



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Thursday, 7 June 2007

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Rolfe, Mr R

Hon. PD BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.51 am): I also want to pay tribute to Ross Rolfe, my director-general, who is departing. He concludes a distinguished career on 6 July this year. Ross will take leave from Friday, 29 June, effectively his last day in the role. Mr Rolfe has been a creative and hardworking public servant. He has coordinated and helped implement many key initiatives of my government. I seek leave to incorporate a tribute to him in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

Mr Speaker, I have had three Directors General since becoming Premier—Professor Glyn Davis, Dr Leo Keliher and Ross Rolfe, with Eric Bigby acting for the initial two-month period from 26 June to 28 August 1998.

Glyn Davis—from 28.8.98 to 7.1.2002 (3 years, 4 months 1 week);

(Eric Bigby acted from 26th June to 28th August 1998)

Leo Keliher—from 8.1.2002 to 9.11.2005 (3 years, 10 months) and

Ross Rolfe—from 10.11.2005 to 6.7.2007 (1 year, 8 months)

Professor Davis fleshed out my smart state vision in the early days of the establishment of my government along with my Biotech and education policies and Dr Keliher helped to implement those programs.

Mr Rolfe has been a creative and hardworking public servant. He has coordinated and helped implement many key initiatives of my government.

Mr Rolfe's public service career includes periods as Director-General of the Department of Environment and Heritage, the Department of State Development, Coordinator-General and Director-General of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet.

In January 2002 he became Chief Executive Officer of Stanwell Corporation.

Mr Rolfe was Coordinator-General from August 1998 to January 2002 and again from July 2005 to December 2006.

As Director-General of State Development, and Coordinator-General, Mr Rolfe was responsible for implementing my Government's strategy and policies in many areas.

This included advancing the Queensland Government's policies and plans regarding:

- the stimulation of the growth of research into life sciences and biotechnology;
- the commercialisation of scientific research and new technologies;
- the development of the aviation industry and the attraction of Virgin Airlines and Qantas Heavy Maintenance industry;
- the development of the boat building and marine industry sector; and
- the negotiation of the SEQ Forest Agreement.

He was also responsible for implementing my Government's facilitation and construction of a range of private and public sector projects including:

- the Comalco Aluminium project in Gladstone; research precincts such as the Boggo Road Science precinct; and
- a range of research centres at the University of Queensland, QUT and Griffith Universities.

He oversaw the building of the Paradise Dam and he co-ordinated the development of the first State-wide Infrastructure Plan.

Ross also worked on my Government's first energy policy in 2000.

He helped to drive my vigorous program to attract new industry to the State and deepen Queensland's penetration into new export markets.

When he was again appointed as Coordinator-General in 2005 I tasked Mr Rolfe with the responsibility of developing and successfully implementing the largest major infrastructure program of public and private sector projects being undertaken in Queensland's history.

This included not only overseeing the implementation of the SEQ Plan, but also facilitating the development of a broad range of coal-related infrastructure projects and developing the State-wide and SEQ water grids.

As Director-General of my Department he has worked closely with my Ministers and me in developing the Government's:

- Health Action Plan;
- co-ordinating the Queensland Government response to Cyclone Larry;
- designing the Northern Economic Development Strategy; and
- developing the Government's recently released policies on climate change.

Mr Rolfe has also been central to the implementation of my Government's reforms on the environment in areas such as forest policy, Cape York and Wild Rivers.

He has worked closely with me to ensure that environmental protection policies are implemented in ways that respect the need for balance between industry growth, Indigenous interests and the rights of landholders.

More recently, he has worked closely with all other Departments in implementing the Government's broad future policy agenda.

He has been a tireless and dedicated worker for the people of Queensland and one who has always conducted himself in a highly ethical way—driven by a desire to serve the Government and people of Queensland.

I thank Ross for his dedication and a job well done and wish him and his family all the best for the future.