



Speech by

Hon. Robert Swarten

MEMBER FOR ROCKHAMPTON

Hansard Friday, 26 May 2006

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Boggo Road Precinct Redevelopment

Hon. RE SCHWARTEN (Rockhampton—ALP) (Minister for Public Works, Housing and Racing) (8.56 am): I am pleased to announce this morning that the Queensland government has awarded the first major contract as part of the \$50 million Boggo Road precinct redevelopment at Brisbane's Dutton Park. This project, which the Deputy Premier and member for South Brisbane has strongly advocated for, will transform the former prison site, which has sat virtually unused for more than a decade, into a vibrant inner-city urban village within kilometres of the Brisbane CBD.

The awarding of this contract for initial work builds on several years of consultation with the local community, as well as city-wide and regional planning processes. The contract, worth almost \$4 million, has been let to the Queensland based company Thiess to clear the site to pave the way for infrastructure works including roads, services and landscaping. Work is expected to begin within weeks and will involve demolishing the former women's prison, vehicle inspection buildings, reception centre and underground services.

Last month 5,700 newsletters were distributed to residents and businesses in Dutton Park, Woolloongabba and Buranda regarding the impending site preparation works and an information hotline has also been established. The development application, which seeks to change the usage rights and subdivide the Boggo Road site, is currently being assessed by the Brisbane City Council. It is expected that initial infrastructure works, including the provision of stormwater drains, sewerage, electricity, roads and landscaping could get underway this year. The historic division No. 2 jail will be maintained for educational, cultural and commercial purposes, in keeping with its heritage significance.

The redevelopment of the 9.5 hectare Boggo Road site is being project managed by the Department of Public Works and we are working closely with the Dutton Park community, including Dutton Park State School and agencies involved in neighbouring projects such as the Queensland Transport Boggo Road Busway.

When finished, the Boggo Road urban village will be a mixed-use hub including residential, retail, commercial, environmental research and recreational facilities. I will keep the House updated on the progress of this redevelopment.

Tabled paper: Copy of ministerial statement by Hon. Robert Swarten titled *Boggo Road*.