



Speech by

# Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Wednesday, 11 October 2006

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## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Gateway Motorway Upgrade

**Hon. PD BEATTIE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.50 am): Construction work on the \$1.88 billion duplication of the Gateway Bridge and the widening of 20 kilometres of the Gateway Motorway will begin by the end of the year. A Leighton-Abigroup joint venture has been chosen as the preferred tenderer to deliver the project. Works will include building a new Gateway Bridge 50 metres east of the existing bridge and upgrading the motorway between Mount Gravatt and Nudgee. I seek leave to have incorporated in *Hansard* the remainder of my ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

When complete the existing bridge will carry six lanes of traffic north and the new bridge will carry six lanes of traffic south.

The new Gateway Bridge will also include a 4.25 metre wide shared pedestrian and cycle facility on its eastern side and full electronic tolling.

The project will create more than 5,000 jobs during the four-and-a-half year construction period, with an estimated flow-on effect into the local economy of \$450 million in wages and salaries.

We have already kicked off on an early works program, improving the Wynnum Road/Gateway Motorway intersection upgrade at Tingalpa.

In addition, the project is also critical in supporting the continued growth of Australia TradeCoast, which contributes more than \$4.3 billion annually to the economy and generates 5% of total employment for the Brisbane area.

It has the potential to reduce travel times from Rochedale to Brisbane Airport, by about 15 minutes, and Caboolture to the Port of Brisbane, by about 10 minutes during peak periods.

The cost increase from the original estimate of \$1.64 billion includes funding for extra road works and improved design.

The extra money we're investing will mean we can include a new on-ramp and a new off-ramp to Kingsford Smith Drive at Eagle Farm.

We will also be extending the existing motorway 600 metres to the Nudgee Rd interchange to provide an extra southbound lane.

The extra funds will also mean the bridge over Airport Drive on the new northern motorway deviation would be built to a width that could accommodate six lanes of traffic in the future.

After considering a number of delivery methods, the State Government last year decided the government-financed option was the best value for money.

The Government is funding the project because it is best placed to do so.

The private sector will design and build the upgrade and bring its expertise and innovation to the job as a result of the design.

The Leighton Abigroup joint venture brings a wealth of experience to the job, including work on the \$1.5 billion Westlink M7 freeway in Sydney.

To help meet the cost of the project, tolling on both the new and existing bridges will continue for 30 years after the works are completed.

In 2011, the toll on a car is expected to be \$3.10.

If Canberra met its responsibility for the road part of the upgrade then the toll level would be \$2.20 in 2011 and remain at that level.

The upgrade will also include state-of-the-art Intelligent Transport Systems that will use technology to provide real time traffic management.

This will include closed circuit television and vehicle detection systems that will monitor motorway traffic conditions, change variable message signs and vary speed limits.

Under the South East Infrastructure Plan and Program almost \$28 billion out of the \$66 billion in infrastructure spending will be for road and transport projects.

And over the next three years motorists and public transport users will see a number of vital projects delivered and substantial progress on numerous others.

As well as the Gateway Upgrade, we are delivering the Tugun Bypass, a duplicated Houghton Highway and major work on further duplication of the Sunshine Motorway.

Work is already underway on the Inner Northern Busway in the Brisbane CBD and over the next few years people will see bulldozers at work on the Boggo Rd Busway and the Eastern and Northern busways.

We are getting on with the job of delivering the infrastructure we need to meet the needs of the extra 1,500 people who come here every week.