

Question on Notice
No. 143
Asked on 14 February 2008

MR SPRINGBORG asked the Premier (MS BLIGH) -

QUESTION:

With reference to the former Premier's ministerial statement in Parliament on 7 March 2007 at 9.35 am on the cross border partnership agreement he signed with NSW Premier Morris Iemma, to address long term issues in the Gold Coast Tweed region, and drawing the Premier's attention to similar historical problems existing with Stanthorpe, Killarney, Texas and Goondiwindi, within my Electorate of Southern Downs where presently people from the Liston/Amosfield areas in New South Wales access all of their services from Stanthorpe and similar instances occur in the Killarney/Legume/Woodenbong areas, Texas area and also Goondiwindi with Boggabilla and Toomelah where these people are required to access services available in Queensland due to their isolation from any similar services in New South Wales—

- (1) Will she sign a similar cross border partnership agreement to work towards long term solutions for 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 she explain why one region of Queensland deserves preferential treatment to address their problems whilst another is left languishing?

ANSWER:

Both the Queensland and New South Wales Governments are in agreement that best service delivery outcomes can be achieved for residents of cross-border communities through the development of local solutions, including regular communication between Governments at the local agency level.

A formal agreement between Governments was enacted for the Tweed-Gold Coast region because this area was experiencing unprecedented population pressures as one of the fastest growing areas in the country. The partnership agreement was reached to ensure that service delivery continues to withstand the pressures of a large and rapidly growing population. Examples of cross border initiatives provided under the Tweed-Gold Coast agreement include dual taxi ranks and a restructured Gold Coast highway bus network and increased frequency of services as far south as the Tweed Mall.

The Queensland Government will consider any specific cross-border issues raised by Southern Downs residents or yourself. If you have specific examples of initiatives that will assist the Southern Downs community, like those initiatives provided under the Tweed-Gold Coast agreement, you should bring them immediately to my attention. The Queensland Government takes seriously any inconsistencies in jurisdictional arrangements that may compromise service delivery.