



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Wednesday, 24 May 2006

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Coordinator-General

Hon. PD BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier) (9.44 am): Yesterday in this House the member for Maroochydore launched a vitriolic attack on one of this state's most senior public servants. Claiming she was announcing a new policy as the National Party's spokesperson on state development she attempted to smear, in a very un-Christian way, Queensland's most senior public servant.

Mr Seeney interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Callide, I warn you under 253.

Mr BEATTIE: The Director-General of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and Coordinator-General, Ross Rolfe, a very decent family man, brings decades of industry and government experience to his job. Yesterday the member of Maroochydore attempted to impugn his reputation and the quality of his work. Frankly, it was a disgrace.

Miss SIMPSON: I rise on a point of order. The Premier is misleading the House and his comments are offensive and untrue.

Mr SPEAKER: That is not a point of order.

Miss SIMPSON: The Premier's comments are offensive and I ask that he withdraw them.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, the member has said that the remarks you made are offensive to her and she asks you to withdraw them.

Mr BEATTIE: I withdraw. I am happy to withdraw them, but I do not know that too many Christians get in the gutter. The member claimed that having the Coordinator-General also fill the role—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BEATTIE: They do not like the truth. They think they can come in here and start denigrating one of the most decent people in the Public Service who does not have the right to defend himself and they think that is a Christian act. It is not. It is an absolute disgrace.

Dr Flegg interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Premier, take your seat, please. The member for Moggill, I warn you under 253. If you continue to talk while I am on my feet you will be out. You are warned under 253.

Mr BEATTIE: The member claimed that having the Coordinator-General also fill the role of Director-General of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet was 'bizarre' and questioned his remuneration. The member should know better. The dual role is a long-standing practice under the National Party government. Sir Sydney Schubert held these dual posts from 1982 to 1988. More recently, Mr Peter Ellis performed both roles during the Borbidge government of which the Leader of the Opposition was a minister.

Both the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and the Public Service Office of the Coordinator-General fall within my portfolio responsibilities and it is appropriate that there are linkages between the two organisations. Contrary to the member for Maroochy's assertion, having a single person performing both roles results in a single focus and a coordinated approach to ensure infrastructure is delivered in the context of the government's entire policy agenda—a position that the National Party had when those opposite were in government.

Mr Rolfe is a former director-general of the department of environment and heritage and was director-general of the department of state development from August 1998 until he became the chief executive officer of Stanwell Corporation Ltd in January 2002. I seek leave to have incorporate in *Hansard* his distinguished record of achievement.

Leave granted.

He is a highly experienced Coordinator-General having held the position on a previous occasion and with a strong background in resource development, infrastructure provision and economic development.

Mr Rolfe has been:

- A director of Queensland Resources Council
- Chair of the Queensland Manufacturing Institute
- A director of the Institute of Molecular Bioscience
- A member of the QUT Council
- A director of the Queensland Centre for Clean Coal Technologies
- A director of iLab, Queensland's technology incubator
- Chair of the Beach Protection Authority
- A trustee for the Council of Economic Development of Australia
- The Vice-President of Tennis Queensland.

Since taking up the dual post of Coordinator-General and Director-General in late 2005, Ross Rolfe has overseen the following projects:

- Western Corridor Recycled Water Scheme, the first stage will be completed by April 2007 which will connect Swanbank Power Station. The second stage will be completed in March 2008.
- The planning and design to double the capacity of the proposed Gold Coast desalination plant with completion of construction by September 2006.
- Construction will commence late this year on Southern Regional Pipeline which is expected to be completed in late 2007.
- Geo-technical works to fast track investigations into the feasibility of the proposed Traveston Dam to enable a decision to be made within a number of weeks.
- Undertaking studies to determine the proposed dam site Wyaralong Dam and Tilleys Bridge.
- Delivery through SunWater of the \$300M Burdekin to Moranbah water pipeline to service coal mines in the northern Bowen Basin which is due for completion late this year.

Other achievements include the coordination of environmental assessments for the following major infrastructure projects:

- PNG gas pipeline;
- Airport Link;
- Abbot Point Coal Terminal;
- Central Queensland Gas Pipeline;
- Gateway Upgrade;
- Queensland Coke and Energy;
- Fisherman's Island reclamation, Gladstone;
- Gold Coast and Townsville Cruise Ship Terminals; and
- Spring Gully Power Station.

Mr BEATTIE: Let me make this final point. I would have thought that we could have a political debate without trying to denigrate individuals. This is a public servant who is serving this community. I do not believe it is appropriate that members of parliament use coward's castle to undermine individuals. If those opposite want to have some standards and want to be taken seriously as an alternative government, then they should get out of the gutter and leave individuals alone.