



Speech by

# Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Thursday, 10 August 2006

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## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### HMAS *Brisbane*

**Hon. PD BEATTIE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier) (9.47 am): Mr Speaker, as we have just passed the one-year anniversary of the sinking of the HMAS *Brisbane* off the Sunshine Coast, I want to provide an update to the House. The local member and then Minister for Emergency Services, Chris Cummins, and the minister for environment and I sank the ship. It has turned out to be to the public's benefit. I seek leave to have the details incorporated in *Hansard*.

**An honourable member** interjected.

**Mr BEATTIE:** I will get the Leader of the National Party to understand what a drought is one day.

Leave granted.

In January 2003, the Queensland Government accepted the decommissioned HMAS *Brisbane* from the Australian Government.

After much preparation, the 133 metre, Charles F Adams Class DDG Guided Missile Destroyer was scuttled on 31 July 2005.

A 35.5 hectare Conservation Park has been established around the wreck to protect the environment and best manage tourism.

Mr Speaker, over the past 12 months the transformation of the site has been remarkable. Algae and corals now cover much of the wreck's surface, and all sorts of marine life call the site home.

Already the "Brisbane" has attracted over 5,500 divers, and I understand commercial dive operators are fielding enquiries from around the world.

The report Wreck to Reef—One Year On documents these first 12 months and is now available online at the Environmental Protection Agency's internet website at [www.epa.qld.gov.au](http://www.epa.qld.gov.au).

With local, national and international divers streaming to the Sunshine Coast to dive the 'Brisbane', her future is secured.