



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Wednesday, 8 March 2006

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Taxation Reform

Hon. PD BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier) (9.46 am): I wish to highlight that in the area of tax our reforms will produce a number of significant changes. By the time all of our announced reductions and abolitions are in place—this is in terms of tax reform—in five years time, the cumulative savings will have risen to more than \$6.1 billion. This equates to a saving of \$1,547 per head of population. Our tax reforms have meant that since my government has been in office Queenslanders pay less tax.

I notice that the Prime Minister was on ABC Radio this morning bragging that the federal government would be in negative net debt by the end of the financial year. We have been in negative net debt in Queensland since 1994. My government has the best track record in the country of managing the economy. That is why we are able to deliver on skills.

I want to make it clear to all Queenslanders that our sound economic management has led to Queensland being the engine room of Australia. I seek leave to incorporate the details in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

Since my government was elected just over seven and a half years ago we have presided over a thriving economy and business, industry and community continue to reap the rewards.

We are streets ahead of the rest of the nation in all major economic indicators.

People continue to move here in droves to enjoy our wonderful lifestyle and capitalise on the many growth opportunities offered in the Smart State.

However, this growth and good fortune has not happened by accident.

My Government has a better track record on economic management than any other State or territory in the country.

This is not rhetoric—it is a cold hard fact.

In both difficult and buoyant times we have kept a consistent and steady hand on the tiller.

We have created thousands of new jobs, improved services and made record investments in infrastructure, education, research and innovation.

We have invested on average more than \$5.5 billion a year into the State's capital program—more per capita than any other state in the nation.

We have increased spending on health by 64% or \$2.1 billion, education by 55% or \$2.3 billion and welfare and housing by 139% or \$800 million.

And these figures do not even include our announcements since the Budget including the ground breaking \$6.4 Billion Health Action Plan.

This investment alone is the largest amount of money ever pumped into the Queensland public health system.

One of our biggest achievements has been to undertake this record increase in services and infrastructure while still maintaining one of the most competitive tax systems in the world.

This financial year Queenslanders are expected to pay \$1,708 per capita in taxes compared to an average of \$2,135 per capita for the other states and territories.

We have cut payroll tax, property taxes, insurance duties, debits tax, land tax, lease duty, credit card duty, credit business duty, hire duty, and mortgage duty.

In fact total cumulative savings to taxpayers since 1998-99 are a whopping \$881 million.

On a per capita basis this equates to a saving of \$127 per head for every Queenslander this year—certainly more than a hamburger and a milkshake.

By the time all of our announced reductions and abolitions are in place in five years time the cumulative savings will have risen to more than \$6.1 billion.

This will equate to a saving of \$1,547 per head of population.

Our Government has increased services and infrastructure spending to record levels while maintaining a strong economic base that stimulates investment and growth.

We have reduced taxes, increased thresholds—making sure the tax system is fair and competitive for all Queenslanders.

Compare that to the alternative. An Opposition that could not even manage an office budget and now struggle to manage themselves.