



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Thursday, 15 March 2007

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Capital Works Program

Hon. PD BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.49 am): This government's Capital Works Program for 2006-07 is by far the largest per capita program in the country. Yesterday and again today I have been pleased to provide to the House an update on the South East Queensland Infrastructure Plan. Today, I am equally pleased to provide an update of some of the capital works in Queensland's regions. I seek leave to incorporate the details in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

Mr Speaker, my Government is acting to address the effects of drought and climate change on regional water supplies and will spend \$300 million over two years to construct the Moranbah pipeline projects to enhance water supplies to coal mines and towns in the Bowen Basin.

As part of our election commitments, the Government will also provide \$420 million for new infrastructure for a State-wide Water Grid to be developed over the coming years. This will help to move water reserves to better meet community needs and includes \$222 million for new dams, weirs and raising of existing storages and a \$198 million investment in pipelines.

The Department of Local Government and Planning has committed some \$180 million in regional and rural Queensland in 2006-07, primarily in the form of capital grants for roads, water and sewerage to local councils.

Education is a Smart State priority, with an excess of \$180 million being allocated in 2006-07 for regional education related capital works projects.

This includes funding allocations for the new Isabella State School, the next stage of Redlynch State College, and the upgrading of Tully State High School.

\$226 million has been allocated in 2006-07 for regional health-related capital works initiatives.

A range of primary health care centres for remote Indigenous communities are being delivered at Erub Island, Gin Gin, Hope Vale, Warraber Island, Wondai and Yarrabah.

We are also delivering significant enhancements to regional hospitals including the Innisfail Hospital Redevelopment, Rockhampton Hospital Emergency Department and Ingham Hospital Redevelopment, together with developments at Miles, Dalby and Weipa Hospitals.

Mr Speaker, we are delivering an improved, safer road network and budgeted for \$596 million in regional road infrastructure in 2006-07 to meet the needs of our growth State.

Funding has been allocated to widen, strengthen and resurface 71 km of the Dawson Highway between Gladstone and Banana. We are also duplicating the Forgan Bridge and Hospital Bridge in Mackay. Improvements are being made to the Burke Developmental Road in north-west Queensland, North Ward Road in Townsville, Mulgrave Road in Cairns, Roma-Taroom Road and the New England Highway north of Toowoomba.

Of course, providing robust and reliable transport infrastructure to support social and economic development is more than just about roads. In 2006-07, the State is expected to spend over \$1 billion on new and upgraded rail and ports infrastructure.

Not surprisingly, with economic activity in rural and regional Queensland such a vital component of the State's current economic strength, some \$1.7 billion or 60% of the State's expenditure on electricity infrastructure is occurring outside the South East corner.

Mr Speaker, these projects are just a fraction of the work being undertaken in the regions and demonstrates our ongoing commitment to being a Government for ALL Queenslanders.