



TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8 1983

PRIME MINISTER

BRISBANE PUBLIC TRANSPORT PROJECTS

A major initiative of the Government that was launched in the 1982/83 Budget is the Australian Bicentennial Roads Development Program. Under that Program the Commonwealth will be investing at least \$2.5 billion to build a better road system for Australia by 1988.

About 20,000 jobs will be created by this Program.

An important provision under the ASRD Program is that part of the available funds can be used to undertake worthwhile urban public transport projects.

I am particularly pleased that Queensland is the first State that has sought to take advantage of this provision. An indicative 6 year program has been submitted to Ralph Hunt and he will shortly convey his approval of an initial list of quick start projects.

These projects consolidate the significant strides that have been made over recent years in improving Brisbane's public transport system - a system which performed so magnificently during the recent Commonwealth Games.

I should note that my Government was heavily involved in the initial steps to upgrade Brisbane's rail and bus operations. From 1975/76 until 1980/81 over \$60M was provided under the U.P.T. Programs for rail electrification, new rail cars and buses and interchanges.

To-day's announcement includes two further extensions of Brisbane's electrified rail system :

- . Kingston to Beenleigh which is one of Brisbane's fastest growing commercial and industrial areas, costing \$9.1 million.
- . Petrie to Caboolture where rapid population growth is expected to occur over the next 20 years, costing up to \$27 million.

Six interchange projects complete this initial list of quick start projects. These are :

Car/Rail interchanges at

- . Yeronga
- . Toombul
- . East Ipswich

Bus/Bus and Car/Bus interchanges at

- . Mt. Gravatt (Garden City - Stage 1)
- . Windsor (Northey Street - Stage 1)
- . Toowong

The success that well planned U.P.T. Programs can have in increasing ridership is evident in Brisbane. I understand that during the initial two years of electrified rail services patronage increased by over 25%.

I am delighted that through the ABRD Program my Government is again directly involved in improving Brisbane's Public Transport System.

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ABRD FUNDING FOR URBAN PUBLIC TRANSPORT IN QUEENSLAND

(Statement by the Prime Minister the Rt Hon Malcolm Fraser, C.H., M.P.,
and the Honourable Ralph J. Hunt, M.P.)

The Prime Minister, Mr Malcolm Fraser, and the Minister for Transport and Construction, Mr Ralph Hunt, today announced that the Commonwealth would fund the electrification of the Kingston-Beenleigh rail line under the Australian Bicentennial Road Development (ABRD) Program and that a contribution would also be made to the electrification of Petrie-Caboolture rail line.

"The Kingston-Beenleigh electrification is the first major urban public transport project to be approved under ABRD", they said.

"It is widely recognised that urban public transport projects can play a vital role in reducing the pressures on urban arterial roads. For this reason, the ABRD Program provides support for urban public transport projects where such projects will clearly assist in reducing traffic or wear and tear on urban roads", Mr Hunt explained.

"The electrification of most of the Brisbane suburban rail network had already attracted thousands of former road users to the rail system".

"The Kingston-Beenleigh project is a logical extension of the network and will service one of Brisbane's fastest growing residential, industrial and commercial areas. The Petrie-Caboolture project is a further extension of the suburban network which also offers benefits to mainline operations".

"The early approval of the Kingston-Beenleigh project will enable initial tenders to be called immediately with completion scheduled for around the end of 1984".

They also announced that ABRD funding would be provided for passenger interchange projects at a number of locations within the Brisbane area.

Projects to be financed include car/bus interchanges at Mt Gravatt (Garden City), Windsor (Northey Street), and Toowong. Car/rail transfer facilities will be developed or expanded at Yeronga, East Ipswich and Toombul.

"The convenient 'park and ride' facilities which interchanges provide play an important part in enhancing the attractiveness of public transport usage. We would envisage support being provided for many more of these facilities during the course of the Six Year ABRD Program", Mr Fraser and Mr Hunt said.

The total cost of these projects is estimated at \$37M.