



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Thursday, 2 November 2006

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Transport Infrastructure

Hon. PD BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (11.36 am), by leave: I want to report to the House on the government's investment in transport infrastructure in south-east Queensland which has been delivered under my government. I want to list them, because I do not want there to be any misunderstanding. We spent \$63 million on the Nundah tunnel on Sandgate Road; that was finished and opened to traffic in 2001. We spent \$171 million on the Port of Brisbane Motorway; that was opened to traffic in 2002, six months ahead of schedule and \$20 million under budget.

We spent \$17 million on the Stewart Road interchange on the Gold Coast; that was finished and opened to traffic in 2004. We spent \$52 million on the four-lane upgrade of the Mount Lindesay Highway; that was opened to traffic in 2005. We spent \$32 million on the Linkfield Connection Road; that was finished ahead of schedule and opened to traffic in February this year, with the distinguished local member for Aspley—

Ms Barry: My favourite road.

Mr BEATTIE: It was a top project. The member for Kurwongbah, Linda Lavarch, was there as well. They are just some of the south-east Queensland projects, and they are in addition to what I mentioned before, including the Goodwill Bridge and so on.

What we are planning and building right now include the following. There is the Gateway upgrade project, where we have allocated \$1.9 billion for a duplicated bridge and the upgrading of 20 kilometres of Gateway Motorway. The airport link and northern busway is a major public transport and road tunnel link that will take traffic on northern suburbs roads and will cost around \$3 billion. The minister for transport is absolutely obsessed by this, and I know it will be delivered accordingly.

The Tugun Bypass on the Gold Coast is getting \$543 million to relieve the worst bottleneck on Gold Coast roads. There will be a new interchange on the Logan Motorway, with \$33.5 million spent this year for work on a new interchange at Larapinta to help heavy vehicles access nearby commercial areas and reduce traffic on residential roads. The Boundary-Kelliher roads interchange upgrade will reduce bottlenecks at Darra. This is a project worth more than \$30 million and is being conducted in conjunction with the Brisbane City Council. We also have the duplication of the Houghton Highway between Brisbane and Redcliffe. There has been a total of \$71 million worth of work this year alone spent on four major projects on the Sunshine Motorway. Indeed, the member for Maroochydore has been complaining about the amount of work happening on the Sunshine Coast at the moment. That is a nice change.

What Queensland spends on our roads is this: this financial year Queensland will spend a record \$3.98 billion on transport infrastructure, including \$1.98 million on building Queensland roads. That is a boost to road spending of \$727 million or 58 per cent in just one year. Queensland spends more than twice as much per person on roads than either New South Wales or Victoria. Per capita road spending for 2006-07 in New South Wales is \$249 per person, Victoria is \$218 per person and Queensland is \$495 per person—that is twice New South Wales and 2.25 times Victoria. I provide that information to the House.

The Leader of the Opposition asked me a question this morning to which I provided information. I wanted to be fulsome in the material as part of my obligation to fully answer questions and to provide the House with the full information. The final point I want to make is this: we as a state are seriously neglected by the Commonwealth. There is more money going into New South Wales and Victoria. We are not getting our fair share in Queensland. I know—

Mr Lucas interjected.

Mr BEATTIE: I take that interjection. The minister for transport, Paul Lucas, is not only driving these projects; he is continuing to pursue the Commonwealth for our fair share. If the Leader of the Opposition is serious about road funding and projects in Brisbane and the south-east corner, let him come on board with us and Campbell Newman to get more of our fair share from the Commonwealth when it comes to road funding.