



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Thursday, 2 March 2006

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Community Cabinet Meetings

Hon. PD BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier) (9.49 am): I wish to report to the parliament on the recent community cabinet at Springfield and the planned community cabinet in Mackay on 19 and 20 March. I seek leave to have details incorporated in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

This week history was created when State Cabinet sat in Springfield.

This boom town out near Ipswich is one of the fastest growing areas in our State.

It is rapidly developing into a regional hub for employment and business opportunities as well as health, education, cultural and entertainment facilities.

The current population in the Ipswich City and Springfield area is around 135,500 people and that is forecast to grow to 318,000 people by 2026.

Our Government has recognised this potential growth and as part of the South East Queensland Infrastructure Plan we have allocated \$6 billion in new infrastructure projects for the western corridor.

Our Community Cabinet meeting on Monday 27 February was held at new the Springfield campus of the University of Southern Queensland.

This wonderful new facility is indicative of the growth in Springfield.

It will help serve the educational needs of families moving to the area and the first stage includes a 350 seat auditorium, a vocational and educational training facility, retail and commercial facilities and accommodation for 110 students.

Mr Speaker,

Since we were first elected we have always maintained a commitment to meet Queenslanders in their region.

Following on from our Springfield visit we will head to Mackay on the 19th and 20th March for our next Community Cabinet meeting.

The Mackay Whitsunday region is home to more than 146,000 Queenslanders and key industries such as coal mining, agriculture, and tourism.

It is a key regional centre and the Community Cabinet meeting will present a great opportunity for us to listen and respond to the local issues and concerns of the community first hand.

Our focus is getting on with the job and making sure we get the basics right and Community Cabinets are a vital part of this process.