

ATT: CHIEF-OF-STAFF/NEWS EDITOR

15 June, 2004

**BEATTIE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES RECORD
INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM**

The Beattie Government today announced the highest ever capital program in the history of Queensland.

Mr Mackenroth said more than \$6 Billion had been allocated in the 2004-05 State Budget for building and infrastructure projects across the State.

“Queensland is the growth State of Australia and while this growth brings many benefits it also brings challenges for transport systems and other infrastructure,” Mr Mackenroth said.

“To ensure this growth is sustainable we must invest in capital works.

“Through strong financial management and a strong economy the Beattie Government is proud to be able to provide this record funding package.

“The general government sector package exceeds any other State in Australia in per capita terms by 22 percent and will be at levels above those achieved in the 1980s in real per capita terms.

“It is money that will be spent directly on roads, hospitals, schools and other infrastructure for our growing State.”

Mr Mackenroth said the \$6.049 Billion capital program included approximately \$235 Million of the \$1.4 Billion Smart State Building Fund announced during the election.

“The capital program includes approximately \$1.9 Billion for transport and main roads projects, \$1.66 Billion for energy, \$452 Million for education and training, and \$406 Million for health,” he said.

“Overall it is a \$957.6 Million, or 19 percent, increase on expenditure this financial year and is expected to have a significant effect on employment supporting some 49,070 full-time jobs, directly and indirectly.”

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Mr Mackenroth said funding for the State's roads and transport programs had been significantly increased.

"The Beattie Government will spend \$1.9 Billion extra on roads and rail infrastructure over the next four years," Mr Mackenroth said.

"By comparison the Howard Government announced less than \$1.5 Billion over five years in total for Queensland in its recent Auslink package.

"Already this year we have announced an extra \$487 Million for various road projects and that is in the Budget, as well as a new four year \$571 Million Arterial Roads Infrastructure package.

"This funding will be used to help facilitate projects such as construction of stages 2 and 3 of the Caboolture Northern Bypass, a new two-lane link between Caloundra and Mooloolaba, four-laning of the Gold Coast Highway between Robert and Stevens Streets and four-laning of the Nerang-Broadbeach Road from Allambe Cemetery to Ross Street.

"In 2004-05, \$622 Million has been allocated for capital infrastructure in our rail network and \$351.1 Million to increase the capacity of our air and sea port infrastructure.

"Plus there is a further \$500 Million over four years to build on the \$400 Million MetTrip investment announced in the Smart State Building Fund for the Citytrain network upgrades."

Mr Mackenroth said that in 2004-05, more than \$1.6 Billion would be spent on energy infrastructure, including \$1.2 Billion on expanding and upgrading Queensland's transmission and distribution network.

"This money includes \$36.8 Million for improvements at Callide, Swanbank and Mica Creek power stations and \$26.4 Million for Brisbane CBD substation works," he said.

"Of course another major energy-related highlight in 2004-05 will be commencement of the \$1.1 Billion Kogan Creek power station project near Chinchilla."

Mr Mackenroth said approximately \$452 Million would be spent on capital works in Education and training for the next generation of Smart State Queenslanders.

"This money includes \$145.8 Million to construct one new school at Narangba, undertake new major stages at nine schools, make land acquisitions and provide more than 200 new classrooms at existing schools in growth areas throughout the State," he said.

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“In addition, \$118 Million has been provided for building improvements at schools including library upgrades, security upgrades, and information and communication technology upgrades.”

Mr Mackenroth said in 2004-05, \$406.4 Million would be spent in Queensland Health on capital works including \$54.1 Million for major hospital and health redevelopment projects in Ingham, Weipa, Gympie, Redcliffe, Redlands, Robina, Logan, Atherton and Hervey Bay.

He said other significant projects in the massive capital works program for 2004-05 included:

- \$366 Million to the Department of Housing for initiatives such as building, upgrading and maintaining public and private rental housing;
- \$76 Million for Emergency Services including two new ambulance stations and nine replacement stations as well as 11 fire station or facility upgrades;
- \$37.1 Million for the construction and refurbishment of TAFE training facilities;
- \$70.8 Million to the Justice portfolio for initiatives such as upgrades to courthouses and other law facilities,
- \$67 Million for implementation plans for the augmentation of Brisbane wastewater treatment plants; and
- \$101.6 Million to Police for capital works such as the construction of new and replacement police station facilities and the purchase of motor vehicles, vessels and other equipment.

Mr Mackenroth said the record capital works program would be a significant legacy of the Beattie Government.

“We have managed the money available to government well,” he said.

“As a result, the State’s finances are in great shape and we are able to invest in infrastructure which will provide the foundation for continued growth and prosperity in our great State.”

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