



Speech by

Hon. Robert Swarten

MEMBER FOR ROCKHAMPTON

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

ICT Industry, Government Contracts

Hon. RE SCHWARTEN (Rockhampton—ALP) (Minister for Public Works, Housing and Racing) (10.10 am): I am pleased to announce this morning that two Smart State firms have recently been awarded multimillion-dollar contracts with the state government. Underwood based communications firm Pivit has been engaged by the Department of Housing to supply and manage a 'triple-play' fibre network within the award-winning Kelvin Grove Urban Village. Pivit has secured two contracts involved in providing network services to the urban village—an \$895,000 contract for network installation and another giving it supply and management rights for five years with a further five-year option. Pivit will provide voice, broadband internet and TV—both free-to-air digital and free-to-air satellite services—to village residents. Pivit will also maintain the network within the village and manage customer service, including help desk services and billings.

In fact, under the contract, residents will be able to make free phone calls to others living within the village. The services will be delivered by Pivit through Kelvin Grove Village Connections, a business registered by the Department of Housing. All residents and businesses at the village will have the choice to receive their telecommunications services through Kelvin Grove Village Connections or through other providers such as Optus or Telstra. This initiative, like the urban village development itself, is another concrete example of the Queensland government's Smart State Strategy.

Data 3, another local ICT firm, has secured a two-year contract worth more than \$8 million to provide specialist industry expertise to help manage the state government's computer software assets. Following a comprehensive tender process carried out by the Office of Government ICT, Data 3 was appointed to assist the Queensland government manage Microsoft software licences for the core state government agencies. Data 3's response to the tender was innovative and offered real value to the Queensland government. Under the arrangement, Data 3 will work closely with the Office of Government ICT and agency staff to review the software asset management processes within each agency and work with them to achieve industry best practice. As part of this improvement plan, Data 3 will keep a whole-of-government software licence register and will operate a licensing helpdesk to assist government staff on a one-on-one basis with licensing and audit queries.

The Queensland government is committed to working with local firms to ensure that they get a share of the \$1 billion spend on ICT services. The ICT Industry Work Group, which I chair with the minister for IT policy, Chris Cummins, was formed in January last year. The work group collaborates with Queensland firms identified by the industry regarding government procurement and industry development. This industry group has been successful in building a stronger partnership between industry and the government. I table a copy of a recent *Courier-Mail* article which quotes ICT industry expert Paul Campbell, who started in the sector more than 20 years ago, as saying, 'We've made more ground in the last six months than I've seen in my time in industry.' The next work group meeting will be held on the 28th of next month.