



Speech by

# Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Thursday, 6 September 2007

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## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Electricity Industry

**Hon. PD BEATTIE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.39 am): A number of exciting reforms have taken place in Queensland's electricity sector in the 12 months since my government was re-elected. On 1 July this year we started full retail competition of the state's electricity sector, giving Queensland households and small businesses the right to choose their retailer. Already there are at least eight retailers actively competing for household and small business customers in Queensland. We have also boosted consumer protection to coincide with full retail competition.

A new, independent Energy Ombudsman has been established. The Ombudsman has already taken 945 queries from Queensland energy consumers and has begun more than 320 investigations into disputes between customers and their energy suppliers. Full retail competition was supported by the sale of the retail arm of Energex and Ergon Energy's contestable retail business. The massive \$3 billion plus from the sales is now being invested, through the Queensland Future Fund, in key water, clean coal technology and other vital infrastructure projects right across Queensland.

My government has implemented 40 of the 44 recommendations flowing from the Somerville report into electricity distribution and service delivery, with the remaining four being implemented on an ongoing basis. We are increasing Queensland's power generation capacity, expanding gas generation in Queensland and pioneering research into clean coal technology. It is a great record of achievement in energy.