

Question on Notice
No. 792
Asked on 24 May 2007

MR SPRINGBORG asked the Premier and Minister for Trade (MR BEATTIE) -

QUESTION:

With reference to his Ministerial Statement in Parliament on 7 March 2007 at 9.35am on the cross border partnership agreement he signed with New South Wales Premier Morris Iemma to address long term issues in the Gold Coast/Tweed region and I draw his attention to similar cross-border issues existing with Stanthorpe, Killarney, Texas and Goondiwindi within my Electorate of Southern Downs—

- (1) Will he sign a similar cross border partnership agreement to work towards long term solutions to the inconvenience and misery that residents in these areas face in such basic areas as health, transport, registration and emergency services?
- (2) If not, will he explain why one region of Queensland deserves preferential treatment to address their problems whilst another is left languishing?

ANSWER:

The Gold Coast-Tweed region faces a unique future as one the fastest growing areas in Australia and our largest tourist centre. For these unique reasons, particularly the extraordinary influx of people to the Gold Coast, a formal arrangement was developed to ensure that service delivery continues to withstand the pressures of a large and rapidly growing population.

Effective service delivery to the Southern Downs region is critical; however, the region doesn't have the same population pressures as the Gold Coast. The Southern Downs area is very different to the Gold Coast-Tweed area and therefore requires different solutions.

Premier Iemma and I are working together to ensure high service delivery standards are maintained across the Southern Downs border region as well.

Inter-agency meetings between our governments are held on a regular basis. These regular discussions, held between people working in the area, are appropriate forums to address enhancements that seek to improve local service delivery on the Southern Downs and other cross border communities. My Government will continue to review the progress of these arrangements to ensure the best possible service delivery for the residents living in cross boarder communities.