



Speech by

# Hon. Robert Swarten

MEMBER FOR ROCKHAMPTON

Hansard Thursday, 9 March 2006

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## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Kelvin Grove Urban Village

**Hon. RE SCHWARTEN** (Rockhampton—ALP) (Minister for Public Works, Housing and Racing) (10.24 am): I am pleased to announce this morning that Bill Grant, the former chief executive officer of the South Bank Corporation, has been appointed the project director for the Kelvin Grove Urban Village. Mr Grant has more than 35 years experience in project management, corporate and fiscal governance, property development, strategic planning and media management. During his eight years with South Bank Corporation, an \$81 million redevelopment was implemented, attracting major national developers to invest about \$1 billion in the site and increasing annual visitor numbers by around two million.

We are now at a key stage in the development of the \$800 million Kelvin Grove Urban Village and Mr Grant's leadership and network of contacts will be invaluable in establishing this emerging community. His primary role as project director of the Kelvin Grove Urban Village will be to act as an ambassador for the village in the marketplace and promote development as set out in the integrated master plan.

With regards to development at the site, I am pleased to advise that another contract has just been signed to develop lot 27, an 1,895 square metre residential site in School Street. An alliance of Queensland firms, the Vintage Property Group, will build a 32-unit complex with a mix of one-, two- and three-bedroom units. The director of the Vintage Property Group, David Carter, said that the company was drawn to invest in the village concept because of the ideal location only minutes from the CBD, and the proximity to educational, cultural and medical facilities.

There is further good news at the Kelvin Grove Urban Village with Dr Cheryl Stock, head of the School of Dance at QUT, approaching the project team to stage their production *Accented Body* at the creative industries precinct. This event is the headline act for the 2006 Brisbane Festival and draws together more than 26 internationally renowned and emerging dance, music, visual and new technology artists from across the country as well Japan, Korea and the UK.

It has been five years since the Kelvin Grove Urban Village was simply a concept and we are now well and truly seeing a unique Smart State initiative taking shape. With the Brisbane Housing Company's first development almost complete, the village centre well underway, and construction commenced on two of the Brisbane Housing Company's other projects and Badcock Wright joint venture's terrace houses, the village is starting to come to life. Construction will increase in 2006, with an additional three sites expected to start construction. I look forward to updating members on this in the future.