



Speech by

Hon. Robert Swarten

MEMBER FOR ROCKHAMPTON

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Department of Public Works

Mr. RE SCHWARTEN (Rockhampton—ALP) (Minister for Public Works, Housing and Racing) (10.01 am): The Department of Public Works has a major responsibility in providing public infrastructure in Queensland and is currently managing the construction of more than \$1 billion in capital works projects. This morning I would like to table a list of around 500 projects underway across Queensland ranging from a \$14,000 upgrade to the Police Beat at Eagleby—

Ms Keech: Hear, hear!

Mr SCHWARTEN: I take the interjection from the hard-working member—to the \$291 million Millennium Arts Complex at South Brisbane. The latter landmark project is progressing well with concrete work, roof structure and sheeting now complete on the Gallery of Modern Art. Insulation, sheeting and fit-out of level 1 and level 3 is underway and the faced and external glazing is progressing well. Currently work underway at the Millennium Library includes ceiling insulation and framing to the auditorium as well as partitioning and removing of scaffolding from level 5. Earthworks to the new internal road to the west of the site has now commenced.

Another project in the CBD is the new \$17.5 million Roma Street Fire and Ambulance Station. The site has been cleared and Adco Construction is carrying out site and footing works in preparation for the pouring of the ground slab.

Meanwhile work on the new Southbank Education and Training Precinct, which is being developed as Queensland's first public/private partnership, is ahead of schedule. Demolition work on two sites is complete and reinforced concrete column and slab framework is proceeding on two of the new main buildings.

As part of the four-year \$350 million rollout of the new preparatory year of schooling program in Queensland schools, Public Works is overseeing the provision of new and refurbished classrooms at 467 Queensland primary schools. Most of the facilities are being delivered through four main contracts. In south-east Queensland, Bovis Lend Lease has already delivered facilities at 39 schools and has started work on 150 schools required for 2007. In regional Queensland, the Department of Public Works has completed facilities at 23 schools.

For the start of the 2007 school year, Project Services is project managing three new schools: the \$17.5 million Redlynch Middle School near Cairns and the initial stages of two preparatory to year 7 schools at Rowley Road, Burpengary and Springfield Lakes. The Burpengary and Springfield Lakes projects will each cost \$15.7 million. All three projects are expected to be completed by December this year.

The first stage of the \$84 million Prince Charles Hospital upgrade is on track for completion in December 2006. A Queensland firm and managing contractor, Baulderstone Hornibrook, is constructing stage 1 and design documentation is underway for stage 2 work. Meanwhile, the \$45.3 million refurbishment of 63 George Street, the former Health and Welfare Building, which will see an extra 10,600

square metres of new office space, is progressing with Watpac appointed the preferred tenderer for stage 2.

In Rockhampton, Greening Australia has begun vegetation works, including weeding and planting of new vegetation on both sides of the Fitzroy River as part of the \$9.5 million Rockhampton riverbank redevelopment. The trade package for roadworks and car parking on the south side has now been let, and Q-Build is calling tenders for the package of Peace Park on the north side. Remaining works will be out to tender in coming weeks.

In Townsville, 5,300 seats have been added as part of the \$7.3 million redevelopment of Dairy Farmers Stadium, which should be completed in June and is being undertaken by Townsville firm Total Construction Services. I would also like to advise that plans are on track for work to start on the \$160 million stadium at Robina within weeks ready for kick-off in the 2008 Rugby League season. The Queensland government continues to achieve some major milestones in its capital works program, generating thousands of jobs for Queenslanders and building the Smart State.