



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Wednesday, 7 June 2006

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Infrastructure

Hon. PD BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier) (9.40 am): In terms of projects, I want to share a number of things with the House. There have been a number of examples of major projects facilitated since 1998. I want to share what my government has delivered for Queensland.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BEATTIE: They laugh at the development. They do not like infrastructure.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BEATTIE: Those opposite can have all the canned laughter they like, but let me tell members that the joke is on them. We will hear a bit more about this. Yesterday those opposite attacked bridges and dams. What do they support? They do not even support one another. They hate one another more than they dislike us. I cannot believe it. Talk about 'Lawrence's Liberals' over there. Do not worry.

Mr Quinn: You can't play catch-up in here.

Mr BEATTIE: Just wait until question time, Bob. The Leader of the Liberal Party will not have very much to say in question time, let me tell you. Let me get on with the good news for Queensland, to quote the minister for water. This is what we have delivered. This is just a few of the projects. Let me tell members that they are going to hear more about this and so are the people of Queensland. This is just a sprinkling to get them all excited.

The projects include: the Comalco alumina refinery worth \$1.5 billion; the Capral Aluminium extrusion plant worth \$170 million; the Qantas heavy maintenance facility worth \$85 million; the north Queensland gas pipeline worth \$120 million; the Kogan Creek power station and mine worth \$946 million; the Rolleston coalmine worth \$450 million; the Suncorp Stadium redevelopment worth \$280 million; the Dalrymple Bay coal terminal expansion worth \$380 million; the Gateway upgrade project worth \$1.6 billion; the north-south bypass tunnel, which we are supporting, worth \$3 billion; the Clermont Coal project worth \$440 million; and the headquarters for Virgin Blue, which could have gone anywhere and which the Liberal Party opposite opposed.

We have completed the \$2.8 billion statewide hospital rebuilding program which has rebuilt, modernised and re-equipped public hospitals throughout the state. There was the \$510 million redevelopment of the Herston hospitals complex, the largest hospital redevelopment in Australia's history. There was the \$310 million redevelopment of the Princess Alexandra Hospital, including a new five-storey hospital building with in-patient and clinical services wings, a new central energy unit and a new mental health unit. The list goes on.

There was also the \$23 million OutbackNet project. Here are some of the roads. From 1 July 1998 to 30 March 2006, almost \$8.5 billion has been spent on the building, maintenance and operation of the road network across Queensland. This equates to an average of \$1.06 billion per year. The roads include the Linkfield connection road, the Mount Lindesay Highway, the Bruce Highway, the Gold Coast Stewart

Road interchange, the Nundah bypass, the Pacific Motorway, the Cooktown development road, the Douglas Arterial Road, the Barkly Highway, the Gladstone port access road, the Hervey's Range development road and the Carnarvon Highway. The list goes on. We have a \$500 million Townsville power station and gas delivery project. There are so many of these successful projects. There are projects involving correctional facilities and magistrates courts. I seek leave to have the rest of my ministerial statement incorporated in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

We are delivering and have committed more than \$1.17 billion for school facilities over this current term.

- There have been nine new schools announced and 1600 new classrooms are being built to accommodate increasing enrolments;
- more than \$47 million is being spent to revitalise classrooms in over 87 schools under the Smart Schools Renewal Program;
- \$19 million to upgrade libraries and administration areas at over 50 schools under the Core Facilities Upgrade Program;
- \$11 million for electrical upgrades for computers at over 150 schools under the Wired for the Future Program; and
- \$26 million for New/Upgraded Toilets at over 84 schools.

There was the \$500 million Townsville Power Station and Gas Delivery Project on 7 February 2005. The project involved construction of a pipeline to deliver gas from the Moranbah coal seam gas fields to the power station, as well as conversion of the liquid-fuelled 160 megawatt Yabulu peaking power station to a 220 megawatt gas-fired base load power station.

Almost \$500 million has been spent on or committed to the construction of additional correctional facilities and the rebuilding of existing facilities to meet immediate and future needs including:

- replacing obsolete infrastructure and augmenting infrastructure;
- New facilities have been built at Wacol (Wolston Correctional Centre and Brisbane Women's Correctional Centre), Rockhampton and Maryborough;
- Significant augmentation of facilities has occurred at Woodford, Sir David Longland, Borallon, Lotus Glen and Palen Creek Correctional Centres;

There has not been an escape under my Government from a secure facility, with the last escape happening when the Nationals and Liberals ran prisons in February 1998.

My Government has invested significantly in court infrastructure, building new courts and upgrading and modernising existing facilities. Initiatives include:

- The completion of the \$135 million Brisbane Magistrates Court Complex in 2004, providing Queenslanders with the nation's most modern judicial facility. The 14-level complex is one of Australia's most advanced judicial centres, featuring state-of-the-art technology including closed-circuit television, video conferencing and digital recording;
- Construction of new court houses at Caloundra (\$6 million), Richlands (\$4.6 million), Mt Isa (\$4 million), Thursday Island (\$3 million), Wynnum (\$1.4 million), the modernisation of the Mackay Courthouse complex (\$12 million) and an upgrade of the Hervey Bay courthouse (\$1.7 million);
- The introduction of new technologies to a number of courts, including video-conferencing facilities, wireless internet access and digital recording. The Integrated Justice Information Strategy is streamlining information sharing between the courts and other agencies involved in the criminal justice system; and
- Vulnerable witnesses have been assisted by the provision of special waiting rooms in a number of courts.

Since July 1998, police numbers have increased from 6,833 to 9,200 as at June 2006 representing an increase of almost one third or 33%. The Government will continue to increase the number of Police with a further 350 police to be trained in the next twelve months. With this year's Budget the extra 350 police will continue to maintain police numbers at the national police to population ratio.

And these are just a few examples Mr Speaker, only a sprinkling of what my Government has achieved in the past eight years.

Mr Quinn: Just pass it to the right.

Mr BEATTIE: The member cannot even work out what party he is in. They can press the button for the canned laughter all they like. I have a little surprise for them later. Tomorrow, I intend to table for the information of the House the achievements of my government over the last eight years. I have given them a sprinkling today. I will give them the detail tomorrow.

Mr Quinn: It will take you 24 hours to find them!

Mr BEATTIE: If the member had stayed tuned he would have known about them. The problem with the member is that he has no idea. Tomorrow I will be tabling information on the eight years of achievement of my government. I will set out each one of the building blocks that have made this a better state.

Tabled paper: List of major infrastructure projects.