



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Wednesday, 15 February 2006

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Lady Bowen Trust

Hon. PD BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier) (9.39 am): It is not just the physical infrastructure we are working on. There are two additional matters I will mention. Today the new Lady Bowen Trust will receive a \$3 million cheque to kick-start its fundraising efforts. Her Excellency the Governor of Queensland, Quentin Bryce, Minister Robert Schwarten and I will work closely with the trust and today we will inspect progress of the trust project—that is, the multimillion-dollar redevelopment of the Lady Bowen complex at Spring Hill. Her Excellency has accepted patronage of the trust to help homeless people in Brisbane's inner city.

The Lady Bowen complex will give practical support to help homeless people start to rebuild their lives. So we are not just building the physical infrastructure but also building the social infrastructure. The five-year building project is part of a \$235 million state government package announced in the state budget last year for initiatives aimed at reducing homelessness.

Stage 1 involves redeveloping the historic building known as Roma House, named after the wife of Queensland's first Governor, Lady Diamantina Roma Bowen. It will provide crisis accommodation, meals and 24-hour support as well as referral services for up to 39 people. Extensive demolition, guttering and foundation works have already been completed. New roof sheeting is now being fitted and internal refurbishment is about to start.

The \$30 million Lady Bowen complex covers 3,700 square metres and will be completed in three stages. Stage 2 will involve converting the main building into bed-sit style accommodation. It will also have some office space for the state government funded housing organisation so that it can provide needed support services. As part of stage 3 a new complex will be built on the site offering long-term accommodation.

The Lady Bowen complex is a partnership between the Department of Housing and the Department of Communities. It also happens to be in my electorate. I know that the local community will be supportive. Whenever these projects happen the community wants to know what is going on. I advise my community that I fully support this project. I believe this project tackles homelessness head-on.