



Speech by

Hon. Robert Swarten

MEMBER FOR ROCKHAMPTON

Hansard Thursday, 8 June 2006

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Capital Works Projects

Hon. RE SCHWARTEN (Rockhampton—ALP) (Minister for Public Works, Housing and Racing) (10.16 am): The Department of Public Works has played an integral role in building a better Queensland during the last eight years. As part of the Beattie government's record infrastructure spending Public Works has managed more than \$8.5 billion in state government construction and maintenance projects. This includes more than \$2 billion for Queensland Health, \$1.5 billion for state schools and \$900 million for public housing construction. In total this investment in capital works has generated approximately 90,000 full-time construction jobs. State government work has been a driving force behind Queensland's booming construction industry, with the majority carried out by private enterprise.

I table a list of some of the key infrastructure projects the Department of Public Works has managed on behalf of the state government, which includes the \$280 million Suncorp Stadium and the \$135.5 million new Brisbane Magistrates Court complex. In addition to these projects, there is the \$72 million Roma Street Parkland and the \$29 million redevelopment of the Cairns Convention Centre.

We are currently managing several infrastructure projects such as the \$207 million Millennium Arts Project at South Bank, the \$160 million Gold Coast Stadium and the \$63 million Tank Street pedestrian cycle bridge—which the state Liberals and Nationals are so opposed to, despite the fact that the Lord Mayor supports the project. I seek leave to have the remainder of my ministerial statement incorporated in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

Mr Speaker, in addition to these landmark projects Public Works also manages a number of other infrastructure programs that are not big budget items but make a real difference to local communities.

We have delivered more than \$36 million in government employee housing to attract and retain doctors, nurses, teachers and police officers in regional and remote areas and through the \$1.5 million Community Memorials Restoration Program, more than 25 community icons have been upgraded across the state.

We have delivered all this while employing 850 new construction based apprentices and trainees with QBuild in 14 trades.

Mr Speaker, all of these projects have made the Smart State a better place to live and the Department of Public Works will continue to build a better Queensland.

Tabled paper: Document titled 'Department of Public Works Major Construction Projects, June 2006'.

Tabled paper: Copy of ministerial statement by Hon. R Swarten titled 'Public Works Construction'.