

**Hon. Terry Mackenroth MP
Deputy Premier
Treasurer and Minister for Sport**

3 June, 2003

**GOVERNMENT OWNED CORPORATIONS TO CONTRIBUTE
BILLIONS TO CAPITAL WORKS**

Capital works spending by State owned transport and energy corporations was a key feature of the Beattie Government's capital works program of almost \$5.3 Billion next financial year, the Deputy Premier and Treasurer, Mr Terry Mackenroth, said today.

"More than \$2.2 Billion of our capital works program will come from our corporatised areas of government business," Mr Mackenroth said.

"Our focus on 'hard' economic infrastructure means more roads and bridges, water supply and sewerage treatment plants, port facilities, railway works and electricity generation and supply assets.

"It is taxpayers' money hard at work, going back into the community to help build the key infrastructure so vital to our economy's continued growth."

Mr Mackenroth said GOCs were continually working to improve their existing assets as well as develop new projects.

"Energex and Ergon will spend \$315 Million and \$372 Million respectively on their networks this coming financial year including new or upgraded substations, transformers and power lines," he said.

"Powerlink, the operator of the State's high voltage transmission network, will also spend nearly \$160 Million on line reinforcement, line extensions and new infrastructure.

"All up that is nearly \$850 Million on maintaining and improving the performance of our electricity network.

"That means better reliability, less interruptions and more satisfied customers."

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Mr Mackenroth said other major projects include the start of the \$500 Million Townsville power station and gas delivery project by Enertrade, with \$105 Million to be spent this year on development of a gas pipeline from Moranbah to Townsville.

“The Port of Brisbane Corporation will also spend \$147 Million to continue the development of the bund wall into Moreton Bay and other projects at the port,” he said.

“In addition Queensland Rail has a capital works budget next financial year of \$614.8 million, including \$412 million to be spent on improvements to the rail network and fleet.

“Expenditure of \$49.7 Million in 2003-04 will complete the \$369 million upgrade to track between Rockhampton, Townsville and Cairns.

“Several major rail infrastructure projects are also underway with the private sector including transport facilities for major coal developments at Rolleston and Hail Creek.”

Mr Mackenroth said of the \$2.2 Billion capital works expenditure this year by GOCs, \$790 Million was funded from borrowing and \$1.4 Billion from their internal cash sources.

“It certainly puts to rest recent claims that GOCs are cash strapped,” he said.

“They are growing the economy of the State, providing an efficient service and delivering a return to taxpayers.”

Further enquiries: Paul Cronin (07) 3224 6895 or 0418 795 940