

Question on Notice
No. 596
Asked on 10 May 2005

MR LANGBROEK asked the Premier and Minister for Trade (Mr Beattie) —

QUESTION:

Will he list and provide details (source document, program/fund/strategy, commitment, cost, expected completion date [month/year], the progress made and expenditure to date) to fulfil each election commitment made by the Government for each State Electorate [reported separately] within the North Queensland region during and in the lead-up to the 2004 State Election?

ANSWER:

During the last State Election, I released a Beattie Plan for the Twin Cities and surrounding areas on 26 January 2004 and for Mackay/Whitsunday on 21 January 2004 (attached).

The Beattie Plans were released to the media and the public. The Beattie Plans contain the key commitments for my Government in North Queensland.

Since 1998, the Queensland Government has developed a reputation for delivering on its promises and is judged in every electorate at every election on whether it has done so.

In most cases, the plans are due to be delivered by the end of this three-year term and the individual promises are in various stages of being delivered.

There are a few exceptions, such as the promise to deliver a specific number of extra teachers within four years, where it was made clear in the documents at the time that the timeframe was longer than three years.

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AUTHORISED CAMERON MILNER ALP 16 PEEL STREET SOUTH BRISBANE QLD 4101

BUILDING THE FUTURE

**THE BEATTIE PLAN FOR
THE TWIN CITIES
and surrounding areas**

KEEP QUEENSLAND MOVING

26 January 2004

BUILDING THE TWIN CITIES: BUILDING THE SMART STATE

The Twin Cities of Townsville/Thuringowa are the commercial and industrial centre of North Queensland. Surrounded by national parks and World Heritage-listed areas to the north and east and a rich agricultural basin to the south, the cities are home to approximately 143,000 people. It is estimated that by 2021 the population of the Twin Cities and their surrounding areas will have grown to more than 198,000.¹

The region's diversity is a key to its economic strength. Agriculture (primarily raw sugar production, beef processing and grazing), public administration, defence forces, manufacturing, mineral refining, tourism, fishing, education, research, and tertiary services underpin the regional economy.² With an economic growth rate of 5.7% - double the national average - North Queensland is one of the most dynamic areas in Australia.³

The region has a strongly-performing tourism industry, reflecting the attractions of the World Heritage-listed Great Barrier Reef and tropical islands, unspoiled beaches and diverse rainforest.

¹ The Beattie Plan for the Twin Cities covers the electorates of Townsville, Thuringowa, Mundingburra, Burdekin and Charters Towers.

¹ Department of Local Government & Planning, Population Trends and Prospects, 2001 edition, 2001 Geographical Boundaries (cited in LGA Profile for Thuringowa, Townsville region, January 2004, OESR)

² Townsville Enterprise Limited

³ Townsville Enterprise Limited,

<http://www.townsvilleonline.com.au/categories/index.cfm?detail=53&MenuCategory=EconomicDevelopment>

\$290 MILLION IN NEW INVESTMENTS

Over \$290 million to build the future of the Twin Cities

- 1,850 new jobs with an investment of \$15.1 million
- Over \$59 million in water supply initiatives
- Over \$14.7 million in education investments, including 31 new teachers
- Over \$105 million for transport and related projects
- \$33.2 million on health services
- \$12 million for emergency services, including 20 new paramedics
- \$9 million for public housing construction and renewal projects in 2004-05
- \$1.8 million for police stations
- The *Smart State Building Fund* will deliver over \$29 million

Massive boost to local infrastructure and services

OUR RECORD OF ACHIEVEMENT

- Opened the \$182 million Townsville Hospital at Douglas
- Established a Tactical Crime Squad in Townsville
- Over \$260 million investment on tilt trains and track upgrades through the region
- Over \$106 million invested in the emergency services
- Over \$38 million on capital upgrades in schools, including under the Cooler Schools program
- More than \$80 million invested in housing and related services

NEW INVESTMENT AND SERVICES

More jobs... lower unemployment

Employment in the Townsville and Thuringowa district is continuing to grow strongly.

Since 2001, 19,903 of the 170,100 jobs created in Queensland have been in the Twin Cities area.

Under the Beattie Government, Queensland has been the country's powerhouse for job creation, accounting for almost one in every three (31.3%) new jobs created in Australia over the past three years.

The Queensland Government's *Breaking the Unemployment Cycle* initiative has contributed to jobs growth in the Townsville and Thuringowa district by delivering 3,280 new jobs since 1998, when the Beattie Government took office.

While jobs growth and falling unemployment are welcome outcomes, much more needs to get more people into work.

As part of a continuing commitment to job creation, a re-elected Beattie Government will create an estimated 1,850 jobs in the Townsville and Thuringowa district under the *Breaking the Unemployment Cycle* initiative at an estimated cost of \$15.1 million over the next three years.

Education.....See the future

Lower class sizes

We will employ up to 31 extra teachers in the Townsville education district over four years from 2004 at a cost of about \$5 million. This will reduce Year 4-10 class sizes to the lowest in the country and improve curriculum planning and development in large primary schools.

Creating 21st Century Classrooms

Over the next three years, the Beattie Government will distribute up to \$4.9 million in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) grants to Queensland state schools in the Townsville education district.

Cooler Schools

The Beattie Government will invest approximately \$3.1 million to air-condition up to 117 classrooms in Townsville and surrounding areas under the \$17.6 million commitment to complete air-conditioning classrooms in the Cooler Schools Zone.

Capital Works

The Government will invest in new and upgraded facilities in Townsville and its surrounding areas to give local students the best possible education including:

- \$250,000 for additional toilets at The Willows State School
- \$250,000 to upgrade special education facilities at Thuringowa State High School
- \$250,000 for additional toilets at Wulguru State School
- \$255,000 to replace telephones at: Stuart State School, Burdekin Special School, Collinsville State High School, Alpha State School, Clermont State School, Moranbah East State School, Moranbah State School, Vincent State School, Rasmussen State School, Garbutt State School, Railway Estate State School and Kelso State School

Wired for the Future

Under the three-year Wired for the Future Program, the Beattie Government will provide \$744,000 in upgrades to electrical capacity of schools across the Townsville and Charters Towers regions as follows:

- Ayr East State School – \$63,000
- Giru State School – \$9,000
- Wulguru State School – \$7,000
- Aramac State School – \$12,000
- Clermont State School – \$1,150
- Hughenden State School – \$53,000
- Moranbah East State School – \$22,500
- Moranbah State School – \$5,250
- Bohlevale State School – \$20,000
- The Willows State School – \$49,000
- Belgian Gardens State School – \$8,000
- Bwgcolman Community School – \$383,000
- Hermit Park State School – \$105,000
- Railway Estate State School – \$4,000
- Townsville South State School – \$3,000

The funding will give schools the electrical capacity they need to plug into the Internet and make better use of technology to educate students.

Transport.....Strong foundations

The Beattie Government will allocate over \$105 million for transport and related projects.

Safety and mobility for our citizens....

Roads

In 2004-05 the Beattie Government will spend \$94.9 million on state-controlled roads in Townsville, the Burdekin and Charters Towers areas, including contributions to the following projects (some of which have commenced) :

- \$280,000 towards traffic management improvements on the Ross River Road (estimated cost \$480,000)
- \$1.2 million to repair and strengthen the road surface on Woolcock Street, between Hugh Street and Sturt Street-Charters Towers Road on the Townsville Port Road by 2004-05.
- \$40.43 million to complete construction of the Douglas Arterial project between University Road and Upper Ross River Road. This project is jointly funded by the state and federal governments.
- \$2.8 million to start work on the new Cerito-Newlands Mine Road (total estimated cost \$9 million, with Mount Isa Mines Ltd contributing \$3.35 million)
- \$2.8 million to improve safety on the Woodstock-Giru Road. Work includes widening and sealing of shoulders at Walkers Creek
- \$200,000 to repair the Flinders Highway at Reid River Bridge between Townsville and Charters Towers by 2004-05
- \$1.53 million in 2004-05 to widen and seal a 6.5km section of the Peak Downs Highway between Clermont and Nebo at West Wolfgang Creek North
- \$9.565 million to complete reconstruction and sealing of a 25km section of the Hervey's Range Developmental Road from Ella Creek to the Gregory Developmental Road intersection by 2004-05
- \$257,000 in 2004-05 to form a section on the Kennedy Developmental Road between The Lynd and Hughenden
- \$4.6 million to widen the Gregory Developmental Road at various locations between Belyando Crossing and Charters Towers
- The following projects are approved for the Flinders Highway:
 - \$7.747 million to complete a project by 2004-05 to widen and seal a 49km section from Mundic Creek to 17km east of Torrens Creek
 - \$2.94 million to start a \$4.75 million project to widen and strengthen the pavement on a section between Sloanes Creek and Namoi Creek
 - \$1.275 million to widen and seal a section between Boundary Creek and Nonda Creek by 2004-05
 - \$1.928 million to reconstruct the Burra Range Crossing between Charters Towers and Hughenden by 2004-05
 - \$200,000 to complete rehabilitation works to the Reid River Bridge between Townsville and Charters Towers by 2004-05
 - \$200,000 to begin replacing guardrails between Charters Towers and Hughenden at a total cost of \$400,000

- \$265,000 to complete rehabilitation works to Cape River Bridge by 2004-05
- \$313,000 to bitumen reseal sections on the Barcaldine-Aramac Road by 2004-05
- \$250,000 to form and pave sections on the Hughenden-Muttaburra Road by 2004-05
- \$180,000 to pave and seal a 1.7km section on Cramsie-Muttaburra Road by 2004-05
- \$350,000 in 2004-05 for minor realignment of sections on Clermont-Alpha Road
- \$280,000 in 2004-05 for repairs of Cuttor River culverts on Bowen Developmental Road between Collinsville and Mt Douglas
- \$510,000 to widen and seal sections of the Gulf Developmental Road between Croydon and Georgetown by 2004-05
- \$314,000 to complete resheeting works on sections of the Gregory Developmental Road between The Lynd and Quartz Blow Creek by 2004-05
- \$245,000 in 2003-04 for a bitumen chip reseal on Kennedy Developmental Road between the Etheridge Shire boundary and Rosella Plains
- \$2.438 million to complete shoulder widening and sealing on a 12.3km section of Kennedy Developmental Road between Hughenden and Winton by 2004-05.

Community transport partnerships

The Beattie Government will provide \$2.5 million in 2004-05 under the Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme, to various councils in the region, including the following projects (some of which have commenced):

- \$650,000 towards road and drainage upgrading works on Palm Island
- \$30,000 to complete a \$60,000 project, jointly funded with Townsville City Council, for school zone signage in Townsville by 2004-05.
- \$50,000 to complete a \$100,000 project by 2004-05, jointly funded with Townsville City Council, to construct set-down and parking area at Belgian Garden State School
- \$105,000 to complete a \$210,000 project by 2004-05, jointly funded with Thuringowa City Council, to build or extend bikeways in the Upper Ross area, near Thuringowa State High School
- \$349,845 to complete a \$1 million project, jointly funded with Thuringowa City Council, to provide upgrading works on Geaney Lane by 2004-05

- \$75,000 to complete a \$150,000 jointly funded project with Townsville City Council to provide a roundabout at Charlotte Street and Burt Street intersection by 2004-05
- \$22,000 to complete a \$44,000 jointly funded project with Townsville City Council to seal the car park at Mundingburra South Pre-school by 2004-05
- \$360,000 towards a \$1.76 million project, jointly funded with Burdekin Shire Council, for pavement reconstruction and new bridges on Barratta Road
- \$20,000 to complete a \$40,000 project by 2004-05, jointly funded with Burdekin Shire Council, to construct a sealed carpark at Ocean Creek boat ramp
- \$20,000 to complete a \$40,000 project by 2004-05, jointly funded with Burdekin Shire Council, to construct a sealed carpark at Barratta Creek boat ramp
- \$20,000 to complete a \$40,000 project by 2004-05, jointly funded with Burdekin Shire Council, to construct a pedestrian refuge at Ayr State High School
- \$33,000 to complete a \$66,000 project by 2004-05, jointly funded with Burdekin Shire Council, for bus set-down improvements at Brandon State School
- \$4,500 to complete a \$9,000 project in 2004-05, jointly funded with Burdekin Shire Council, for a bus shelter at Brandon State School
- \$4,500 to complete a \$9,000 project in 2004-05, jointly funded with Burdekin Shire Council, for a bus shelter at Mountainview Road
- \$159,971 to complete a \$400,000 project by 2004-05, jointly funded with Townsville City Council, to upgrade traffic arrangements at the Merv Crossman Drive sporting complex
- \$100,000 to complete a \$200,000 project by 2004-05, jointly funded with Belyando Shire Council, to pave and seal between Riverside access road and North Goonyella Mine access road
- \$40,000 to complete an \$80,000 project, jointly funded with Bowen Shire Council, for drainage improvements on Strathmore Road by 2004-05
- \$50,000 towards a \$500,000 project, jointly funded with Charters Towers City Council, to upgrade bridges
- \$40,000 to complete an \$80,000 project, jointly funded with Charters Towers City Council, to pave and seal Aberdeen Road by 2004-05
- \$60,000 to complete a \$120,000 project, jointly funded with Charters Towers City Council, to pave and seal Towers Hill Road by 2004-05
- \$17,000 towards a \$400,000 project, jointly funded with Charters Towers City Council, to upgrade various intersections

- \$15,000 to complete a \$30,000 project, jointly funded with Charters Towers City Council, to provide set-down and parking area at Richmond Hill State School by 2004-05
- \$300,000 to complete a \$600,000 project, jointly funded with Dalrymple Shire Council, to improve drainage between Laroona and Hidden Valley Road by 2004-05
- \$425,000 towards a \$900,000 project, jointly funded with Etheridge Shire Council, to upgrade bitumen seal on the Einasleigh-Forsayth Road
- \$80,000 towards a \$400,000 project, jointly funded with Flinders Shire Council, to form and gravel Alderley-Poseidon Road
- \$70,000 to complete a \$140,000 project, jointly funded with Jericho Shire Council, to bitumen seal the Portwine Avoca Road by 2004-05
- \$70,000 to complete a \$140,000 project, jointly funded with Jericho Shire Council, to gravel resheet Degulla, Islay Plains and Pine Hills roads by 2004-05
- \$20,000 to complete a \$40,000 project by 2004-05, jointly funded with Jericho Shire Council, to gravel resheet Aramac Road
- \$50,000 to complete a \$100,000 project by 2004-05, jointly funded with Jericho Shire Council, to bitumen seal Alpha Street
- \$100,000 to complete a \$200,000 project, jointly funded with Peak Downs Shire Council, to bitumen seal a 5.5km section of Capella-Rubyvale Road by 2004-05
- \$10,000 to complete a \$20,000 project by 2004-05, jointly funded with Peak Downs Shire Council, to construct a bikeway between Tieri and Tieri Primary School
- \$145,000 to complete a \$405,000 project, jointly funded with Richmond Shire Council, to upgrade and seal Crawford Street by 2004-05.

Rail

The Beattie Government will continue to support the role of the Townsville Rail Workshops as an important employment generator for the local area.

Bus services

The Government will provide \$1.4 million a year towards urban bus services in Townsville and Thuringowa.

Long distance bus and air subsidies

The Government will continue to fund the long distance bus service linking Townsville and Charters Towers at a cost of \$67,000 a year. We will also

continue to fund air services in the Charters Towers electorate at a cost of \$1.1 million a year.

Health

Nurses

The Beattie Government will employ two extra cancer nurses, four additional radiation therapists, and two additional specialist cancer doctors as part of a major \$4.8 million boost to cancer services for Townsville.

This funding includes \$2 million to install a new linear accelerator to provide radiation therapy.

Dental services

The Beattie Government will provide \$1.5 million over three years to establish a dental outreach team at Townsville, consisting of two dentists, two dental assistants and a dental technician, to reduce dental waiting times.

Capital and equipment

Funding will be provided on the following projects:

- \$9.1 million to complete the \$13.2 million 70-bed nursing home at Kirwan, which will include a 10-bed psycho-geriatric unit
- \$13.7 million to complete the \$15.7 million consolidation of Townsville's community health and mental health services at North Ward and Kirwan
- Complete the \$11.3 million redevelopment of Ayr Hospital with an investment of \$6.3 million in 2004-05

Safe and reliable water supply

The Beattie Government will provide a further \$57 million subsidy to NQ Water between 2004-07 as part of the \$67 million total cost of engineering works on the Ross River Dam.

A fishway will also be installed at the Clare Weir on the Burdekin River by the end of 2005 at a cost of approximately \$2.4 million as part of the Government's re-investment of Sunwater dividend.

Better policing

The Beattie Government will commit over \$1.8 million for key police station upgrades and construction:

- \$100,000 to start the \$1 million upgrade of Kirwan police station
- \$100,000 to commence work on a \$3 million replacement police station for Stuart
- \$1.5 million for Stage 2 of the Townsville police station redevelopment
- \$100,000 to start work on the \$5 million Ayr police station and watchhouse project

Emergency Services

Paramedics

The Beattie Government will provide 20 additional paramedics over three years with an investment of over \$3.5 million. This will help save lives, maintain emergency response times and enhance the health and safety of paramedics.

Capital works

The Beattie Government will commit \$8.5 million for key ambulance and fire service station upgrades and construction:

- \$4.5 million for Queensland Ambulance Service projects in the Townsville area, including a major reconstruction of the Townsville ambulance station and QAS administration and communications building, redevelopment of the Kirwan ambulance station and refurbishment of the Black River ambulance station
- \$1 million to complete a \$1.2 million joint facility for the Queensland Ambulance Service, Rural Fire Service and State Emergency Service on Palm Island
- \$750,000 to replace the ambulance station at Aramac
- \$1.3 million for a replacement ambulance station at Ayr
- \$250,000 to upgrade the Ayr fire station
- \$200,000 for Stage 1 of a redevelopment of the South Townsville Fire Station and communications centre
- More than \$500,000 to provide four new ambulance vehicles for the Northern Region.

Public housing

The Beattie Government will allocate nearly \$4.6 million towards construction of 26 properties and provide a further \$5.1 million for renovation of 130 homes across the Townsville region in 2004-05.

Community renewal

The Beattie Government's new five-year \$75 million statewide community renewal commitment will continue to fund ongoing programs in Vincent in Townsville and on Palm Island, with a new program to be established in the Upper Ross in Thuringowa.

Ocean terminal

The Beattie Government is currently evaluating a Public Private Partnership arrangement for the development of an Ocean Terminal in Townsville. An integrated development proposal is being examined involving construction of the ocean terminal followed by development of residential, tourist facilities, parklands and a marina on land behind the breakwater reclaimed with dredge material.

The Government recently considered the findings of the Preliminary Assessment Report and confirmed it was a priority project.

A steering committee and project team has been formed and a tailored business case is being prepared.

SMART STATE BUILDING FUND

The Smart State Building Fund will deliver over \$29 million

In December 2003, the Beattie Government announced a \$1 billion package of strategic infrastructure investments targeted to support key services and projects across Queensland.

The *Smart State* Building Funding will provide more than \$29.2 million in the Townsville region.

Smart schools shaping the *Smart State*

- Smart School Renewal Program –**

- Ayr State High School – major classroom upgrade to support arts and ICT initiatives – \$780,000
- Wulguru State School – classroom upgrade to provide for practical learning activities – \$115,000
- Aramac State School – classroom upgrade to support science initiatives – \$140,000
- Hughenden State School – resource centre upgrade to support ICT initiatives – \$135,000
- Muttaburra State School – outdoor classroom upgrade – \$140,000
- Richmond State School – classroom upgrade to support science initiatives – \$145,000

- Bohlevale State School – major classroom upgrade to provide for practical learning activities – \$700,000
- Kirwan State High School – major classroom upgrade to support middle schooling initiatives – \$1.3 million
- Belgian Gardens State School – major classroom upgrade to support ICT initiatives – \$345,000
- Railway Estate State School – classroom upgrade to support ICT initiatives – \$115,000

- **Core facilities upgrades –**

- Ayr State High School – administration upgrade – \$800,000
- The Willows State School – library upgrade – \$500,000
- Hermit Park State School – administration upgrade – \$500,000

Creating affordable public housing

- \$503,000 for public housing upgrades.

Community infrastructure

- \$7.5 million for a new office building on Palm Island
- \$400,000 to build Government employee housing in Hughenden

Disability services

- \$100,000 to upgrade disability facilities and equipment in Mundingburra
- \$585,000 to upgrade disability facilities and equipment in Thuringowa

Investing in our health system

- \$3 million to redevelop Collinsville Hospital and investigate its potential as an integrated health and aged care facility

Safer roads

- The Beattie Government will provide \$8 million towards construction of the new \$16 million stage 1 of the Townsville Port Access Road linking the Flinders and Bruce Highways by 2006-07. The funding is conditional on a matching Roads of National Importance contribution from the federal government.

Transport

- \$165,000 to provide new boat ramps at Collinsville on the South Hull River, and upgrade the Groper Creek Settlement jetty
- \$417,000 for boating infrastructure in Thuringowa/Townsville. The details will be determined after consultation with local communities

- \$250,000 for the upgrade of the vessel tracking system

Tough on crime – safer communities

- \$400,000 for a new Neighbourhood Police Beat on The Strand
- \$300,000 for a new Neighbourhood Police Beat in Vincent or Healy

Services for Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders

- \$1.5 million to build accommodation for Indigenous people at Aitkenvale Hostel
- \$150,000 for the refurbishment of the Diversion from Custody Centre, which provide temporary care for intoxicated Indigenous people
- An additional \$250,000 for the construction of a “safe place” in Happy Valley

DELIVERING FOR TOWNSVILLE

Key Achievements 2001-2004

A strong record and commitment

**We have
been
building
momentum
for the future**

The Townsville region represents the Smart State at its very best. This is a region of boundless potential, great diversity and bustling industry, and one which remains eagerly engaged with the rest of the country and the world. It is a great place to live, work and raise a family.

Since 2001, the Beattie Government has worked hard to nurture the strength of the Townsville region and to help it unlock its full potential by supporting local industries and providing those essential services and community infrastructure which keep our communities safe, healthy and prosperous. The Beattie Government’s record of achievement demonstrates its commitment to ensuring the people of the Townsville region live life in the Smart State to the full.

Highlights

Health

The Beattie Government is committed to continuing to deliver a world-class health system for the people of the Townsville region. The combined budgets of the Townsville, Bowen and Charters Towers Health Service Districts for 2003-04 are now in excess of \$251 million.

Some of our major achievements in health over the last three years have included:

- Opening the \$182 million Townsville Hospital at Douglas in November 2001, including the \$7.2 million secure mental health unit
- Purchasing over \$9.5 million of upgraded health technology equipment
- Completing the \$4.2 million Mossman Hall Rehabilitation-Dual Diagnosis unit at Charters Towers
- Opening the \$1.9 million 10-bed Acquired Brain Injury unit for the Townsville Hospital rehabilitation unit
- \$800,000 for a dedicated spinal rehabilitation service at Townsville Hospital

Police and Emergency Services

Queensland has some of the most dedicated police and emergency services personnel in the world. Over the past three years, we have injected more than \$106 million into the emergency services in this region. Since 2001, the Government has assisted our police and emergency service personnel in their vital role of keeping the Townsville region safe through such commitments as:

- A combined fire and ambulance station at Home Hill at a cost of over \$500,000
- A combined fire and ambulance facility on Magnetic Island at a cost of \$600,000
- Additional emergency services staff positions for the Northern Region: four ambulance officers, 12 student paramedics, three firefighters, three communications officers, three fire community safety officers and an emergency services project coordinator for Palm Island
- Replacement ambulance station at Hughenden nearing completion (total cost \$562,000)
- \$2.1 million for six new fire trucks delivered to Townsville and Kirwan stations and a replacement fire truck delivered to Charters Towers fire station at a cost of \$307,000.
- \$300,000 for a new police station at Ravenswood
- \$701,000 to establish a Tactical Crime Squad in Townsville to target known crime hotspots with the emphasis on property crime and drugs offences
- \$2.8 million this year for completion of a replacement police station and watchhouse on Palm Island (total cost \$3.2 million)
- In 2003-04, more than \$4.6 million for completion of a replacement Mundingburra Police Station at a total cost of \$7.15 million
- Ergon Energy is undergrounding 5km of distribution lines to secure supply to Thuringowa Disaster Control Centre, Telstra, the Police and Ambulance services under the Cyclone Area Reliability Enhancement program

Transport

Since 2001, the Beattie Government has helped keep the Townsville region on the move. We have improved the road and rail infrastructure in this region, with projects or works including:

- \$158 million for the Brisbane to Cairns via Townsville Tilt train
- More than \$115 million on roadworks across Charters Towers since July 2001
- \$110 million upgrade to rail track upgrade between Rockhampton and Cairns
- \$26.6 million to build coal wagons
- \$23.8 million for a new Townsville railway station and associated track work
- \$23.3 million to start construction of the jointly-funded Douglas Arterial project, with work to be completed in December at a total cost of \$53.2 million
- \$15.5 million to rebuild three prototype locomotives
- \$12.9 million for a ferry terminal and harbour at Nelly Bay
- \$4.1 million for bridge replacement at Pass Creek
- \$6 million for the Rockhampton to Townsville rail track renewal project. The work includes re-sleepering, flood proofing, curve easing earthworks, formation and drainage
- \$7.2 million for general works at the Port of Abbot Point
- \$5.2 million of a total project cost of \$12.3 million to build 300 cattle rail wagons
- \$2 million for repairs to the Ross River Bridge (Bowen Road).

Education

The Beattie Government has ensured that children living in Townsville and its surrounding areas have access to world-class education, investing more than \$32 million since 2001 in capital works and new technologies in schools, including:

- \$6.7 million to refurbish Townsville State High School, Pimlico State High School and Heatley Secondary College
- Over \$5 million to build the new Oonoonba State School and pre-school facilities
- \$3.2 million to build the Townsville Community Learning Centre
- \$1.8 million committed to additional classrooms and toilets at William Ross State High School
- \$6.8 million spent and committed on air-conditioning state schools under round 4 of the Cooler Schools Program
- About \$3.6 million spent and committed to clear outstanding maintenance at state schools under the Government's \$50 million Triple R Maintenance Program

- \$3.4 million in grants to state schools to buy more computers and boost the technology skills of students and teachers under the ICTs for Learning Strategy
- 287 extra computers delivered to state schools most in need of improving their computer to student ratios

Disability services

\$19.8 million to support children and adults with a disability and their families

Community Infrastructure

The Government recognises that building stronger and more supportive communities is the key to ensuring Queensland remains a great place to live, work and raise a family. Since 2001, the Government has enhanced the community infrastructure in this region through such initiatives and allocations as:

- More than \$80 million invested in housing and housing-related services, including \$907,600 for the Palm Island Youth and Community Centre
- \$38.6 million in community infrastructure funding through local government grants and subsidies
- More than \$30.08 million in non-government services in childcare, child protection and family support, domestic violence prevention and support programs, and homeless support programs through the Department of Families
- The Drug Court is an important initiative of the Beattie Government to break the cycle of drug-related crime. Between 2002 and December 2005 more than \$7 million has been allocated to the Townsville program of the North Queensland Drug Court. To date, 36 intensive drug rehabilitation orders have been issued by the Townsville Drug Court
- More than \$5.5 million to various community groups in the region as part of the Gambling Community Benefit Fund
- More than \$7.1 million for arts and cultural projects
- \$2 million to establish the Townsville Sports House adjacent to the Townsville Sports Reserve
- \$1.2 million to Townsville Enterprise for the promotion and development of tourism and business events in the region
- \$500,000 for a new Charters Towers Neighbourhood Centre and \$243,000 for new family support and respite services in Charters Towers
- \$66,823 for seven different projects under the i-STAR program, which provides financial assistance to industry, local authorities, education and training institutes to overcome ICT skill shortages and promote ICT careers.
- Committing \$850,000 to upgrade the Townsville Oonoonba Veterinary Laboratory as part of our biosecurity strategy to protect Queensland's primary industries

- The new Townsville gas-fired power station project is currently under construction, with construction of the pipeline from Moranbah to Townsville due to commence within weeks. The project will result in up to \$500 million capital investment in the electricity and gas industry in central and northern Queensland and approximately 300 construction jobs. Over the first 10 years of the project, it is forecast to increase economic growth in North Queensland by more than 5%.

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THE BEATTIE PLAN FOR
MACKAY-WHITSUNDAY

KEEP QUEENSLAND MOVING

21 January 2004

BUILDING THE MACKAY-WHITSUNDAY REGION: BUILDING THE *SMART STATE*

The Mackay-Whitsunday region contributes more than 5% to Queensland's Gross State Product. The region's economy is worth \$2.6 billion per annum.¹ The region's population of more than 125,000 is growing at 1.9% per annum.²

The region boasts many of Queensland's best natural resources, including pristine environments such as mainland and island national parks. The region encompasses areas of high agricultural value (it has long been one of Australia's most important sugar producing areas) and the mineral deposits of the Bowen Basin.

Centred on the thriving city of Mackay, the region is increasingly becoming known as a gateway to the tropical north – rainforests, beaches, islands and the Great Barrier Reef.

¹ Regional Communities information, DPC website

² Regional Communities information, DPC website (NB Mackay City's estimated population at 2001 was 78,273, with annual average population growth from 2001 to 2021 projected to be 1.4%).

Over \$77 million to build the Mackay-Whitsunday region's future development

NEW INVESTMENTS AND SERVICES

- \$28.6 million for improved water treatment and use
- More than \$10 million in education investments
- More than \$4.5 million in strategic transport infrastructure and services
- \$9.5 million to create 1221 new jobs
- \$ 3 million for new police facilities
- The Smart State Building Fund will deliver over \$21.4 million as announced in December 2003

Huge boost for local infrastructure, while improving health and education services...

A RECORD OF ACHIEVEMENT

Over the past three years, the Beattie Government has delivered significant improvements for the citizens of the Mackay-Whitsunday Region including:

- \$55 million on key Health projects and services
- Over \$80 million on community infrastructure projects
- \$16 million on disability support
- Over \$9.5 million on Police and Emergency Services projects
- Over \$17 million in school facilities upgrades and technology grants

NEW INVESTMENT AND SERVICES

Jobs growth

Jobs Growth in Mackay and Whitsunday district*

Employment in the Mackay and Whitsunday district is continuing to grow strongly.

Since 2001, 7,220 of the 170, 100 extra jobs created in Queensland have been in the Mackay-Whitsunday region.

More jobs and the lowest unemployment rate in over 21 years...

Under the Beattie Government, Queensland has been the country's powerhouse for job creation, accounting for 31.3% of new jobs in Australia during the last three years. Since being first elected in June 1998, we have created more than 257,000 jobs for Queenslanders.

The Queensland Government's *Breaking the Unemployment Cycle* initiative has contributed to jobs growth in the Mackay and Whitsundays district by delivering 2,164 new jobs since 1998, when the Government took office.

The number of unemployed in the Mackay and Whitsundays district has fallen by 41% - or 3,020 persons - since 2001. While surging jobs growth and falling unemployment are welcome outcomes, much more needs to be done to bring unemployment down further.

As part of a continuing commitment to job creation, a re-elected Beattie Government will create a further 1,221 jobs in the Mackay and Whitsundays district under the *Breaking the Unemployment Cycle* initiative over three years at a cost of \$9.5 million.

*(Mackay/Whitsundays district data is based on an amalgamation of data for the local government authorities of Mackay, Mirani, Sarina, Nebo and Whitsunday).

Education.....see the future

Smaller classes

We will employ up to 23 extra teachers in the Mackay Education District over four years from 2004 at a cost of about \$4 million. This will reduce Year 4-10 class sizes to the lowest in the country and improve curriculum planning and development in larger primary schools. The teachers will be among the more than 3000 extra teachers employed since the Beattie Government came to office.

**The Smart State...
more teachers...
better facilities**

Creating 21st Century Classrooms

Over the next three years, the Beattie Government will distribute up to \$ 3.5 million in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) grants to Queensland state schools in the Mackay Education district.

Cooler Schools

We will invest approximately \$1.5 million to air-condition up to 57 classrooms in the Mackay region under the \$17.6 million commitment to complete classroom air-conditioning in the hottest parts of the state – the Cooler Schools Zone.

Capital Works

We will invest up to \$1.2 million in new and upgraded facilities in the Mackay region to give local students the best possible education including:

- Approximately \$700,000 to upgrade special education facilities at Mackay District Special School
- Approximately \$430,000 for additional toilets at Pioneer State High School
- Approximately \$20,000 to replace telephones at Northview State School
- Approximately \$20,000 to replace telephones at Bucasia State School
- Approximately \$15,000 to replace telephones at Dundula State School

Tough on crime...Safer Communities

The Beattie Government is improving police facilities across Queensland. As part of our investment program we will provide \$3 million for replacement of Sarina Police Station in the next term of Government – 2006-07.

Transport.....Strong foundations

Roads and Bikeways

Over \$2.7 million for upgrades, major connection roads and transport building projects in the region including:

- \$631,000 towards repairs to the Forgan Bridge on the Mackay-Slade Point Road (completed by 2004-05)
- \$251,000 in grants to the Mackay City Council through the Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme (TIDS) on projects including:

**Better, safer
transport
options.....**

- \$100,000 to repair Bridge Road (2004-05);
- \$20,000 for set-down and pick up area at Homebush School (2004-05).
- \$1.7 million to upgrade the George Fordyce Drive intersection on the Mackay Bucasia Road (by 2004-05);
- \$179,000 over the next two years in grants to councils through the TIDS scheme on projects including:
 - \$19,500 towards the bikeway on Argyle Park Road (by 2004-05);
 - \$19,000 to complete the \$38,000 bikeway on Richmond Road (by 2004-05); and
 - \$43,000 towards constructing a footpath on Soldiers Road (2004-05).

Bus subsidies

The Beattie Government will contribute \$1.8 million over three years towards services in Mackay and is committed to improving these services in line with increased patronage.

Improving Water Treatment and Use

The Beattie Government will provide a \$28.6 million subsidy towards the Mackay Water Re-use Scheme (Mackay City Council). This incorporates \$19.8 million to help fund the decommissioning of the Mt Bassett Sewage Treatment Plant and the diversion of sewage to an upgraded facility at Baker's Creek. The subsidy balance (\$8.8 million) will be used to help construct re-use infrastructure to enable sugarcane irrigation. (Queensland Government subsidy subject to Federal Government matching funding).

Improving natural resource management

Weed Eradication

In addition to the substantial resources already committed by the Government, including a \$1 million Sunwater commitment, we will spend a further \$390,000, plus \$445,000 worth of in-kind investment and support over the next six years, to ensure Mimosa pigra weed is eradicated from the region.

THE SMART STATE BUILDING FUND

In December 2003 the Beattie Government announced a \$1 billion package of strategic infrastructure investments to support key services and projects across Queensland.

**More than
\$21.4 million
in key
regional
investments
through the
Smart State
Building Fund**

The Beattie Government's *Smart State* Building Funding will provide an added boost of over [\\$21.4 million](#) in a range of areas in Mackay-Whitsunday:

Smart schools shaping the *Smart State*

Smart School Renewal Program

- Andergrove State School – major classroom upgrade to support ICT initiatives – approx \$650,000
- Mackay West State School – multi-purpose covered area – approx \$757,000
- Slade Point State School – classroom upgrade to provide for practical learning activities – approx \$123,000
- Sarina State High School – major classroom upgrade to support agricultural science initiatives – approx \$659,000
- Alligator Creek State School – classroom upgrade to support ICT initiatives – approx \$127,000
- Dundula State School – resource centre upgrade to support ICT initiatives – approx \$123,000
- Bowen State School – major classroom upgrade to provide for practical learning activities – approx \$647,000
- Calen State School – classroom upgrade to support catering initiatives – approx \$130,000
- Hampden State School – classroom upgrade to provide for practical learning activities – approx \$125,000

Core facilities upgrades

- Mackay District Special School – administration upgrade – approx \$700,000
- Alligator Creek State School – administration upgrade – approx \$750,000

Creating affordable public housing

- \$34,000 for public housing upgrades in Whitsunday
- \$4,000 for public housing upgrades in Mirani
- \$144,000 for public housing upgrades in Mackay

Disability services

- \$40,000 to upgrade disability facilities and equipment in Mackay and Whitsunday

Justice and Attorney-General

- \$3 million to upgrade the courthouse at Bowen. This will include providing a lift, improving services and security, better access for people with a disability, and better toilets. A room will also be constructed so that victims of domestic violence and child witnesses can give evidence by Closed Circuit Television.

Natural Resources and Mines

- \$528,000 for the installation of state-of-the-art water quality measuring equipment in the region to help protect the Great Barrier Reef and guard against salinity.

Police

- \$350,000 for a new Neighbourhood Police Beat at Seaforth.

Transport

- \$1.9million for boating infrastructure in Whitsunday
- \$250,000 to upgrade the Vessel Tracking System at Hay Point
- \$50,000 for boating infrastructure at Eungella Dam

Safer roads

- \$6 million to widen the Mackay-Bucasia Road to four lanes to reduce traffic delays, particularly in peak hours, and cater for future residential growth in the northern areas
- \$4.4 million for the Malcomsen Street (stage two) section of the four-laning of the Rockleigh-North Mackay Road between Harvey and Palmer Streets

Wired for the Future Program

In a separate initiative from the Smart State Building fund, the Beattie Government will provide funding from the Wired for the Future Program for:

- Electrical upgrade at Eton State School – approx \$15,400
- Electrical upgrade at Alligator Creek State School – approx \$5000
- Electrical upgrade at Walkerston State School – approx \$3000
- Electrical upgrade at Mirani State School – approx \$1500

The funding will allow schools to access power and make further use of technology to educate students.

**We have
been
building the
momentum
for the future**

DELIVERING FOR MACKAY/WHITSUNDAY

Key Achievements 2001-2004

A Strong record and commitment

The electorates of Mackay, Mirani and Whitsunday embrace the diverse range of environments, the broad spread of industries and employments and, most importantly, the dynamic mix of peoples from across the globe which make Queensland such a great place to live, work and raise a family.

Since 2001, the Beattie Government has helped this region realise its full potential by encouraging jobs growth by enhancing the environment, and by supporting the ongoing expansion of the educational and social opportunities available. In addition, the Government has continued to deliver those essential services which enable Queenslanders to live life to the full.

Highlights

Health

The Beattie Government has continued to build this region's vital health infrastructure since 2001 through such initiatives as:

- Contributing \$22.5 million to community organisations under the Home and Community Care Program to enable frail aged and younger people with moderate to severe disabilities to remain in their communities and avoid premature admission to residential care
- Completing the \$29 million redevelopment of Mackay Base Hospital
- Investing almost \$3.5 million in purchasing new and upgraded health technologies in the Bowen and Mackay Health Service Districts
- Providing \$800,000 for upgraded staff accommodation at Bowen Hospital
- Providing over \$16 million to support local children and adults with a disability and their families.

In 2003-04, the Beattie Government has committed more than \$90.7 million to improve health services in the Bowen and Mackay Health Service Districts.

Police and Emergency Services

Queensland has some of the most dedicated police and emergency services personnel in the world. The Beattie Government has helped them in their vital role of keeping Mackay-Whitsunday safe through such initiatives as:

- Establishing the 14-officer Mackay Tactical Crime Squad which targets known crime hotspots (\$545,000). In 2003, the Squad arrested more than 700 offenders on more than 1,000 offences
- Committing \$2.17 million for the establishment of a new 24-hour police station at Mackay North
- Committing over \$700,000 for purchasing land, constructing and refurbishing fire stations throughout the region and for the Koumala SES Group's new operations centre in the Sarina Shire
- Committing \$5 million to establish a joint fire, ambulance, and counter disaster and rescue facility at Holts Road, North Mackay
- Committing \$900,000 for a replacement ambulance station at South Mackay and \$450,000 for the new Calen Ambulance Station

Education

Education is the key to ensuring the children of the Mirani, Whitsunday and Mackay region can take full advantage of the opportunities offered by life in the Smart State. That is why the Beattie Government has invested over \$17 million in school facility upgrades and technology grants since 2001, including:

- \$6 million to refurbish Mackay North State High School and Mackay State High School
- \$1.3 million on new classrooms, a covered multi-purpose area and sports oval redevelopment at Cannonvale State School
- \$6 million to air-condition state schools under round four of the Cooler Schools Program
- \$2.4 million spent and committed on clearing outstanding maintenance at state schools as part of the Government's \$50 million Triple R Maintenance Program

- \$2.1 million in grants to buy more computers and boost the technology skills of students and teachers under the ICTs for Learning Strategy, and to buy 196 extra computers for state schools to improve their computer to student ratios.

Transport

The Beattie Government is keeping the Mackay-Whitsunday region on the move and connected to the world. Since 2001, the Government has committed more than \$258 million to develop road and rail infrastructure in this region, including:

- \$128 million for the Rockhampton to Townsville rail track renewal project at a total project cost of \$369 million, in addition to more than \$88 million in various other rail projects
- More than \$42 million in ongoing road works, such as \$8.5 million for intersection improvements on Mackay-Bucasia Road

Community Infrastructure

The Beattie Government recognises that building stronger communities is the key to ensuring Queenslanders continue to enjoy the very best that life has to offer. Since 2001, the Government has continued to enhance the amenity of the communities which make up this region through such initiatives as:

- Investing more than \$37 million in public housing and related services
- Committing funding of up to \$38 million for a multi-purpose centre in Mackay, with \$10 million in the current budget
- Distributing over \$3.75 million to community groups in the region under the Gambling Community Benefit Fund
- Allocating \$2.53 million to Sarina Shire Council to help restore assets damaged by natural disaster
- Contributing \$1 million to the Whitsunday Shire Council for the Airlie Beach Streetscape Development, part of a four-year, \$50 million allocation under the Regional Centres Program.

Catherine Freeman Walk

Mackay Tourism and Development Bureau Limited has been approved funding of \$138,790 under the Community Jobs Plan program to deliver the *Blue River Trail (Section 10) Part A* project.

This project was administered by Mackay Tourism and Whitsunday Regional Economic Development Corporation, with support from Mackay City Council and Heartland Community Development Employment Projects and employed 23 unemployed indigenous residents. Five people secured traineeships with Mackay City Council on completion of the project, and another three obtained other employment.

A feature of the project has been the construction of quality pedestrian access and a new viewing and fishing platform. Permission was also received from Cathy Freeman to rename the 400m section of the trail the "Catherine Freeman Walk" in recognition of Indigenous people's contribution on the project and the special significance of the riverbank site.