



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Wednesday, 20 October 2004

PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE

Hon. P.D. BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (5.44 p.m.): I move—

That all words after 'recognises' are omitted and the following words inserted—

'that the Beattie government has increased infrastructure spending to a record high of more than \$6 billion which means it is spending more in real terms per capita on capital works than any other state government and more than the National Party government in the 1980s; and has also improved the welfare and lifestyle of Queenslanders by rectifying the shameful level of spending by National and Liberal Party Queensland governments on health, education, people with disabilities, children and families.'

Before I make my contribution today, I point out—and I do this very gently—to the Leader of the Opposition that in his contribution he made an incorrect comparison. In terms of capital outlays he was comparing pre with post-accrual accounting. Those comparisons simply are not valid. It is comparing chalk with cheese. I am sorry, Lawrence—

Mr Springborg: That is not right.

Mr BEATTIE:—you are just not right. One cannot compare, in capital outlays, pre with post-accrual accounting. It cannot be done. The Leader of the Opposition has it wrong. I seriously suggest that he do a crash course in accounting.

The 2004-05 state capital program will exceed \$6 billion for the first time in the history of Queensland. This year our Capital Works Program is about \$1 billion higher than the 2003-04 capital works outcome. In real per capita terms, our 2004 Capital Works Program is higher than any year in the 1980s. On a per capita basis, in the 2004-05 year our general government sector capital program is the largest in the country, being 21 per cent higher than the next state. Queensland, with 19 per cent of Australia's population, will account for 27 per cent of all state and territory capital works in 2004-05.

The Leader of the Opposition believes that we should emulate his government and refuse to increase spending on social services, but that is not what we are going to do. This government will continue to deliver on all fronts—

- a budget with a record capital works program;
- a budget with a strong surplus; and
- a budget which supports record funding to social services.

We are building the capital infrastructure and the social infrastructure for Queenslanders today and tomorrow. Major projects announced in this year's budget include some \$1.9 billion on transport infrastructure over the next four years—

- a \$571 million arterial roads infrastructure package;
- a further \$500 million for QR's Citytrain network MetTrip upgrades, building on the initial \$400 million MetTrip investment in the Smart State Building Fund;
- \$200 million on busways improvements including the Queen Street to Roma Street bus tunnel; and
- the \$167 million expansion of the RG Tanna wharf at the port of Gladstone.

The budget also included a boost to electricity distribution assets in anticipation of the Somerville review. Energex will spend on average \$504 million over the next two years—a 76 per cent increase over the average spend of the last three years. Ergon will spend on average \$500 million a year over the next two years on capital works, which is an increase of 62 per cent over the average spend of the last three years.

The Burnett dam and associated infrastructure is being constructed at a cost of \$255 million. Queensland Health is budgeted to spend \$406 million on capital works, including capital grants for the Royal Flying Doctor Service. A major highlight is the \$200 million to be committed over the next three years through the Smart State Building Fund, including projects at Browns Plains, North Lakes, Cairns, Gladstone, Rockhampton and the Sunshine Coast. Redevelopment of emergency departments will occur at Gympie, Logan, Redcliffe, Redland, Robina and Weipa Hospitals. The Prince Charles emergency department will also be redeveloped. Major hospital redevelopments will take place at Gympie, Redcliffe, Redland, Robina, Logan, Atherton and Hervey Bay. The Government has also made a commitment to the redevelopment of the Mater Public Hospital.

The 2005-06 budget will see the planning and delivery of new infrastructure for this state, including projects arising from the south-east Queensland regional plan and the state infrastructure plan. Providing appropriate economic and social public infrastructure forms a key element of my government's economic strategy for further increasing the state's productive capacity, enhancing economic growth and raising the living standard of all Queenslanders.

I had a meeting with the Lord Mayor this afternoon because next week he and I will launch the urban management strategy for south-east Queensland. In that strategy we will guarantee the quality of life for south-east Queensland, because that is important. There are over 1,100 people moving here every week and through natural birth we are getting another 300. That is a lot of people. Therefore, that urban management strategy, which I will launch next week with the Lord Mayor, is a key to protecting our quality of life. As I have discussed with the Treasurer—and this will go to CBRC and will be approved by government—there will be a major infrastructure plan that will include transport and various other needs to complement that urban management plan. They are the infrastructure needs that we are planning for in the future.