



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Thursday, 30 March 2006

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Airport Link and Northern Busway

Hon. PD BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier) (9.44 am): Together with the Brisbane Lord Mayor, Campbell Newman, and the transport minister, Paul Lucas, I recently released the concept designs for the airport link and northern busway. I seek leave to incorporate the remainder of my ministerial statement in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

These two projects will relieve peak-hour traffic congestion for years to come and change the face of public transport on Brisbane's northside.

Imagine travelling on a bus from Kedron to the Royal Brisbane Hospital in just six minutes in peak hour—that's a tremendous timesaving.

We're planning a first-class public transport corridor for commuters.

We want the people who'll be using the busway and the Airport Link to let us know what they think. The plans aren't set in concrete and we want to hear what people think about these designs before reaching any decision.

Lutwyche Road currently carries 65,000 vehicles a day. Our traffic studies show that without Airport Link, this will increase to more than 100,000 by 2026, which is why we're planning now, for our future needs.

The State Government and Brisbane City Council are jointly funding a \$21 million detailed feasibility study into Airport Link.

Both the Airport Link and the busway are part of the South East Queensland Infrastructure Plan and Program (SEQIPP), while Airport Link is a major part of Council's TransApex plan.

We have also provided \$530 million under SEQIPP for the northern busway, with a further \$120 million to join the new busway to the existing Inner Northern Busway at Herston.

I say again—we want to hear what people think about these designs before reaching any decision, but this is about building the modern Brisbane and we need to get it right for the future.