



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Wednesday, 7 June 2006

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Transport Infrastructure

Hon. PD BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier) (9.37 am): Our government is getting on with the job of building a better Queensland. With our population growing by a staggering 1,500 people a week, huge pressure is being placed on our existing services and infrastructure. Through initiatives such as the South East Queensland Infrastructure Plan and the Blueprint for the Bush, as well as the budget, which of course I cannot talk about, our government is helping to meet this challenge. We are putting billions of dollars into providing the bricks and mortar that will help to accommodate growth and drive future development in our state. Today I am pleased to provide further evidence of our commitment.

Under the current South East Queensland Infrastructure Plan, separate projects for the duplication of the Centenary Highway and a new passenger railway to Springfield were not scheduled to be fully completed until 2015 at a total estimated cost of \$790 million. However, I am pleased to announce that the Coordinator-General, Queensland Rail and Main Roads—and I thank Paul Lucas, the minister for transport for this—have delivered an innovative solution, combining the two projects and engaging contractors early to plan the project for fast-track delivery. The two projects use the same corridor to Springfield and costs can be saved by combining the construction contracts. By appointing John Holland in an interim project alliance, we can fast-track final feasibility and be ready for construction to begin in early 2007. The probity adviser to Queensland Rail has confirmed that this approach will deliver considerable savings in time and costs to QR and the industry, and satisfies State Purchasing Policy requirements.

In addition, the developers of Springfield have indicated they are prepared to contribute to the bring forward costs if we can deliver the project more quickly. The cranes and bulldozers are busy rolling out our groundbreaking \$66 billion South East Queensland Infrastructure Plan. To manage this massive investment it is important that we look for smart ways to get the best out of existing resources. John Holland's engagement is a good example of how government can respond to industry calls to procure contractors in a flexible and responsive way, while maintaining appropriate accountability.