



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Thursday, 30 November 2006

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Roads Implementation Program

Hon. PD BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.40 am): Roads are the lifeblood of Queensland. I am pleased to announce, along with the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Paul Lucas, that my government will plough a record \$11.55 billion into roads infrastructure in the next five years. This new Roads Implementation Program for 2006-07 to 2010-11 represents a \$1.05 billion or 10 per cent increase on the previous five-year plan. I table that for the information of the House.

Tabled paper: Department of Main Roads report titled 'Roads Implementation Program 2006-07 to 2010-11'.

Tabled paper: Department of Main Roads report titled 'Addendum to Roads Implementation Program 2006-07 to 2010-11'.

These roadworks are essential for urban growth, connecting regional Queenslanders and ensuring our continued economic prosperity. This significant roads program will meet my government's election commitments and more. It includes projects outlined as part of our \$27.7 billion transport investment in the South East Queensland Infrastructure Plan and Program over the next 20 years. It features an impressive roads program outside the south-east corner, with better and safer rural roads and bridges supported by \$3.3 billion of state government funding.

We are also continuing to work with federal and local governments, industry and the community. Funding from the Commonwealth for national highways in Queensland is welcome, but Canberra needs to do more, given that only about 17c in the dollar of fuel tax that the Commonwealth takes goes back into national roads. It is a disgrace.

My government is working hard for Queenslanders and we are delivering. Over the course of 2006, I can report that early works started on the \$1.88 billion Gateway upgrade project, the first stage of the \$543 million Tugun bypass got underway, work started on the Accelerated Road Rehabilitation Project to replace timber bridges and upgrade 71 kilometres of the Dawson Highway in central Queensland, and design work has commenced on the Townsville ring-road. That is just a snapshot. This record five-year funding program will keep Queenslanders moving and ensure that our \$30 billion roads assets meet the needs of the growth state. The minister will have more to say about that shortly.