



Speech by

# Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Tuesday, 22 May 2007

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## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Community Cabinet, Whitsundays

**Hon. PD BEATTIE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.48 am): I am pleased to announce that my cabinet will return to the Whitsunday region for a community cabinet meeting on 17 and 18 June 2007. It will be the third time we have held a community cabinet in the Whitsundays and this is the 103rd community cabinet held by my government since it came to office.

I thank Jan Jarratt, the local member, for persisting with her request that we return. This means that she does not need to write to me each week. I seek leave to incorporate more details in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

I want to take this opportunity to urge everyone in the Whitsunday region to come and join the Queensland Cabinet at Bowen on Sunday, 17 June at the McKenna Hall, Bowen State High School.

Bowen has of course a starring role in filmmaker Baz Luhrmann's epic "Australia" and my Government is providing funding of \$500,000 to the production of the film.

This is not just an investment in a film, but an investment in the region.

It is expected the economic benefits will be in the vicinity of \$7m for the State, providing valuable jobs for Queenslanders, ongoing business and tourism opportunities, and national and international exposure for the Bowen region.

The north is rapidly emerging as Australia's new economic frontier and my Government is developing strategies to support the growth and development of Bowen as part of our State's northern economic triangle.

Mr Speaker, because growth brings many challenges, we need to continue to plan services and infrastructure to help meet the needs of our growing population.

To do this, we need to meet and listen to Queenslanders about their needs, their industries and their visions for the future of their State.

The Cabinet and I, look forward to meeting the people of the Whitsundays at next month's Community Cabinet.

I would like to thank the Member for Whitsunday Jan Jarratt for her invitation for the Cabinet to meet in Bowen and Whitsunday Coast.