



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Wednesday, 29 March 2006

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Sporting Facilities, Townsville

Hon. PD BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier) (9.53 am): Townsville has a well deserved reputation for leadership in sport. That reputation received a boost recently when I opened the city's new \$3.1 million Sports House with the support of the local members. Townsville has had many sporting heroes who have made the city proud over the years. This new complex will give the next generation every opportunity to reach their full potential in sport—and that is in addition to the Cowboys, I should say. I seek leave to have the remainder of my ministerial statement incorporated in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

Sports House is a significant addition to the city's impressive sporting infrastructure.

The complex offers a fully-equipped strength and conditioning gym, the latest equipment including rowing machines, special low-impact flooring, as well as meeting and conference rooms, amenities and a reception.

It will also be the new home to the regional offices of Sport and Recreation Queensland, the Queensland Academy of Sport, North Queensland Sports Foundation, Sports Medicine Australia, Australian Sports Commission, Queensland Rugby League and Sporting Wheelies and Disabled Association.

My Government is proud to support initiatives in the community that offer everyone opportunities to exercise and improve their health, at both the grassroots and elite levels.

With the Australian Bureau of Statistics earlier this year indicating an alarming increase in obesity, we must all do whatever we can to promote healthy eating and healthier lifestyles.

We are committed to helping more Queenslanders get active, and Sports House will help do that.

Regular physical activity is one of the best ways to improve our quality of life, and sport also generates many personal and social benefits. Exercise helps reduce the risk of developing chronic medical conditions such as obesity, heart disease and diabetes.

On top of the features of Sports House itself, the new complex will help the adjoining Sports Reserve attract more elite teams to Townsville which has a reputation as a leading training and competition venue.

Together, these facilities offer an integrated precinct with a unique combination of sports administration and sports facilities.