



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Wednesday, 11 October 2006

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Population Growth

Hon. PD BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.50 am): The latest population figures from the Australian Bureau of Statistics demonstrate the enormous pressure placed on infrastructure in Queensland. Analysis of the figures show that seven of Australia's top 10 fastest growing districts are in Queensland. Queensland still leads Australia as the fastest growing state, with an increase of 80,000 people in the 12 months to March this year compared with 65,700 in Victoria and 56,900 in New South Wales. The total of 80,177 new Queenslanders amounted to 31 per cent of all new Australians—that is, 263,200. Queensland still has only 19.6 per cent of the total population.

What that means is an extra 1,542 Queenslanders every week on average. That is the growth issue that we are dealing with. That is one of the reasons why I have to say that I am disappointed to see decisions by Telstra to reduce the number of employees in this state. Indeed, in the *Sunshine Coast Daily* this morning there is a heading that says, 'Sol-less'—and I think that is appropriate—'Telstra's \$9 million man sacks 83 coast workers'. I table that for the information of the House.

Tabled paper: Copy of article from Sunshine Coast Daily dated 11 October 2006 titled 'Sol-less! Telstra's \$9M man sacks 83 coast workers'.

I say to Senator Barnaby Joyce: thanks very much for nothing, because that is what you have done. You have seen Queenslanders sacked in the regions. At a time when we have record population growth we need better services, not worse. That is one of the reasons why the Deputy Premier and I sought to attract skills here. I seek leave to have details incorporated in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

The fastest growing districts in Australia between June 30, 2004 and June 30, 2005 were:

1. Mandurah (WA)—5.32%
2. Bunbury (WA)—5%
3. Hervey Bay (Qld)—4.89%
4. Mackay (Qld)—3.21%
5. Townsville (Qld)—3.01%
6. Nowra/Boomaderry—2.75%
7. Sunshine Coast (Qld)—2.56%
8. Toowoomba (Qld)—2.47%
9. Gold Coast/Tweed (Qld/NSW)—2.47%
10. Cairns (Qld)—2.43%

Queensland's 10 fastest growing districts were:

1. Gold Coast/Tweed—11,629 extra people
2. Sunshine Coast—5,311
3. Townsville—4,350
4. Cairns—2,925
5. Toowoomba—2,867
6. Hervey Bay—2,229
7. Mackay—2,198
8. Bundaberg—1,325

- 9. Rockhampton—546
- 10. Gladstone—521

Queensland still leads Australia as the fastest growing state with an increase of 80,000 people in the 12 months to March this year, compared with 65,700 in Victoria and 56,900 in New South Wales.

The total of 80,177 new Queenslanders amounted to 31% of all new Australians—that's 263,200—although Queensland still has only 19.6% of the total population.

It means an extra 1,542 Queenslanders every week on average.

This represented growth of 2.0% compared with 1.9% in Western Australia which increased its population by 38,600 over the 12 months (although Western Australia increased its population by 0.6% in the March quarter compared with Queensland's 0.5%).

Queensland's natural increase of 28,913 people represented the largest proportion of Queensland's population increase of 80,177 during the 12 months. It represented 23% of Australia's natural increase in population for the year.

Net interstate migration resulted in an extra 26,773 people arriving in Queensland, with overseas migration adding another 24,491 people.

Interstate migration resulted in 24,500 people more people leaving New South Wales than arriving and Victoria lost 2,300 in the same way.