



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Wednesday, 29 March 2006

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

St Joseph's Cathedral, Rockhampton

Hon. PD BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier) (9.54 am): I recently presented the Bishop of Rockhampton, Father Brian Heenan, with \$110,000 to assist with the urgent restoration of the historic St Joseph's Cathedral. I want to acknowledge representations from local members, and I seek leave to have the remainder of my ministerial statement incorporated in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

St Joseph's is a vital part of Rockhampton's heritage and community life and I am pleased that my government was able to make the donation towards the restoration of the building.

Consecrated in 1882, St Joseph's Cathedral has played a vital role in the life of the Rockhampton community across three centuries.

The Member for Rockhampton, Rob Swarten; the Member for Keppel, Paul Hoolihan and the Member for Fitzroy Jim Pearce have worked hard to ensure the Queensland Government supports the restoration effort.

Significant structural and cosmetic repairs must be made to ensure the long term future of this fine example of Victorian Gothic architecture, which was listed on the Queensland Heritage Register in October 1993.

I understand some \$2 million will be needed to return the Cathedral to its full glory and I will vigorously support any application the Diocese may make to the Commonwealth's Heritage Grants program.

St Joseph's Cathedral is a special place for many thousands of people who live in the Rockhampton area.

I look forward to seeing St Joseph's Cathedral repaired and restored to ensure it continues to serve the people of Rockhampton and surrounding districts for at least another century.

This isn't the first regional church restoration project we've supported. The Queensland Government, through the Department of Premier and Cabinet, has provided funding for several projects including:

- Sacred Heart Catholic Cathedral, Townsville (\$100,000)
- St Andrews Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Bundaberg (\$20,000)
- St Mary's Parish, Bowen (\$20,000)