



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Thursday, 7 June 2007

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

South-East Asian Tsunami Relief Program

Hon. PD BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.47 am): It is now almost 2½ years since the Boxing Day tsunami devastated wide areas of South-East Asia and cost about 200,000 people their lives. The tragedy provoked a wave of compassion throughout the world, including here in Queensland. The Queensland government committed more than \$10 million to the South-East Asian Tsunami Relief Program including donations totalling \$1.5 million to the Australian Red Cross, World Vision, Oxfam and Care Australia. This funding is supporting projects in Sri Lanka, Indonesia and Thailand. I seek leave to incorporate further details in *Hansard* so members are aware of the stage this program has reached.

Leave granted.

Additionally, funds raised from the From the Gold Coast with Love appeal and the Sunshine Coast Rebuilding Kumari appeal, which the Queensland Government matched dollar for dollar, have also been added to the Sri Lankan relief efforts.

The Queensland Government is supporting a housing and community development program which will provide new homes and community facilities in two Sri Lankan villages.

In Indonesia, Queensland is funding a project to provide housing for displaced civil servants who in turn can then better respond to the demands of their duties as health providers, teachers, social workers, police and other service providers.

The Queensland Government is also funding two initial phases of a geothermal power plant development to provide power for people in Aceh.

In Thailand, Queensland is funding a sustainable tourism project which will create community prosperity through assisting local authorities to develop tourism with environmental sustainability.

The Queensland Government also committed \$500,000 to the victims of the Central Java earthquake that occurred in May 2005.

Since we started the aid project, \$6,466,000 of the total funding package has been spent, with all projects to be completed by June 2008.

Queensland had its own possible tsunami threat on April 2 this year, an event that has reinforced the importance of the Australian Tsunami Warning System project.

I have written to the Prime Minister urging him to take whatever steps he can to accelerate this project because we need the best possible systems and processes in place to protect people living in coastal Queensland.

Mr BEATTIE: In conclusion on this point, Queensland had its own possible tsunami threat on 2 April this year, an event that has reinforced the importance of the Australian Tsunami Warning System Project. I have written to the Prime Minister urging him to take whatever steps he can to accelerate this project because we need the best possible systems and processes in place to protect people living in coastal Queensland.