



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Tuesday, 7 March 2006

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Gaven By-Election

Hon. PD BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier) (9.36 am): Mr Speaker, like you, I want to inform the House that this morning I requested that the Speaker, pursuant to the provisions of the Electoral Act 1992, issue today the writ for the by-election for the electoral district of Gaven. The by-election is to be held on Saturday, 1 April 2006, which is the first available date 26 days from today. The pertinent dates have already been addressed by the Speaker. I table my letter to the Speaker for the information of the House.

I simply want to say to members that, under the act, 26 days notice needs to be given. That means that the by-election will fall on 1 April. April is a very difficult month because, as we all know, we have Easter, Anzac Day and the school holidays. The only possible dates were 1 April or 8 April. Saturday, 8 April is the day school holidays begin.

I must confess to being terrified by mum power—that is, mums and dads heading off with their children on holidays. The last thing they want is to be worried about voting before they pack the dog in the car, the furniture in the car and all the other things they take away on holidays. The date was either the first Saturday in April or the first Saturday in May. Mr Speaker, I thank you for assisting. I seek leave to incorporate more detail in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

7 March 2006

The Hon T McGrady MP
Speaker
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Tony

As you are aware, Robert Poole resigned to you on 28 February 2006 as a Member of Parliament, thereby creating a vacancy in the electoral district of Gaven.

As the vacancy arose at a time when the Legislative Assembly was sitting and the Assembly has passed a resolution declaring that the vacancy exists and stating its cause, you are authorised to issue the writ for the by-election pursuant to section 79(1) of the Electoral Act 1992.

My preference for the dates required to be specified in the writ, which would allow the by-election to be held on Saturday, 1 April 2006 are:

- (a) the day of issue of the writ: Tuesday, 7 March 2006;
- (b) the cut off day for electoral rolls for the election: Saturday, 11 March 2006;
- (c) the cut off day for the nomination of candidates for the election: Tuesday, 14 March 2006;
- (d) the polling day: Saturday, 1 April 2006;
- (e) the day for the return of the writ: Monday, 8 May 2006.

For your information, when Her Excellency the Governor issues an election writ, the original writ and a certified copy are forwarded to the Electoral Commissioner of Queensland. The Electoral Commission then arranges for its publication in the Queensland Government Gazette. Would you please formally advise me when the writ has been issued today.

I would also appreciate your advice of your receipt of the returned writ, which I understand you will then table in the Legislative Assembly at your the earliest opportunity.

Yours sincerely

(sgd)

PETER BEATTIE MP
PREMIER OF QUEENSLAND