



Speech by

# Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Tuesday, 4 September 2007

---

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Beattie Labor Government Achievements

**Hon. PD BEATTIE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.44 am): On 9 September last year my government was re-elected for an historic fourth term, and since then we have been delivering on the commitments and promises we made to the people of Queensland. As I said earlier, on Sunday morning the Deputy Premier and I joined the member for Bundamba and the member for Ipswich to officially open stage 1A of the Bundamba Advanced Water Treatment Plant, the first stage of the \$2.4 billion western corridor recycled water pipeline to be completed. We said that we would deliver and we have delivered, just as we are delivering every other element of the south-east Queensland water grid. We have delivered education reforms with more than 1,300 state and non-state schools welcoming around 29,000 students in 2007 for the new full-time non-compulsory prep year. We have begun rolling out the \$70 million Computers for Teachers program, which the education minister did for the first time last week. In health we have increased doctor numbers in our public hospitals by a further 738 to 5,601, nurses by an extra 2,102 to a current 25,371 and allied health staff by 667 to 7,019. I table the hospital staffing numbers from the Queensland Health payroll database showing the comparison from June for each of the past three years, because they show the increases.

*Tabled paper:* Document titled 'Hospital Staffing Numbers—Queensland Health payroll database'.

We have opened new emergency departments at the Prince Charles and Robina hospitals and are progressing work on a massive hospital redevelopment program across the state including Rockhampton, Redcliffe, Ingham, Gold Coast, Redlands, Gympie, Townsville, Weipa, Bundaberg, Miles, Dalby, Gin Gin and Cairns hospitals.

We have reformed local government and created new stronger financially viable regional councils—or at least they are on the way—and we are delivering on climate change with our ClimateSmart 2050 strategy which outlines our commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 60 per cent by 2050. We are developing clean coal technology and increasing the use of gas and renewable energies to generate power in Queensland. This financial year we are also spending more than \$100 million a week building and maintaining the roads, busways, railways and ports that keep Queensland moving. There is a list of achievements and I seek leave to incorporate the list in *Hansard*. However, I highlight that we are delivering the election commitments that I promised on behalf of all Queenslanders.

Leave granted.

In March, work started on the \$1.9 billion Gateway Upgrade Project, which will see construction of a new bridge and upgrading of 20km of motorway.

Work on the \$543 million Tugun Bypass is progressing well.

Work is also going full steam ahead on our new \$333 million Inner Northern Busway extension, which links Roma St station, King George Square and the Queen St Mall.

And work is also underway on the new Boggo Rd Busway and the Eastern Busway.

As promised at the 2006 election we've also started rolling out wheelchair accessible cabs to around 80 rural and remote towns in Queensland.

And in July, we introduced our revolutionary new young driver laws, which introduced the toughest licensing laws for drivers aged 17-24 anywhere in the country.

We have also announced the first tranche of reforms for Indigenous Communities which focus on delivering Indigenous economic development and Looking After Country Together, a new framework to improve Indigenous access to and management of traditional land and sea country.

I also signed a historic partnership agreement in Yarrabah with 15 Indigenous Mayors representing Queensland's Aboriginal and mainland Torres Strait Islander Communities, with another signing since then. The Partnership commits the State Government and each of the communities to take responsibility for some major changes.

We have also committed \$36.4 million over four years to an initiative to help Indigenous Queenslanders receive treatment for alcohol misuse.

The Government has released the Northern Economic Triangle Infrastructure Plan which sets out a vision for the future development of North Queensland linking Mt Isa, Bowen and Townsville.

The Queensland Government is undertaking a series of initiatives to protect Queensland communities from the risk of tsunamis.

My government delivers on its promises and commitments.

Other important election commitments we have delivered since being re elected on September 9 last year include:

- The establishment of the Queensland Academy for Creative Industries at Kelvin Grove.
- The end of broadscale clearing of remnant vegetation on December 31, 2006, which will save 20 million tonnes of greenhouse gases annually.
- Declaration of Queensland's first six wild rivers in February.
- A summit in December 2006 at James Cook University in Cairns featuring national and international delegates to plan and prepare for upcoming cyclone seasons.
- Establishment of the Environmental Partnerships Scheme, a high profile funded program that targets landholders' commitments through nature refuges and declaration agreements.
- \$6.1 million to support the raising of Lenthalls Dam in the Wide Bay region.
- Boosting the funding we provide Local Government around Queensland under our innovative Roads Alliance project to \$25 million a year over five years—an annual increase of \$11 million.
- Extending the Home WaterWise Rebate Scheme state wide.
- Establishing the Queensland Climate Change Centre of Excellence.
- \$10 million to the University of Queensland to establish an Australian Institute of Bioengineering and Nanotechnology
- Establishing the new Queensland Academy of Science, Mathematics and Technology in Toowong.
- Stamp duty relief with first home buyers purchasing a home as their principal place of residence valued up to \$320,000 now paying no stamp duty and those paying between \$320,000 and \$460,000 now pay less stamp duty.

We have opened the new Gallery of Modern Art and the refurbished State Library and established the Outlaw Motorcycle Gang Squad to crack down on violent bikie gangs.

And we recently amended our terrorism laws in line with a promise I made to review these laws when they were first passed in November 2005.

Hospital Staffing Numbers—Queensland Health payroll database:			
	June 2005	June 2006	June 2007
Doctors	4,522	4,863	5,601
Nurses	21,911	23,269	25,371
Allied Health	5,806	6,352	7,019