adjoining Greek Orthodox Church of St George.

A big thank you to Father Dimitri Tsakas, Father Gregory Sakellariou, Father Anastasios Bozikis

A big thank you also to President of the Greek Orthodox Community of St George Brisbane, Emanuel Kallinicos Honorary Consul-General for Greece in Queensland, Alex Freeleagus and also Greek Consul Jim Raptus and all in the Greek community for the welcome

The warmth of their reception and that of the dancers, schoolchildren and community in general was palpable.

We were there to launch this year's Paniyiri festival.

Paniyiri might be about getting together and having fun.

But it is also a celebration of culture, food, religion and life in general.

It is also a celebration of multiculturalism in Queensland and Australia.

While there I was able to pass on the good news—that my Department this year is providing \$35,000—virtually double last year's \$19,500

That means the total Queensland Government contribution this year is \$60,000—Energex (\$15,000), Queensland Rail (\$10,000) also providing sponsorship

The government is keen to see festivals playing an increasing role in bringing Queenslanders together—this is so vital in such troubled world times

The Greek Orthodox Community of Saint George—organisers of Paniyiri this event—are to also be congratulated on this year's 75 years of service to the Greek community in Queensland.

I was there for their 75th anniversary celebrations of the Greek Orthodox Church of St George—April 23 this year.

The Greek Community has been celebrating Paniyiri in Brisbane since 1979.

This week's Paniyiri program includes—

Hellenic and Cypriot dancers features throughout the week,

Tuesday—a photographic exhibition

Thursday—a Greek Film Festival

Friday—I host the Premier's Sports Dinner Road to Athens—Return to the Birthplace—honour of farewelling our Qld Olympians.

Saturday—Paniyiri by Night

Sunday—the big day—Brisbane's Musgrave Park in South Brisbane—be there!

It was a great pleasure to again be part of Paniyiri

Yassoo