



Speech by

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MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

Hansard Wednesday, 7 June 2006

ENERGEX, NORTHERN GOLD COAST

Ms CROFT (Broadwater—ALP) (10.13 pm): Energex is powering up the northern Gold Coast for the future. Recently a crucial upgrade of the electricity network on the northern Gold Coast to keep pace with the phenomenal growth in the region commenced. I joined the Minister for Energy and the hardworking Energex staff to inspect the \$5.6 million Energex substation at Hope Island and learned of the benefits of this major electricity enhancement for the growing northern Gold Coast.

According to the latest figures, by the year 2016 the population of the Hope Island and Coomera regions is projected to increase by more than 30 per cent. The government is funding projects to keep up with this staggering commercial and residential development to ensure that there is power for the last switch flicked.

The \$5.6 million upgrade at Hope Island doubles the capacity of the substation and its position in the network between new substations at Coomera to the north and Hollywell to the south. It plays an important role in the electricity network. The \$7.5 million upgrade of the Coomera substation demonstrates the Beattie government's commitment to building the Gold Coast for the future.

A \$9 million upgrade of the substation at Hollywell, scheduled for completion later this year, is also an important project for the Broadwater electorate because as important as the capacity increases at the substations is the upgrade of the distribution network, or the overhead wires and underground cables that connect the substations and deliver the high-voltage electricity for use by homes and businesses. Upgrades of distribution underground cables and overhead networks at Hope Island and Hollywell are currently underway and cable-laying work is being undertaken progressively in stages along Oxley Drive and Olsen Avenue.

I know that there has been some inconvenience to the commuting public during this work. However, this upgrade will assist the extensive new developments at Sovereign and Ephraim islands. This Hollywell work will also be of particular benefit to about 8,000 homes and businesses in Biggera Waters, Coombabah, Hollywell and Runaway Bay. The Hope Island upgrade will benefit 3,000 homes and businesses at Hope Island, Sanctuary Cove, Santa Barbara, Hope Island Marina and Paradise Point.

I thank the Minister for Energy for recently visiting and touring the electorate of Broadwater. People want to know that the minister understands the growth and pressures on services in the area. I thank all the Energex staff who are based on the Gold Coast. They are quiet achievers who work very hard in sometimes difficult and extreme weather conditions. I will continue to work hard to deliver more energy upgrades for the growing northern Gold Coast and will work with the minister to do so.