



Speech by

## Hon. Judy Spence

**MEMBER FOR MOUNT GRAVATT**

Hansard Wednesday, 21 February 2007

---

### **MOTION: BEATTIE LABOR GOVERNMENT**

**Hon. JC SPENCE** (Mount Gravatt—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services) (6.22 pm): It is only 25 weeks since the people of Queensland returned the Beattie government for a historic fourth term. No other government in this state's history has been returned so often with such commanding majorities. During the last election, the government slogan was 'Building Queensland'. The people voted for us because that is what they know we will do: build a better Queensland. That is what we have done for the past three terms and that is what we will continue to do.

Tonight I found myself agreeing with the Leader of the Opposition when he said that he wants us to focus on issues that matter to the people of Queensland. That is exactly what the members of this government and I want to do. Tonight I would like to talk about some of the infrastructure capital works projects happening in my own portfolio.

At this point in time, we are building a new 150-bed women's prison in Townsville. We are rebuilding and expanding the men's prison in Townsville. We have closed the Sir David Longland centre. We are spending \$76 million building a new prison at Sir David Longland. We are providing for another 180 beds at Arthur Gorrie. We are planning to expand Lotus Glen and are buying land to build the prisons of the future at Gatton. That shows a commitment to building for the future.

This afternoon I asked the police to pull together a list of what we have built in the police portfolio in the past three years when I have been the minister. I will go through that list quickly. In the first year, we built and opened police stations at Sherwood, Childers, Hervey Bay, Ravenswood, Coolum and Pomona and the Nerang Scenes of Crime. In 2005-06 we built the Caloundra watch-house, Hope Vale Police Station, Weipa police housing, Mount Gravatt Scenes of Crime, Quilpie watch-house, Tin Can Bay Police Station, Mount Isa police accommodation, Redland Bay Police Station and at Cooktown we built a duplex for police housing. Last year, we built and opened Mackay Northern Beaches Police Station, Sarina Police Station, Yamanto communications centre, Stafford Police Station and the brand-new Southport Police Station. We built police accommodation at Weipa and Rockhampton, and the Gympie Police Station. In the last three years we have built and delivered police beats at Highfields, Tewantin, Vincent, Bald Hills, Hemmant, Buderim, Yorkeys Knob, Seaforth, Point Lookout, Biggera Waters, Kingston, the PA Hospital, Burpengary, White Rock, Moorooloolooloo, Rainbow Beach, Margate and Hemmant.

That is the activity of the police portfolio of this government in the past three years. From listening to my colleagues tonight, I know that that activity has been reflected across this government. As well, we have upgraded many police stations and watch-houses. I table that list tonight, because I do not have the time to read it.

*Tabled paper:* Document titled '42 Police Stations, Beats and Watchhouses in total—Future capital works projects over next 4 years'.

*Tabled paper:* Document titled 'Upgraded police stations & watchhouses'.

We have also committed \$260 million over the next four years to build new police stations and new police divisions around this state. This is an unprecedented period in Queensland police history, as we have seen so much activity and so many new police stations being built around the state.

Finally, we went to the election with an incredible promise to spend \$450 million to build a new police academy on the Wacol precinct. We are planning to build the best police academy in the Southern Hemisphere. That police academy will be the finest in the Asia-Pacific region. It will be an international police academy and the envy of all the world.

This is a government that has firmly focused on the things that matter to the people of Queensland. Law and order is an issue that does matter to the people of Queensland. Having good police facilities does matter to the people of Queensland. Having decent prisons to house people also matters to the people of Queensland.

I look forward to having more debates on those issues with members of the opposition. If they really do care about coming into this place and talking about the things that matter to the people of Queensland, maybe occasionally they will ask me a question or two in this place.