



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Tuesday, 18 May 2004

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Leader of the Opposition, Four-Wheel Drive Vehicle

Hon. P.D. BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.48 a.m.): I have often said that my government prides itself on responding to matters as they arise. Keeping in mind the distances travelled and the recent accidents Mr Springborg has had, I have today agreed that the Leader of the Opposition be granted a Toyota four-wheel drive vehicle instead of an Australian-built limousine.

The Leader of the Opposition has been involved in a number of costly accidents in recent times. The cost of the 4 October 2003 accident when his green pearl Holden Caprice hit a kangaroo on the Texas-Yelarbon Road was \$1,305. The second accident was on 6 February when his senior adviser Jake Smith's car, in which Mr Springborg was a passenger, sustained \$6,492 damage to the government vehicle. Another vehicle in that accident was written off with a pay-out cost of \$7,581. Arrangements for costs associated with the owner of a third vehicle involved in that accident was \$3,034. The total of that accident is \$17,107.

Mr Springborg was also earlier this month involved in another accident when he again collided with a kangaroo on 2 May. This time he sustained approximately \$1,328 damage to his martini grey Caprice Holden. This happened on the Stanthorpe-Inglewood Road.

Today I have written to the member for Southern Downs in response to his letter to me of 10 May 2004 where he sought a four-wheel drive vehicle and I table that letter for the information of the House.

Mr Springborg, I agree that a four-wheel drive will be more suitable in terms of your own safety and on-going costs. Of course, I need to do everything I can to ensure the safety of the Leader of the Opposition. In particular, driving a luxury vehicle on country roads does not make sense. I think his request is a fair one.

Therefore, I advise the House that the Leader of the Opposition, the member for Southern Downs, will be allowed a Toyota Landcruiser GXL. On Friday evening, the Leader of the Opposition's office raised the possibility of a different vehicle—a Toyota Prado Grande. I think the one being offered is the most appropriate. I wish him safe driving.