



Speech by

Hon. Robert Swarten

MEMBER FOR ROCKHAMPTON

Hansard Wednesday, 1 November 2006

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Building Projects

Hon. RE SWARTEN (Rockhampton—ALP) (Minister for Public Works, Housing and Information and Communication Technology) (10.08 am): Since the election this government has been getting on with the job of delivering construction projects to Queensland. I am pleased to be able to advise the House that a \$35.6 million contract has been awarded to Queensland based firm Watpac Refurbishments to revive the Health and Welfare Building at 63 George Street. This is part of a three-stage project to give this building a new lease of life and provide, in total, 10,600 square metres of refurbished office space. Stage 1 of the project—the decontamination and internal demolition of the building—was completed in March. Further stages will see floors 1 to 9 of the David Longland Building refurbished and the two buildings amalgamated into one.

The new home of the Titans, the \$160 million stadium at Robina on the Gold Coast, is rapidly taking shape. The Department of Public Works is managing the construction of the 25,000 seat stadium. Construction work is progressing well, with bulk earthworks and piling complete and a significant number of the western stand's structural steel and precast concrete seating slabs erected during the past month.

As many members of the House would know, the \$291 Millennium Arts Project has been delivered on time and on budget, while the Old Museum Building Concert Hall refurbishment and restoration is 95 per cent complete. This government has also been getting on with the job of providing valuable infrastructure for Queenslanders. In Brisbane, the Department of Public Works has commissioned a project manager for a \$63 million bridge that will provide a pedestrian and cycle link between Tank Street and the new Queensland Gallery of Modern Art at South Brisbane.

I can also reveal that across the state 192 prep school accommodation facilities have been completed and 132 are under construction. Since the election there have been 75 roofs replaced because of asbestos concerns.

Furthermore, this supply of infrastructure and services to Queenslanders is continuing at a great rate. In the month of September, over \$60 million worth of tenders were awarded by the Department of Public Works for projects statewide. As I said, this government is getting on with the job.