



Speech by

# Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Thursday, 25 May 2006

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## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### CityGrid

**Hon. PD BEATTIE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier) (9.36 am): Anyone venturing into the Brisbane CBD will quickly see that our capital, like the rest of Australia, is on the move. Cranes dot the skyline and construction work is visible in every direction. Later today I will be inspecting one of these work sites because of its integral role in providing electricity supply for the coming years.

The project involves the laying of 110,000 volt underground electricity cables in the CBD this week. Many members may have noticed the work, which includes trenching in George Street directly outside the Executive Building. This project is a key component of CityGrid—a two-year, \$178.5 million joint initiative between Energex and Powerlink Queensland.

During May and June, major power cables will be laid in conduits under central Brisbane streets to reinforce the electricity supply to the CBD and inner city suburbs to help meet the growing energy needs of businesses and households. I congratulate the energy minister for driving this program. On average more than 2,000 extra homes and businesses are connected to the electricity supply in south-east Queensland every month—many of these being inner city townhouses or new apartment complexes in the CBD area, which are in my electorate.

CityGrid's main objective is to provide additional electricity supply to the city which, along with other associated upgrade works, will provide greater flexibility to the overall electricity network. There will also be benefits delivered to suburbs including Annerley, Bowen Hills, Coorparoo, East Brisbane, Fortitude Valley, Greenslopes, Herston, Highgate Hill, Newstead, Norman Park, Red Hill, Spring Hill, and many more. The overall project is scheduled to be completed later this year.

When finished, the extra network capacity created by CityGrid will be the equivalent of the total amount of power used on the whole of the Sunshine Coast on a normal summer's day or, to put it another way—with State of Origin fever upon us—the additional capacity from CityGrid will be the equivalent of powering about 120 sold out Suncorp Stadiums on a State of Origin night. Because of its importance, I seek leave to incorporate more details in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

Work on CityGrid actually began in July 2004 in the Newstead, Fortitude Valley and CBD areas, and it is a combination of new and upgrade work on ENERGEX's substations and high voltage electricity network that supplies the CBD and surrounding suburbs.

Among its achievements to date are:

McLachlan Street Substation upgrade—commissioned December 2005

Newstead Substation upgrade—commissioned December 2005

Wellington Road Substation upgrade—Civil Construction on new building commenced December 2005

Dual circuit 110kV underground cables between Newstead and McLachlan Street substations—completed December 2005

Delivery of major transformers to Ann Street substation—April 2005

Dual circuit 110kV underground cables between Charlotte Street substation and Carindale—civil works are 45% complete

Powerlink's work on the project includes reinforcing the high voltage power supply to the Australia TradeCoast region as well as residential areas south-east of the Brisbane River to link with the ENERGEX network.

There has also been the delivery of two major 50 tonne transformers to the new Ann Street substation.

The current works are part of the second major stage of the project, with cables being laid on a 12.1km route between the CBD and Carindale.